

Newbury Methodist Church



Images of Summer



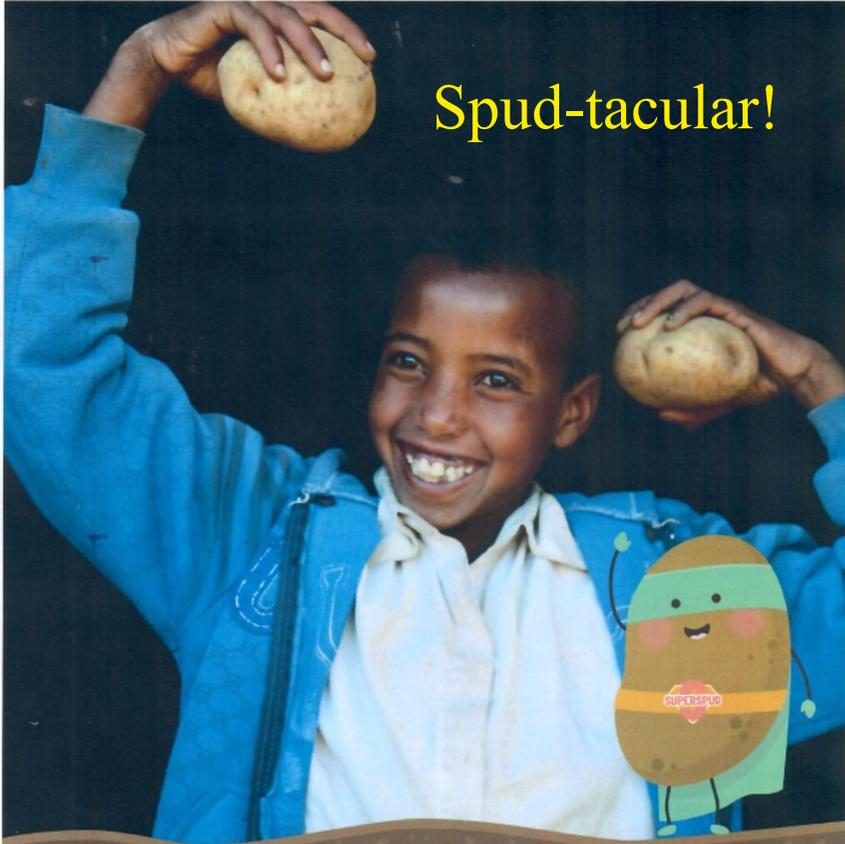
July 2019 Newsletter

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Harvest 2019

This year we will be supporting “Deepen your roots” All we Can campaign to support Ethiopian Farmers to grow potatoes.



Spud-tacular!

**Harvest Supper -
Saturday 28th September
Wesley Hall**

Join us and help people in some of the world's poorest communities become all that they can.



All We Can is the operating name of The Methodist Relief and Development Fund, a charity registered in England and Wales, number 291691

On Fire for God

This week I attended a quiet day during which we learned something about the life of St. Brigid, a 5th Century Irish abbess and saint. Like so many of the early Christian leaders on these islands it is difficult to separate the facts of their lives from the numerous legends that attached to them. However, we can be reasonably confident that Brigid was recognised early on in life for her humility and charity and that she became the leader of group of nuns who founded a monastery in Kildare. Remarkably it is said she was ordained as a bishop in the church when her local bishop saw the Spirit of God descend upon her. When challenged about this irregular ordination he replied, 'I have no power in this matter. God has ordained Brigid.'

The fire of God was associated with Brigid throughout her life. Many testified to seeing a flame of fire above her head and she became recognised in all Ireland as 'one aflame with the intensity of Christ's love for the poor'. The monastery she founded in Kildare kept a flame burning continually for over 1000 years until its destruction during the reign of King Henry VIII.

During the quiet day we reflected on some of the symbols associated with Brigid such as the hearth and the Holy Fire. I found a contemporary image of Brigid helpful to ponder. In it she is shown with long flowing flame red hair. In her hands she cradles the eternal flame which illumines her face with radiant light so that her hair appears to have been set alight by the flame she carries.

It can be a rather carelessly used expression to say that someone 'was on fire today' when they played well or showed skill or talent. This is a far cry from someone truly on fire with the love of God. Have you met someone like that? What did you notice? They are not fiery, often they are quiet and gentle souls, but you know there is the inner warmth and glow of the Holy Spirit within them. They are 'on fire' because they are close to God, to the Holy Spirit and to Jesus the Light of the World. Because such people are on fire for God other people who come close catch fire too. Fire does that, it spreads. As you share it your flame glows no less brightly. Think of a single candle flame being used to light all the candles in a house. A prayer based on a prayer by Angela Ashwin.

