

THE LINK'

St Mark's Crescent Methodist Church

Maidenhead

Tel: 01628 631024



April/May 2019

www.stmarksmaidenhead.org.uk

MESSAGE FROM REV JULIE UNDERWOOD

It's official – it's springtime – and, Easter is upon us once more. Surely this is a time to celebrate the new life and goodness all around us: trees are budding and blossoming, flowers are blooming, birds are nesting and we feast again on Easter treats remembering God's amazing love for us all revealed through Jesus giving up his life so that we might really live.

Here at St Mark's there's even more to celebrate because our building work for the 20/20 Vision is starting after several years of planning, preparation and fund-raising. These are exciting times indeed, yet we know that there will be plenty of disruption, inconvenience and plain hard work still to come before we can truly celebrate and enjoy refurbished premises better suited for community use by all ages.

I am reminded of the Easter hymn that begins "Now the green blade rises from the buried grain, wheat that in the dark earth many years has lain". The hymn takes the example in nature of seed, apparently dead and dormant, sprouting through the dark soil to produce the green promise of a harvest, and applies it to the resurrection of Jesus, when love overcame death.

The picture is given to us that, when things seem dark and difficult, if we trust in Jesus, then he will enable us to get through and ultimately flourish. An encouragement we need in our daily lives, let alone when we are running a building project! Jesus himself used this picture in trying to tell his followers why he would have to give up his life as well as what they needed to do to really live. He said "Very truly I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds." (John 12: 24). You can see where the hymn-writer found his inspiration!

I have no doubt that during this Easter season there will be times of joy and times of tribulation for us all. As we enjoy the

beauty of spring flowers and new life around us, perhaps we might remember that it was once said that “every flower must grow through dirt” i.e. good things and growth come from struggle. Nature gives us inspiration to keep going but even more so does the Author of life itself, our risen Saviour Jesus Christ.

May we all find the joy and inspiration we need in the days and months ahead.

God bless you

Julie

Churches Together in Maidenhead

Walk of Witness

Good Friday 19th April 2019

Start: Providence Place (outside Sainsbury's)
11.00am
Finish: High Street Methodist Church
With tea and hot cross buns

Please come and join
this united act of Christian witness

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 2019 (12-18 MAY)

The focus of this year's campaign is the plight of mothers in Sierra Leone where, every day, ten women die during childbirth. The campaign is entitled “All Mums shall live” and Christian Aid believes they can bring about change and

prevent such appalling loss of life with the help of Christian Churches throughout the world.

The Maidenhead Committee have arranged the following events:-

Saturday 27 April 2019 – Quiz Evening, with fish and chip supper at St Luke's Community Hall in St Luke's Road. Contact Roger Clarke on 01628 632626 or sonyaandroger@hotmail.co.uk to book places.

Saturday 11 May 2019 – Coffee Morning with cake and produce stalls at High Street Methodist Church. Donations of cakes, jams, chutneys etc very welcome.

Sunday 12 May 2019 – Christian Aid Service at St Edmund Campion Church, Altwood Road, SL6 4PY. A Christian Aid guest speaker will give the congregation more details on this year's campaign.

At St Marks, donation envelopes will be available at services on 5 and 12 May and should be left in the collection plates.

EASTER OFFERING ENVELOPES

Envelopes will be available on Palm Sunday (14 April) and Easter Sunday (21 April) in support of the Methodist Women in Britain's Easter Offering 2019 Appeal. The appeal, entitled "Longer Tables, Lower Fences" aims to encourage the building of longer tables, rather than higher fences, to enable sharing whatever we have and to connect with our neighbours all over the world.

The Circuit Easter Offering Service will be held at Windsor Methodist Church on Saturday 4 May 2019 at 3.00pm with Special Guest Speaker, Mrs Anne Browse (ex President – Methodist Women in Britain).



Our 2020Vision is in sight!

The great Day of Preparation has arrived

Building work will start on 23 April and we need to pack up a lot of items both small and large from floors, walls and cupboards.

Do you have things stored on the premises?

Do you need access to them during the building work?

If not, do you need to keep them?

Please let Ed or Eileen know before 13 April

Many Hands Make Light Work!!

