

# 'THE LINK'

*St Mark's Crescent Methodist Church  
Maidenhead  
Tel: 01628 631024*



*February/March 2018*

[www.stmarksmaidenhead.org.uk](http://www.stmarksmaidenhead.org.uk)

## REV JULIE UNDERWOOD



I recently read the story of “The Enormous Turnip” to a Toddler Group. It’s a folk tale about a farmer trying to harvest – yes – an enormous turnip growing in his field. Despite the efforts of himself, his family and several members of the farmyard tugging with all their might, it is only when another tiny creature joins in that they are able to achieve their goal of pulling the turnip free. The story beautifully encapsulates the idea that in working together so much more can be done than trying to work alone and also that everyone’s contribution is important and necessary in order to succeed.

“The Enormous Turnip” is a folk tale about a farmer trying to harvest – yes –

St Paul described the church as the body of Christ where every person has a part to play and needs each other, just like the human body (read Ephesians chapter 12). When our bodies are functioning well, we can be brimming with health and achieve so much more than when we are suffering. Similarly, in our church community when we are supporting one another and “doing our bit” – no matter how little we are able to offer – then we are radiating God’s love so much better and further into the lives of those who do not yet know the transforming presence of Jesus.

It has been my pleasure and privilege to meet already many of the St Marks church community and I know that you have dedicated groups of people who are working very hard to improve and increase our witness to the love of Christ in how we care for one another and manage our resources. We are entering the season of Lent: a time of preparation for the celebration of the heart of our faith – the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ - and a time when we are invited to travel with Christ to the cross and reflect on our own faith journey and commitment. This is an appropriate time to reflect on how we are working together as a church community. Are we playing our part in supporting one another? Is there

something we could do to ease the burden for someone else? Do we pray for our church and share ideas? Sometimes it is good simply to re-assess what we are doing as individuals so that we can better work together to make known God's amazing love for all. St Mark's is a warm, supportive community – long may it continue!

Every blessing

***Julie***

### **REPLACEMENT MINISTER**

Following the Reverend Gary Homewood's departure from Maidenhead, District and Circuit staff have been actively working to find a replacement Minister for Maidenhead. This "Stationing" process involves all Methodist Chairpersons whose role is to find and allocate Ministers for vacancies which exist throughout the Methodist Church.

Despite the efforts of our District Chairman, Rev John Hellyer, it has not been possible to find a new Minister for Maidenhead in September this year.

Current arrangements are only valid until the end of August and the Circuit Leadership Team are now considering what can be done to support Maidenhead churches after September but, in the meantime, the church is most grateful for the support and leadership given by Revs Margaret Dudley and Julie Underwood.

Further announcements will be shared as soon as decisions about Ministerial leadership from September have been made. Readers are reminded that if they require the services of a Minister at the moment they should contact Rev Margaret Dudley on 01753 867117.

An article about the shortage of Ministers appeared in the Methodist Recorder and an extract from the article follows:-

*Methodism is facing an unprecedented challenge as a shortfall in presbyter numbers means that a predicted 56 appointments will remain unfilled this coming Connexional year (from 1 September 2018).*

*Rev Dr Jonathan Hustler, Assistant Secretary of the Conference, told the Methodist Recorder that, "The Stationing Matching Group has worked very carefully in considering the situation. District Chairs intend to work with the Circuits concerned to help them find solutions for the coming Connexional year."*

*District Chairs recognised the huge contributions made by 2,000 supernumerary ministers and deacons and over 8,000 local preachers and worship leaders and the challenges are to come up with more candidates for ministry, consider new patterns of ministry and use lay leadership more effectively.*

## NO MORE CHRISTMAS TREES?

*(Editors' Note:- The following article from the USA appeared on Facebook and we thought it was worth publishing here in full).*

Apparently the White House referred to Christmas Trees as Holiday Trees for the first time this year, which prompted Ben Stein, to say, on CBS Sunday Morning,

"My confession:- I'm a Jew, every single one of my ancestors was Jewish, and it doesn't bother me even a little bit when people call those beautiful lit up, bejewelled trees, Christmas trees. I don't feel threatened. I don't feel discriminated against. That's what they are, Christmas trees.

