

'THE LINK'

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



October/November 2018

www.stmarksmaidenhead.org.uk

MESSAGE FROM REVD JULIE UNDERWOOD



What are you looking forward to? Is there anything you are getting excited about – a trip, a visit, a special occasion? We need a sense of anticipation to keep us going especially as autumn days set in. When Jesus gathered his close friends who became his disciples, they must have been pretty excited about it. Four of them were fishermen:

Simon, Andrew, James and John. They were at work when Jesus invited them to follow him so that they could become “fishers of people” (Mark 1: 16- 20) and they just left their work and went with him! Why on earth would they do that? They must have been excited about a new way of living; saw the possibilities before them and went for it.

We’ve been talking about our 20/20 Vision project at St Marks for a few years now and I expect that some of the novelty has worn off. Well, I want you to get excited about it again because we are getting close to finding a possible start date for the building work. Funds still need to be found to pay for it all and we are busy applying for monetary grants, but as we fill in these forms expressing our hopes and dreams for the project, the possibilities that its completion will offer seem more and more exciting. For example, an enlarged welcome/ coffee area will provide a resource and meeting place for a wide variety of people in the church and local community – something we don’t have at present. An enlarged, refurbished meeting room at the end of the corridor will provide the potential for more different groups to meet, and by re-arranging kitchen and toilet facilities we will be able to welcome older and younger generations at the same time, increasing our service to the community. Doesn’t it sound exciting? And if you’re not sure what the project entails, then ask me or one of the stewards – we’d be delighted to share it with you!

BUT – there’s always a “but” – we can only go ahead if we have raised enough money to pay for the work. We have done incredibly well to raise over £324,000 so far but there is at least £200,000 to go, some of which we hope will come from grants. So I’m asking you to do all that you can to support our fund-raising efforts this autumn and into future months. There are many events the church is putting on that you can support by coming along and inviting friends, neighbours, and family as well, or perhaps you have a brilliant idea for raising funds – please tell us about it! So please put event dates in your diary as you read this “Link”, pass on invitations to others, and make that extra effort to support us – you’ll find it’s well worth it and plenty of fun.

St Mark’s is a great place to be – let’s make it even better for everyone and YOU can make the difference.

God bless you!

Julie

LET US PRAY

Prayer is at the heart of our communication with God. If we are not talking and listening to God, how can we sustain a meaningful relationship with the source of our being? Many of us pray regularly in our homes and during our daily lives but there seems to be an extra dimension when we pray in community – our prayers build each other up. A small group have been praying together before Sunday morning services but now we are going to try a different way of enabling more people to pray together.

From 7th October onwards, on the first Sunday of every month at the end of the morning service, there will be time to collect a tea or coffee and then there will be an invitation to gather by the Communion table in the Sanctuary for a short time of prayer. We will offer up prayers for the work of the church and

needs known to us, either silently or aloud, and everyone is welcome to join in. This is vital to our mission – do come and pray.

Julie

HARVEST FESTIVAL

Just a word to thank everyone who helped us celebrate our Harvest Festival on 15 and 16 September. Harvest at St Marks has evolved over the years, and it's good to thank all those who used their skills and talents to decorate the church window sills and displayed their skills in the friendly Craft and Produce competition organised by Sally and her team. What a great example of the talented folk connected with St Mark's.

In addition, the collection of goods for Maidenhead Food Bank was extremely generous. With further donations and gifts of cash at the Harvest Sunday service, I had to make two trips to the food bank to deliver all the goods.

Thank you for whatever you contributed to make a memorable Harvest weekend.

Keith Machin
Senior Steward

“QUENCH”

At the recent Circuit Meeting, Rev Sonia Hicks reported that she had had a conversation with the owner of the “Quench” Christian Bookshop in Maidenhead. She urged us all to use this (or other Christian bookshops) or they will be lost.

