

# TORRIDGE METHODIST CIRCUIT

## MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

### February 2019 - Issue 89

Welcome to Edition Number 89

**Contact e-mail address is [newsletter@torridgemethodistcircuit.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@torridgemethodistcircuit.org.uk) or [bucklanddave1953@btinternet.com](mailto:bucklanddave1953@btinternet.com)**

This is the Newsletter of the whole Circuit, so please send details of future events, activities or 'anything', you wish to share with the Circuit to Dave Watson by e-mail; phone 01237 451437 or to 6 Greenings Road, Buckland Brewer, Bideford, EX39 5LU. Please send them before the 20th of each month if possible.

This Circuit Newsletter is free & therefore could you please 'dish them out' to as many people as possible, inside and outside of our buildings – be adventurous. If this means more are needed by each church, then please let me know. Thanks - Dave Watson

#### **FROM REV ROB BLACKHALL – CIRCUIT SUPERINTENDENT MINISTER**

There are so many people in the Bible who are refugees – from Adam and Eve thrown out of the garden to Eden to the Holy Family forced to flee Bethlehem and head to Egypt for safety. Mention of Egypt will remind us how Joseph's brothers came to Egypt looking for food during a famine; and of course, how years later the Israelites took flight from slavery there.

The Bible also provides much instruction on how refugees and foreigners in the land are to be treated.

**Leviticus 19:33-34 and 24:22** – *“When the alien resides with you in your land, you shall not oppress the alien. The alien who resides with you shall be to you as the citizen among you; you shall love the alien as yourself, for you were aliens in the land of Egypt: I am the Lord your God.”*

**Deuteronomy 1:16** – *“Give the members of your community a fair hearing, and judge rightly between one person and another, whether citizen or resident alien.”*

**Deuteronomy 10:18-19** – *“For the Lord your God...loves the strangers, providing them food and clothing. You shall also love the stranger, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt.”*

And at the end of the teaching on the sheep and the goats, Jesus states “I was a stranger and you welcomed me.” **Matthew 25:31-46**

People it seems are always on the move, for many complex reasons. There is much talk of migrants and refugees in our time; with some quite frankly unacceptable press and political comment.

I recently found the following poem helpful in my reflections:

#### **REFUGEES**

*They have no need of our help  
So do not tell me  
These haggard faces could belong to you or me  
Should life have dealt a different hand  
We need to see them for who they really are  
Chancers and scroungers  
Layabouts and loungers  
With bombs up their sleeves  
Cut-throats and thieves  
They are not*

*Welcome here  
We should make them  
Go back to where they came from  
They cannot  
Share our food  
Share our homes  
Share our countries  
Instead let us  
Build a wall to keep them out  
It is not okay to say  
These are people just like us  
A place should only belong to those who are born there  
Do not be so stupid to think that  
The world can be looked at another way*

**(now read from bottom to top)**

With every blessing - Rob

## **PLAN**

The March to May plan will shortly be published.  
A few comments.

Our preachers – lay and ordained are doing too much.  
None of them are getting younger! Please be aware of the well-being of all our preachers who give so much.  
We are grateful to them for the contribution they make to the life of our circuit. I hope they have our support and prayers.

On Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> March in the morning we have arranged worship at Milton Damerel, Northam and Torrington, led by each of our Ministers. We invite you to go to one of these.  
If we had not taken this step there would have been at least an additional 10 LA's, or blanks on the plan.

We believe that Local Arrangement services are good and integral to the life of our Chapels. They remind us that worship is the responsibility of us all, not just those standing at the front.  
Worship should be the best we can offer to God.  
We are accountable to each other and to the Lord.  
We have sought to provide some training to help. I would encourage you to attend these events, particularly if you are already involved in LA's or wish to be.  
I will be requesting a list from the Church Councils of all those who regularly take part in LA's.  
Superintendents are encouraged to maintain such a list.

If you are considering a call to be a Worship Leader or Local Preacher then please talk to your minister or one of our Local Preachers.

We cannot sustain the arrangements for worship which we have traditionally enjoyed. We therefore have to change some of our current practices and discover new ways of worship and service. How can we continue to be the Church in North Devon in 2019 and beyond?

## **REV LYNNE BURGON – CIRCUIT AUTHORISED MINISTER**

Dear Friends,  
February already....how quickly the time seems to go when you're busy!

I'm writing this half way through January and the next two weeks are already booked in my diary with people to see, articles to write and services to plan and execute. Yet it is not as onerous as it may sound because I have found that when I am honouring what God has called me to do, He gives me the strength to do it. I am confident that He will see me through what He has called me to do, I hope you feel that way too!

The key here though is following God's call and doing it in His strength and not in my own. It's a lesson that I have learnt the hard way. In the past I have found it hard to say 'no' to people. I was under the misguided thought that just because I was asked, I felt I had to say yes. How wrong could I be, for that path led to burnout and depression. The experience of that struggle though has been so valuable, both in my personal life and in my ministry. God can and does use our highs and our lows to His good purposes. I don't believe that God wills our suffering, for that doesn't fit with the God Jesus describes. Jesus tells us God is merciful and just, ever loving and a comfort in times of trouble. Personally I would never wish suffering on another human, so why would God cause suffering, He whose love is so much greater than I can ever imagine or know, who gave his only Son to bring us to eternal life. There is no greater love than this, Jesus says, that a man lays down his life for another.

