

✿ I shall get there in the end! The revised date of the Spring 2008 Synod is now 26th. April and not the previous week as indicated last month. And this is the Synod that will be held here in Basingstoke at Trinity. So, this is the date to keep clear please as help in various different ways will be needed.

✿ 'No Smoking' in all public buildings and areas will be implemented on July 1st. As our churches and associated buildings are public places, to conform to the law we should have suitable signage in place for this date. All smokefree premises will need to display no-smoking signs that meet the requirements of the new law. Signs will make it clear which premises are smokefree and demonstrate that you are taking the necessary steps to meet the requirements of the new law. They will need to be displayed in a prominent position at every entrance to smokefree premises. Signs must meet the following requirements:

- To be a minimum of A5 in area (210mm x 148mm)
- Display the international no-smoking symbol at least 70mm in diameter
- Carry the following words in characters that can be easily read: **(No smoking. It is against the law to smoke in these premises)**

You are also free to personalise your signs by changing the words "these premises" to refer to the name or type of premises – such as "this church".

Signs can also be ordered from the Smokefree England information line on 0800 169 1697 or downloaded from smokefreeengland.co.uk/resources. Les Bone is obtaining a supply sufficient for each church to have enough too. Alternatively, you are welcome to design and print your own no-smoking signs as long as they meet the minimum requirements. The international no-smoking symbol contains solely of a graphic representation of a single burning cigarette enclosed in a red circle of at least 70mm in diameter with a red bar across it.



✿ There is a reference on the current Circuit Plan to a Circuit Picnic and Open-air Communion on Sunday 10th. June. Well, here are the details. It will be held in the Sherborne St. John Recreation Ground which is in Vyne Road, on the right (when coming from the village) and just before the Grange Nursing Home on the left. Parking is available but it is not endless! Vyne Road links Sherborne St. John and Bramley and is an extension of Elm Road. There is a Hall available (which is booked) and toilets, so if it is wet, we can still hold the event. Times are, 2.30pm-4.30pm. Games for those who want to join in or otherwise just sit and enjoy the surroundings. 4.30pm-5.30pm. Picnic and Communion. Bring your own tea and if possible a garden chair. There is outside fixed seating available (including some in the shade), but chairs from the hall cannot be taken outside.

✿ The United Church (Methodist and URC) in Dorchester are looking for a Youth & Family Worker. The person appointed will develop work with families and young people within the church and local community, encourage those in contact with the church community to discover and deepen Christian faith and to co-ordinate and support the work undertaken by volunteers with children and young people within the church

The post is for 37½hrs/week but they will consider Part time or job share and is initially a three year appointment. The salary is based on the JNC Youth work pay structure.

If you are interested or would like to request an application form then please contact the Circuit Administrator, The United Church Dorchester, 49-51 Charles Street, Dorchester, DT1 1EE. Forms to be returned by 15th June. For more details contact Jean Arnold on 01305 262421

✿ The Family Friendly Churches trust has decided to expand the range of Fresh Expressions resources that it can offer. As well as the initial DVD, they have now added the 2nd. DVD – “Expressions: The DVD 2” . The DVD is presented by Diane Louise Jordan and focuses on four possible areas of fresh expressions of church

- **Work, Rest and Play:** Fresh expressions of church in places of employment and leisure
- **A New Harvest:** Fresh expressions of church in rural areas
- **The Lord is Here:** Fresh expressions of church in the sacramental tradition
- **Generate:** Fresh expressions of church for young people

There are also 6 short discussion starters designed to get a discussion started in a home or cell group, or even in a Church Council!

The trust also now carries the 3 pamphlets produced by Fresh Expressions, which explore how to get involved, listen to God and your community and then begin a fresh expression yourself. The DVD is priced at £14.99 and the pamphlets are £5.00 for a pack of 5. All can be ordered through their web site (www.familyfriendlychurches.org.uk) and the aim is to have them in the post to you within 24 hours of the order.