Almighty and all-loving Father,
through the fire of the Holy Spirit
you have drawn the hearts of women and men
to the warmth of your radiant love;
ignite our lives with your cleansing fire,
that, as Moses was drawn aside to see a flaming bush,
we may be led to your eternal presence and know your voice,
and our lives become a flame of self-giving love. Amen.

Peter

The Evergreen Fellowship

10 July	Board Games
24 July	Elizabeth High "Books"
14 August	Muriel Wood "Canal Walking"
28 August	Rev Peter Bennett

Remember! If you require transport contact
Muriel at church, or Karen on 07444 851 606 or
email:

pastoraldevelopmentworker@outlook.com



There will be a fundraising concert from the Beech Hill Band in St John's Church, at 7.30pm on Saturday 13th July. Tickets £10 on the door to include interval drinks and nibbles. The Band includes woodwind and brass, and will play a programme of light music. Do come!

Advance notice of our coffee morning 10am-12 noon on Thursday 29th August in St Nicolas' Church hall. Bric-a-brac, books and cakes needed; if you can provide any of these, Rosie will be glad to hear from you.

We shall need as many collectors as possible for the town centre flag day on Saturday 28th September, so please note the date now.

Rosie Greenhalgh

**DEEPEN
YOUR ROOTS**
Harvest Appeal 2019

Celebrate how lives are being transformed
in Ethiopia by the power of potatoes.

allwecan.org.uk/harvest

**ALL
WE
CAN**

All We Can is the operating name of The Methodist Relief and Development Fund,
a charity registered in England and Wales, number 291091

The poster features a cartoon potato character with a green leafy top, a smiling face, and a yellow band around its middle with the word "SUPER" on it. The character is standing on a patch of brown soil. The background is a light blue sky. The text is in various colors: orange for the main title, black for the subtitle and text, and white for the website and logo.

Harvest Weekend - September 28th & 29th

Golden Repairs

So we begin to draw to the close of another Connexional year - the Methodist Conference (our governing body) will meet in Birmingham between June 27th and July 4th; there will be ministerial moves around the country and, hopefully, a period of fewer meetings and some time for everyone to recharge their batteries.

The programme and agendas for this year's Conference are available online via the Methodist Church website, where you can also find details of what goes on around the Conference. There are a wide variety of debates coming to Conference this year, some of which will be live streamed via the website. If you are reading this after the Conference has finished, I would still encourage you to have a look online at what went on. There will also be a summary for the Circuits coming out to make sure everyone has the opportunity to know what has been decided and what we are being asked to pray and think about.

The Church across the world is now in the post-Pentecost period when we seek, through worship and silence, prayer and study, to heed the prompting of the Holy Spirit in the life of the church. We continue to develop our understanding of what it means both to speak of the love of God and to live it out practically in the challenging circumstances of our time. Our world seems to be a very broken place at times, with humanity looking too often to that which separates rather to that which unites - in our politics; our communities and our churches.

Some of you have probably heard of the practice of *kintsugi* (or *kintsukuroi*) - a Japanese method for repairing broken ceramics, with a special lacquer mixed with gold, silver, or platinum. The philosophy behind the technique is to recognize the history of the object and to visibly incorporate the repair into the new piece instead of disguising it. It can remind us that even that which seemed beyond repair can be given new life and new beauty in the hands of a master craftsman. Not that the new item has no cracks: they are there for all to see, but in the act of bringing the pieces back together, something new is created: a reconciliation of brokenness is enacted. We have a model for that transforming act in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, for it is through his blood that the broken pieces of our humanity, already made in the image of the invisible God, can be restored into something even more beautiful. So, may we have the courage to pick up the broken pieces we encounter this summer and use the grace of God, flowing through us, to create people, situations and lives of beauty in the sight of God.

Peace,

Rachel

Revd Rachel Borgars

Superintendent Minister – Kennet & Test Valley Methodist Circuit



HOW

ACTION FOR CHILDREN

WORKS



Follow our work, stories and advice



This year, Action for Children marks 150 years of supporting disadvantaged children, young people and families across the UK.

The reason why we're still here is because of you, we would like to say thank you.

Since 1869, Action for Children has been working hand in hand with children who need our help. Today, we work tirelessly to make sure children and young people have safe and happy childhoods.

