

Circuit News

Dear Friends

Recently, a church member said to me, “I’ve been talking to my friend about Jesus.” “Oh yes,” I said, “How did they respond?” “Well,” said the church member, “My friend doesn’t come to church, but she is happy to accept the kind, loving Jesus. However, in her heart of hearts she says she’s not so sure about Jesus dying and certainly not comfortable with him rising from the dead.” This brief conversation made me think about how many people, perhaps including some of your family members and friends, find the whole story of Jesus difficult to accept.

I am writing this article as Lent is about to begin. Once again, throughout this special period, we shall be journeying with Jesus, a journey which ultimately takes us to the Cross and the empty tomb. Please hear me correctly as I certainly do not simply want to dismiss the views expressed by my church member’s friend which may be held by others. Indeed, I appreciate the honesty of those who wrestle with questions of faith. However, for me, only the whole story of Jesus can reveal the God Jesus wants us to know; the God who, in Jesus, was willing to live for us, die for us and rise again that we might truly know him and live with him.

Some of my favourite words from the Bible include a phrase in 1 John 3:20: God is greater than our hearts. If you, in your heart of hearts, find the whole life of Jesus difficult to believe, I pray that your Lenten journey this year might enable you once again to consider (and even dare to believe) the heart of God revealed in Jesus.

Paul

Revd Dr Paul Hill

Calendar

March

4	Across the Circuit	Women's World Day of Prayer
5	Bradmore	Rainbows' Quiz Night
5	Cotgrave	10:00am Gift Day
5	Ruddington	10:00am Table Top Sale
14 - 17	MWiB	Willersley Week
17	Ruddington	7:30pm Circuit Executive
19	Radcliffe on Trent	10am Bereavement Care Awareness Course

April

6 - 8	Radcliffe on Trent	Holiday Club
15	Keyworth	7:30pm Traveller's Tales - Expedition to Everest
15 - 17	MWiB	Swanwick National Residential Weekend
21	Cotgrave	7:30pm Circuit Meeting
23	Cotgrave	7:00pm Quiz Night
24	Keyworth	6:30pm Christian Aid Presentation
24	Ruddington	6:00pm Circuit Easter Offering Service

May

4	Bradmore	7:30pm Local Preachers' Meeting
5	West Bridgford	7:30pm Ascension Day Service
8	West Bridgford	Farewell Service for Paul, Joan & Richard Hill
14	Keyworth	10:00am Plant Sale & Mabel's Market
21	MWiB	Paul Field in Concert. Westminster Central Hall
21	Ruddington	10:00am Plant and Cake sale for Christian Aid
25	MWiB	Willersley Evening Meal

Advance Notices

6-11 June	Keyworth	Church Holiday/Retreat to Lindisfarne
18 & 19 June	Bradmore	Family Fun Weekend
11 July	Burton on Trent	MWiB District Day
11 October	MWiB	District Day

Please send any articles, dates and other information for the June to August 2016 Circuit News to Andy Proffitt by **Friday 15 April** via email andy.w.proffitt@gmail.com or post c/o Keyworth Methodist Church, Selby Lane, Keyworth, NG12 5AH.

The next edition is expected to be available in churches on **Sunday 22 May**

Want to get the Circuit News up to a week earlier? The Circuit News is also available electronically as a PDF file. If you would like to receive a copy please send an email to **andy.w.proffitt@gmail.com** and you'll receive an eCopy up to a week before the paper copies arrive.

News from around the Circuit
West Bridgford

In the article last quarter, it was mentioned that our church family was looking forward to Christmas and to the Singing Christmas Tree event which was being planned. This event certainly exceeded all our expectations.

Young and old came together to make decorations for the church, including representations of the Twelve Days of Christmas, along with the decoration of our marvellous Singing Christmas Tree. The Christmas Tree looked magnificent and enabled various choirs and musicians, along with children from local schools to stand in its 'branches' to perform their Christmas concerts.

Worship was also conducted from the Christmas Tree including our Lesson and Carols service and the Christingle service. For our Nativity service, the Christmas Tree was transformed into a Advent Calendar, complete with 24 windows which the children opened to reveal either a reminder of Christmas (such as a picture of a reindeer), or themselves dressed as a character from the Nativity.