✿ Please note that, although in the Circuit, Sue Rolls will not be available for normal Circuit work on Tuesday 29th. , Wednesday 30th. , and Thursday 31st. May. If you call Sue during this time you be advised to contact Margaret for any pastoral matters. This does not affect the Oakley Church Council on the evening of the 30th. which will take place as planned.

✿ 72% of Britons pray at some point, even though they may not believe in God. But many people struggle with prayer. A new publication from the Methodist Church is encouraging people to pray in all circumstances. *Prayer in Your Pocket* (to be launched at the *Christian Resources Exhibition*) is a beautifully illustrated 16-page booklet featuring prayers from all over the world. It is a follow-up to the very successful *Peace in Your Pocket*, 75,000 copies of which were distributed through health clubs, bars and play centres over Christmas and New Year. The Revd. Michaela Youngson, our Secretary for Pastoral Care and Spirituality, drew prayers from a wide variety of sources to compile the booklet. She says; “Prayer is for everyone, but so many of us struggle with it. *Prayer in Your Pocket* has prayers for times of distress, times of abundance and need, prayer for times of joy. We hope this booklet will empower, uplift and comfort people in their daily lives.” In *Prayer in Your Pocket*, you will find prayers old and new. A Kenyan prayer cries out for peace and justice, while Julian of Norwich reminds the reader of God’s everlasting love. Some will be familiar, such as the Lord’s Prayer from the Gospel of Matthew and others are new, including some written by Michaela.

✿ This year’s Methodist Conference meets at the Norbreck Castle Hotel, Blackpool from 5th. to 12th. July.

The subjects to be debated include:

- The over-riding challenge and overarching vision
- Priorities into Practice: Team Focus - a new Team for a renewed Church
- Climate change

There will be workshops on:

- Fresh Expressions of being the Church
- Methodist Homes
- Implementing the Anglican-Methodist Covenant

There will also be hearings on:

- The Team Focus proposals.

Courtesy of Premier Radio, this year you will be able to listen to the debates as they happen live over an internet connection. Many of the debates will also be available after Conference to listen to again. Follow events live on www.methodistconference.org.uk where you will also find information about Conference including the full agenda, details of fringe meetings, and more. Margaret Locke-Wheaton is attending as one of our District appointed representatives.

✿ Women's Network celebrates its 20th. birthday this year with an afternoon in Trinity Hall on Saturday 29th. September. There will be a Photography and Decorated Hat competition for which the entry fee is £1 (for 3 photos) and 50p respectively. The subject for the photography competition is, The Three E's of Women's Network, i.e. Enabling, Encouraging and Equipping. The maximum size of the pictures is 7" x 5". You can enter as many times as you wish, although each time you need to pay a separate entry fee. There will be three prize brackets, adults (which hopefully speaks for itself!), under 16's and under 8's. All photograph entries must be in with the appropriate fee/s by 15th. September to Jane Philip. Hats do not need to be entered before the day and don't need to be on the same theme as the photographs. The event runs from 2.30pm to 5pm and there is an optional cream tea cost £2.50 as well available throughout the afternoon.

✿ A number of changes to people holding the post of Church Steward have recently taken effect. Here then is a 'cut out and keep' reference list of all the current Stewards.

Trinity: Jennifer Pitt (Senior), Norman Ashworth, Carol Piggott, Ross Colley, Katrina Cox and Diane Bath.

North Warnborough: Pam Lancaster (Senior), Sheila Tuck

Oakley: Isobel Hobkirk (Coordinating), Tricia Kinchington, Rose Holstein and Moira Thompson.

Oakridge: Joan Coomber (Coordinating), Marjorie Craig, Augustine Gandinga, Christine Embleton and Koni Murojiwa.

Old Basing: Richard Godfrey (Senior), Margaret Pavier, David Woodward

Kempthott and St. Andrew's hold the General Church Meetings this coming Sunday and so the details for these two churches will be advised to you in the next Newsheet.

✿ I have been involved in various conversations concerning the possibility of holding a reflective contemporary worship at the end of July. Last year we did not have contemporary worship (with the worship band and audio/visual facilities) in July or August and that will be the same this year. When we discussed contemporary worship moving round the circuit in the autumn, it was recognised that not all the churches were suitable venues for contemporary worship with worship band and audio/visual facilities. However we wanted to be inclusive and began to explore the possibility of holding a more reflective contemporary worship too.

