

BIDEFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT MONTHLY NEWSLETTER August 2010 - Issue 100

Welcome to Edition Number 100

Please note my e-mail address bucklanddave@btinternet.com

Please continue to 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.

It has been decided that the Circuit Newsletter will now be free & therefore could you please urge you to 'dish them out' to as many people as possible. If this means more are needed by each church, then please let me know.

Thanks - Dave Watson

From the Superintendent Minister – Rev David Morris

Dear Friends,

You may have come across the suggestion in some Christian circles that we would all be a lot better off if we forgot about the Old Testament and concentrated on the New Testament. The argument is partly that the God who is revealed in the Old Testament is not as easy for people to relate to these days as the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ whom we find in the pages of the New Testament. Yet one of the things that strikes me about the Old Testament, and which I think makes it particularly valuable, indeed essential, to any understanding of our faith, is the number of times we see signs of development in the Old Testament which seem to point forward to later Christian understanding and experience. A classic example of what I mean is the story in 2 Sam 7 about David's thoughts on building a temple for God. Here we see one of the many instances in which God seems to take the hopes, prayers and efforts of those who are trying to be his people and instead of going along with what seems right and proper to them, reinterprets and transforms their ideas.

David had established himself in Jerusalem after years of warfare and struggle. The accounts of his rise to power in 1 and 2 Sam are very vivid - we can feel the pressure of leadership, the strain of battle and the whole hotch-potch of human feelings. By the time we get to 2 Sam 7, David, this all-too-human personality, is settled in his walled city of Jerusalem, living in a palace built for him by Hiram, King of Tyre (an early example of foreign aid with fairly obvious political motives). And once he's settled, David's thoughts turn back to God and he thinks about building a temple. After all, David had his house, why shouldn't God have one as well?

Then along comes Nathan the prophet, who had originally been in favour of the building scheme but has since understood God's purposes better, and tells David that God doesn't want a temple, at least not in David's time anyway. David, at the height of his power, must have been deeply disappointed, even resentful. When God's answer to prayer is 'No', we too are often resentful. But was God really saying 'No'? In a limited sense he was, yet in a wider sense, God's 'No' was to lead to a fulfilment far beyond David's understanding. Far greater than the thought of God establishing his rule through David's building scheme, God promises that he will establish his rule through David's kingdom and throne - forever. And it is only with our hindsight and our own experience that we can see something of what it was impossible for David to see - that God was moving beyond a building, beyond a throne, to the kingly rule of Christ, the 'Son of David'.

The point for David and for us is to acknowledge our ignorance of the wider purposes of God. Of course we plan and build and organize. These are among the tools God has given us to achieve the tasks that are within our grasp. But we as well as David need to recognize that the fulness of God's purposes is beyond our grasp and may not include the plans which are so dear to us. So while we must continue to plan, to organize and to work, we have to remember that it is not the end of the world if our plans are frustrated or if we do not see the results we would like to see. We live and work within the wider purposes of God, just like David. We may not be able to build the temple we think ought to be built in our day but if it is needed at all, in God's good time it will happen. And when it does happen, it will take the form which it needs at that time, which is likely to be very different from whatever we envisaged in the first place.

It can be hard work sometimes, living in faith, hope and trust; much harder than building a temple. But we are more truly the people of God, even the God of the Old Testament, when we try it.

May God bless us all – David

Does the Circuit Matter/ or to put it another way Matters of the Circuit
Elsie Potter – Senior Circuit Steward

The Circuit is important in that it is bigger than our churches and has resources that perhaps we cannot manage on our own. If you have any questions or would like any help with at all any of our stewards would be only to be pleased to be of help – if it is a financial matter then John Bentley is the person to seek. Just to remind you our Circuit Stewards from September will be Elsie Potter Senior Circuit Steward who is a member at Alverdiscott, Brian Cooke a member at High Street and John Bentley and Della Beally who are members at Torrington

We are very pleased that Circuit Meeting accepted our recommendation for Della Beally to be a Circuit Steward from September. We are very sorry to have to lose Peter Weeks but he has served six years and has been very conscientious in serving the Circuit and looking after the interests of the Circuit. May God bless him as he continues to work for our Northam Church and in his marriage which takes place in July.

Thank you also for undertaking the projects proposed by the Circuit Mission Focus Group I know it will mean extra fund raising activities but this can be fun as we join together. We shall be planning two circuits services approx six months apart when we shall be able to give an update on the way the projects are panning out. Please try to support these very important activities of the Circuit.