We need your help on

Saturday 13 April between 9.30am and 3.00pm

so any time you can spare will be greatly appreciated

Please volunteer yourself, your partner, anyone at all

Bring gloves (garden type not lace!), fully charged screwdrivers and other useful tools

We will need people who can take stuff to the tip
(remember your yellow Advantage Card)

And, MOST IMPORTANTLY, we will need folk to make drinks, bacon butties, that sort of thing!

Please let us know if you can help and approximately when - an hour or a day would be welcome

Contact Eileen (01628 625720) or Ed (01628 623263)

2020 VISION – A REMINDER OF WHAT IT'S ALL ABOUT

Our Mission is to reach out to and serve our local community, encouraging connections between people and opportunities to be part of our wider church family serving God's purpose.

The 2020 Vision project was conceived in 2014 and was overwhelmingly supported both at Church meetings and in responses to a community questionnaire.

The plan was (and still is) to create:

- an enlarged welcome area for informal gatherings, coffee/dining etc, seating up to 30
- an attractive multipurpose room for educational learning, meetings and new expressions of worship
- multi-use spaces to allow wider use of the premises & increase frequency of out of home lunches/activities for the elderly
- renewed toilets & kitchen with separate facilities for nursery & children's groups
- and a community church which offers a warm welcome, a safe & comfortable environment and friendship to all and encourages new members to join.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN DURING THE BUILDING WORK?

Recent presentations given to members and users of church premises explained the implications of the 2020 Vision project.

We recognise the inevitable disruption building work will cause to all users and ask everyone please to be patient and work with us to accommodate the challenges of the next 7 months.

Plans may be subject to amendment as the project progresses and we will do our best to keep users up to date with any changes but, in brief, during the work:-

- Builders will normally be on site 7.30am - 4.30pm, Mon-Fri

- The Car Park will be closed to public use at all times and fenced off as a builders' compound. Loading/ unloading will be possible in one space outside the Main Hall doors. (Where possible, please walk to church, car share or ask for lifts and use local roadside parking spots thoughtfully and with respect for local residents)
- Entrance to the hall will be by the Main Hall double doors
- Entrance to the church will be by the main church doors at the bottom of the steps leading from St Mark's Crescent
- Regular users will be contacted individually, issued with appropriate keys and notified of any changes to instructions on use of the premises
- There will be no access route between the hall and church via the car park nor through the buildings, only by the external footpath
- The existing Ladies toilets will become "unisex" facilities for hall users and organisations using the church will have access to a Portaloos sited just outside the church doors
- Subject to unforeseen circumstances, kitchen facilities will be open to hall users until 12 July but the remaining central "link" buildings will be restricted to builders' use only.
- There will be no landline phone nor WiFi facilities

Please remember that much of the church site will be enclosed as restricted builders' areas and unauthorised entry will be forbidden.

With the temporary loss of the main foyer, our ability to publish information on notice boards will be restricted. We'll endeavour to keep you up to date through e-mail, weekly church Notices and future editions of The Link but information on all activities is available on our website, (www.stmarksmaidenhead.org.uk)

As work progresses, contractor's staff will NOT be able to answer enquiries and ALL questions regarding the project must be directed by e-mail to info@stmarksmaidenhead.org.uk or by speaking to David Black, Ed Filmore, Eileen Chislett, Keith Machin, Sara Motion, Anthony Nicholls or David Ridley.

FORTHCOMING FUNDRAISING EVENTS

Friday 5 April 7.30 pm
in the church

Friday Night Music



***Miss Amy Tarrant
and
Mr Anthony Nicholls***

will entertain with a feast of beautiful classical and modern
songs and piano pieces for all to enjoy

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

**Saturday 18 May
7 for 7.30pm**

Quiz Night

at Woodlands Park Village Centre

Tickets £11pp inc Fish n' Chips Supper
(*Bring own Drinks & Glasses*)

Teams of 6 or ask about individual entries

**Tickets available from bstc.boxoffice@gmail.com
or phone 01628 623263**

SPRING FAIR

Building work will limit the space available to expand the
monthly bazaar to our usual Spring Fair but there will be an
event on 18 May, details of which will be published later.

BROKEN SHOESTRING THEATRE COMPANY

Announcing Panto 2020!

We thought we'd give you early warning of our next Pantomime production so you can consider how you'd like to be involved and, most importantly, plan the dates in your diary.

Production: Babes in the Wood

Rehearsals start in September, every Monday and Wednesday evening 7 – 9pm approx.

