

□ Congratulations to Anne Rowe who has successfully completed her final assignment in connection with her Local Preaching training. At the last Preachers meeting, following Anne's final conversation the unanimous decision then was that subject to a satisfactory service report on 20th. November, the next Preachers' meeting on 23rd. February will recommend to the Circuit Meeting that she be accepted onto full Plan.

□ As is well known by now, David and Frances will be moving to the Denby Dale and Clayton West Circuit (27/9) in the West Yorkshire District on departure from Basingstoke. They will be living at Skelmanthorpe and David will have the pastoral charge of three churches. Skelmanthorpe, Emley (apparently well known for its TV Mast!) and Cawthorne. The combined membership will be approximately 150. This is a rural area but containing many large villages. Within close proximity of Junctions 37 and 38 of the M1 it is close to Huddersfield, Wakefield and Barnsley, which means it, is a dormitory area for these towns.

□ A further word about our Circuit Prayer Diary. The February/March edition is being produced by Old Basing and the following one for April and May by Oakridge. We are now aiming for the present to produce one every two months and for each diary to cover a two-month period. How about an offer from your church? Les Bone is the person you need to speak to please.

□ Last month I mentioned the recent meeting at St Andrews when a group shared information on prayer, which is already happening around the Circuit and agreed that we wanted to give thanks for all that God had already given us. They also shared thoughts about ways of praying which could be used during the "Year" of prayer and beyond and during the vigil. So, here are some ideas:

- Contemporary Worship on January 29th will focus on exploring Christian prayer in the Celtic Tradition and to be publicised as a Pray without Ceasing Event

- Are there other regular events in the churches and across the circuit, which could be given a Prayer without Ceasing focus?

- Could Housegroups focus on a particular aspect of prayer? For example creative prayer or prayer using pictures or icons or..... (we shared a variety of resources including some downloaded from the website www.praywithoutceasing.org.uk)

- Use prayer letters or a telephone prayer link
- Praying with beads (another idea from the above website)
- Using colours
- Afternoon of Prayer – workshop – tea - evening service
- Prayer walk /drive to pray for locality
- Create a Prayer leaflet which allows others to walk and pray locality
- Create Photographic prayer walk
- Map
- Use newspapers
- Music
- Prayer Labyrinth
- Prayer Stations
- Stations of the Cross
- Share testimony of prayer
- Create a "Things that have helped me book"
- Teaching on prayer especially pastoral prayer
- Lost For Words – has a prayer focus – especially on people we meet
- Oakley are considering holding a Quiet Day on a Saturday and a prayer breakfast

This list is meant to be a starting point and intended to stimulate other ideas. If anyone wishes to borrow resources, please do ask me.

Angela Webb



□ I work for MHA Care Group, an organisation that provides person centred care, accommodation and support services for older people across the UK inspired by Christian concern. On Ash Wednesday March 1st. we are very fortunate in having Joyce Huggett to lead a quiet day for us at Green Pastures, Poole. If anyone from your Circuit would like to join us, we would be delighted to welcome them. Places are limited so perhaps in the first instance it might be best if you phone me direct. **Anne Dobson** 01332 221831

Thursday February 2nd.	Deaf Awareness Course – Using Sign Language in Church	Trinity 7pm-9pm
Thursday February 9th.	'Lost for Words' St. Andrews 10.30am-12.30pm	Session 3. Getting started.
Thursday February 9th.	Deaf Awareness Course – Using Sign Language in Church	Trinity 7pm-9pm
Saturday February 11th.	Songs & Prayers from Iona Led by Dudley Coates	St. Andrew's Church, Eastleigh 10am-1.00pm
Tuesday February 21st.	Circuit Missions Committee	7.45pm. Trinity
Thursday February 23rd.	'Lost for Words' St. Andrews 10.30am-12.30pm	Session 4. Telling our story.
Thursday February 23rd.	Deaf Awareness Course – Using Sign Language in Church	Trinity 7pm-9pm
Thursday February 23rd.	Circuit Preachers Meeting	7.45pm Trinity
Sunday February 26th.	Circuit Contemporary Worship	6.00pm. St. Andrew's.

❑ **EXCITING EASTER OPPORTUNITIES! Saturday 25th February at Christ Church, Chineham.** - We are planning a really exciting day for children's workers, volunteers and ministers and would love to see you there. We want to encourage and inspire you in your ministry. Please make a note of this date in your diary and circulate to all who might benefit from the resources offered. The day runs from 9.30am until 4pm with bookable workshops and many other activities. Included are: Craft Activities, Story telling, Service Planning, Children's Ministry Resource show, Café, Bookstall and Workshops. Flyers and booking forms coming out soon. Nikki Andrews - Secretary for Youth and Children's Ministry, Wessex URC Synod sycm@urcwessex.org.uk

❑ Titled 'Mission and the future shapes of Methodism', a day conference takes place on Thursday 16th. March at Cliff College led by the President, Tom Stuckey. Although open to all, Tom is particularly hopeful that those in the '20s and 30s' age group will be encouraged to attend. The conference is open to both lay and ordained. The day runs from 10.30am until 4pm. The cost is £29.50 and I have a booking form for anyone interested.

❑ Once again we have a Christian Book Outlet & Gift Shop in Basingstoke. Eoco, based at Worting Park, stock a small, but expanding, range of books, Fairtrade & Christian cards and gifts and in the future a variety of CDs. A book and music ordering service is also available with access to thousands of titles and you can order by phone, on-line, fax or email. You can visit Monday - Friday 11am - 4pm and Saturday between 11am - 3pm. More products in store than shown on line www.eoco.org.uk. The address is eoco, Worting House, Church Lane, Basingstoke, RG23 8PX. 01256 332737; Fax 01256 332119; sue@eoco.org.uk 10% profits are donated to Christian charitable organisations. **Sue Foley**

❑ Back in September, in the Methodist Matters leaflet published by our Property Office in Manchester, churches were invited to send in a copy of their church newsletter for inclusion within a competition to discover the best-judged publication. This was open to all churches producing such. Old Basing sent in a copy of their Anchor. The response was overwhelming and the prizes of £200 and £50 to the two runners up were duly awarded but not to Old Basing. However, they received a letter stating how impressed the judges were by the standard of the Anchor, so it obviously made an impression.

❑ Safeguarding. During the period November to January, all voluntary workers with children and young people in our churches must apply for a CRB disclosure. I have copies of the application forms and guidance notes. Each pack costs £1 and this cost will be met by local churches.

❑ £200 was raised for World Mission Funds on 15th. October. Following an excellent meal; African worship songs were brought to us brought to us by friends from our Oakridge Church.

Material for the March sheet to reach me by 13.2.06 please. Richard Godfrey
office@basingstokecircuit.net