However, we live in a fallen world, a world where our own choices and the choices and actions of others can and does lead to great suffering. My experience has taught me that often during these times of our life, God breaks through our barriers and is there bringing His strength and comfort. Sometimes we don't feel it at the time, but with hindsight we can see how God helped us through. God's help might come from an unexpected direction, a friend or relative who goes beyond the bounds of duty to help us, or maybe just a card sent at an opportune time or a prayer whispered into our ear when we can't pray for ourselves. I'm sure, like me you have all received the help of God's 'angels without wings' – our fellow human beings. I feel blessed to work in this Circuit where we enjoy great fellowship and care. I know that your support and prayers helped me recover from my operation and just this past Christmas we have witnessed God blessing and healing someone else who was very ill and we thank Him for her continued recovery.

If you are going through a dark period at this time, if you are suffering on your own can I ask one thing? That you share your burden with someone who can pray and support you, there are many pastorally supportive members within our fellowship who you can approach. I would also like to reassure you that Rob, Andrew and I are never too busy to come and visit you but we do need to know that you are in need! Never be afraid to ask.

May you be blessed this February and may you be a blessing to others, in Jesus name I pray.  
Amen. Lynne

### **FROM REV ANDREW VIDAMOUR**

Dear Friends,

You may know the story of 'Pollyanna', through the book or the film. It is set in England in the early twentieth century and centres on Pollyanna, a girl aged eleven who is orphaned and goes to live with her aunt. Despite all her sadness at losing her parents so young in life, Pollyanna is full of high spirits and likes to play the 'glad game' she learnt from her father.

This game involves trying to see the positive side (reasons to be glad) in a situation. So Pollyanna helps to bring new life and hope to such people as a long-term invalid (who thinks she has more wrong with her than she has) and an elderly man who has had a sad and embittered life. Pollyanna also helps to melt her aunt's frostiness, and she has knack of helping to reconcile people after disagreements.

So Pollyanna is a real ray of sunshine, but sadly she is knocked down by an early motor car and it is feared she may never walk again. This trauma breaks even Pollyanna's spirit for a time, as she

again learns for herself the reality of pain and suffering, but eventually she regains her cheerfulness – and even her ability to walk.

It would be easy to write 'Pollyanna' off as sentimental and sickly sweet story, but I think we may learn something from it. At one point, Pollyanna says that the Bible contains over 800 calls to us to 'be glad' or 'rejoice'. Now sometimes this is not appropriate or possible, as Pollyanna finds in her own experience, but there may be at least one reason to be thankful in a situation.

So it might be healthy for us to play Pollyanna's 'glad game' ourselves sometimes, not least in the often cold and grey month of February.

One final thought: to rejoice, in the Christian sense, is not to ignore or deny the realities of pain and suffering, but instead to recognise these while also believing that, through Easter, the love of God in Christ will always be stronger than our suffering and so able to help us through it.

May God bless you with lasting joy - Andrew Vidamour

### **CIRCUIT ADMINISTRATOR - TORRIDGE METHODIST CIRCUIT**

**Purpose and Adjectives:** To provide support to the Superintendent, Circuit Leadership team and the Circuit.

#### **Main responsibilities**

- Provide Administrative support
- Facilitate communication between the Circuit Churches
- Maintain accurate records

**Hours:** 15 hours per week £10 per hour.

Further information and application form can be obtained from Rev Robert Blackhall, Superintendent Minister by email [r.blackhall@sky.com](mailto:r.blackhall@sky.com) or telephone 01805 628041

Applications should be submitted by 12 noon on the 28th February 2019 and interviews will take place in the Week Beginning 11th March 2019

### **CIRCUIT DATES**

**Circuit Meeting** – Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> March at 7.30pm at **Torrington Methodist Church**

**Circuit Discussion Meeting** – Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> February at **Torrington Methodist Church** regarding **Christian Communities in Conversation** & how it relates to Torridge Circuit

**Circuit Prayer Meeting** - Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> March at **Alverdiscott Methodist Church**, from 7- 8.30pm

**Circuit Treasurers Meeting** – Monday 11<sup>th</sup> February at 7pm at **Langtree Methodist Church**

#### **Local Preachers**

There will be a monthly series of sessions for Local Preachers, Worship Leaders & those involved in Local Arrangements during the next year. Details to be confirmed.

Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> February – **Meeting for Local Preachers, Worship Leaders & those involved in Local Arrangements** at **Alverdiscott Methodist Church** at 7.30pm

Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March – Using Powerpoint, You Tube & other resources - for Local Preachers, Worship Leaders & those involved in Local Arrangements.

Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> April – **Local Preachers Meeting** – Business Meeting, Preparation for Bible Month, Encouraging Mission & Service – for Local Preachers at **Milton Damerel Methodist Church**

Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> May – Bible Study on Pentecost - for Local Preachers, Worship Leaders & those involved in Local Arrangements.

Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> June – Sharing of Resources - for Local Preachers, Worship Leaders & those involved in Local Arrangements.

Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> July – **Local Preachers Meeting** – Bring & Share Meal – for Local Preachers

### **PLYMOUTH & EXETER METHODIST DISTRICT**

**Cuttack Sunday - 3rd March 2019** - A reminder that the Sunday before Lent has been earmarked as 'Cuttack Sunday' when we specifically remember our sisters and brothers in the Diocese of Cuttack in the Church of North India - our overseas partners. Each church is asked to remember the Diocese of Cuttack in their prayers on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> March and our friends in the Diocese will be praying for us on the same day. Material to support Cuttack Sunday will be available at the end of January.

#### **Help with Fundraising** with Paul Courtney, Kairos Fundraising Solutions

Paul Courtney of Kairos Fundraising Solutions has been retained by the District to help Churches, Circuits and the District find and secure funds for the range of projects we undertake. The District has made provision for Paul to give some initial advice and Paul is also able to agree terms with particular projects to act as Fundraiser.

Paul has worked with a number of churches and Circuits over the last year. Those who have worked with him have found his work very helpful and effective. Building on Paul's growing experience of the District and his substantial professional skill, the District has asked Paul to deliver two half day seminars about fundraising.

When do we need to do it?

What can be achieved?

How do we go about it?

.....and any other questions you have.

Paul will deliver two seminars. Each will be limited to 20 places.

Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> February from 10am to 1pm at **Wonford Methodist Church, Exeter**

(please register with [admin@pemd.org.uk](mailto:admin@pemd.org.uk) by January 31st)

Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> March from 10am to 1pm at **Ridgeway Methodist Church, Plymouth**

(please register with [admin@pemd.org.uk](mailto:admin@pemd.org.uk) by February 28th)

#### **Are you a secret Archivist?**

Roger Thorne is our longest serving District Officer. He has for a long time provided advice and overseen the responsibilities Churches, Circuits and the District have in culling and archiving the information we have.

The Connexional Office provides online advice about archiving in line with Standing Orders in The Constitution and Discipline of the Methodist Church (CPD). See <https://www.methodist.org.uk/forministers-and-office-holders/office-holders/archivists/> but local knowledge and advice has proved very helpful.

Roger is not able to be as mobile as he once was but retains his interest as District Archivist. What he really needs is someone to work with him and be ready to take up the reigns when he decides to retire.

.....are you the person to help?

Please contact David Clitheroe, Synod Secretary [synodsec@pemd.org.uk](mailto:synodsec@pemd.org.uk) t:01460 234345

#### **Are You a Champion?**

The District is looking for a Data Champion to:-

Be a champion for District, Circuits and Churches meeting the standards which protect the gathering and use of personal data in accordance with the 2018 General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR).

Be a key link between the District and the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes (TMPC). TMPC is the national body for the Methodist Church in implementing GDPR.

Encourage confidence in handling personal data as effectively and simply as possible.

Help the auditing of present arrangements in the District, Circuits and Churches.

Be a local point of reference for enquiries from Churches and Circuits about GDPR

This is an important contribution to the work of the District as a whole. It is a voluntary role which will involve some travel. Travel expenses will be reimbursed.

We are seeking someone with knowledge and commitment to help us demonstrate respect and concern for how personal data is used as part of the Church's determination to be a good neighbour.

A more detailed role description and a brief application form is available from [admin@pemd.org.uk](mailto:admin@pemd.org.uk)  
t:01392 211624

## **CHRISTIAN COMMUNITIES IN CONVERSATION (CCIC)**

**Exciting New Initiative - Please come and Join us!**

On Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> February in **Torrington Methodist Church** we are meeting at 3pm for another of our consultation afternoons. Many of you have experienced how useful and enjoyable these times of fellowship are and this month we have a guest coming to speak to us. You may have seen Jo Simpson before but this time she is coming to share with us a new idea that is spreading across the district.

It has long been recognised that people find it hard to discuss their faith with others so we have fallen into the habit of leaving evangelism to the so called expert. However, Jesus never intended the spreading of the good news of the gospel to be just the province of a favoured few. Jesus says we are all called to share the gospel with others. So how can we regain our confidence at sharing our story of faith naturally and easily? How do we go about having purposeful conversations with others when we can't even talk about our faith to others in our fellowship?

Well, 'Christian Communities in Conversation' is an initiative to help us. If you would like to have more meaningful conversations in a safe environment come and hear what Jo has to say. Dave Watson and I have received training and are happy to share our thoughts too.... Will you join us to find out more on February 10th?

Rev Lynne Burgon

## **WOMEN'S WORLD DAY of PRAYER**

This will take place on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> March at 2pm at **Langtree Methodist Church**.

The Service this year has been prepared by Christian Women of Slovenia. We will be delighted to welcome you to this Service. Afterwards we will share tea, cake & fellowship. You will be able to sample some traditional recipes – the honey biscuits are particularly good.

## **TORRIDGE CIRCUIT WEBSITE**

The circuit website is [www.torridgemethodistcircuit.org.uk](http://www.torridgemethodistcircuit.org.uk). Please let me know details of any events that I can advertise on it for you, preferably by email to [webmaster@torridgemethodistcircuit.org.uk](mailto:webmaster@torridgemethodistcircuit.org.uk), otherwise please leave Ruth Blake a message on 01805 601330.

If you have any nice photos of the Torridge area or your local chapel, please email them to me.

## CIRCUIT SAFEGUARDING

Please contact me if your church needs any Safeguarding Training for newly appointed people. New appointments need to have done their training within 6 months of starting the appointment. - Please contact Jacqui Watson on 01237 451437 to discuss training or any other Safeguarding issues.