It is unacceptable that, 150 years later, our most vulnerable children continue to suffer and face sometimes unimaginable levels of neglect and abuse. We are at risk of failing an entire generation if we do not turn the tide now.

We are going to use our 150th birthday on the 9th July, to shine a light on the issues faced by vulnerable children today, calling on the government and the public to work with us to stop children entering crisis.

Book Review: ‘The Grace Outpouring’ by Roy Godwin and Dave Roberts

This is one of the most inspiring Christian books I’ve ever read and I highly recommend it. Once you pick it up, you’ll find it hard to put down! It’s a book that has God’s fingerprints on every page.

‘The Grace Outpouring’ tells the story of God at work at a beautiful award-winning Christian retreat centre called Ffald-y-Brenin (meaning The Sheepfold of the King) situated on a remote hillside in West Wales, a few miles from Fishguard. In October 1999, Roy Godwin and his wife Daphne obeyed God’s unexpected call to become directors there and they soon began to see God at work in amazing ways. Visitors started to call at Ffald-y-Brenin, many having special encounters with the Lord, some receiving healing or a miracle. You’ll find some of their testimonies in the book. In addition, God began to bless the grounds of the retreat centre, the surrounding fields and the community in wonderful ways. It’s amazing what’s been happening in that little part of Pembrokeshire in the last two decades and therefore not surprising that Ffald-y-Brenin has become internationally renowned. You can read more about it and see photographs on the web site – www.ffald-y-brenin.org.

What makes ‘The Grace Outpouring’ extra special to me is that Peter and I have visited Ffald-y-Brenin on several occasions when holidaying in Tenby and usually met up with Roy and Daphne, so I can visualise them and the retreat centre as I’m reading. We have sometimes attended worship in the beautiful little beehive chapel there, well known for the mountain bedrock that emerges in the middle, and really sensed the Lord’s peace and presence there.

The book is an easy read, has approximately 200 pages, costs £8.99 and is also available as an eBook. One of our friends gave a copy to her husband, who doesn’t normally read books, and he read the book from cover to cover! You are welcome to borrow our copy if you wish. A sequel has now been published – ‘The Way of Blessing’.

Christine Bennett

Sunday Roast for 2019

dates for Sunday Roast for rest of 2019

21st July

18th August

22nd September

20th October

17th November

15th December - Christmas Meal.



Plastic Milk Bottle Tops

We now have a box beside the Foodbank basket situated just inside the entrance area to Wesley hall. Please place any clean plastic tops inside this box for recycling. Thank you

Open Door - 10.30-12.30

We still need a volunteer for two dates

24th July

18th September

If you are able to assist on either of these two dates please speak to Doris.

Thank you

Link to Hope Shoeboxes 2019

We are again supporting the Link to Hope Shoebox Appeal for 2019?

We are asked to fill a Shoebox for a family or an elderly person - not just a child. The list contains items for family members and includes items such as shower gel/shampoo, family games, stationary items, gift for mum and dad as well as sweets, soft toys, hats, scarves etc. and for elderly person the boxes are similar however the children's games and education materials are replaced with a wind up torch, sensory items, candle and holder etc.

The Link for Hope Shoebox Appeal has been running since 1992 and has delivered smiles to thousands of people in Eastern Europe over the years. They have sent over 800,000 shoeboxes to hundreds of different locations! Boxes get sent to Romania, Bulgaria, Moldova and Ukraine.

Full details and our arrangements for this year's appeal in our next newsletter



1.O.Y

Dates for your diaries & calendars

August 20th BBQ

(details in August Newsletter)

October 22nd Speaker Evening

December 17th Christmas Meal

Saturday Coffee Morning Rota

update

There are currently 3 dates on the current June to August Rota which are not covered. These are July 20th, August 17th & 24th. If they are not covered it may make it necessary not to hold a coffee morning on that particular Saturday. That would be a pity as we have a number of visitors who frequently call in for their refreshments and a chat.

Please either contact me or put your name on the rota sheet in Wesley Hall and I will confirm in due course,

Thank you,

David





BBQ & Praise

Sunday 7th July 2019

Morning Worship at 10.30

followed by

BBQ

**on the Church Lawn at
12noon**

Come for a great
morning of Worship
& Fellowship





The Foodbank continues to have an urgent need for additional volunteers to help in our Warehouse at Greenham Business Park.

If you have a few hours to spare or know anyone who has please do get in touch with me in the first instance. We are looking for a number of people particularly to join the Thursday team to assist with the receiving and distribution of donations.