It doesn't bother me a bit when people say, 'Merry Christmas' to me. I don't think they are slighting me or getting ready to put me in a ghetto. In fact, I kind of like it. It shows that we're all brothers and sisters celebrating this happy time of year. It

doesn't bother me at all that there's a manger scene on display at a key intersection near my beach house in Malibu. If people want a nativity scene, it's just as fine with me as is the Menorah a few hundred yards away.

I don't like getting pushed around for being a Jew, and I don't think Christians like getting pushed around for being Christians. I think people who believe in God are sick and tired of getting pushed around, period. I have no idea where the concept came from that America is an explicitly atheist country. I can't find it in the Constitution and I don't like it being shoved down my throat.

Or maybe I can put it another way: where did the idea come from that we should worship celebrities but aren't allowed to worship God? I guess that's a sign that I'm getting old, too. But there are a lot of us who are wondering where these celebrities came from and where the America we knew went to.

In light of the many jokes we send to one another for a laugh, this is a little different: This is not intended to be a joke; it's not funny, it's intended to get you thinking.

Billy Graham's daughter was interviewed after Hurricane Katrina and was asked 'How could God let something like this happen?'. She gave an extremely profound and insightful response. She said, 'I believe God is deeply saddened by this, just as we are, but for years we've been telling God to get out of our schools, to get out of our government and to get out of our lives and, being the gentleman He is, I believe He has calmly backed out. How can we expect God to give us His blessing and His protection if we demand He leave us alone?'

In light of recent events... terrorist attacks, school shootings, etc. I think it started when Madeleine Murray O'Hare (she was murdered and her body found a few years ago) complained she didn't want prayer in our schools, and we said OK. Then someone said you better not read the Bible in school. The

Bible says thou shalt not kill; thou shalt not steal, and love your neighbour as yourself. And we said OK.

Then Dr. Benjamin Spock said we shouldn't spank our children when they misbehave, because their little personalities would be warped and we might damage their self-esteem (Dr. Spock's son committed suicide). We said an expert should know what he's talking about and we said OK.

Now we're asking ourselves why our children have no conscience, why they don't know right from wrong, and why it doesn't bother them to kill strangers, their classmates, and themselves.

Probably, if we think about it long and hard enough, we can figure it out. I think it has a great deal to do with 'WE REAP WHAT WE SOW.'

Funny how simple it is for people to trash God and then wonder why the world's going to hell.

Funny how we believe what the newspapers say, but question what the Bible says.

Funny how you can send 'jokes' through e-mail and they spread like wildfire, but when you start sending messages regarding the Lord, people think twice about sharing.

Funny how lewd, crude, vulgar and obscene articles pass freely through cyberspace, but public discussion of God is suppressed in the school and workplace.

Are you laughing yet?

Funny how when you forward this message, you won't send it to many on your address list because you're not sure what they believe, or what they'll think of you for sending it.

Funny how we can be more worried about what other people think of us than what God thinks of us.

Pass this on if you think it has merit.

If not, then just discard it.... no one will know you did. But, if you discard this thought process, don't sit back and complain about what a bad shape the world is in.

My Best Regards, honestly and respectfully,

Ben Stein

### BIBLE STUDY GROUPS

Both the Tuesday and Wednesday Bible Study Groups will be meeting towards the end of February for a series of weekly Lent courses. All are welcome to attend. Please contact Sara Motion on 01628 410848 (Tuesday) or Audrey Lelliott on 01628 788719 (Wednesday) for further information.

### TEA AT THREE

A new "Over 50s" group has been started at the church by Sally Adams and sessions are from 2.30 – 4.15pm every 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month in the small hall.

On 8 February there will be Games/Cards and Flower Arranging for Valentines, on 22 February Lantern Making, celebrating the Chinese New Year and on 8 March a Beetle Drive and Card Making – Decoupage.

There will be Knitters & Knatters each session and Tea, Coffee and cake will be available for a small charge.

Craft Sessions cost £2pp. Why not pop in for a chat.