There is a **District Safeguarding Network Day** from 10am-4pm on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> March at **St Thomas Methodist Church, Exeter** – this is for Circuit & Church Safeguarding Officers and all those interested or whose role involves Safeguarding – please talk to Jacqui Watson. Lunch & Refreshments will be provided – donation invited to help with expenses. The Main Speaker is Rev Dr Brenda Mosedale who will talk about the churches response to survivors of abuse.

## ALWINGTON METHODIST CHURCH

Our **Coffee Morning** in January raised in excess of £120 pounds. We were not blessed with a full crowd but we were pleased by everyone's generosity. On Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> January we enjoyed a Morning Service led by Mr James Gale.

The next **Coffee Morning** is on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> February will held in **Alwington Methodist Church** from 10.30 to 12 noon. We will be offering the usual range of stalls. There will be produce, books, jigsaw puzzles and bring and buy. Entrance £1 for biscuits and as much coffee as you can drink.

The March **Coffee Morning** will on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> March. It will again be held at **Alwington Village Hall** at 10.30 until 12, noon. It is in aid of Home and Overseas Missions together with Methodist Women In Britain. All our usual stalls will be available.

The April **Coffee Morning** will be held on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> April at **Alwington Methodist Church** from 10.30 to 12 noon is in aid of Chapel funds.  
A warm welcome to everyone.

There is a Spring '**Hearty Breakfast**' at **Alwington Village Hall** on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> March from 9am-1pm. Adults £5 (in advance) & £6 on door and £2 for Children. Please contact 01237 451508 or 07877 263640 or 01237 451045 for tickets.

Alwington Parish Church are holding a **Quiz** on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> March at **Alwington Village Hall** starting at 7pm. Teams of 6 @£6 per person. Refreshments will be served with Tea/Coffee. You can bring your own drinks & glasses. Please contact Annie on 01237 478733 to book a table. Proceeds are for Parish Church Funds.

## LANGTREE METHODIST CHURCH

**Sunday School** - Sunday School continues with Bible stories, crafts, colouring and games. We usually start in the Church at 11am for the Sunday Service and disappear into the Sunday School after the second hymn.

**Bible Study** - We are continuing to meet on Tuesday evenings for prayer and Thursdays at 7.15pm for a meal followed by Bible study. Recently Andrew Baguley met with us and talked on the theme of 'Epiphany' sharing the importance of our own epiphany moment when we know the presence of Jesus not just in our heads, but in our hearts. It was a really uplifting and informative evening and we hope he'll share with us again soon. Please feel free to join us (01805 601350 for further details).

**Kitchen refurbishment** - Since I last wrote our new kitchen in the Sunday School has been fitted, the electrician has been and there are just a few finishing touches left to do (painting, tiling etc) before it is complete. You are more than welcome to come in and have a look!

The chapel was full for the Primary School Carol Service in December. Rev Rob Blackhall kindly stepped in at the last minute to give the address with David leading the prayers and playing the organ.

Our 98 shoeboxes will have been delivered by now and we expect to hear at the end of this month (January) where they have gone. Please keep praying for the children who receive them. Our Toy Service gifts went to the Women's Refuge in Barnstaple and proceeds from our Carol Service were donated to the Freedom Centre in Barnstaple (providing shelter and food for the homeless).

May God bless you all throughout 2019

**QUIZ NIGHT** - This will take place at Langtree Parish Hall on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> February (7 for 7.30pm start) & is in aid of Shelterbox. Teams of 6 at £5 per person which includes snacks. There is a Licensed Bar available. Entries to Rose on 01409 261388 or Mary on 01805 601350

### **LITTLEHAM METHODIST CHURCH**

We welcome everyone to join our **Fireside Coffee Mornings** on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month from 10.30pm-12noon. Fresh local produce & homemade cakes etc will be available on the Bring and Buy Stall. The next session will be on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> February.

### **BIDEFORD METHODIST CHURCH**

On Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> February at 3 pm in the Hall there is a **Bideford Music Club Concert**. Tickets are £13.50

On Monday 11<sup>th</sup> February from 2.30 pm is our next **Craft Club meeting**. We look forward to seeing you then. New faces are always welcome.

On Friday 15<sup>th</sup> February at 7.30 pm in the Hall there is an **introductory meeting** for a new evening WI Group.

### **NORTHAM METHODIST CHURCH**

The **Northam Choral Society** meets every **Tuesday** at 7.30pm. New singers are welcome - come along and have a go if you enjoy singing. This takes place in the **Methodist Church Hall**

On **Wednesday's** at 10am the **Church Choir** practise.

On **Thursday's** the **Mens' Forum** meet at 10.15am with tea/coffee followed by a speaker.

**Thursday Fellowship Meetings** at 2.15pm at **Northam Methodist Church** – cost £1.50 including a draw, Tea & Biscuits. This is a friendly group who meet each week for a speaker, coffee/tea and fellowship. All are very welcome. Details contact Maggie Smale on 01237 421956

The **Womens' Institute** meet in our hall on the second Thursday at 7pm and The Craft Group on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday from 2.30-4.30pm

Every **Saturday** from 10.15-11.15am there is a **Coffee Morning** - All Welcome for an informal chat over coffee or tea and biscuits.