(It is possible that Wednesday dates may change according to availability of cast)

We will give you a list of dates when you are needed when we have our cast in September. However, we don't usually meet over the October half term or Christmas holidays.

In January, additional important rehearsals will take place as follows:

Sunday 11th, 19th, 26th afternoons from 1 pm

Thursday 30th Dress rehearsal from 6pm

Performances: Friday 31Jan (evening), Sat 1 Feb matinee and evening.

All rehearsals are important and January ones are vital.

We will also need additional help from parents/friends for promoting tickets, providing some costume items (small), front of house, and helping with refreshments at January rehearsals.

If anyone can take on the Box Office please let us know.

We have been producing family friendly pantomimes since 1996 to a professional standard with technical support in many areas. If you would like to help with any of these backstage roles please talk to us about it.

We will call a casting/audition evening in early September and should also make it clear that there are no "ordinary" drama classes while we are rehearsing.

Eileen Chislett and Jenny Lewington-Chislett

WESLEY'S NEW ROOM (Part 2)

We are grateful to David Lindsay for supplying us with an article he has written on Wesley's New Room and the Museum of Methodism in Bristol. An edited version of the background to the Museum was printed in the February/March Link and this final part of David's article describes the Museum itself.

David writes:-

In 2014 the New Room was awarded a Heritage Lottery Grant of £2.5 million and this was used to create a Museum of Methodism to which there have already been over 36,000 visitors.

The museum, designed with the aid of professionals, consists of a suite of 12 rooms each of which has been devoted to a separate aspect of the Wesley story. They are:-

Room 1 – Wesley's Early Life

This room is devoted to aspects which include The Holy Club at Oxford, John & Charles' prison ministry, the visit to America and their encounters with the Moravian Church, Wesley's opposition to the Slave Trade, his link with George Whitefield and his introduction to open air preaching. The room contains the most valuable exhibit in the building, a Bible, Authorised version, first published in 1630.

Room 2 - Rich/Poor Room

The room reflects Bristol life in the mid-eighteenth century, starkly divided between extreme poverty and great wealth. On the poor side is a bare table on which stands an empty food bowl and on the other side is an example of the intricate lace traded by merchant and slave owner, John Pinney.

Room 3 - Building of the New Room

Room 3 incorporates the foundation stone of the original 1739 building and celebrates Wesley's interest in four of the principal social concerns of the day; a school, a food bank (nothing has

changed), a base for the visiting of prisoners in local gaols and lastly and innovatively, a pharmacy, providing a crucial service to support the poor. Critics who despised those who assisted with these activities wrote them off as “Methodists.”

Room 4 - Stories from Early Methodism

The main exhibit here is a William 3rd five shilling silver coin presented by John Wesley to William Chenhall of St Just in Cornwall with whose family he had stayed during one of his far flung travels around the British Isles. The coin remained unspent as a reminder of the visit of the great man.

Room 5 – The spread of Methodism

Room 5 commemorates the spread of Methodism overseas. On display is the Ordination Certificate of Thomas Dove, who became a Methodist at the age of fourteen. Following his ordination, he volunteered immediately for service in West Africa, known as the graveyard posting due to the likelihood of being struck down with disease in less than a year.

Room 6 – Foundation of Kingswood School

There is much evidence here of John Wesley’s interest in education and he founded Kingswood School in Bath, which still operates today. A classroom is depicted, with a quantity of useful educational literature and a blackboard on which is listed the attributes of a good scholar.

Room 7 - Preachers’ Common Room

This is the central room from which all the other rooms lead and was used as a common room for visiting preachers. It incorporates a window from which John Wesley observed activities taking place in the chapel. A fascinating object on display is the first membership book of the New Room.

Room 8 - John Wesley’s Personal Items

Memorabilia appertaining to John Wesley personally are displayed and include the linen cover which surrounded the edge of his bed.

Room 9 – John Wesley's Bedroom

The bedroom was permanently maintained for use in between his travels. Besides his actual bed, you can see his preaching robes and a portrait, painted by Frank Salisbury in celebration of the joining of the three branches of Methodism in 1932. It was hung in the Royal Academy's Summer Exhibition of that year. There is also a life-sized statue of Wesley demonstrating him at his full height of 5ft 3ins!

