



## Circuit Exchange

Quarterly Newsletter  
of the  
Wantage and Abingdon Methodist Circuit

June - August 2018



### **From the Manse in Wantage...**

For some, the fact that the English football season has finished, gives them the opportunity to breathe a sigh of relief and to look forward to the respite that the summer always brings.

However, with this year being 2018, there is only a very short period without the beautiful game as the World Cup finals in Russia begin on 14<sup>th</sup> June and run through to 15<sup>th</sup> July.

As always the summer is packed full of various sporting events of all kinds. We have Wimbledon, the Henley Royal Regatta, England Cricket Test series against India, Pakistan, and One Day internationals against Australia.

There is also the Tour de France, The British Grand Prix, the Women's Hockey World Cup and the World Karate Championships, the World triathlon series, golf's The Open, The Derby and Royal Ascot.

In London, the Athletics World Cup 2018 is happening along with the London Anniversary Games.

Thinking about Athletics, I am reminded of Eric Liddell, he whose story and the account of his faith and his convictions were portrayed in the [Oscar](#)-winning 1981 film, [Chariots of Fire](#).

On one occasion when asked to make a speech, Eric Liddell stated that *“Over the gate of Pennsylvania University are inscribed these words, ‘In the dust of defeat as well as in the laurels of victory there is a glory to be found if one has done his best.’”*

This summer will see teams and individuals win and lose in all types of sporting competitions. Athletes and players alike might find themselves on the losing side, even though they have achieved a personal best or performed at a level much higher than that which they usually attain.

St. Paul on a number of occasions drew parallels between the Christian life and sporting competitions. As we seek to faithfully follow in the footsteps of Jesus, may we know and experience the glory to be found if we have done and offered him our best in all that we do, seek and are.

With love and God Bless,

*Keith*

### **Circuit farewell service for Revd Katherine Pickering**

On Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> July at 4:00 pm there will be a Circuit Service to say farewell to Katherine and Ian Pickering as they prepare to leave our Circuit and move to Worcester where Katherine will take up her new appointment on 1<sup>st</sup> September. The service will be held at Wallingford Methodist Church.

Katherine will be greatly missed and we invite you all to come along as we say thank you to her.

## **Sale of Chapels**

We have received and accepted an offer for the chapel at Blewbury, and the prospective buyer is arranging surveys.

The financial resources this and the other recent sales provide will help us plan for the future, as challenged to do by the President and Vice-President.

## **Safeguarding – new policies**

Refresher training courses and the full safeguarding Foundation module course have been held recently, and attendees should have received a certificate. Further sessions will be arranged soon; if you are aware that you or other post-holders in your church need this training, please contact Keith Underhill who will be making the arrangements.

The safeguarding policies drawn up by the Connexion for circuits and churches are now held online and updated at intervals. The current versions can be printed for approval annually at the Circuit Meeting, and individual Church Councils – normally in the autumn.

## **Message from the Editor of the Childrey , Grove & Wantage Sector Newsletter**

Please note that our deadline for material for the Sector Newsletter is normally the third Sunday in the month. It would help if notices being shared around the circuit could be received by this date each month, as they will then reach a wider public and ensure publication as this cannot be guaranteed in the weekly notices. Our email address is : [wantage.sector.newsletter@gmail.com](mailto:wantage.sector.newsletter@gmail.com)

## **Circuit Website - [www.wantab.org.uk](http://www.wantab.org.uk)**

The website is now becoming “part of the furniture” and the hoped-for stream of news from churches around the Circuit is so far only a trickle. Please remember we are always looking for up-to-date stories, even of relatively small-scale events, to ensure the site gives a fresh and up-to-date impression. Anyone can send a paragraph, long or short, ideally with a photo (from your phone?) Don't worry about your prowess as an author – an editorial eye can be cast over your work if you wish.

You may feel, looking at the Calendar, that it isn't as busy as it used to be. When the website was set up, I trawled through church notices and newsletters to find events to fill the Calendar. I'm no longer doing this! I'm happy to add events for any Church – just send me details, as below.

We intend that people within the Circuit can use the site to find or disseminate information – as a replacement for the online Circuit Directory, and a central repository for downloadable documents. The local preachers have all been given access, as part of the plan-making tool which was used for the first time last month.

Because of the laws on data privacy, we can only store contact details for those who clearly consent to this, or whose role in the Church requires that they can be contacted. If you would like to be given access, or to share your email and/or phone details with others in the Circuit, especially those holding posts in the Churches, please fill in the form at [www.wantab.org.uk/signing-in.html](http://www.wantab.org.uk/signing-in.html)

## **Circuit Stewards team**

Carolyn Roche, from Wantage, is now established as a Circuit Steward, and we are pleased that Geoffrey Maunder, who stepped down as a circuit steward in 2016, has agreed to another term in the post.