The Proceeds from the **Coffee Morning** on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> February will be for **Action for Children, Mission and Church Funds** – this will run from 10 to 11.30am & there will be Bacon butties, stalls and a draw.

The **Appledore Bible Study Group** meet on Thursday mornings at 9.45 for tea/coffee - we start our meeting at 10am. Anyone is welcome to join us. We meet at Julia's home 01237 425361 at **10 Yeo Drive Appledore EX39 1RD**

Join us on the first Wednesday in the month for a **Short Service followed by a 2 course lunch**. Please ring Pauline on 01237 239359 to book.

### **ALVERDISCOTT GARDENING CLUB**

The Club meets at **Alverdiscott Methodist Church** starting at 2.30pm. Please contact Cynthia Courtney on 01271 858237 for more details. The Meeting Fee is £1, which includes tea and biscuits. The Next Meeting is on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> February.

### **ALVERDISCOTT METHODIST CHAPEL**

**EXPLORE** - An interactive Bible Study Fellowship, starting with tea or coffee, with a choice of hymns and shared prayers. It's the last Sunday of each month at 5pm. The next **Explore Service** will be on Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> March led by Rev Rob Blackhall.

**CAFÉ WORSHIP** - The next Café Service will be on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> February at 5pm led by Rev Rob Blackhall – Come and enjoy your tea and maybe learn something...

Our **Coffee Morning** in December raised £100 for Encompass.

The next **Coffee Morning**, which will be on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> February from 10am until noon, is for "Christian Aid". Come and enjoy good coffee, good company and support a very worth while cause. Our Coffee Mornings are very popular and enjoyable social occasions

**ALVERDISCOTT CRAFT GROUP** - The Craft group meets at **Alverdiscott Chapel** on the second Tuesday of the month & the next meeting is on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> February. We meet in the hall at Alverdiscott Chapel between 10.30am and 2.30pm. Come and see what you can make! The Chapel has ample car parking. All are welcome. The cost is £1 per meeting - For more information call Stuart Fuller on 01271 858258 or email [stuart.fuller454@gmail.com](mailto:stuart.fuller454@gmail.com)

We shall be running a Lent course following the **York Course "On the Third Day"**. This course is open to anyone who would like to join us - feel free to just come along. There will be five sessions commencing Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> March at 2.30pm for the five Wednesdays of Lent. If you would like further information, then please contact Elsie on 01271 858534. If you can't manage all five sessions then just come along to those you can.

### **A Message from Elsie Potter**

My very grateful thanks for all the greetings, messages, cards, prayers and those who came to visit during my prolonged stay in hospital, I have been critically ill and was in hospital for nearly four and half weeks. I have been christened the Christmas miracle, not sure by whom but it is a miracle that I am still with you, I am sure that it is your thoughts and prayers that have sustained me. It will be some time yet before I am strong enough to be back to conducting services but we continue to trust in God to sustain me through your prayers, in the meantime if you would like to come for a cup of tea I would be very pleased to see you. God Bless Elsie

### **METHODIST WOMEN IN BRITAIN (MWIB)**

There is a **MWiB Meeting** at **Torrington Methodist Church** on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> February at 2.30pm.

At this Meeting we will be making arrangements for the **Easter Offering Dedication Service** to be held on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> May at **Torrington Methodist Church** which will be followed by Coffee & Biscuits. The service this year is entitled '**Longer Tables, Lower Fences**'. We would like more support for MWiB, so please come and join us.

If you would be prepared to read at this service but not able to attend the Meeting, please contact Rose Peard.

Our next **Conference** will be on 12 – 14 November 2019 at Sidholme and our speaker will be Dr Barbara Glasson, Leader of the Touchstone team and President of the Methodist Conference 2019/20.

**UNITED BUCKLAND BREWER METHODIST & PARISH CHURCH CONGREGATION**  
**Coffee Mornings** continue on Wednesdays 6<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> February from 9.30am-12noon in the **Chapel Schoolroom**. Parents & children and ALL are invited to join in a time of tea/coffee, cakes & toast and a 'Time for a Chat'. There will be no charge but donations for expenses.

On Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> February Mark Keeley from '**One Small Step**' will be present at the **Coffee Morning** with information on the support available around Healthy Living.

The Final Session of the **Bible Course from the Bible Society** will take place on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> February at 7.30pm at **Buckland Parish Church Schoolroom**

On Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> March there will be a **Concert by Jim Crawford**, a local acoustic blues singer, on behalf of Buckland Brewer Methodist & Parish Church. This takes place at 7.30pm at Buckland Brewer Hall, Hillpark, EX39 5HY. There will be Table Snacks, Bar & a Raffle. Tickets are £10 in advance on 01237 451437 or on [bucklanddave1953@btinternet.com](mailto:bucklanddave1953@btinternet.com) or £12 on the Door.

On Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> March there will be a **Big Brunch** at **Buckland Brewer Hall** from 11am-2pm with proceeds for Hall Funds. Cost is £7.50 & £5 for primary School Children, Under 5's are free – no need to book – just turn up.

On Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> May at 3.30pm there will be a **Talk on the Bible Christians** at **Buckland Brewer Methodist Church** by Janet Few, who is a Historian who gives many different interesting talks especially on Family History. Refreshments to follow.