It was great to see so many church friends and people from the community attend the concerts and church services. The event would not have been possible without the tireless effort of John Heard and a huge team of helpers. All the proceeds from the event were given to three charities: CLIC Sargent (£1300), Equation (£1300) and All We Can (£1300).

And now we are preparing for Easter. During Lent, our discussion group on Monday evenings will be considering five psalms. On Palm Sunday we shall hopefully be visited by two donkeys to help us remember Jesus's entry into Jerusalem and begin our Holy Week devotions leading to the sadness of Good Friday and the joy of Easter Day.

We welcome Lucy Mayer and Jane Ashley as our new Family Workers. We wish them well in their new roles. We give thanks to God for the wonderful work (over many years) of Karen Middleton who has stepped down as a Family Worker - Thank You for all your hard work!

Your friends at West Bridgford send Easter greetings to you.

Clifton

With so many daffodils and other Spring flowers prematurely in bloom, one could be forgiven for thinking that it was later in the year. I am writing during January, but there seems to be new life all around us already.

However, we must not forget to give thanks to God for the events of the previous quarter. In particular, our Nativity play service which gave all those, both young and old who wished to dress up as a character from the Nativity story, an opportunity to take part. It was a fun morning, but we were also brought close to God who, in Jesus, became one of us at Bethlehem. Our Christmas Holy Communion service led by Rev Marian Crawford was greatly appreciated as was our Covenant Service. Our church family may be small in number and getting older, but at the Covenant Service we received the reassurance that God would be our God and, for our part, we pledged that in 2016 we would be his people.

Indeed, we look forward to the coming year acknowledging that there will be change as well as continuity within the life of our church. For the moment Lent is almost upon us with its call to deeper discipleship, along with the challenge of the events of Holy Week and

Easter. However, we know that Jesus is the same, yesterday and forever and he will walk with us. Easter blessings.

Tollerton

Spring finds us looking to the future here at Tollerton Methodist Church. We are well on the way on the yearly journey through Lent with friends from St Peter's. Another in the series of joint Lent Courses planned and led by our minister and Paul Johns and Peter Curtis will lead us into Holy Week Reflections and Easter Celebrations.

Two afternoon sessions using the 'First Impressions Count' course early in the New Year helped us look at the welcome we give to those who pass by or use our building or come and 'try out' worship on a Sunday. The first thing that struck us is that we don't do a bad job!

We enjoyed looking at ourselves as others might see us. We laughed a lot and learnt a lot. In our discussion on the second week one of our members floated an idea for a Big Welcome event in the summer that could involve many 'out there' in the community. So watch out for Circuit News in June to see for yourself whether our ideas sank without trace or floated our boat!

News from around the Circuit
Ruddington

Ruddington enjoyed a village 'Christmas Fayre' at the beginning of December, when poor weather curtailed some of the planned activities; however, the decision to hold our own Church Christmas Market on the same afternoon saw large numbers of people pouring in through our doors, many of whom had not been inside before. We received favourable comments on our premises (and the refreshments!), and raised more for Church funds than in recent years.

A great attraction over Christmas was the large 'Advent Calendar Window' produced by Harriet Proffitt, and much enjoyed by many passers-by. The Carol Service was well-attended, lively and meaningful, and on Christmas Day several members of our congregation attended the Service at Bradmore, which Simon led.

We were invited to renew our Covenant with God on 17 January; this was a morning Service – a departure from our usual tradition – and although it meant that the

congregations from St. Peter's and the Baptist Church were unable to join us, it enabled more of our own congregation to attend instead of having to turn out on a cold winter night.

Following the retirement of our long-time Organist, Oliver Blood, we have been fortunate to be offered the services of Dr. Douglas Harvey, who has kindly agreed to play for us about twice each month.

All activities have started up again after the Christmas break, with full programmes of events and/or speakers for the Women's and Men's Fellowship groups, children's groups, Coffee Mornings, etc.

We look forward to the year ahead, and two events are already planned: there is to be a 'Table Top Sale' from 10 – 12 noon on Saturday 5 March, when tables may be rented by individuals or groups to raise money for their own causes, and a cake stall and plant stall to raise funds for Christian Aid on the morning of Saturday 21 May.