Old Basing have invited the Circuit to hold a reflective contemporary worship there on 29th. July. Hazel Parsons will lead the service working with Glenice Symons. Music will be provided locally. Hazel will use the kind of approach that she has developed with her boxes, and in house groups and women's fellowships, to lead a meditative style service. This service will be listed on the next Circuit Plan and it will indicate that this is a rather different style of contemporary worship from the norm. Angela

✿ Trinity are running a 5 session course called 'Growing a Healing Ministry', which has been produced by Acorn Christian Foundation. It will be held on the following five successive Wednesday afternoon from 30th. May until 27th. June. All the sessions will be held in the lounge at Trinity commencing at 2pm.

✿ In partnership with The Civic Trust, the Methodist Church is taking part in the Heritage Open Days Scheme from 6th. - 9th. September 2007. Why not use this year's anniversary celebrations commemorating Charles Wesley's 300th. birthday and the 200th. anniversary of Primitive Methodism, to open your church in a different way during the HOD weekend. How about organising a display of your church history or an old fashioned games afternoon with children dressing up as the Wesley's? For information, ideas and resources for the Heritage Open Day scheme visit <http://www.methodistanniversaries2007.org.uk> where you will also find an ever increasing list of anniversary events being held across the Methodist Connexion and beyond. An alternative web address is <http://www.heritageopendays.com>

✿ Congratulations to Mark Elvin who has been appointed to serve at the Locking Castle LEP in Weston-Super-Mare. Mark leaves Immanuel with St. Mark in July.

✿ Some of you will have heard that a Christian youth-worker is to start work across the town of Basingstoke in September. I am very sorry if you felt left out of the loop whilst everything was being set up; it involved complicated negotiations between Youth for Christ, the Basingstoke Network of Churches, and the Warham Trust (who will be putting up the money), and it didn't seem to make sense to bring in anyone else at that stage. The selection-panel unanimously chose Luella Moody, and from September 2nd. she will be working two days a week specifically with the Warham Trust's young people, and three days a week across the town wherever she can be of most help. To make sure she doesn't get split into too many pieces, her line-manager for both jobs will be the Warham Missioner, Peter Irwin-Clark, but the idea is that she should be as non-partisan as possible, and build up young Christians everywhere in the town, both in schools and churches. Over the two years of her contract she will be seeking to establish the local branch of Youth for Christ. Please pray for her as she prepares to join us all, and if you have any questions or suggestions, please contact Peter Irwin-Clark at panddic@surfaid.org.
Peter Irwin-Clark

	Other June dates not mentioned	above
Saturday June 2nd.	Strawberry Tea. Celebrating 140 years of witness in Old Basing. 2.30pm-5.30pm.	57. Byfleet Avenue. Old Basing. No set charge but donations welcome and in aid of the Old Basing Refurbishment Fund.
Monday June 4th.	Worship Leader Training	Trinity Prayer Chapel 7.45-9.30pm
Wednesday June 13th.	Circuit Meeting	7.45pm. Oakley.
Saturday June 16th.	Strawberry Tea in aid of our Circuit Project. 2.30pm-5.30pm. £2.50	83. Cliddesden Road. Please take a garden chair with you
Sunday July 15th.	We say farewell to Sue Rolls.	Oakridge. 6pm Celebration event followed by a cold buffet tea.
Saturday September 1st.	We welcome Jacqui Horton, Alison Parker and, hopefully, a new lay worker to ministry in our Circuit	Oakridge. Preacher Revd. Dr. Andrew Wood <i>Time and details to follow.</i>

✿ And just in case you have not seen the advertisement elsewhere, a reminder that our vacancy for a lay worker working with the deaf and hard of hearing is now published far and wide. But, is there anyone in our own Circuit who would also fit the bill?

Material for the July sheet to reach me as soon as possible please, but by 15th. June at the latest.
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