Contact Sally Adams on 07512 860708 for further information.

### CRAFT WORKSHOPS

Sally also leads craft workshops at the church on the first Saturday of each month from 10.00am – 1.00pm. On 3 February there will be Yorkshire and Dorset buttons and 3 March Card making with Iris folding and Quilling techniques.

Workshops are £10pp including all materials, tea, coffee and cake! Booking in advance is essential. Please contact Sally Adams on 07512 860708 or email [gift2treasure@yahoo.com](mailto:gift2treasure@yahoo.com)



## QUIZ NIGHT

**WITH FISH N' CHIPS SUPPER  
(BRING YOUR OWN DRINKS & GLASSES)**

**SATURDAY 10 MARCH 2018**

**£11 PER PERSON**

**7 FOR 7.30PM AT NEWLANDS SCHOOL,  
FARM ROAD, MAIDENHEAD, SL6 5JB  
TEAMS OF 6 OR ASK ABOUT INDIVIDUAL ENTRIES**

Tickets from [bstc.boxoffice@gmail.com](mailto:bstc.boxoffice@gmail.com) or 01628 671186

EVENTS BEING HELD LOCALLY OR AROUND THE  
THAMES VALLEY CIRCUIT

On Ash Wednesday, 14 February, St. Andrew's Methodist Church, Slough, are holding a Circuit Reflection from 11.30am – 7.30 pm. Call in at a time to suit you and walk the labyrinth. The labyrinth is a pathway to follow, in and out of concentric circles, with prompts to help to reflect. A version will be provided for those who prefer not to walk.



On Thursday, 15 February, Old Windsor Methodist Church, will be holding another of their popular "Traveller's Tales" This time Mary Sibley will be giving an illustrated talk on "A Narrowboat through Birmingham". Price of £4 includes Afternoon Tea. All are Welcome.

On Friday, 16 February, Cookham Rise Methodist Church will be holding "Echoes of Swing Big Band Concert". Music from 8.00-10.15pm. Come and listen to the sounds and music from the Big Bands in the Swing Era with Tunes from the Great America Song Book. Tickets, including refreshments, £10pp, available at the door or from Kathy Rickman (01628 522797 or [kathryn.rickman @talktalk.net](mailto:kathryn.rickman@talktalk.net)). Concert in support of "Heads Together", a Charity supporting mental health organisations.

Windsor and Maidenhead Community Forum will be meeting at St. Luke's Church, Maidenhead, on Wednesday 21 February, 1.30 – 3.00pm Gill Curry will be talking about her recent visit to the Kori Project in Sierra Leone. Ladies of all faiths, or none, are welcome to this meeting with refreshments and speakers. Further information from Revd. Sally Lynch on 01628 783033 or [sally514@btinternet.com](mailto:sally514@btinternet.com)

Thames Valley Journeymen, the Circuit men's walking group, meet on alternate months. The walks are between 4-5 miles in length, and walkers enjoy lunch together in a pub "en-route". All men are welcome to join us. The walking dates for 2018 are all Tuesdays, 20 March, 15 May, 10 July, 18 September and 20 November.

St. Edmund Campion Church will be celebrating Women's World Day of Prayer on Friday, 2 March, at 2.00pm, followed by refreshments. This year's service has been prepared by the women of Suriname. The choir of St. Edmund Campion School will sing from 1.55pm. This service is open to everyone, not just women!

## CHURCH MONEY MATTERS

The generosity of those in the St Mark's community is always exemplified by their gifts and kindness at Christmas.

In addition to £555 sent to our chosen charity, Chatterbox, as a result of the Christmas Bazaar, £293 was raised for Action for Children at St Mark's Christmas services.

The Building Fund continues to grow with £216 raised by the Soup & Nibbles lunch, £125 from donations in lieu of Christmas Cards and £444 from the January Quiz Night.

Thanks go to the Esling and Chippington families for entering a team in the Lions Swimathon. Their sponsorship is still being collected but, in addition, they will receive one of five £200 Bonus Prizes awarded by the Lions Club

As we go to print, thanks must also go to the BSTC pantomime team for their exceptional efforts in writing, directing, producing and staging yet another unique pantomime 21 years after their first production.