News from around the Circuit
Bradmore

We were delighted to welcome a good number of families, children and young people to our “Pancake Praise” event on a very wet Saturday afternoon. There were activities and crafts for all, as well as a very competitive pancake flipping competition! Our minister, Simon holds the record for the most flips in 30 seconds which stands at an impressive 58! We followed this with a celebration led by Andy and Simon including songs, prayer and a talk about Lent where Simon encouraged us all to stop, look and listen, a good message for all of us during this season of Lent.

Coming soon we have our ever-popular Rainbows’ Quiz Night on Saturday 5 March when we expect a packed Community Hall in support of the Rainbows Children’s Hospice in Loughborough. The following day we have our Sunday School Celebration when we will welcome Marian Crawford to lead our family service.

For the rest of February and March we are continuing our survey of Bradmore villagers to identify practical and spiritual needs in the community; our initial forays have already generated some ideas for ways to make use of the Community Hall. Your continuing

prayers for this survey are welcomed.

Our Parish Council is in the process of setting up a village website www.bradmorevillage.org.uk and we are embracing the new opportunities this provides. Our monthly diary, the quarterly Labyrinth leaflet and the Circuit News are already on the website and it will be especially nice to be able to include in the Village History section the text of Oliver Randall’s book “Bradmore, The Village & Methodism 1830-1980”, written to commemorate the first 150 years of Methodism in Bradmore. The next step will be to bring the record up to date to include the refurbishment, completed in 2003. The Sunday School records and Trustees’ Minute books also provide information for the Family History section – though that will take a little longer to complete.

After a pause to digest the results of our survey the next major event will be the Family Weekend on 18 & 19 June. On the Saturday we have fun and games in Rushcliffe Country Park and a family service on the Sunday led by Simon when we hope a few more of the families who enjoy the Saturday will join in.

Keyworth

This is being written as we enter another year and we do so with hope. The end of 2015 saw the Church set out to enable the maximum number of people to be accommodated. Our Christmas day service saw us with few spare seats and the Guiding service was standing room only. Our toddler and children's activities continue to be very well attended. During the year we have lost a number of our congregation but we rejoice that others have regularly joined us and we are committed to welcoming all who want to know about the love of Jesus and bring them into the worshipping life of our church. We thank God that he has provided us with the resources to enable us to witness and reach out to the village and surrounding communities. A recent sermon included the theme of going forward in faith; may we be blessed in the work being carried out at our church and look forward to a year of growth, renewal and revival

In accordance with Methodist convention our Covenant service was held on the first Sunday in January led by our minister Rev. Simon Rose. Many folk find this service difficult and are apprehensive, however, a good sized congregation made their promises of commitment to our

loving Lord for the coming year. The covenant made on earth is now ratified in heaven.

As is our usual practice, we allocated a notice board in the school room for members of the congregation to place Christmas cards on and this has also included cards from members who have moved away. It is good to see these cards from former members who still wish to keep in touch. Donations of £217 in lieu of postage etc. were sent to Rev Nicola Jones who organises funds for the Bethlehem 4 Homes of Mercy.

February is committee month at KMC when all our four major committees meet to plan for the coming year and then report to Church Council. At the centre of discussion will be the Circuit Mission Statement. We look forward to our members thoughts on the statement and hearing some interesting debate on "What we do: how we do it: and how we support it:"

Our Keylink Charity Committee are arranging several social and fund raising events during 2016 to support the work of our charity Self Help Africa. Watch out for these events in the Circuit News calendar.

Cotgrave

**Are you interested in
Art & Craft**

**Cotgrave Art & Craft
group**

£1
a week



Come and have a go!

Tuesday's 1:30pm

Our art and craft group has been running every Tuesday since September and we have had some great fun. We have been learning how to knit sheep for the Christmas Journey and now some of us are on to Knitted Daffodils for Easter. People have had a

go at Acrylic and watercolour painting with some great pieces of art work.

The group was invited to Spring Meadows (a warden aided older persons housing complex in Cotgrave) to encourage the older people to come out of their flats and join together in the common room. We helped 10 people to paint a sunset sky with a silhouette of a tree, they had great fun. As we painted we chatted and made some new friends out in our community. We are now planning on a return visit as everyone really enjoyed the afternoon.