On the Weekend of Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> June, Buckland Brewer Methodist Church will remember the life of Rev William Reed for whom the Chapel is named. He was born near Thornhillhead in Buckland Brewer Parish and was very involved in the Bible Christian movement. On 1<sup>st</sup> June 1819 he & others were arrested for preaching without a licence on the Village Green during the Village Revel – outside the site of the present Chapel. The Celebrations will include a Flower Festival & a Circuit Rally. We will also have a visit from Rev Steve Wild, Chair of the Cornwall Methodist District & ex-President of Conference – further details to follow.

Rev Reed later was President of the Bible Christian Conference & is buried at Lake Chapel, Shebbear – his son Rev William Bryan Reed was the founder of Edgehill College (now Kingsley School), Bideford.

### **TORRINGTON METHODIST CHURCH**

The January Coffee Morning raised over £300 for Headway.

The next **Coffee Morning** will be on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> February from 10am-12noon. There will be the usual bacon butties, cake stall etc.

On Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> March there will be an **Ash Wednesday Service** at 7.30pm at **Torrington Methodist Church**

On Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> April there will be an **Easter Musical** entitled **God's Glorious Good News** at **Torrington Methodist Church** starting at 6.30pm. Refreshments to follow & everyone is welcome.

On Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> January at 6.30pm at **Torrington Methodist Church** there will be **Defibrillator Awareness Training**. There is Free Attendance and contact Andy on 0781 250 5793 to book a place.

### **MILTON DAMEREL METHODIST CHURCH**

**Sew & Sews** - a small group which meets during the Autumn and Winter months in the Schoolroom to do some needlecraft as a friendship sharing a common interest on a Saturday from 2.30pm to 4.30pm. There will be a small charge to cover expenses. Do come and join us if you are interested in sewing and knitting – we are not offering classes, just friendship and encouragement. Further details are available from Barbara 01805 601651 or Sheila 01409 261466

**Pilates** is normally held every Monday morning with tutor, Di Sluggett. This is a growing group and anyone wishing to join should contact Di on 01409 281637. There are now 2 sessions taking place from 9.45-10.45am & 11am – 12noon. There is now additional spaces available.

**The Milton Baby & Toddler Group** meets on Tuesday mornings from 10.30am to 12noon. Most weeks we have 10-12 children attend. We have been pleased to welcome Lisa from Action for Children – who comes to visit & brings toys etc.

All are welcome to attend. This is a friendly group and we welcome other mums/dads or grandparents with children to join us. It costs £1.50 per family per week and we are supported by the Bluecoat, Torrington & Holsworthy Children's Centres. We meet in the Lower Schoolroom which is cosy and warm and where our good supply of toys are kept. There is ample parking. For more details, please contact Sheila on 01409 261466.

The **Sunday School** meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of each month – please pop in & see us.

### **PARKHAM METHODIST CHURCH**

**Parkham Methodist Ladies Club** Meets usually at 2.30pm monthly on Wednesdays in the Chapel Sunday School Room.

**Ladies Meeting** is on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> February at 2.30pm when Dr Buckland will be the speaker on the '**Children's Holiday Foundation**' – there will be a charity stall during the afternoon.

By the time you are reading this the Chapel walls will hopefully have been repainted and new lights installed. With the projector fixed in place and a new screen this should make things easier to use – we can also re-site the old screen into the schoolroom so we are recycling! We'll let you know what other things we get done in terms of redecoration and renewal as and when they happen.

We are grateful to St James for hosting our **Covenant Service** on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> January – this will have been a shared service with both Rev Andrew Vidamour and Rev Jane Skinner officiating – and a great way to start the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. Scaffolding, electrical work and the smell of paint is best to be avoided! Maybe we can return the favour when St James has their work done?

**Friday phiX** is on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> February starting at 7.30pm.

For more information please feel free to call Sarah 451167 or email [sarah@rsagri.com](mailto:sarah@rsagri.com)

### **TOUR TO THE HOLY LAND 2019**

From Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> to Monday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2019 Rev Peter Whatton will be leading a Tour of the Holy Land which costs £1550 per person.

Please contact Judy for more details on 01237 477710 or [judyross@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:judyross@hotmail.co.uk)

This is the **last call for anyone who is interested** - One lady is willing to share accommodation to save on the single supplement if another lady is interested.

## **KINGSLEY SCHOOL, BIDEFORD**

### **School Tours**

We run school tours every day, so if you are a little curious about school life at Kingsley we would be delighted to arrange an individual visit for you and your family. We are currently welcoming families for individual visits for 2019, 2020 and 2021 entry. Please contact the Admissions Team on 01237 426200 or by email at [admissions@kingsleyschoolbideford.co.uk](mailto:admissions@kingsleyschoolbideford.co.uk) – a warm welcome awaits.

Visit [www.kingsleyschoolbideford.co.uk](http://www.kingsleyschoolbideford.co.uk)

Kingsley School, Northdown Road, Bideford, Devon EX39 3LY

### **Hello from Kingsley School**

I have been a teacher since 1991 and one thing that has happened to me as my career has progressed is that I have found myself spending less and less time in the classroom, which is a shame as that is why I went into teaching in the first place.

When I was appointed as Head here at Kingsley 2 years ago I was told, by many colleagues and experienced Heads, not to do any teaching, as the demands of being a Head make it almost impossible to do it well. I decided not to follow that advice and I do have a small amount of teaching on my timetable, with Year 8 and 9 Religious Education and a Year 9 Geography class. I think it is really important for me to teach, even to such a limited extent.