However, Mary Hancock is into “extra time” having agreed to extend her term until summer 2018, and Andrew is expecting to move away during 2018, so we still need new blood to join the team. Our vision is of someone representing each of the larger churches – with a team of six, no-one's share would be unbearably large. The scope of the job may also be adjusted to suit the people who are available. Everyone who has been a Circuit Steward agrees that it is a fascinating and richly rewarding thing to do.

Are you hearing a call? Please pray about this situation, and don't assume someone more suitable will step forward!

To find out more, talk to your minister or to one of the current team: ***Andrew Lockley (Senior)***

***Mary Hancock***

***Alan Smith***

***Carolyn Roche***

## **More news from wider Methodism**

If you use email, you can sign-up to a number of newsletters, some more frequent than others, which will keep you up-to-date on other parts of the Connexion.

Go to <http://www.methodist.org.uk/news-and-events/sign-up-for-e-newsletters>

## **Circuit Youth Music and Drama Group**

We welcome young people aged 9 upwards to:

- **meet** at Methodist churches around the Wantage and Abingdon circuit, one Sunday a month;
- **practise** singing, music, reading and/or drama;
- **eat** some pizza together; and
- **contribute** towards the evening worship service.

The group meets 3.45pm for **4.00pm rehearsal start**. We have pizza at 5.30pm and the evening service starts at 6.30pm, finishing at 7.30pm.

We invite young people to **have fun**, taking part as much or as little as they feel comfortable with and will enjoy - whether singing, playing an instrument or reading. There is **no cost** for taking part.

### **Who we are**

The group is led by Esther Miller and Abigail Perrow, with assistance from Gill Skidmore.

Esther is a Methodist local preacher and musician, and Abigail is a horn teacher.

For more information about the group, please email [wallingfordmusic@gmail.com](mailto:wallingfordmusic@gmail.com)

### **Future dates**

24<sup>th</sup> June - All Saints Methodist Church, Appleford Drive, OX14 2AQ

## **Update on Community Chaplains at Great Western Park**

Sarah and Libby's first year based at Great Western Park has now gone by – how time seems to have flown!

Following the successful “Chaplaincy Everywhere” training course in the Circuit, several people have expressed an interest in volunteering as Chaplains. This is great news, and the team are now considering how best to progress this extension to the project.

May they be assured of the prayers and encouragement of everyone in our churches as they seek to serve God in new and exciting ways. Please pray also for Katherine as she pioneers the extra role of line-managing the chaplains, and for Jocelyn who will take on this role when she arrives; and for the support group who help the team in so many ways.

The chaplains are going on local radio! Libby has given an interview with BBC Radio Oxfordshire which will air on Sunday 27th May at 6am - and later on catch-up at:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p0673vzb>

More news from the chaplains can always be found on Facebook at

<https://www.facebook.com/GWPCCommunityChaplains>

## **Yotam Theu**

Thanks to the generosity of all who responded to Mark Sandels' article last quarter. Gifts towards Yotam's work have been sent to Malawi, and we understand the roof is now on the new building. [Click here](#) for the most recent update from Yotam, or find it on the Publications page of the Circuit website.

## **CIRCUIT MEETINGS / EVENTS**

Wednesday 14 <sup>th</sup> June, 7:30pm Trinity	Local Preachers' Meeting
Sunday 22 <sup>nd</sup> July, 4pm Wallingford	Circuit Farewell Service for Rev. Katherine Pickering
Saturday 1 <sup>st</sup> September, 7pm Didcot	Circuit Welcome Service for Rev. Jocelyn Bennett
Wednesday 12 <sup>th</sup> September, 7:30pm Trinity	Circuit Meeting

The Circuit Calendar, with these and other events, can now be viewed at <http://www.wantab.org.uk/calendar.html>. The website and Circuit Exchange exist to link all parts of our Circuit together – let us know what's happening at your church. Send items for inclusion on the website at any time. September 2018 Circuit Exchange will be compiled from items received by [a.lockley@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:a.lockley@tiscali.co.uk) by 11<sup>th</sup> August 2018.

**Wantage & Abingdon Methodist Circuit Churches are**

**All Saints (Abingdon), Childrey, Didcot, Grove, Milton,  
Peachcroft Christian Centre (Abingdon), Trinity  
(Abingdon), Wallingford, Wantage**