		March 2016				April	
		6	13	20	27	3	10
Service Times		Mothering Sunday		Palm Sunday	Easter Sunday		
Cycle of Prayer		Gotham	ROT	Cotgrave	Tollerton	Circuit	Keyworth
West	10.30	P Hill WT	J Mellor	P Hill WT	P Hill HC	K Jones	R Blyth
Bridgford	3.00	Faith & Light				Faith & Light	
	NG2 7PQ 5.30		Soul Café				Soul Café
Clifton	10.30	L Blyth WT	P Hill	D Morley	M Crawford HC	B Horler	P Hill
	NG11 8AU						
Gotham	11.00	Parish Church	N Geeson	Parish Church	Parish Church	Parish Church	J Clark
	NG11 0HW						
Radcliffe on Trent	8.00				J Tanner HC		
	10.00	D Kerr	R Johnson	R Wilcockson	J Tanner WT	R Jones	J Tanner Hol
	NG12 2AG 4.00		J Tanner TT				
Cotgrave	9.00				J Tanner HC		
	NG12 3JR 10.30	J Tanner Gift	S Foulds WT	J Tanner HC	M Blyth	N Geeson	A Harris WT
Tollerton	10.30	L Beaumont	J Tanner HC US	R Farrow	P Johns	J Tanner HC	US @ St Peter's
	NG12 4EA						
Keyworth	8.30			S Rose HC			
	NG12 5AH 10.15	S Rose CA HC	R Leake	WT @ St. Mary's	P Curtis	S Rose HC	R Jones
	4.00		Tea Time Praise				
	6.30				S Rose HC		
Ruddington	10.30	P Johns	S Rose HC	I Collinson	J Clark	J Smith	S Rose HC
	NG11 6EF 6.00	S Rose				S Rose	
Bradmore	10.15	M Crawford FS	M Lees	S Rose	S Rose HC	US Bunny 10am	D Kerr
	NG11 6PE						

Please send all requests for the next Plan to the Superintendent Minister by 3 April 2016

Holy Week Services

- Maundy Thursday Holy Communion - 7.30pm @ WB
- Maundy Thursday Seder Meal - 6.30pm @ ROT
- Maundy Thursday Tennebrae service - 7.30pm @ Keyworth
- Good Friday Service - 10.30am @ WB
- Good Friday Service - 10am @ Clifton URC
- Good Friday Reflection - 6.30pm @ Clifton
- Good Friday Walk of Witness (CT) - 9.30am @ ROT
- Good Friday Service - 10.30am @ ROT
- Good Friday Reflection - 11am @ Cotgrave
- Good Friday Walk of Witness - 1.30pm @ Cotgrave
- Good Friday Reflection (US) - 3pm at St Peter's
- Good Friday Short Service of Reflection - 9am @ Keyworth
- Good Friday Walk of Witness 10.30am @ The Parade, Keyworth

Easter Sunday

- Easter Sunday Sunrise Service on the Trent Embankment @ 6.30am

2016		May 2016				
17	24	1	8	15	22	29
				Pentecost Christian Aid	Trinity Aldersgate	
Ruddington	Bradmore	WB	Clifton	Gotham	ROT	Cotgrave
P Hill WT	R Jones EO @ Rudd 6pm	S Rose HC Faith & Light	Circuit Service Soul Café	P Hill WT	L Beaumont	M Heard
M Heard	P Hill HC EO @ Rudd 6pm	P Johns	CS @ WB	R Farrow	M Lees HC	J Clark
Parish Church	Parish Church EO @ Rudd 6pm	Parish Church	CS @ WB	Parish Church	Parish Church	Parish Church
J Tanner HC GCM	M Blyth EO @ Rudd 6pm	J Tanner	CS @ WB J Tanner TT	N Geeson RWS	A Barker HC	P Curtis
R Johnson	J Tanner HC GCM EO @ Rudd 6pm	J Mellor	CS @ WB	L Blyth WT	M Crawford HC	LA
S Foulds	A Barker EO @ Rudd 6pm	R Leake	CS @ WB	J Tanner HC GCM	R Wilcockson	US @ St Peter's
S Rose HC S Rose WT	Louise D Christian Aid	P Hill HC	CS @ WB Tea Time Praise	S Rose HC R Johnson WT	D Kerr P Curtis	LA
J Mellor	S Rose Bap J Smith EO	B Horler P Hill	CS @ WB	Pent P @ 10.45am	K Jones	Louise D
I Collinson	P Curtis EO @ Rudd 6pm	US Bunny 10am	CS @ WB	J Smith	A Harris	S Rose HC