My contact with the students in the classroom environment allows me to “take the pulse” of the school in a way that is not always possible when I am sat responding to emails or interviewing prospective pupils and their parents. Teaching some lessons also allows me to look my teaching colleagues in the eye when I am extolling them to ensure that they are teaching effectively, imaginatively and creatively to enable their students to make progress, both in terms of their academic development and their personal development. I will not ask them to do something that I am not prepared to do myself.

Most importantly though, I want to teach because I absolutely love doing it! Without wanting to come across as being big-headed, I have been told on a number of occasions over my teaching career that I am a “good” teacher. I am never quite sure what this means though.

Does it mean that all of the pupils I taught always got top grades? No, although many did. Does it mean that I never set any homework and so was a “hit” with the pupils? No, I like to see pupils being stretched by homework.

Does it mean that I try to be “down with the kids” in order to be popular? No, I am far too old for any of that nonsense.

I think I am good teacher because I like and enjoy the company of young people. I love their energy, their enthusiasm, their eccentricities and their characters.

I always try to develop a good rapport with my classes. Yes, I want them to enjoy my lessons but I also make it clear to them the kind of behaviour and cooperation that I require from them to make a lesson successful.

This term I will be developing a theme in my Monday morning assemblies to the Senior School to encourage them to reflect on the responsibilities that they have for their own academic and personal development. Experts who write about education and inspect schools often speak about “teaching and learning” and it is very clear to me that students cannot ever learn simply by being “taught”.

I have, on some occasions, come across pupils who think that teaching is something that is done to them and their job is simply to sit passively in lessons and, as if by magic, everything that they need to know will enter their brains and stay there. Nothing could be further from the truth. Yes, I know more Geography than my Year 9 class do and I have a lot of “expert knowledge” that I can pass onto them, but if they refuse to engage, don’t want to listen or are unwilling to learn, then they are very unlikely to make the same amount of progress as other pupils who are focused, attentive and want to learn.

I have a real passion for learning more than I knew yesterday and it is always the pupils with the inquiring minds who ask the “off-the-wall” questions who, in my experience, make the best progress, both in terms of their academic and their personal development. This is what I will be exploring in my assemblies this term and perhaps some of them might make it to Kingsley School Facebook page...

Here is to a happy, harmonious and successful 2019 (and Arsenal to finish in the top 4 please as well)

Pete Last - Headmaster

### **LIFE RHYTHMS**

Spending time with God, alone and with others  
Do you ever long for time just to be, quietly but alongside others, and to listen to God?

Life Rhythms might be for you!

This takes place at **Halberton Methodist Church (EX16 7AF)**

Quiet spaces to read, pray, reflect, be creative. Quiet spaces to read, pray, reflect, be creative. Opportunities to walk in the village or along the Grand Western Canal. Opportunities to walk in the village or along the Grand Western Canal.

#### **Dates:-**

Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2019

Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2019

Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> July 2019

From 10.15am - 3.30pm - Please Bring your own lunch. Drinks provided.

For more information contact

Hazel Parsons [hazelfparsons@btinternet.com](mailto:hazelfparsons@btinternet.com) 01884 821581

Anne Browse [annebrowse@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:annebrowse@yahoo.co.uk) 01884 820532

### **PARKINSON’S SUPPORT COMES TO HOLSWORTHY**

For many years the Torridge branch of Parkinson’s UK have supported people with Parkinson’s Disease as well as their families and carers in the Bideford and Torrington and wider Torridge areas. We believe it is vitally important to take control of the condition regardless of whether you’re newly diagnosed or not, so we run a whole raft of activities designed to maintain and improve wellbeing and health. These include groups to address movement and speech difficulties with physiotherapy exercise classes, movement to music group, our folk and shanty singing group,

coffee mornings with interesting speakers on a wide range of subjects, lunches, holidays, visits and much much more.

We work closely with local health care professionals including our Parkinson's specialist nurse and the Parkinson's UK Local Adviser.

We cover the whole Torridge area but so far have had little contact with Holsworthy and the surrounding area. That's about to change!

On Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> February we will be taking part in the weekly **Coffee Morning** held in **The Memorial Hall, Holsworthy** between 9.00 and 12.00 where we hope to begin to lay the groundwork for our future there. Last autumn we started a seated exercise group at Chilsworthy and we hope to be able to add all the other activities and support.

We look forward to seeing everyone at The Memorial Hall that day, which includes anyone affected by Parkinson's along with family and carers, as well anyone who would like to volunteer in some way to help us achieve our goal.

Further details from our secretary – Julie Jones on 01237 478128

### **METHODIST CHURCH LAUNCHES NEW EVANGELISM AND GROWTH TEAM**

The Methodist Church has announced a new team that will encourage growth and confidence within the Church. The team will focus on supporting the Methodist Church's network of 4,650 churches through promoting everyday evangelism, helping churches reach out into their local communities, and starting new churches.

The calling of the Methodist Church is to respond to the gospel of God's love in Christ and to live out its discipleship in worship and mission. This new team is part of the Methodist Church's response to God and to the cultural and demographic shifts within society. Facing a declining membership along with other denominations, the Methodist Church wants to connect with people who are currently unaffiliated to faith or exploring spirituality in different ways.

