

# UPDATE Autumn 2015

Circuit 26/4,  
Southampton District



Did you come to the Circuit Gathering on Sunday June 7<sup>th</sup> at Tadley Common Methodist Church? What fun, food & fellowship we had! How great was the time of worship together outside!



What did some of the young people think?  
*They enjoyed it, they liked it being outside,  
they enjoyed the picnic, they made new  
friends.*

*Some would have liked more space for games.*

And from Andrea Parker:-

*Question & Answer Session ; I was given the  
task of putting together a Panel from names  
supplied to me by Rev. David Shaw. The  
Panel was made up of Rev. Jenny Dowding,  
Alice Chigumira and Stephen Appiah. The  
session was well attended and questions  
were very varied and each answer was  
treated with great depth of knowledge and  
enthusiasm.*

*The Basingstoke and Reading Circuit is very  
large, with miles separating us  
geographically, but when we meet together  
at a Circuit Gathering, I feel very close to  
other members, knowing we can exchange  
views very openly.*

*The evening service which was held outside  
was very special.*

*One question remains - when and where is  
the next Circuit Gathering?*

Well, we can answer Andrea's question. **The next Circuit Gathering will be at Christ Church, Woodley on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> February 2016.** More details will be available in the autumn but already we have had some thoughts. A few people have volunteered to be part of the planning GiD (Get it Done). If you would like to be part of this please contact Update as noted on the bottom overleaf.

## Special Interest Groups

Some people have been discussing the idea of SIGs which are groups with a specialised interest that they would like to make available as a resource for the circuit: -

- ☞ Is your church wishing to be advised on installing audio visual technology?
- ☞ Are you a preacher wishing to make better use of this in worship?
- ☞ Does your church want help setting up a website or setting up internet access?
- ☞ Do you communicate by email and what to know how to use distribution lists or shared folders?
- \* Is your church wishing to improve its heating system but you are not sure of the best approach?

☺ **Do you** have skills in these areas that you would like to share?

✚ Are you interested in exploring how advances in science increase our understanding of the Bible and the life of Christ?

If the answer to any of the above questions is "yes" or "possibly" then get in touch with Update and we shall direct you to an appropriate person.

## Old Basing - How we show Jesus to others.

To introduce ourselves to you:

We are a small village church with an average congregation of 20.

Our services and events both regular and occasional are listed in the Basinga, our local parish magazine. We also try to put items into the Gazette diary whenever possible, and we hand deliver letters with details of Christmas services and some special events to the houses closest to our building. Our outside notice board is well maintained with details of upcoming events, and eye catching posters.

We have a regular monthly coffee morning, which attracts a number of non-church-goers. Whilst this is a great way of getting people into the building, we are discussing ways to make this an opportunity for witnessing, as well as simply introducing ourselves to a wider group of people.

We also have a regular monthly prayer meeting, in which we pray for our community, for our own growth, and for opportunities to share Jesus with others.

We do have a number of problems with our building, which we hope to address, as this would give us the facilities to do a lot more. Some ideas we have are to run an Alpha course and to explore different ways of doing church (perhaps a café church, or a service with pets)

Several of us would like to start a regular Bible study, perhaps initially meeting our own needs to help us with our witnessing, but maybe later exploring questions which may attract those who want to think about what place religion has in their lives.

In July, Maurice Bound had his last preaching



appointment in our circuit. He says that age has caught up with him. He was 102 years old last birthday! He was presented with a certificate marking his 50 years as a lay preacher.

### Improving communication across the circuit

#### Weekly notices from the circuit

Please give the circuit administrators information about events in your church.

Did you know you can easily contact both of them using [admin@basingstokereadingmethodists.uk](mailto:admin@basingstokereadingmethodists.uk) ?

Send your news but also read the contributions from others! We hope you will share these with all members of your congregation. Please remember that even information about something on the other side of the circuit may be of interest to someone.

*On Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> September, 2.30pm at St Andrew's, we shall be welcoming two new ministers to the circuit. Ruth Midcalf introduces herself;*

As we prepare to move to the Basingstoke and Reading Circuit, I'm delighted to have this opportunity to introduce myself in this issue of Update.

I'm a cradle Methodist. My Dad was a Methodist Minister who served in five stations during my



childhood. As a result I was privileged to experience the love and support of, and worship with, local congregations in rural and suburban areas, as well as District and National gatherings as part of the yellow-and-green-clad Methodist Association of Youth Clubs. All these helped me grow and develop

in my own faith and I'm so grateful for those firm foundations and all who shared with me their love of the Lord Jesus and his love for all.

I studied Biology at Royal Holloway, University of London in the mid 1990's. This included some fieldwork in Bramley, so I know a little of the local geography in advance of our arrival! I then moved to Bristol to complete a PhD before moving back to Royal Holloway where I lectured in Biological Sciences, held several roles in the Science Faculty (latterly as Deputy Dean (Teaching)) and where I was

also privileged to be Deputy Warden of a Hall of Residence. In 2008 I left Royal Holloway to become the Executive Secretary of the Linnean Society of London.

Graham (an aircraft engineer working at Lasham) and I married in 2009. As well as our love of the Lord, we share a passion for music. Graham is the voice in the family and I play five musical instruments with varying degrees of success! For many years we've belonged to a Musical Theatre Group and Graham hopes to continue this hobby when we move. We also love country walks so look forward to exploring the local area.

Shortly after we married I was given a note to preach, following a strong sense of God's call in a service at Staines Methodist Church where we have both been actively involved. It was whilst leading a service at Staines that I experienced a strong sense of call to ordained ministry. So began the formal period of discernment (later including a change of job to work part-time for a Christian charity as Director of Operations, and accreditation as a Local Preacher) culminating in acceptance for pre-ordination training. I've just completed three-years of part-time training at Sarum College in Salisbury, where I've studied for an MA in Theology, Ministry and Mission.

We now look forward with anticipation and joy to ministry and mission amongst and alongside you. We are so grateful for the warm welcome we received on our visit day. We continue to hold the Circuit and especially the congregations at Mortimer, Silchester, Tadley Common and Tadley Main Road in our prayers and look forward to joining you shortly. Every blessing  
Ruth Midcalf

*Our other new minister will be Deacon Marlene Scuse and there will be an introduction to her in an additional Update in September.*

### A prayer resource for Advent

A compilation afternoon and evening is planned, Monday 5<sup>th</sup> October at Silchester. Light supper to be available. Look out for more details, themes, and a request for contributions in early September.

**Praying together;** Are you using the monthly timetable which has been drawn up? "In remembering the people of each church on the same day of the month together there is a strength of shared solidarity, especially if the people of that church have some awareness that others are praying for them." If you have mislaid this, ask the circuit administrators for another copy.

We publish our circuit Update at least every quarter when the new plan is available and we shall be pleased to receive **any** contributions.

Contact: [update@basingstokereadingmethodists.uk](mailto:update@basingstokereadingmethodists.uk) text Gill on 07990 815282 or send us a message through the circuit administrators.