Other changes are of course Graham and Meg's move to Shebbear and our support of Shebbear Circuit in that they have had no minister for the greater part of last year. God is no man's debtor and I am sure that we shall be blessed as we share our blessings and good fortune with others. Let us go forward with a prayer in our heart and a song on our lips into this new year of exciting possibilities.

Circuit Directory - Updates

Just a reminder that if any Churches have any changes or updates to the Circuit Directory that has just been printed – please let me know and I can put them into the Newsletter as required.

Rev's Graham & Meg Slingo

Rev Graham and Meg Slingo are moving at the end of August to live in the manse in Shebbear village.(Graham from September will be stationed in both Bideford and Shebbear Circuits)

On Saturday September 18th they are having an open house and all are very welcome. The day will begin from 10am with tea, coffee and cakes. Through the afternoon this will become Devonshire cream teas! and in the evening savoury bites. The day will end around 10pm. All are invited to pop over and visit.

Sunday 19th September at Lake Methodist Chapel, Shebbear at 7.30pm there will be a welcome Service for Rev David, Morris, Graham Slingo & Meg Slingo to the Shebbear Circuit. All are welcome. This is part of the joint working arrangements between the Bideford & Shebbear Circuits.

Bideford Methodist Church

Bible Study on Wednesdays 10a.m. in the Church vestry and fortnightly in the evening at the home of Mrs. Diana Yendell in Northam.

Alwington Methodist Church

Tuesday August 3rd, this months coffee morning will be held at Alwington Methodist Church.

'Crafty Flower Festival' - Alwington Methodist Church

An arts & craft display of flowers in different mediums will be open on Friday August 13th & Saturday August 14th 11am - 5pm. Sunday August 15th 2pm -5pm.

Light refreshments - Craft Stall

We also hope to have people demonstrating their crafts & hobbies.
All proceeds for Alwington Methodist Church.

We look forward to meeting you at all these events.

Bideford Circuit Prayer and Praise

The next Prayer & Praise will be on Thursday 2nd September at Bideford, High Street at 7.30pm.

There will be no Prayer & Praise in August
October 7th Torrington
November 4th Parkham
December None

Torrington Methodist Church

The next 'Inspire' Youth Service will take place on Sunday 29th August at 7pm at Torrington Chapel. All welcome.

On Sunday 10th October at 6.30pm the Service will be lead by the 'Reflections Group' from the Ringsash Circuit. All are welcome

Building Together

'Building Together' is a new social group set up by members of The Torrington Methodist Church to raise money for the church building repairs, alongside becoming a visible presence in Torrington.

The group have met at Captain Jack's Restaurant, due to their kind hospitality, and look forward to their next meeting there on Thursday 5th August at 7.30pm, where they will be discussing their involvement in the Torrington Together Festival on Saturday 28th August. They plan to have a display telling everyone about what goes on at the church, a stall of goodies, children's activities and music.

The group is also holding a 'Skittles and BBQ night', open to everyone, at Week Farm, Torrington, on Saturday 4th September from 6pm. If you would like to play skittles, please book in your team of 6 people, two of whom must be ladies (£6 a team) with either John on 01805 622949 or Richard on 01805 624393.

The group is looking forward to a barn dance, quiz night, a 'starters and sweet feast' and lots of Christmas activities later in the year.

TORRINGTON METHODIST CHURCH - WINDY CROSS BRASS ENSEMBLE

Windy Cross Brass is a small group of Brass players connected with Torrington Methodist Church. The group play mainly for church services within the local area. The group has now been in existence for 6 years during which time it has played for various church events.

Our rehearsals take place at the Torrington Methodist Church which is situated at the top of South Street. There is a car park nearby. Rehearsals will be on every second Friday in the month commencing on Friday, 10th September at 7.30 pm with tea and biscuits to follow. We would welcome anyone who can play a brass instrument to join us.

For further information please contact Janet Alford on 01805 622829

Buckland Brewer Methodist Church

There will be a Sankey Evening at Buckland with the Newton St Petrock Male Voice Choir on Sunday 22nd August at 7pm. Refreshments to follow – All are welcome

Clovelly Methodist Church

There are plans for another Art Exhibition at Clovelly Chapel from Thursday 5th – Sunday 8th August from 10.30am – 4pm. On Sunday 8th August there will be a Service following the end of the exhibition. Any budding artist or crafts person who would like to exhibit their work are wanted, as are people to steward the event. Please contact Maureen Farley on 01237 431451 if anyone is interested. Hopefully there will be a positive response for this event

Prayer Card Ministry

Dates when someone will be at Clovelly to use the Prayer Cards in Times of Prayer

Wednesday 11th August – led by Roy & Hilda Harris at 2.30pm

For more details please contact Roy Harris 01805 623 043.