It was suggested that bookstalls could be set up, for example at Circuit Meetings, Local Preachers Meetings, with “sale or return” agreements. Other books could be ordered in advance.

CHURCH ANNIVERSARY – GIFT DAY

We're celebrating our Church Anniversary this year on Sunday 18 November (the day after the Christmas Bazaar) with the morning service led by our very own Local Preacher, Mr David Ridley, to be followed by a church lunch.

It's good to celebrate special occasions in style and this year seems particularly significant as the possibility of the start of our building work draws ever closer.

So, with these thoughts in mind, it's been decided to hold a Gift Day this year on the occasion of the Church Anniversary. This will be an opportunity to make an extra donation to the 20/20 Vision fund as we try to raise enough money for the project to commence.

Special envelopes will be circulated marked "Gift Day" which can be returned on the day or any convenient later date hopefully containing cash or a cheque! I know that folk have already donated generously to the funds but, if you are keen to see our church's work expand, and feel able to give just a little more, your contribution would make all the difference.

THANK YOU.

Julie

ST MARK'S REACHES OUT

Our 2020 Vision project seems to fill our hearts and minds for much of the time at present so it's easy to forget that St Mark's reaches out to support other charitable causes each year.

During the last financial year, in addition to weekly collections of groceries for Food Bank, over £5,100 was donated to a range of charities, notable amongst which were Action for Children (£1,200) and Chatterbox (£1,100) the local support group for parents & carers of children with Down's Syndrome.

Future



Events

We look forward to seeing you at any or all of the following fun-filled events.

Friday Night Music



**At the church on
Friday 5 October 7.30 pm**

"AYRES & GREY-CES"

***will entertain with music from the greats –
The Everly Brothers, Buddy Holly,
Simon & Garfunkel & John Denver***

Suggested donation: **£5.00** at the door

The one and only Broken Shoestring Theatre Company
presents, firstly, an

Autumn Cabaret



**At the church on
Saturday 13 October 6.30pm**

£10 Adults, £5 u-12s

Special guests include:

Keith Old with his piano accordion

The Tuesday Singers

Jenny Lewington Chislett

and David Black

Includes Supper served at your table

And then

Crisp and Even Brightly

by Alick Rowe



**At the church on
Saturday 1 December, 6.30 pm**

£10 Adults, £5 u-12s

Tickets for both of the above BSTC events are
available from bstc.boxoffice@gmail.com

OTHER FORTHCOMING 2020 VISION/CHURCH EVENTS

Date	Time	Event	Venue	Cost
20 Oct	10.00 11.30am	Monthly Bazaar	Church Halls	Free
10 Nov	7 for 7.30pm	Quiz Night With Fish'n Chip Supper	Woodlands Park Village Centre	£11 pp
17 Nov	10.00- 11.30 am	Christmas Bazaar with entertainment from All Saints School Choir	Church Halls	Free
18 Nov	12 noon	***Church Anniversary Lunch	Church Hall	tbc
2 Dec	12 noon	Soup & Nibbles	Church Hall	Suggested donation £5 pp
15 Dec	10.00 – 12 noon	Coffee & Mince Pies	Church Hall	Free

(See church noticeboards for posters and further details)

***A List will be circulated at Church to book for Lunch

CHURCH MONEY MATTERS

As I wrap up the accounts for yet another year, the financial position at St Mark's remains healthy. The 2017-18 accounts are currently being examined but show a satisfactory balance sheet, full details of which will be available later.

Heartfelt thanks go to all those who give so generously throughout the year.

The 2020 Vision building project has been uppermost in the minds of the planning and fund-raising teams and we are well on our way to delivering the means for St Mark's to provide a much improved facility for a wide range of community activities.

In the last year, fund-raising continued apace with a further £62,500 being added to the fund which, together with “firmly” committed future receipts and promised loans (if needed), led to a fund total of £422,000.

Applications for additional grants are being actively progressed and it is sincerely hoped that, with further support from church members and friends, building work can commence in the spring of next year.

