

# *THE LINK'*

*St Mark's Crescent Methodist Church*

*Maidenhead*

*Tel: 01628 631024*



*February/March 2019*

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

## MESSAGE FROM REV JULIE UNDERWOOD

Joni Mitchell sang “Don’t it always seem to go, but you don’t know what you’ve got till it’s gone”. She was warning about not appreciating and caring for the good things we have around us. I was reminded of these words after watching a TV programme about the wildlife surrounding us in our cities and then spotting a jay in my local park.

February 14<sup>th</sup> is celebrated as Valentine’s Day. Some people might regard this day as a lot of sentimental nonsense or perhaps a day of disappointment. However, I think this might be a day to remember Joni Mitchell’s words. Young children are often encouraged to send Valentines to those who care for them, to express their love and appreciation. Could we use such a day as a prompt to show our appreciation for the good things we receive? It might be for what others do for us, or for our communities, or for the world that we live in. We need not send cards or flowers, though sometimes these are needed, but can’t we show our thankfulness by what we say, how we treat each other, how we care for our world?

Jesus appreciated the world in which he lived despite the times being difficult and troubled. He told those around him to look at the wild flowers and birds; to see their beauty; and to realise that if God, the creator, cared for and sustained such little things, then God loved and cared for every human being even more (Matthew 6: 26 – 30). If we can stop and realise the good things that surround us rather than just moan about what we do not have, then more of God’s love and hope can percolate into our lives and transform us for the better. For if we are willing to show our appreciation of kindnesses and help we receive and the things we enjoy by what we say and do – whether it be to people, to organisations, to our environment, to God – then we are channels of blessing that can transform this world into the place of peace and love for all as it should be.

So, how about it? Shall we celebrate Valentine's Day every day by the way we live and show our love to all? Have a good one!

Every blessing to you

Julie

### CONTACTING MINISTERS

Just in case any members or friends are confused about what to do if they require the services of a Minister before the arrival of the Rev Carmel Ieraci on 1 September, it might be helpful to repeat the agreed arrangements.

In the first instance, members and friends should contact me, the Senior Steward, Keith Machin (01628 418775). I will pass on the request to Rev Julie Underwood who will either make contact with the enquirer or, if appropriate, pass on the request to Rev Sonia Hicks.

If you are unable to make contact with me, please speak to one of the other Church Stewards who will take action to get the process running.

Members and friends may also be interested to know that the Priesthaus Manse in East Road has now been sold and arrangements are being made for the Circuit to purchase a replacement Manse in another part of town.

Keith



## **Vision to Become a Reality!**

After 6 years of preparation, we're delighted to announce that we've been given final consent by the Methodist Church and plan to start building in April.

As a reminder, the project will provide:

- an enlarged welcome area and meeting space for café style interaction for all age groups, seating up to 30 people
- an enlarged Burberry room seating up to 28 people
- clear separation of facilities, enabling simultaneous use without conflict of needs
- a single entrance/exit addressing Safeguarding objectives
- renewed toilet and kitchen facilities

### **How have we reached this stage?**

- Tireless work by planning and fund-raising groups
- Generous support & fund-raising from a host of members, friends & non-church groups
- Grants from Methodist sources, Allchurches Trust, Beatrice Laing Trust, Louis Baylis Charitable Trust, Garfield Weston Charitable Foundation, Persimmons Homes, Prince Philip Trust, Shanly Foundation & others
- Promises of interest-free loans

### **How can you help?**

- Attend our fund raising events
- Organise a fund-raising event however large or small
- Make a one-off donation or pledge a regular gift (gift-aided if you pay tax)
- Purchase on-line from a host of shops/organisations at no cost to you through The GivingMachine
- Support us in prayer whether or not you feel able to do anything else

## FORTHCOMING 2020 VISION FUNDRAISING EVENTS

**Sunday 17 February**

### **Sunday Lunch**

**12.15pm**

**Adults £7.00, under 12s £4.00**

In the Church Hall

Booking essential.

Please contact Eileen Chislett 01628 625720 or  
info@stmarksmaidenhead.co.uk

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**Saturday 9 March**

**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](mailto:bstc.boxoffice@gmail.com)  
or phone 01628 623263**

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### SWIMARATHON 2019

Thanks, once again, go to the Esling and Chippington families for entering a team in the Lions Club Swimathon and whose sponsorship will go to the 2020 Vision fund.

### ECHOES OF SWING BIG BAND IN CONCERT

Cookham Rise Church invite you to listen to sounds and music from the swing era on Friday 1 February, 7.30 - 10pm. Tickets on the door include refreshments £10 Adults/Children Free. Proceeds will go to the Methodist Charity "ALL WE CAN" to supporting Syrian Refugees in Jordan.

## WESLEY'S NEW ROOM

*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 follows and a further item, describing the Museum itself, will be published in the next (April/May) edition of the Link.*

*David has written:-*

For those of us living near London the most well-known Methodist churches are, no doubt, Central Hall, Westminster and Wesley's Chapel, City Road. However, 85 miles to the west, in the city of Bristol, is the oldest and first Methodist Chapel in the world dating back to 1739. It is known universally as the New Room.

Following John Wesley's Aldersgate experience on 24 May 1738, he linked up with George Whitefield, another evangelist, who was working amongst the miners at Kingswood, a suburb of Bristol. Having become established in the area, in March 1739 he purchased a plot of land near St James' Churchyard in the Horsefair in the centre of Bristol for £52.00. By June 1739 sufficient work had been completed to enable worship to commence.