Key

Bap = Baptism Service

CA = Church Anniversary

CS = Circuit Service

EO = Easter Offering Service

FS = Family Service

GCM = General Church Meeting

Gift = Gift Service

HC = Holy Communion

Hol = Holiday Club Service

LA = Local Arrangement

Pent P = Pentecost Praise

RWS = Round the World Sunday

Soul Café = Contemporary café-style worship

TT = Teatime Church

US = United Service

WT = Worship Together

Lectionary Readings (Year C) March to May 2016

6 Mar	Fourth Sunday in Lent- Mothering Sunday			
AM	Joshua 5:9-12	Psalm 32	2 Corinthians 5:16-21	Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32
PM	Isaiah 40:27-41:13	Psalm 30	2 Timothy 4:1-18	John 11:17-44
13 Mar	Fifth Sunday in Lent: Passion Sunday			
AM	Isaiah 43:16-21	Psalm 126	Philippians 3:4b-14	John 12:1-8
PM	2 Chronicles 35:1-16	Psalm 35:1-9		Luke 22:1-13
20 Mar	Sixth Sunday in Lent: Palm Sunday- Entry into Jerusalem			
AM		Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29		Luke 19:28-40
PM	Isaiah 5:1-7	Psalm 69:1-18		Luke 20:9-19
27 Mar	Easter Day			
AM	Isaiah 65:17-25	Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24	Acts 10:34-43	John 20:1-18
PM	Isaiah 43:1-21	Psalm 66, 114 & 117	1 Corinthians 15:1-11	John 20:19-23
3 Apr	Second Sunday of Easter			
AM	Acts 5:27-32	Psalm 118:14-29	Revelation 1:4-8	John 20:19-31
PM	Isaiah 53:1-6, 9-12	Psalm 16		Luke 24:13-25
10 Apr	Third Sunday of Easter			
AM	Acts 9:1-6	Psalm 30	Revelation 5:11-14	John 21:1-19
PM	Isaiah 38:9-20	Psalm 86		John 11:27-44
17 Apr	Fourth Sunday of Easter			
AM	Acts 9:36-43	Psalm 23	Revelation 7:9-17	John 10:22-30
PM	Isaiah 63:7-14	Psalms 113 and 114		Luke 24:36-49
24 Apr	Fifth Sunday of Easter			
AM	Acts 11:1-18	Psalm 148	Revelation 21:1-6	John 13:31-35
PM	Daniel 6:6-23	Psalm 98		Mark 15:46-16:8
1 May	Sixth Sunday of Easter			
AM	Acts 16:9-15	Psalm 67	Revelation 21:10, 22-22:5	John 14:23-29
PM	Zephaniah 3:14-20	Psalms 126 and 127		Matthew 28:1-10, 16-20
8 May	Seventh Sunday of Easter			
AM	Acts 16:16-34	Psalm 97	Revelation 22:12-21	John 17:20-26
PM	Isaiah 44:1-8	Psalm 68:1-14, 19-20	Ephesians 4:7-16	Luke 24:44-53
15 May	Pentecost			
AM	Genesis 11:1-9	Ps 104:24-34, 35b	Acts 2:1-21	John 14:8-17
PM	Exodus 33:7-20	Ps 36:5-10 & 150	2 Corinthians 3:4-18	John 16:4b-15
22 May	Trinity			
AM	Prov. 8:1-4, 22-31	Psalm 8	Romans 5:1-5	John 16:12-15
PM	Exodus 3:1-15	Psalm 73:1-3, 16-28		John 3:1-17
29 May	Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time			
AM	1 Kings 8:22-23, 41-43	Psalm 96	Galatians 1:1-12	Luke 7:1-10
PM	Genesis 4:1-16	Psalm 39		Mark 3:7-19

News from around the Circuit
Cotgrave

Gift Day

Tea & Coffee

Bacon roll



Wii Challenge



Cake Stall

Sat 5th March

10am - 1pm

Come and join the fun at our family open day, we have a Wii challenge, table tennis and pool and much more...