Continuing support for fund-raising activities is sincerely appreciated. These events have given so much fun to so many people and, as we await quotes from potential builders, further events are being planned.

We would be delighted to hear from anyone who may be considering making a one-off donation or pledging a regular gift to the fund. Please feel free to speak in confidence to Rev Julie Underwood or Ed Filmore.

We look forward to seeing you, your family and friends at forthcoming events and please remember to help the church at no cost to yourselves by making use of TheGivingMachine website when purchasing on-line from a host of companies.

Well over £1000 has already been raised from this activity.

Just click on the link on our website to register  
([www.stmarksmaidenhead.org.uk](http://www.stmarksmaidenhead.org.uk))

**The Forward Dates leaflet for 2018 is enclosed with this edition of the Link giving dates for your diaries.**

SERVICES FOR FEBRUARY

Date	10.30am	6.30pm
4 Feb	Mr Alan Crowle Pastoral Visitors' Dedication Service	Revd Margaret Dudley
11	Mr. Azeem Bahsh	3-45pm Messy Church
18	Revd Richard Cattley Holy Communion	Mrs Connie Jeffery
25	Mr David Ridley	

For information on March Services, please see church notice board or the next Circuit Plan for details.

FLOWER ROTA

4 Feb	Mrs Barbara Fox
11	
18	START OF LENT
25	
4 March	
11	Mothering Sunday Mrs Lucy Guest
18	
25	

LINK DEADLINE

Please note: THE NEXT ISSUE OF THE LINK will be for April/May 2018. The deadline will be Noon on Sunday, 18 March. Please hand or e-mail your items to Christine Filmore who would welcome any contributions from readers.

e-mail [chrisfilmore@aol.com](mailto:chrisfilmore@aol.com), or phone 01628 623263



## ST MARK'S CRESCENT METHODIST CHURCH SERVICES AND REGULAR ACTIVITIES



Day	Time	Activity
Sun	9.45-10.15am	Prayer Meeting
	10.30am	Morning Service
	3.45-6pm	Messy Church (See noticeboard for dates)
	6.30pm	Evening Service (usually 1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sundays)
Mon	9am -1pm	Birdwood Nursery (with lunch)
	2.30-3.30pm	Maidenhead Highway Townswomen's Guild Keep Fit Group
	5.30-8.30pm	Slimming World
	5-8.30pm	Elite Academy of Dance
	7.30-9pm	ALL-SORTS Drama Group (Fortnightly)
Tue	9am-1pm	Birdwood Nursery (with lunch)
	10am-12 noon	Tuesday Singers
	5.15-6.45pm	Brownie Guides (11 <sup>th</sup> Maidenhead)
	7.30-10pm	Maidenhead Musical Comedy Society rehearsals
Wed	9am-1pm	Birdwood Nursery (with lunch)
	1.30-3.30pm	Pilates Group
	2.30-3.30pm	Wednesday Fellowship (Fortnightly)
	5.30-7pm	Brownie Guides (1 <sup>st</sup> Pinkney's Green)
	7.30-8.45pm	Weightwatchers
	8-9.30pm	Bible Study - Monthly at Audrey Lelliott's
Thur	9am-12noon	Birdwood Nursery
	Morning	Talking Newspaper Association
	10.30-2.30pm	Lunch & Leisure (Age Concern Slough & East Berks)
	2-3pm	Yogatime
	7.30-10pm	Maidenhead Highway Townswomen's Guild (1 <sup>st</sup> Thursdays)
	8-9,30pm	Elite Academy of Dance
Fri	9am-1pm	Birdwood Nursery (with lunch)
	4.15-5.15pm	Hymn Practice
	6.15-7.45pm	Guides (1 <sup>st</sup> Pinkneys Green, Miss Baden-Powell's Own)
Sat	10-11.45am	Bazaar/Coffee Morning (3 <sup>rd</sup> Saturday of month)
	Morning	Talking Newspaper Association

N.B. WEA also run a number of weekday adult educational courses at the church, details of which are on church notice boards