Northam Methodist Church

From Sunday, 7th March, Fellowship Meetings will be held in the Hall at 6-00pm each Sunday and all are welcome to attend.

The Thursday Fellowship takes place every week at 2.30pm. Admission £1 includes Tea/Coffee and Raffle

Parkham Methodist Church Ladies Club

Meeting at 2.30pm in Sunday School Rooms at Parkham Chapel

Local Preachers

Local Preachers Support Group Meetings on Thursday 23rd September at 7.30pm at Julia Spencer's home in Appledore & Thursday 21st October at 7.30pm at Elsie Potter's home

Local Preachers Meeting to be held on Monday 6th September at Torrington Methodist Church at 7.30pm

Local Preachers Study Day in the Shebbear Circuit on Saturday 9th October – more details to follow

South Molton Circuit – 'Local Preachers & Leaders of Worship in a changing church' on Saturday 27th November with Rev Pete Pillinger, Chair of District at South Molton Methodist Church from 9.15am to 4.45pm. Details on 01598 740191

Plymouth and Exeter District of the Methodist Church (5 Circuits appointment)

A Part Time Rural Worker (Pastoral Support Enabler) is sought by the Methodist Church as a Lay person for a 3 year appointment initially to

- offer confidential pastoral support to the rural and farming community in Mid and North West Devon and North Cornwall on behalf of the Methodist Church in partnership with other Churches and support agencies.
- develop pastoral links with those who attend the agricultural Markets in the area
- where appropriate help Ministers build and manage a network of pastoral care volunteers to support this vital work

Hours 25 per week

Salary £12,506 £9.62 per hour

This scheme has been in place for a number of years and has recently been reviewed. Further details of this exciting scheme, and how to apply, available from Tim Stokes, Holsworthy Circuit Administrator,
Mobile: 0796 0449188,
Email: stokes-tim@hotmail.com.

Closing date August 13th 2010 Interview date w/c September 6th 2010

As the role is for Christian Pastoral Ministry the post holder would be expected to be a member of a recognised denomination as defined by Christians Together in England.

Circuit Network

About forty people enjoyed an afternoon in the garden at Webbery Cross Cottage. We were blessed with sunny weather and there was good company and delicious cream teas. Thanks to all who came or helped in any way. Two hundred and forty five pounds (£245), this includes donations from one or two folk who were unable to join us, has been sent to Al Shurooq school for blind children in Bethlehem.

In almost two years, since we have been supporting this project the Plymouth and Exeter District Network has raised £10,575 .59.

Plymouth and Exeter District Network Events

Autumn District Day Thursday 7th October 2010 at The Mint, Exeter speaker Anne Kenyon,

District Annual Women's Network Event – Tuesday 16th to Thursday 18th November 2010 at Sidholme, Sidmouth – led by Deacon Brenda Hayes (Vice President Methodist Diaconal Order 1996/7) The Subject is 'To be a Pilgrim'

Spring District Day Thursday 15th April 2011 at The Avenue Church Newton Abbott Speakers Mr Bryan Warren - Farm Crises Network - Afternoon Rev Tom Davies – Al Sharooq

Appledore Bible Study and Prayer Group

We are a small warm group who enjoy sharing together. We meet on a Thursday mornings 9.45 am for 10am starting with Coffee or tea and we aim to finish at 11am.

Summer walks on Dartmoor 2010

Saturday 7th August - Organised by Scoriton Methodist Church – meet at the Chapel - 3 miles west of Buckfastleigh off the Buckfast to Holne road. Signposted from A38 at Buckfast

Saturday 18th September - Organised by St Raphael's Huccaby, Hexworthy - meet at St Raphael's. From Dartmeet take next turning on left to Hexworthy. St. Raphael's is about ½ mile on left or via Holne and across the moor via Hexworthy

Walks commence at 1pm – approx 5 miles - Led by local walkers
1.00 pm meet for 1.15 pm start
3.30 pm onwards 'Coffee and cake' at Chapel for everyone
4.15 pm informal 'Songs of Praise'
5.00 pm depart

There is no charge but a collection may be taken during the Songs of Praise in aid of the Church/Chapel organising the walk.

BIDEFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT - YOUTH WORKERS MANAGEMENT
COMMITTEE

Summary of Minutes of meeting held on Monday, 17th May 2010

Cambodia is now finished. A presentation was done at the Torrington School with good support. Work at Torrington School is still ongoing. Also work with "Life after School". Volunteers at Parkham are a success. No change at Buckland. Training of volunteers and Rachel should continue.