New roles have been created to work alongside leaders across the Methodist Church and with its ecumenical partners. The emerging strategy promises innovation, experimentation and adventure with its intention to develop hundreds of 'new places for new people' and to help existing churches come alive and grow.

Leading the team is Trey Hall, the new Director of Evangelism and Growth at the Methodist Church, who began creating the team after he started work in the late summer of 2018. Trey commented: "I am absolutely delighted to welcome these gifted folks to the team. We want to take some joyous risks in evangelism and growth as we learn to speak and live out God's goodness in honest, inclusive, and culturally compelling ways. This will certainly be a challenge, but it's a challenge that will build up life, creativity, and energy ahead as we seek to live out our calling!"

These three new members of staff are due to start work in the months ahead.

**Emma Nash, Mission and Community Engagement Officer**, will help existing churches move towards health and growth by equipping congregations to build deep relationships in their communities. Emma is a Baptist evangelist and minister who has worked ecumenically in different church and mission settings, always asking 'who is God calling us to reach and how might we best do that?'

**Matt Finch, Pioneering and Church Planting Officer**, will work collaboratively to develop and implement a Church-wide strategy for 'new places for new people', developing leaders and pathways that promote experimentation, multiplication and growth. His current appointment as a

Methodist minister in the St Neots and Huntingdon Circuit has seen Matt establish a café church, a contemplative community and new patterns of children and families ministry.

**Steve Hollinghurst, Contemporary Apologetics Officer**, will help the Church to communicate the foundations of Christianity and encourage congregations to confidently speak of God and to share faith with others. Steve has 28 years of experience in mission, evangelism and communicating Christian faith in contemporary culture. An Anglican priest, he is the author of several books and has spoken on national radio about how Christians should respond to the increasing number of people who are spiritual but not part of traditional religions.

The new team will be travelling across the nation over the coming months, meeting with church leaders and congregations, and working collaboratively to equip the Church for new life.

### **NEW YEAR, FRESH START**

Many of us wrestle with giving up habits that are costing us a small fortune – whether it's smoking, compulsive eating, shopping, gambling, drugs or alcohol. The local churches together have therefore partnered with UK charity Christians Against Poverty (CAP) to help people tackle their dependencies.

CAP began 20 years ago as a debt counselling charity but has broadened in recent years to tackle the causes of poverty, which includes addictive behaviours. CAP Fresh Start is for all those who would love to stop a habit that they know is costing them both financially and emotionally, whatever this might be – there are many different temptations which once might have brought us comfort, or were fun for a while, but have now started to spoil our daily living.

CAP Fresh Start is for anyone who can relate to the feeling that it is time to STOP. It is well recognised that this can be hard to do on your own, so we aim to help people in a small group setting where everyone is fighting similar situations and can support and encourage each other. Most importantly, we're not here to judge. We are here to help you think about what triggers your behaviour, identify the root of the problem and learn how to break that pattern.

More than 70 Fresh Start courses are running in churches and communities around the UK helping people break free from a wide range of issues. People who are living with addictive behaviour will know that it can mess up your finances and your relationships, it can be hard to concentrate at work and your health can really suffer too. Now is a great time of year to make some changes and we're here to help you stick to those resolutions.

The free course is inspired by the tried-and-tested 12-steps format and lasts 8 weeks, offering emotional and practical support in an environment of security and trust. The course will be starting at the beginning of February 2019 and will be held at Bideford Baptist Church on Friday Evenings.

Anyone wanting to find out more should call Jane on Tel. No. 07533 692249 or e-mail [janebishopp@capuk.org](mailto:janebishopp@capuk.org) / [suejones@capuk.org](mailto:suejones@capuk.org)

### **WESLEY COTTAGE STUDY DAYS JANUARY TO APRIL 2019 – Trewint, Cornwall**

Friday 1<sup>st</sup> February - 10am-3pm **Bible Study Day: "Zechariah: Hope for a puzzled world"** with Richard and Sheila Burt

Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> to Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> February - 10am-3pm **Study Days: "The Father Heart of God"** with Nick and Linda Holt. This series of three consecutive study days is a new venture for us at Wesley Cottage bringing a full conference to a local setting. Nick and Linda will "explore the landscape and texture of Jesus calling God his Father; what that meant 2000 years ago and the implications for our lives today. Focussing on 'ultimate identity' in the contemporary world." If this

sounds confusing, book in to have it explained by these excellent speakers who come from a strong biblical perspective.

For information regarding recommended bed and breakfast please contact Wesley Cottage.

Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> February - 10am-3pm **Prayer Day: with Deji Okegbile** - A Methodist Minister from Nigeria serving in the UK Deji is author of 'Stop the Funeral: Reverse Methodist Decline'. Deji will provide us with some teaching on prayer before leading us in times of prayer.

Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March - 10am-3pm **Bible Study Day: “Jesus Last Week”** with Alistair Sharp

Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> April - 10am-3pm **Study Day: “Divine encounter in worship as the basis of church growth”** with Alastair Bolt

Places are limited on our study days so advance booking is essential (telephone 01566 880265 and leave a message or email [wesleycottage@live.co.uk](mailto:wesleycottage@live.co.uk)). Although there is no set charge to attend donations are welcome and lunch is provided.

Wesley Cottage at Trewint near Launceston in Cornwall, where John Wesley preached and rested. The Postcode for Wesley Cottage is PL15 7TG