Room 10 – Story of Charles Wesley and Family

Charles originally stayed at the New Room but, on his marriage to Sally, they acquired a house in nearby Stokes Croft in a street fortuitously called Charles Street. They originally lived at No 19, subsequently moving to No 4. They had eight children but only three survived to adulthood. They lived in Bristol for a total of 20 years before moving to London.

The room is full of musical memories, not only of Charles' hymn writing, but also of Sally's musicianship as she was a gifted performer in her own right. No 4 Charles Street is still owned by the Methodist Church and is available to visit.

Room 11 – Topic of War (and Peace)

In the last of the historic rooms, the attitude of John and Charles to peace and war is revealed. They lived in turbulent times which included the 1745 Highland Rebellion whilst on the continent and in America wars were being fought. They were not pacifists but were inclined to preach peace-making.

Room 12 – Contemporary Issues

The final room is devoted to the similarity of matters of concern in the 18th century to those of today. Wesley was far-sighted in many ways and matters on which he wrote included the role of women, consumerism and concern for the environment.

CHURCH MONEY MATTERS

Regular Giving

The start of the new Tax Year gives us all an opportunity to review our gifts to the church.

With the 2020 Vision building work about to start, St Mark's faces the challenges of maintaining a healthy financial position during the work and repaying loans required to complete the project.

There has seldom been a more appropriate time to consider (small) increases in regular gifts, further donations to the building fund or the use of Standing Orders to simplify regular giving (and reduce work for the Treasurer!).

Gift Aid Donations – “How much can I give?”

Can I remind taxpayers that, with their agreement, the church is able to reclaim tax paid on donations under the Gift Aid scheme so that, for every £10 given, the church can claim £2.50 from HMRC at no extra cost to donors.

Please remember that individuals can only Gift Aid donations to charities up to the equivalent value of tax paid each year.

This means that, for every £10 tax paid (at the standard 20% rate) you may donate up to £40 under the Gift Aid scheme.

As an example, someone paying £200 tax in a tax year can donate up to £800 to charities under the Gift Aid scheme and the charities to which donations were made could reclaim £200 from HMRC.

To Give and Not to Count the Cost!

In addition to gift-aiding donations, please remember that you can help the church at no cost to yourself by making use of TheGivingMachine website when purchasing on-line from a host of companies. More than £1380 has already been raised

in this way. To register, just click on the link on our website (www.stmarksm Maidenhead.org.uk).

Finally, and most importantly, the Link Magazine gives me the opportunity, on behalf of St Mark's Church Council, to offer heartfelt thanks to all those who've contributed so generously through gifts of their money and time in recent years to help turn the exciting 2020 Vision into reality.

Ed Filmore (Treasurer)
(01628 63263 or chrisfilmore@aol.com)

CIRCUIT EVENT

He is Risen!

An evening of words and music for Easter
with
Thames Valley Voices



Come and
sing with us
on.....

Tuesday 23 April 2019 at 7.30pm
at St Andrew's Methodist Church, Slough

1ST PINKNEYS GREEN GUIDES COMPANY

In the absence of a Church Annual Report booklet this year, we're delighted to publish the following item on the Guides' activities submitted by Captain Angela McNabb.

January - We started the year by making calendars. Y.L. Ella Batkin organised a Bowling Trip and the girls enjoyed great fun on their night out. 7 girls made their Guide Promise.

February – We started “Blast from the Past Go For It” badge and sorted girls into Patrols. Y.L. Ella ran an evening on the theme of the Chinese New Year. We ended the term with a Thinking Day Party with candle lighting, games, doughnuts and badge presentation.

March – We completed “Traditions of Guiding” badge by following a trail, Whistle and Hand Signals, marching and learning the National Anthem and other clauses. Two guides led the Go For It: Party Planner and the rest of the company had a great evening.

April - Patrol Leaders Council was held to plan future meetings. Showtime Go For It was worked on.

May - Badgework was completed. Cards were made for the Wedding of Prince Harry to Meghan Markle. They were posted and two months later they all had an individual reply. Our Y.L. Abigail Dennis was excited for her upcoming trip to Kenya with South West Region Girlguiding in the summer holidays. The guides supported her by bringing items which she could take for the children out there, pencils, small toys and balls. Our Y.L. Ella Batkin made her Adult Guides Promise on her 18th birthday.

June - Eight clauses were worked on for the Votes for Women badge. One clause was icing cakes in green, white and violet for Give Women Votes.