Cotgrave Methodist Church
 **Bingham Road**

News from around the Circuit
Radcliffe on Trent

Our Advent Fair in December raised over £1200 for our Regeneration project, many thanks to all who helped and those who attended. The Gift Service on 6 December was well supported, with many donations of clothes, blankets etc. which went to the Nottingham Refugee Forum.

On 3 January Our Covenant Service included an adult baptism by total immersion and 4 new people being received into membership.

On 15 January there was a prayer meeting at Cotgrave for Radcliffe, Cotgrave and Tollerton, to pray about the situation of a new Superintendent Minister in the circuit. This meeting was well attended and there was a positive feeling – what does God have planned for us? There will be another prayer meeting in 3 or 4 months time.

On 13 February we held our New Year party, at which we also celebrated the Ruby Wedding Anniversary of Richard and Janet Tanner.

On 27 February, back by popular demand, the Nottingham Ukulele Orchestra return for a concert at 7:30pm.

**Bereavement Care
Awareness Day
Course.**

Saturday 19 March

10:00am to 4:00pm.

At Radcliffe on Trent
Methodist Church

Run by
"Care for the Family"

Cost £15.

For church leaders,
pastoral visitors and
anyone who has a
heart for supporting
bereaved people.

For more information
and/or to register
phone Christine
Anderson

We are looking forward to our Lent courses run by Churches Together in Radcliffe.

Then onto Easter, when we are planning to have a Maundy Thursday Seder meal. On Good Friday there will be the usual, "Walk of Witness," through the village, followed by a joint service at our church. Holiday Club follows from 6-8 April, please cover this event in your prayers.

A major fundraising event will take place in May and plans are going ahead for, "Radcliffe Around the World."

Making a Splash!

We are celebrating a year of new beginnings at Radcliffe. We see real challenges in the changes in leadership and in the 'long haul' of fundraising for our Regeneration project, but we are also experiencing new beginnings too. The notice board for January wished the church and the whole community a 'HAPPY re-NEW-ed YEAR'!

We certainly began the New Year by making a bit of a splash! It was a great joy to have our first immersion baptism. Annabelle, one of our church family, was ready to mark the beginning of her new life in Christ, so we did it with style!

It was a surprised congregation that arrived at church on a cold Sunday at the beginning of January to find a baptism pool in place. There were questions of course! What about the cost of heating all that water? Surely we Methodists don't do things like that!

We had a wonderful time celebrating all that God has done for us. It was also a time of dedication as we renewed our side of the Covenant that God has called us into. For good measure, we also received and welcomed four new Methodist members into the church.

Methodists have always had the option of baptizing by immersion and, in 'missionary' situations, this is often the way. In this generation there are many in the church family who wait for baptism until they can make their own decision. There are many, too, never baptized as infants, who are coming to faith. In many ways we are becoming a missionary church in our own country. Perhaps the challenge for us at Radcliffe Methodist Church is not: 'what about the water?', but: 'Shouldn't we be planning for our own baptism pool in our new church building?'



Methodist Women
in Britain

Diary Dates

Willersley Week

Monday 14 to Thursday 17 March 2016 Speaker Anne Browse, our new national MWiB President.

Swanwick National Residential Weekend

15-17 April 2016, speaker Dr Jill Barber, Vice-President of the Methodist Conference.

Paul Field in Concert

Saturday 21 May, 3:00pm–5:00pm at Methodist Central Hall, Westminster. Tickets (£5) from Concert, PO Box 9298, Loughborough LE11 9FY. Cheques payable to 'Methodist Women in Britain'. This concert is the culmination of our project in support of the Dalit women in India.

Willersley Evening Meal

Wednesday 25 May, speaker Ruby Beech.

District Day Monday 11 July at Riverside Church, High Street, Burton on Trent, with commissioning service for Sue Nickson as District President.

Preacher: Rev Loraine Mellor

District Day Tuesday 11 October Speaker Sue Nickson on the World Assembly in Houston, Texas, 29 August to 4 September 2016

Circuit Easter Offering Service

6pm **Sunday 24 April** at Ruddington Methodist Church, led by Jean Smith. This year all the stories come from India. The theme of the service relates very strongly to the plight of the Dalit people, those in the very lowest position in the caste system in Indian society. The title – 'Child, get up!' – comes from the story of the healing of Jairus' daughter (Luke 8:54).