Report from Chris and Debs - Chris has had a football accident and is on crutches. Will be taking young people climbing with other adults in attendance when he has recovered.

There was a mixed reaction to the Spring Harvest visit this year. STUFF has changed as a group. Unfortunately due to a sickness and diarrhoea virus the visit was cut short and they had to leave early. However with the compensation received from Spring Harvest they hope to have a fun day out later in the year.

Parkham has some new equipment in the form of a new Projection - X Box.

There is a new girls' group with Debs at the Torrington School. This is Year 10 - 14 - 15 years.

Objectives - At Littleham there were originally some children but Debs does not have enough time for Littleham at the moment. Chris and Debs are in contact with some teenagers who are at the Bideford College. Debs is hoping to find a way to go there after the building has finished. Family Planning Trust - Debs has been in touch with the Family Planning person. They would put something together and put it to the management for the next school year.

Would like to proceed with young people leaving school. Following on their life after school. Chris would start with someone he knows and go from there.

Debs ask for permission for training for "Street Space". This would entail one day in London. The committee granted permission for this.

Date of next meeting - MONDAY, 27TH SEPTEMBER 2010 - 7.30 pm at TORRINGTON METHODIST CHURCH Future meetings will be held approximately quarterly.

Christians Together in Bideford & District - Counties Evangelist - David Symons

Marriage to Katie, a Bideford Street Pastor, has brought David from Barnstaple to Bideford. He is available to churches throughout North Devon to assist with their outreach and ministry. David is one of 46 full and part-time evangelists working with Counties, a mission set up in 1899. Full information is available from their website (www.countiesuk.org), but here are some details about David.

A few years ago, having spent some time abroad working with Operation Mobilisation in Russia, David felt the Lord call him back to North Devon, where he was brought up. He is now involved in different types of ministry but focuses on working with local churches to reach people with the gospel and to encourage Christians in the region to share their faith.

Areas of ministry:

Evangelistic Bible study course - a simple 5 week course looking at creation, what's wrong with the world, Jesus (who he is and why he came), how to become a Christian and how to begin to live life as a Christian. Informal in style, open for discussion, with an emphasis on commitment to follow Jesus.

'How to share our faith' Training Course - designed to help Christians in their witness. This three session practical course looks at why we need to share our faith, who do we share our faith with, and how can we share our faith.

North Devon College: involved 3 times a week helping with the Christian Union activities; supporting the Christian students and helping them reach out to their friends.

Involvement in Grosvenor Church, Barnstaple (where he has been a member since childhood). Helping to lead a small group and with children's and youth work.

Preaching in churches and chapels around the region.

Opportunities for the future: Possible new openings include helping with the Christian Union at Kingsley School and starting up a stall in Bideford to give away free Christian literature and make contact with passers-by.

If you would like David to assist with your church outreach, or for more information, please get in touch. 07805716703, symski@yahoo.co.uk

COSY DEVON

The Diocese of Exeter has joined with Energy Action Devon to promote CosyDevon as a way of helping local people avoid fuel poverty next winter. This involves free and discounted home insulation for households in Devon, Plymouth and Torbay.

You may not be thinking about your heating bill during these warmer summer months, but now is the best time to start planning for the winter ahead. As autumn closes in, more and more people start preparing for the colder seasons and arranging their insulation measures. Be canny and cosy this year by beating the rush and getting your insulation installed during the summer.

Right now there is funding available for all homeowners and private tenants in Devon to offer free and heavily discounted prices on loft and cavity wall insulation. Installing insulation in your home can save you up to £340pa off your heating bill and can reduce your carbon dioxide emissions, making your home greener, as well as helping you stay warm and cosy.

For further information please ring (freephone) ☎0800 512012 and quoting 012 as a reference number or visit www.cosydevon.co.uk.

SUPPORT FOR LISTED PLACES OF WORSHIP

The Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme allows listed places of worship to claim back all the VAT incurred on repairs and maintenance work to the building, professional fees and repair works to fixtures such as bells and organs.

Since its introduction in April 2001 over £107 million has been given back to listed places of worship across the UK.

The scheme has provided great relief to places of worship faced with raising enormous sums for maintenance and repair, and has enabled those who look after these valuable heritage and community buildings to maintain them for future generations.

However the scheme is due to come to an end on 31 March 2011. To learn more go to <http://www.lpwscheme.org.uk> or <http://www.savetherefund.info>.

Worshipping God through Jazz - From: The Moseley Road and Sparkhill Circuit

After being widely advertised in the circuit and district, the first Jazz Church gathering took place on Sunday 20 June 2010 at Shirley Methodist Church. The service was well attended and the congregation enjoyed a mixture of traditional hymns and modern choruses arranged in a jazz style supported by the Jazz Church band with Laura and Themba on vocals, Adam on keys and Steph on drums.