Ed Filmore (Treasurer)

CHURCH CHARITY FOR 2019-20

The uncertainty over availability of church premises during the planned building project casts doubt on our ability to run a full Spring Fair or Christmas Bazaar in 2019, but our chosen charity for 2018-19 is Parkinson’s UK, offering information and support to those suffering from Parkinson’s.

Our practice of alternating between local and wider good causes means we are now seeking suggestions from church members and friends for a suitable local cause for 2019-20.

Ed Filmore (01628 623263 or chrisfilmore@aol.com) will be pleased to hear your ideas and a list of possible good causes will be drawn up for a decision to be made at the General Church Meeting in 2019.

MAIDENHEAD BOUNDARY WALK

I’ve decided to take part in this year’s Boundary Walk on 7 October in support of the 2020 Vision Building Fund. I’ve already had promises of sponsorship from a number of members and friends but if you would like to add your support please let me know. It’s a 13 mile walk around the old Maidenhead Borough Boundary and starts and finishes near Boulters Lock. Any support will be much appreciated.

Keith Machin

“ALL THIS BEAUTY IS OF GOD”

Over the Harvest weekend, many people commented that the church Harvest decorations were “the best ever”!

This gives us an opportunity to express the appreciation of all who visit the church to Barbara Fox who not only leads a team to decorate the church so beautifully and imaginatively on special occasions but also organises the flower rota on a weekly basis.

FLOWER ROTA FOR OCTOBER/NOVEMBER

7 October	Mrs Joyce McKenzie
14	Mr & Mrs Chris Hawkins
21	Mr & Mrs David Black
28	Mr & Mrs Mike Hogg
4 November	Mr Michael O’Hara
11	Remembrance Sunday
18	Mr Gerald Price
25	Mrs Audrey Lelliott

SERVICES FOR OCTOBER/NOVEMBER

Date	10.30am	6.30pm
7 Oct	Mrs Sue Clifford	Rev Sonia Hicks
14	Rev Richard Cattley Holy Communion	3.45pm Messy Church
21	Mr Evan Richardson	Local Arrangement
28	Rev Amy Walters	
4 Nov	Rev Richard Cattley Holy Communion	Rev Sonia Hicks
11	Mrs Connie Jeffery	3.45pm Messy Church
18	Mr David Ridley Church Anniversary	Deacon Andy Packer
25	Rev Richard Cattley	

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

e-mail chrisfilmore@aol.com, or phone 01628 623263

SAME OLD, SAME OLD LINK??

The LINK is one means of communication between the church and the local community so why not let us have your comments, your news, news from your organisation or simply items which you think might interest readers.

We'd be delighted to publish them.



ST MARK'S CRESCENT METHODIST CHURCH SERVICES AND REGULAR ACTIVITIES



Day	Time	Activity
Sun	10.30am	Morning Worship
	11.45am	Prayer Meeting after Morning Worship
	3.45-6pm	Messy Church (See notice board for dates)
	6.30pm	Evening Service (usually 1 st & 3 rd 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 th Maidenhead)
	7.30-10pm	Maidenhead Musical Comedy Society rehearsals
Wed	9am-1pm	Birdwood Nursery (with lunch)
	1.30-3.30pm	Pilates Group
	5.30-7pm	Brownie Guides (1 st 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)
	2-4pm	Tea at Three (Over 50's) - fortnightly
	2-3pm	Yogatime
	7.30-10pm	Maidenhead Highway Townswomen's Guild (1 st Thursdays)
	8-9,30pm	Elite Academy of Dance
Fri	9am-1pm	Birdwood Nursery (with lunch)
	6.15-7.45pm	Guides (1 st Pinkneys Green, Miss Baden-Powell's Own)
Sat	10am-1pm	Craft a Gift Workshop (1 st Saturdays)
	10-11.45am	Monthly Bazaar/Coffee Morning (3 rd Saturday)
	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