For five years, from 2011 to 2016, Methodist Women in Britain (MWiB) has worked on a 'Dalit Solidarity' social justice campaign, producing resources and arranging events to raise awareness, prompt action and inspire prayer. This service helps to mark the culmination of that work.

Please give generously when you receive your Easter Offering envelope. All the money donated goes directly to the World Mission Fund supporting the work of 65 Partner Churches overseas.

Jean Smith

From the Invitation Committee

Since last May the Invitation Committee has been meeting several times a month in order to go through the stationing process. This is the process the Methodist Church uses to appoint its ministers.

Last summer we were informed that from September 2016 we would have vacancies for two presbyters in the circuit. The invitation committee is made up of representatives from circuit stewards, staff and church stewards who have been given delegated powers by the Circuit Meeting to take on this task. Inviting a new minister is a long and complicated process and it has proven to be much more complex than many most of the committee had initially imagined!

The group began their work with a consultation across the circuit and information gathering asking what each church felt they wanted from a new presbyter. We then had to digest all the responses and form them into an interesting and attractive profile a kind of job description for the minister. In addition, all the relevant information from the circuit, the details and dimensions of the manse and even local transport

information had to be included and this, in a maximum of two sides of A4! We spent many afternoons meeting together, praying, discussing, drinking tea and going over every word of both profiles in detail before presenting it to the Chair of District. In the meantime we also created a circuit website so that potential ministers could explore the circuit online. Then in October we received a massive document with profiles of all 101 potential ministers from which we had to submit a shortlist of around 5 for each vacancy. We were also told that there were around 145 vacancies so it was known from the outset that not every post across the Connexion would be filled.

Stationing matching takes place in three rounds and we were delighted that we immediately received a match for the West Bridgford, Clifton and Gotham section. We are very pleased to report that we have given an Invitation to the Rev Rach Ward, which we are pleased to say has been accepted! Rach comes to us from the Sheffield Circuit and will be joining us in September 2016. We are very much looking forward to getting to know Rach and to her ministry amongst us.

Unfortunately we went through all 3 rounds of stationing matching without achieving a match for a Superintendent Minister to serve in the Radcliffe, Cotgrave and Tollerton section. So at this point Rev Loraine Mellor (Chair of Nottingham & Derby District) has offered us the services of Rev Colin Emerson (District Vacancy Advisor) to assist us in finding a way forward. The Circuit Stewards and the Invitation Committee in conjunction with Rev Emerson are now meeting

to begin the process of considering the various options that are available to us.

Please continue to pray for this situation as we seek to find a way forward.

GROWTH FUND

- DO YOU WANT TO SEE YOUR CHURCH GO FROM STRENGTH TO STRENGTH?
- FULL OF IDEAS OF HOW WE COULD EXTEND OUR REACH INTO THE COMMUNITY BUT UNCLEAR AS TO HOW TO GET STARTED?
- DID YOU KNOW THERE IS £30,000 SITTING IN THE GROWTH FUND AVAILABLE TO HELP YOU?
- YOUR TREASURER IS WAITING TO WORK WITH YOU TO UNLOCK THOSE FUNDS.

The Work of Christian Aid

Nick Thorley the Area Co-ordinator from Christian Aid will give a talk on the work of Christian Aid, to be followed by a question and answer session.

On **Sunday 24th April**, at **6.30pm**
in **Keyworth Methodist Church**.

This is a Keyworth Churches Together initiative, to publicise the work of Christian Aid, and the meeting will be open to the public. Friends from around the Circuit are warmly welcome to attend.



This is part of the lead up to Christian Aid Week.

Circuit Service Sunday 8 May 10:30am West Bridgford Methodist Church

Please come along and take part in the worship. During this special service we shall give thanks to God for Paul, Joan and Richard (Hill) who are leaving our circuit this summer.

The Hills invite you to join them for tea/coffee and cake after the service.



Please note the change of date

This is an online edition of the Circuit Newsletter.
To protect the privacy of individuals, all contact details have been removed.