West Berks Foodbank AGM for 2019.

Date: 18th July 2019

Time: 7pm

Venue: Newbury Baptist Church

Warehouse Stock

Stock urgently Needed

Washing-up liquid
Shaving Foam
Washing Powder
Deodorants

Low in Stock

Sugar
Pasta Sauce
Coffee
Dried Onion Granules

Well Stocked

No Pasta, Soup or Beans



WORSHIP

Time and Again

Wesley Memorial Methodist Church, Oxford

More than 70 members and friends of Wesley Memorial Methodist Church worked together to put on 'Time and Again', an exciting and inclusive musical celebrating God's calling and love.

It was the church's version of 'Songs from the Shows', but in this case the songs came from the six musicals which had been written and performed by members of the church community over the last three decades. Two large and transfixed audiences were treated to a lively and colourful show which included performers as young as five years old, friends from Phab Club and a team of BSL interpreters.

The selected songs and scenes wove together the experiences of characters as far apart in time and space as Moses and John Wesley (via Ruth and St Francis). These stories illustrated how God made his love known in a whole variety of unexpected ways, through a whole variety of surprising people.

One audience member said, "It was so well put together, such a clear message throughout of God being the answer to our every need and purpose! What a wonderful gospel message to those who are unchurched or not believers who came. Praise God!"



LEARNING AND CARING

Love Hearts in Trinity

Ebenezer Methodist Church, Trinity, Jersey

Ebenezer Methodist Church in Trinity is uniting the eldest and youngest members of their congregation in a new club called 'Generations'.

The idea was inspired by the Channel 4 television programme 'Old People's Home for 4 Year Olds' which examined the social and health benefits of the elderly making friends with the young. Researchers claim that there are benefits for both groups, particularly those who suffer from dementia.

Community lay worker, Amy Britton, who started the group to connect and share love with the local community said the young are already making positive friendships with some of the older generation:

"There's a young man called Ethan who's six and he is incredible. He doesn't have elderly relatives in his life and his Mum said to me at the start 'I don't know if he'll enjoy it. I don't know he'll behave.' And he holds the most incredible conversations with people who maybe adults would find quite austere or intimidating. And he makes one particular lady smile like you just can't image."

The activities provided are with the children in mind, however the older attendees are excited to get involved and are often flooded with feelings of nostalgia or eager to try something new.

"I learnt early on that what five-year-olds enjoy, elderly people enjoy more" said Britton, with the most popular item being Play-doh.



Methodist Buzz

Everyone in the group is encouraged to get creative with building blocks, paints and craft materials. Ellie (5) said: "We do lots of activities and we make things. We have wooden stuff and we draw the things. I drew a happy person and love hearts".

Ellie has described some of the older members as 'her friends' and it's not just the old and young who are benefiting, but the Mums who are passionate about the importance of the group.

Community lay worker, Amy Britton, said "I've seen mums brought to tears when they realise how much their children are giving, and getting back, from this relationship with the elderly people."

EVANGELISM

Encounters

Victoria Methodist Church, Bristol

Victoria Methodist Church recently held an exhibition by artist Mark Cazalet depicting Christ's last walk. 'Encounters: Walking the Fractured City', placed Christ's last walk around London.

On the 15 small canvases, Cazalet represented the incidents said to have taken place on Christ's final journey, setting each episode in 'corners' or 'untidy places' that are well known to him. A trail that begins under the Westway, takes in a footbridge over the Grand Union Canal, the Penguin Pool at London Zoo and Kensal Green Cemetery. He seeks to show, in his words, how 'injustice, betrayal, judgement, suffering, redemption and love become visible in our midst, in our time'.



Methodist Buzz

On describing his work, Cazalet says:

"My work has always been centred in colour; colour as a spatial, emotional and formal understanding. Whatever the representational or abstract motif might be the subject matter has always been a profound joy in mixing and organising colour relationships. I am, it seems, unable to simply begin making without inspiration from a place or event, normally explored through drawing."

Cazalet is a prolific painter and print-maker, mosaic and stained glass artist who has undertaken many diverse commissions, especially in ecclesiastical settings. He is represented by the Beardsmore Gallery in north London and frequently exhibits in major national and international shows.

SERVICE

Second Helpings

Barn Hill Methodist Church, Stamford, Lincolnshire

The café at Second Helpings is an initiative which collects unwanted food from the local community and uses this to create meals for those who need it. Not only does the enterprise prevent food waste, but it's also environmentally conscious.