Using speech and live music, Adam and Jayne unpicked the "jazz factor" metaphor for living the Christian life in light of the vision of the kingdom, encouraging people to have that same biblical vision of a just world or new creation as they thought about their own mission and ministry.

The buzz after the service in the coffee shop and all round the church was exciting as

people discussed the issues raised in the service and began looking forward to the next Jazz Church on 17 October.

3,000 Isle of Man Christians unite as 'One in the Park' - From: The Isle of Man District

Christians of all traditions on the Isle of Man came together on Fathers' Day for what was probably the biggest ecumenical celebration ever seen on the Island. This historic event culminated in church leaders signing a Covenant for Mission.

Over 3,000 people gathered in a massive tent in Douglas that had been erected for a weekend rock festival and kindly offered to us, free of charge, by the festival organisers. The theme of the celebration was, unsurprisingly, that of unity. Worship was led by 'Manifest', a local band, and reflection was provided in drama and dance by members of the Island's Scripture Union team. The atmosphere was tremendous, with a real sense of joy that God's people had come together in this way, and longed to move forward together.

Relations between the churches on the Island have been good for many years and tribute should be paid to the work of Churches Together in Mann over recent decades. But the last few years have seen a change of pace, and a real desire for greater levels of commitment and co-operation between the churches - hence the Covenant.

The Covenant for Mission takes as its starting point the faith in Jesus that the Churches have in common. It celebrates the diversity within the body of Christ, and confesses the sin of division. It then commits the Churches to working together in five main areas: making Jesus known; serving human need; overcoming divisions in the body of Christ; the call to exercise the gifts God has given to us; and recognising that we are stronger together, the commitment to listen to and learn from one another. As its title suggests, the focus of the Covenant is outward-looking, with its call to the Churches to look to the needs of the Island and the wider world.

Bishop Robert Paterson, the Anglican Bishop of Sodor and Mann, led the part of the service in which the Covenant was signed and he was joined by representatives of all the denominations; Methodist, Baptist, Elim, Roman Catholic, Salvation Army, and the United Reformed Church. The Revd Malcolm Peacock, Chair of the Isle of Man District, signed on behalf of the Methodist Church. After the service others were able to add their own signatures.

On an island of 80,000 people, a gathering at 9.30am on a Sunday morning of 3,000 people was a sign that the Church is very much alive and kicking. Pastor John Powell of the Elim Church reminded us all, as we left, of God's promise in scripture, that where there is unity it commands a blessing. Early in the service a seagull found its way into the tent and flew for a while over the heads of those gathered: maybe a dove wasn't readily available! We look forward to what God has in store for us in the future.

Serving the community in good times and sad times - From: Shackles Off, Seascale

Shackles Off Drop-In Centre is a well used, fresh expression of church in Seascale, Cumbria and provides a safe, caring, drug and alcohol-free environment for those aged 16-25. But on the day in June when 12 people were shot and killed in Cumbria, the Centre took on a very different function.

The Shackles Off Team reports: "On Wednesday 2 June 2010, a mist was over the sea and the sun had broken through. It was just an ordinary day. Some first heard the news on the radio, or later on television, but most people knew nothing of the events that were unfolding until the gunman had gone through our village. Seascale had shut down.

This was a day no-one will ever forget. Every individual will always remember where they were, what they were doing and the emotions they felt.

Shackles Off Drop-In Centre was used as a point of contact for the emergency services and as a refuge for those who had witnessed the horrific events outside. It was used as a hospital to help keep a man alive until further help came, and later it was used as a base for the investigating police detectives. For two days after that we stayed open to offer support and to comfort one another; our friends and our community.

Our thoughts and prayers are with those who have lost loved ones. As we later gathered together for a Service of Remembrance, over 500 people turned out in the rain to pray for those lost, hear comforting words and to stand together as a community united in grief and in mourning. A minute's silence was held and, as the service closed, there was an opportunity to lay a flower at the foot of our driftwood cross, made with wood from our beach.

Here in this village of Seascale, John Wesley's words were lived out by everyone.

'Do all the good you can
By all the means you can
In all the ways you can
In all the places you can
At all the times you can
To all the people you can
As long as ever you can'''

Methodist Youth Assembly 2010 – 'Generate' – in Liddington near Swindon from 6pm Friday 19 November to 2pm Sunday 21 November. Cost £60 – please book online on www.methodistyouthassembly.org.uk

Circuit Meeting – Thursday 9th September at High Steet, Bideford