The work at the Worship Centre prospered with support from local communities. John was joined by his brother Charles for whom a statue was erected at the time of his marriage. However, Charles set up house at nearby Stokes Croft where his house still stands. By 1748 the building required extension and Wesley asked the congregation to contribute one penny each per week to fund the work. Those who could not afford this were grouped under the leadership of a wealthy member of the community who accepted responsibility for their contribution.

As precautions against attack from hostile mobs, the downstairs worship area had no windows and the pulpit area was inaccessible from the ground. Upstairs were Wesley's living quarters, overlooking the worship area so that he could observe his preachers as they addressed their services which started at 5.00am with listeners seated on backless forms, some of which are still there. There were also a few rooms for the use of some of his travelling preachers.

The first Methodist Conference was held in London in June 1744 and comprised the two Wesley brothers, 4 preachers and 4 laymen. The next year it was held in the New Room and comprised John, Charles, 7 preachers and 1 layman. In all, 18 Conferences were held in Bristol during Wesley's lifetime and, by 1756, numbers had increased to 50. At the Conference in 1771, 26 year old Francis Asbury responded to a request for help from America and sailed from nearby Pill along with Richard Wright to form the United Methodist Church of America. John Wesley last attended a New Room Conference in 1790, the year before he died. By the early 1800's many other churches were springing up and it was decided to sell the New Room to the Welsh Calvinists in 1808 but a license to continue to hold Methodist services was maintained. The price paid was £2,000 and an interregnum of 121 years began.

In 1929, a prominent business man, Mr Lamplough, Deputy Chairman of Lloyds of London and future Vice-President of the newly amalgamated Methodist Church, wrote to a fellow Methodist in Bristol pointing out that Charles Wesley's former home was up for sale and suggested it should be purchased for local use. The response was positive with an additional wish to see the New Room recovered from the Calvinists and restored to its former state.

To the advantage of the New Room, the Welsh Calvinists had made few alterations in 121 years and the project, funded by Mr Lamplough, was carried out basically as restoration. The

Calvinists were paid £2,000 but were also given the right to continue to hold services there. The work took six months and cost £19,000 including the purchase of Charles' house. A statue was erected in the shape of a full- sized replica of John Wesley seated on a copper horse. John was reading from an open book, the reins of the horse were relaxed and the horse is described as having an "intelligent" face.

Inside the chapel is the original 18<sup>th</sup> century clock, a Snetzler organ from the same period specially purchased by Mr. Lamplough and a picture of the Holy Club at Oxford.

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.

Since opening there have been over 36,000 visitors to the Museum.

*N.B. A visit by coach to the New Room is being organised by the Thames Valley Methodist Circuit for Saturday 23 March. If you are interested in going, please contact Anne Haggerty ([janandanneh@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:janandanneh@tiscali.co.uk) or 01753 867099) by 1 February at the latest.*

### CHRISTIANS AGAINST POVERTY (CAP)

At a recent Churches Together in Maidenhead meeting, one of the topics discussed was CAP, a charity funded by donations from churches and individuals who want to help people in debt. CAP provides a totally free service to all regardless of race, nationality, religion, age, gender, marital status, or disability. Calls to CAP are free on 0800 328 0006 and leaflets are available in the church foyer with more information.



## 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 £520 sent to our chosen charity, Parkinson's UK, as a result of the Christmas Bazaar, £284 was raised for Action for Children at St Mark's Christmas services.

Funds raised recently for the 2020 Vision project include £1,100 from the Gift Day in late November, £566 from the performance of "Crisp & Even Brightly", £130 from the Soup & Nibbles lunch, £159 from donations in lieu of Christmas Cards and £397 from the January Quiz Night and a further £2,100 from donations.

Continuing support for fund-raising activities is sincerely appreciated. These events have given so much fun to so many people and, as we approach the building phase of the project, further events are being planned.

Fund-raising is set to continue in the short to medium term to enable repayment of loans and 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 yourself by making use of TheGivingMachine website when purchasing on-line from a host of companies.

Well over £1,300 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))

## FORWARD DATES

**The Forward Dates leaflet for 2019 is enclosed with this edition of the Link giving dates for your diaries.**

## SERVICES FOR FEBRUARY

Date	10.30am	6.30pm
3 Feb	Revd Julie Underwood Holy Communion	Deacon Andy Packer
10	Rev Richard Cattley	
17	Mr Azeem Bakhsh	Revd Sonia Hicks
24	Local Arrangement	

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

**The General Church Meeting will take place on Sunday, 17<sup>th</sup> March 2019 following Morning Worship**

## FLOWER ROTA

3 February	Mrs B Fox
10	Mrs E Chislett
17	Mrs S Palmer
24	Mrs B Fox
3 March	Mr M O'Hara
10	LENT
17	
24	

Please note: THE NEXT ISSUE OF THE LINK will be for Apr/May. The deadline will be Noon on Sunday, 17 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	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 <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
	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
	5.30-7pm	Brownie Guides (1 <sup>st</sup> 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 <sup>st</sup> Thursdays)
8-9.30pm	Elite Academy of Dance	
Fri	9am-1pm	Birdwood Nursery (with lunch)
	6.15-7.45pm	Guides (1 <sup>st</sup> Pinkneys Green, Miss Baden-Powell's Own)
Sat	10am-1pm	Craft a Gift Workshop (1 <sup>st</sup> Saturdays)
	10-11.45am	Monthly Bazaar/Coffee Morning (3 <sup>rd</sup> Saturday)
	Morning	Talking Newspaper Association