

# UPDATE Summer 2015

Circuit 26/4,  
Southampton District

Are you coming to the  
**Circuit Gathering** on Sunday June 7<sup>th</sup> at Tadley  
Common Methodist Church from 2pm?  
Come anytime and bring a picnic tea, Worship 6pm.  
**Don't forget to send inspirational pictures of your  
church to Alison Parker**

alison.m.parker@googlemail.com

**Special Interest Groups;** if you have recently formed  
one or are wishing to, there will be "pop-up" slots  
available giving an opportunity to share your interest.  
Please contact David Shaw  
revdavid.shaw@btinternet.com



Just to prove I did it I've  
included a photo of me  
during the race at mile 25 and the other with my  
medal after the finish in Horse Guards Parade.



My official time was 4 Hours 27 Minutes and the total  
amount I've raised through sponsorship for MHA  
(Methodist Homes for the Aged) is still creeping up,  
but when I last checked this morning in was at about  
£5,500 which is absolutely incredible.

I've been really overwhelmed by everyone's  
generous support, so a huge "Thank You" from me.  
Also my appreciation to MHA for the opportunity to  
fulfil a life time's ambition!

If you didn't get round to sponsoring me, or wanted  
to wait until I'd actually done it, then there's still time  
to do so as my virginmoneygiving page is open for  
another few weeks. God bless, Andy X

(You can alternatively send a cheque payable to MHA to  
Andy, with your full N&A if for Gift Aid or a form is  
available from Circuit Office.)

## VIPs Visits St Andrew's

On Friday 13th March the Basingstoke and Reading  
Methodist Circuit had the privilege of welcoming the  
President of the Methodist  
Conference, Rev Kenneth  
Howcroft and the Vice  
President, Gill Dascombe to St  
Andrew's.



The visit began at  
7.00p.m. with a meal for  
invited guests. This was  
followed by an open  
invitation to everyone to  
listen to a presentation given by them both. Just over  
40 people from across the Circuit were present and it  
was good to welcome them.

The President and Vice President were able to meet  
the members of the Boys Brigade as Friday is their  
meeting night. The evening also included the  
presentation of a long service certificate to Beryl  
Wootton who has been a local preacher for 25 years  
and Sarah Armstrong-Stacey with her letter of  
acceptance as a fully accredited local preacher. We  
give thanks to God for the dedication of all local  
preachers and those in training.

During the year the Vice President has visited  
Zambia. She showed slides and spoke about Faith and  
Zambia. It was very interesting to hear about the  
similarities between Solihull where she grew up and  
Zambia where she visited.

The President spoke on the theme of Death and  
Resurrection. We were enthralled to hear about  
situations in which Churches had "died" but had been  
resurrected again in a different guise but still reaching  
out to people with the love of God. It was very  
inspiring and I feel sure we all left with positive  
thoughts.

Afterwards there was a time of discussion and  
questions which proved very popular.  
All in all it was a very enjoyable and thought  
provoking evening and if the opportunity arises again  
I would urge as many people as possible to make an  
effort to attend.

*Linda, St Andrew's*

### Praying together

Have you seen 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."

# Lent Quiet Day

It was a bright, dry day when Chris, Viv, Linda and Marianne left Basingstoke for a Quiet Day at Silchester Methodist Church.



Below are the thoughts of two of us which we hope will inspire you to come along next time and try it for yourself.

The day started with brilliant sunshine but a cold wind. Coffee, tea and biscuits were available and then we gathered in the church for worship, prayer and music. This had been arranged by Angela, a Silchester Church member. Then came "silence" until 12.30pm lunchtime.

2 hours is a long time to spend for someone like myself! We were allowed to read, do crafts and walk in the garden and surrounding area. At lunch we were able to talk with the 14 other people mostly from the Reading area. Then silence again until 2.45 when we gathered again for worship before finishing at 3.00pm. I found the silence difficult but an exercise in spiritual discipline and also a way of relaxing and preparing for Easter.

In only twenty minutes we had left the hustle and bustle of Basingstoke and arrived at the very welcoming Church in Silchester. There is a spiritual garden in the grounds plus the common to explore as well. After we had had a short time of worship we were able to take part in various activities all with a quiet theme. I did something I have never done before and that was to go off for a walk by myself. I walked around part of the common and felt exhilarated. There was no one else about and to my surprise I found it a very emotional exercise. On returning from my walk I made myself coffee (drinks on tap all day) and sat and reflected and read a book. I didn't do much in the afternoon except snooze a little and sat quietly. There were many activities available, but this time I just needed to be quiet and still.

Our thanks to Silchester and Angela for arranging the day and thanks to Marianne for driving.

Chris, Viv and Linda,  
St. Andrew's Methodist Church

Every Sunday in June & July!

Cream teas are served at Silchester Methodist from 3pm to 5.30pm.  
Come and enjoy their garden.

## Journeying On

On behalf of everyone in our Circuit I would like to say 'thank you' to the people who contributed articles to 'Journeying On', the booklet which was produced for use during Lent and beyond – this booklet has been a great blessing to many. I personally have found the articles in which people shared something from their own personal life or experience to be quite touching, quite moving and I would especially like to thank them for being so open and willing to share. Thanks too to the small team of people who put the booklet together.

*Marianne Sales*

Did you enjoy using this Lent resource? Were you a contributor? The compilation day was a blessing to many people, so we are planning another in the autumn to produce an Advent resource – watch this space!

In Spring Update it was announced that we should like to do a feature on "*Where can one get a coffee?*" and asked "*Does your church have an open coffee morning?*"

Only one church responded so here is the results of combining a little bit of knowledge with information on church and circuit websites. Please check these out yourselves, some of them may not really happen!

Monday – term-time 9.30 – 11.30

Coffee & Co, Christ Church Chineham

Tuesday 10 - 12 Oakley

Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday 10.30 - 13.45

Rainbow Café, Christ Church, Woodley

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday & Friday 10 – 12

Mug & Biscuit, St Andrew's

Wednesday 10 – 12 Gosbrook Road, Caversham

Wednesday 10.30-12 Trinity, Basingstoke

Wednesday – 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> week, from 10.15

Tadley Main Road

Thursday 10-11.30 Oakridge

Thursday – 3<sup>rd</sup> wk, 10-11.30 Burghfield Common

Friday – 2<sup>nd</sup> week, 10.30 – 12 Old Basing

Friday – 3<sup>rd</sup> week, Trinity Lower Earley

Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> May, 10 – 12 Silchester

Saturday – 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> week, Mortimer

Saturday - last week of the month, Wesley 10 – 12

Do you have information on these opportunities or others that you would like to share?

We publish our circuit Update 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)

Or text Gill on 07990 815282