

NEW CIRCUIT UPDATE 3

NAME OF NEW CIRCUIT

The name of our new circuit is:

BASINGSTOKE & READING

In both current circuits, the name 'Basingstoke & Reading' gained more votes than all others put together, so it's a clear-cut decision. In both circuits, the runners-up were 'Thames & Loddon' followed by 'Berkshire & Hampshire Borders'.

Thank-you everybody for taking part.

BASINGSTOKE & READING CIRCUIT VISION STATEMENT



Inspired and led by the Holy Spirit, we shall:

- love, resource and encourage one another
- share Christ with our neighbour
- grow God's kingdom

In doing that, we shall place:

- people before buildings
- mission before maintenance, and
- God over church

Hebrews 10: 23-25

"Let us hold on firmly to the hope we profess, because we can trust God to keep his promise. Let us be concerned for one another, to help one another to show love and to do good. Let us not give up the habit of meeting together, as some are doing. Instead, let us encourage one another all the more, since you see that the Day of the Lord is coming nearer."

Strap-line

Can you think of a catchy, meaningful sub title or motto? Maybe just 3 to 5 words. Send your suggestions to Terry before the end of February.

Circuit Launch & Celebration

Sunday 31st August – more details soon!

REV JAYNE WEBB – OUR NEW MINISTER IN BASINGSTOKE

I am grateful for this opportunity to share my personal reflections on the visit of Jayne Webb on 16th November. For me it was a day of double discovery – a chance to meet Jayne, whom the Methodist Church had matched with us from September 2014 and an opportunity to see round the present Basingstoke Circuit.



I was very impressed by the beginning Jayne made. She could easily have been flustered considering the traffic delays she had experienced. However, she appeared calm and delighted to meet us. I was not the only one who warmed to her in those early moments. Throughout the day she engaged wholeheartedly with individuals and groups as she met them. Watching on, it was obvious she was listening intently as people spoke to her as well as sharing openly of her own experience and thinking. It would be fair to say that we were won over by Jayne's mum too. What added to the day for me and made it particularly special was meeting people from around the Basingstoke circuit and seeing some of the churches and their contexts. There are some exciting pieces of Kingdom work going on and some wonderful people, who have a heart for God and his purposes. I was thrilled by the positive and up-beat tone to the day. I'm confident that Jayne was as encouraged by that as I was. It is sometimes hard to see the Holy Spirit at work in the Methodist stationing system, but this was not one of those occasions. To those of us present on 16th November it was clear that God's hand was on this match. 'We'll praise him for all that is past and trust him for all that's to come.' David Shaw

VERY SPECIAL SERVICE AT TRINITY, BASINGSTOKE

Over a year ago, Trinity established a firm link with the local, regional Zimbabwean Methodist Church. It serves a wide area and worship is held weekly on a Sunday afternoon. However, we have occasional special services in the morning. In November, we had an amazing service when Anesu Kaziboni, April Duma, Aimee Duma, Nathan Zamangwe and Natalie Zamangwe were baptised, and Primrose Kaziboni, Salom and Andrew Duma, Winnie and Promise Zamangwe were received as new members.

Rev Margaret Locke-Wheaton led the service, which was a time of excitement, commitment, and fellowship. We didn't quite fill the church, but everyone who came was just so excited by the worship and offering glory to God that morning! And the refreshments afterwards were delicious!

Time to Prepare - Circuit Advent Booklet

I would like to thank those who were involved in the production of our new Circuit Advent Booklet.

In our church we only received 15 copies and delivered them to our housebound friends and others having a difficult time. Several have said how much they have appreciated the booklet.

At our Church Council Meeting our Treasurer said that he found it to be really good. I then discovered that our Administrator had posted the details on our church's Facebook page. Fab!

Personally I have found the booklet very encouraging. Tuesday 3rd December's focus on Hope in the Community, for example, was spot on for me - I volunteer in the Mug and Biscuit at St Andrew's on Tuesdays and on this particular Tuesday we had several new people.

David Shaw's thoughts regarding Mary's joy on Christmas Day also set me thinking - focusing on Luke 2:19, "Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart", led me to think about past Christmases and memories of the blue dressing gowns and the miniature gardens my sister and I received and of time spent with our very special grandparents.

Marianne Sales, Christ Church Chineham.

LOVING GENEROSITY

"Before you go," said David Shaw, the Reading and Silchester Superintendent, "let me just show you something." We were in the onetime manse, next to Wesley Methodist Church. We left David's office, and looked into a room packed with ...SHOE-BOXES.

"Now look in here....." And in the second room the piles were even higher. I was astounded, to be honest. The 3rd, 4th and 5th rooms were much the same. Here was the Reading collection point for Operation Christmas, part of Samaritan's Purse, organised by Penny Shaw. David explained what checks had to be undertaken before the boxes were sent off to children who were likely to experience a less toy-full time than most UK children have.

It was GOOD NEWS writ-large!

It was loving, Christian giving.

Please send us your news for the next issue of UPDATE as soon as poss.

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In the shadows of victory

Ride the Roller Coaster of Holy Week

This is a book of meditations for Holy Week written by Becky Lovatt, an ordained Methodist Deacon in Caversham. Every day events are described from the point of view of people who were present as Jesus travelled on his journey. The reader is made to feel part of the scene, and then we are invited to "pause for thought" and consider questions about how the experiences of these events impact on our own lives. This book is a useful resource for personal or group reflection in Lent but can be read and reread at any time. All proceeds from sale of the book go to Buscot Ward at the Royal Berkshire Hospital Reading. To purchase a copy email beckybawden@hotmail.co.uk or phone 0118 9482530

HEARTENING STORY FROM OLD BASING CHAPEL

We were most encouraged on a very wet morning in November to have a great increase in the number of people attending our Monthly Coffee Break. More than half of those who came were not from our congregation. We all had a lovely, friendly, chatty morning, with scrumptious coffee and cake! I'm sure everyone was pleased they came. We thank God for this time together and pray it will continue in the months to come.

GOOD NEWS AT CHRIST CHURCH CHINEHAM

We are growing! During the past 2 -3 months we have seen one or two new families most Sundays. Marianne.

North Warnborough Chapel is closing in May, 2014. Joan Winfield reflects

It is with mixed feelings that we at North Warnborough begin 2014 - inevitably with some sadness as the church closes after more than 100 years of worship and witness. But the church is the people not the building. Our main feelings are of immense gratitude to those who in faith built the church, to all of those who over the years maintained its life and witness and from whom we inherit such a rich heritage. Also, to the Circuit for the kind support of preachers, musicians and many friends, who have all been such sources of encouragement.

Above all we give thanks to God for His constant loving care and presence among us, which has equipped and encouraged us; for the caring and sharing of prayer and loving fellowship, which is so special to us; for memories of people who were special to us in the life of the church and for personal moments when the church was for us the very gateway to heaven.

So now we go forward in faith and expectation to follow where he leads as we join our friends at Old Basing who have welcomed us so warmly.

We praise Him for all that is past and trust Him for all that's to come.