The café is part of the Real Junk Food Project which was set up to prevent surplus food going to waste. The café provides a friendly atmosphere for people to eat, meet and contribute to reducing their carbon footprint. The estimated food saved over three years has been the equivalent weight of two London buses and has saved the equivalent of eight hours' worth of electricity used by an average household in Stamford.



Methodist Buzz

Volunteers run the café and are responsible for concocting the unwanted food into delicious and nutritious meals which are open to all. The food is available on a pay-as-you-feel basis, therefore diners are encouraged to donate what they feel the food was worth which may be in either money or time.

The menu reflects the diversity of Stamford's population, with vegetarian options available. Every week, there's a three-course lunch and naturally, the menu is always different, depending on what they get from local suppliers. Options have included: Moroccan chicken; cottage pie and pheasant casserole.

Volunteers are always welcome at Second Helpings, and if you're not much of a chef, activities include, clearing tables, collecting food, stocking the fridge and washing up.

To help, head to Barn Hill Methodist Church hall any Saturday lunchtime.

Healing On The Streets

Please meet at 10:45am in Pret's
(middle of Northbrook St) for team prayers.

We will then minister in Northbrook Street
from 11am to 1pm. Training provided on the
day so all abilities, from all churches are welcome.

6th July, 3rd August, 7th September, 5th October,
2nd November, 7th December





Sponsored Walk - Newbury to Kintbury along the Canal

Hello Friends,

As you will guess from the title, we're planning another sponsored walk this year, on Saturday 10th August. It is intended this will be in the same form as last year, leaving Victoria Park at 10am with a free ploughman's lunch at Kintbury Lock at about 1pm. Trains are available nearby if you're not tempted to walk back to Newbury.

Before I continue, can I again say a big 'thank you' to all those who have supported us over the last few years. In the last four year's walks, we have raised over £3,000 for various campaigns run by Bible Society.

This year's walk will provide funds to supply Bibles for children in Malawi. Can I encourage you to join us this year, if you are able? We have a very sociable time walking along the canal towpath and sharing a meal together before returning to Newbury.

It would be helpful if you would register with us, so that we can provide you with a sponsor form and then arrange the necessary catering etc. We will supply all the necessary paperwork. We are hoping to encourage a good number of walkers again this year.

It would be great if you could confirm your interest in joining us.

Rich blessings to you all

David McMahon



'Reflection Centre' in France

My brother, Rev. Bob Whorton, and sister-in-law Sue, recently moved to France.

Their aim is to establish a Christian 'Reflection Centre' in rural France.

They have an old farmhouse with additional gite self-catering accommodation, plus swimming-pool!

The location is Hanc (79110 Valdelaume): inland from La Rochelle.

Workshops have already been arranged for this year: in September.

In September, Bob and Sue will lead a 'Labyrinth Workshop'.

I have more details (dates, travel arrangements, and prices) should anyone be interested, or I can put you in contact with Bob & Sue for information regarding future events.

I'm sure they would also welcome visitors at other times.

We have not yet been there, but are intending to pitch-up with our caravan during this summer.

Bruce Whorton (01635 30371)

August 2019 Newsletter

Any information or articles for inclusion in this edition should be with me

No later than Tuesday 23rd July 2019

Email information should be sent to
newsletter@newburymethodistchurch.org.uk

Contact details:

Rev Peter Bennett-

Email : minister@newburymethodistchurch.org.uk

Senior Steward

Email : steward@newburymethodistchurch.org.uk

Other Email address can be found on:

www.newburymethodistchurch.org.uk/contact-us

Electronic Version of the Newsletter

The Newsletter is now available and distributed in electronic format in colour. As we currently do not print the entire magazine in colour this is a great way to enjoy the it. If you have not already told me but would like it electronically instead of in paper hard copy format please let me know and I will add you to E-Mail distribution list

On our Website

You can now read the current and previous newsletters on our website at:

www.newburymethodistchurch.org.uk/newsletter

July Services



Sunday 7th July - Bible Month Week 4 -BBQ & Praise

10.30am Morning Worship Local Arrangement
12noon BBQ on the front lawn

Sunday 14th July -

10.30am Morning Worship - Local Arrangement
Spring Harvest

Sunday 21st July

10.30am Morning Worship Rev Peter Bennett
includes Holy Communion

Sunday 28th July

10.30am Morning Worship Rev Peter Howson

Church Website : newburymethodistchurch.org.uk