July - Captain and Leffy attended Training at Thirtover in Bushcraft and Archery. Whilst there we met up with our guide,

Sophie Halstead, who was taking part in her Baden-Powell Award Adventure. The term ended with toasting 'sommores' over nightlights.

September - The Harvest Window at Church was decorated by the girls. Y.L. Abigail Dennis put on a presentation of her Kenyan trip which was extremely interesting. The guides asked lots of questions. The new programme for all sections of Girlguiding was launched and the Unit gave every guide a book and badge book out of funds. We hope they will work on it on their own and also at Unit meetings. Three members made their Guide Promise. P.L. Phoebe Ibison worked on her B.P.Challenges and talked to her Patrol about a Nature Reserve she had visited.

October - Guides made felt poppies to give out to St. Mark's congregation in November. Two parent helpers assisted on the evening. Sophie Halstead completed her Baden-Powell Award. Congratulations to her.

November - Guides visited "3" in Maidenhead one evening to work on their Vlogging Badge. On 16 November Sophie had a Presentation evening for her highest award in the Guide Section, Baden-Powell Challenge.

December - Carol Singing at Clara Court ended our Winter term as usual.

Thank you to the Leaders who tirelessly give up their time voluntarily and to parent helpers too. May Girlguiding in Maidenhead flourish during the year ahead.

Guide Captain – Mrs. Angela McNabb

Editors' Note: Our thanks go to Angela for this article and we'd be delighted to print news of your activities or events in future Link editions.

CAKE STALL AT MONTHLY BAZAARS

A very big thank you to all the people who are able to bake cakes for the Monthly Bazaars and also for those who come along and support by buying our produce.



From time to time our regular bakers are not able to make cakes for a certain month and our next Bazaar on 20 April is such an occasion. I'm therefore asking for extra help either by manning the stall with me or making some cakes. If you are able to help, please let me know by 13 April and, to avoid duplication of items, also tell me what type of cakes you can make on this occasion.

Christine Filmore

01628 623263 or email chrisfilmore@aol.com

MANUFACTURERS' ORIGINAL INK CARTRIDGES

The Stationery Stall has several ink cartridges for sale
£1 for single, £3 for multipacks:

Epson T0715 multipack
 T0711 / T0712 / T0713 / T0714

Canon526 B
 526 CMY multipack
 8 PM
 8 PC

Lexmark 20 Tricolour

If any of these are suitable for your printer, please speak to Keith Machin or Anthony Nicholls.

MARLOW METHODIST CHURCH

We have been asked to advertise the following vacancy

Our inclusive and community oriented Church is seeking to appoint an imaginative and suitably qualified person for the role of

Children's and Young People's Worker

This is an exciting opportunity to

- **Join us in a new phase of our church life as we reach out into Marlow through our church building redevelopment, with café**
- **Work with our team of volunteers – you won't be alone!**
- **Co-ordinate, support and develop our existing children and young people's programme of activities**
- **Expand existing relationships with local schools and work through Churches Together in Marlow**
- **Work flexible hours**

Hours – part-time (20 hours per week)

Salary - £9,000 to £13,500 per annum

Closing date for applications – 5th April 2019

Interviews will take place in Marlow, Buckinghamshire in May 2019

Appointment has a genuine occupational requirement that the post-holder is a practising Christian and is subject to an enhanced DBS disclosure

Employment pack/application form from
www.marlowmethodistchurch.org.uk

SERVICES FOR APRIL/MAY

Date	10.30am	6.30pm
7 April	Rev Richard Cattley Holy Communion	
14	Mrs Nicola Shaw	3.45pm Messy Church
21	EASTER DAY Revd Sonia Hicks Holy Communion	
28	Joint Service at High Street Methodist Church	
5 May	Revd Richard Cattley Holy Communion	
12	Local Arrangement	
19	Revd Julie Underwood	
26	Mr. Richard Pooley	

FLOWER ROTA

7 April	LENT
14	
21 EASTER DAY	Mr & Mrs David Ridley
28	Flowers from the wedding of Paul and Emma
5 May	Mr & Mrs Ed Filmore
12	Mrs Joyce MacKenzie
19	Mrs Lucy Guest
26	Mrs Greta Woodbridge

Please note: THE NEXT ISSUE OF THE LINK will be for June/July. The deadline will be Noon on Sunday, 15 June. 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



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 (Monthly - 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
	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
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