



UPDATE 6

WELCOME to Update 6! In this edition, we start with the new logo, as you can see! Alison Parker, one of the Basingstoke ministers, is offering to lead reflective sessions based on the symbolism contained within the tree. With ingenious computers, one can change the wording and its configuration in the tree.

We adopted the Hebrews passage back in September last year. Do please pray your way through it. A lot of us have found it really helpful, as we have prepared for the new circuit. Focus on the key Christian words! This is how it reads:

Hebrews 10:23-25

²³ Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. ²⁴ And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, ²⁵ not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

New International Version (NIV)

KEEPING EVERYONE INFORMED

We are making good progress as we establish details for the Basingstoke and Reading Circuit. We do hope you will come to special events that are being planned for everyone. Please pop the following dates into your diaries.

† **Saturday 12th July**

Prayer Labyrinth at Tadley Common Methodist Church, Newchurch Road, RG26 4HN. Arrive from

10am, which is when we will construct the labyrinth together. Once it is finished we will walk it prayerfully, then there will be a chance to eat together so please bring your lunch. Leaflets will be available to help you walk the labyrinth as well as a display of other information about this ancient tradition. If it is wet please bring wet weather gear as the labyrinth will be outside. Lunch and the display will be inside if it rains! We estimate that it will take two hours plus time to eat.

† **Saturday 16th to Sunday 24th August**

Are you supporting **The Pilgrimage**? It starts on Sat 16 Aug at Overton Methodist Church (in the Kennet and Test Valley Circuit [KTV]), and ends with a service in Mortimer on Sunday, 24 August. Everyone can take part! Honest! We know of groups that are planning to drive to one of the overnight stopping-places, have a saunter to meet up with walkers, and then join them for a meal & for worship. Why don't you do something like that? Forms and other details from Church Stewards. The return deadline has been extended!

† **Sunday 31st August**

Make a Day of it, the big CELEBRATION, WELCOME and LAUNCH of Basingstoke & Reading Circuit at Sheffield School, north of Basingstoke, on the A33 Reading Rd. We shall be welcoming Rev. Jayne Webb (based in Basingstoke) and Deacon Maria Howard (Reading). We are planning for 200 – 300 people to attend. Some early details: Arrival from 10.45, events start – 11.15am. Bring your own picnic lunch. Hot and cold drinks available. You can eat outside or in. Everyone can be inside if the weather necessitates. Special worship in the afternoon. A variety of activities, to suit everyone

Let's glance at **Circuit matters** now. There are circuit meetings in Basingstoke (4th June) and Reading & Silchester (12th June), when some information about the arrangements for circuit meetings in the new circuit will be explained. However, the **main occasions for finding out information** will be at one of FOUR Area Meetings, to be held on

Monday 16th June 7.45pm at Christ Church, Woodley

Tuesday 24th June 7.45pm at Oakridge

Wednesday 2nd July 7.45pm at St Andrew's

Thursday 10th July 7.45pm at Tadley Common
These meetings will also look at the future Diaconal ministry in Basingstoke and ministry in the SW section. We do hope lots & lots of our readers will come to an area meeting!

To Jerusalem

A passion play performed during Holy Week by an ecumenical cast drawn from the churches of Woodley in Berkshire

On Good Friday Linda, Hannah, Marianne and I went to the play entitled 'To Jerusalem' at Christ Church, Woodley. As we were unaware of what was to happen, we took our seats in anticipation.

The lights went down and the music started. The singers then transported us to the 'Mount of Olives' and the cast came on. Their costumes were simple, but in keeping for the era.

We met Jesus cleansing the temple of traders and then it led into the Pharisees trying to trap him. The play went on, the scenes were set. The days leading up to Easter Day and the Resurrection followed.

There are two scenes that will stay with me for a long time — the Last Supper and the Crucifixion. These scenes were very moving and the actors brought it all to life.

At the end of the play we needed a cup of tea and while drinking it we got talking to a member of the cast. We found out during our conversation that the play actually came from our church in Chineham. We were all enthralled. I also spoke to the actor who played Jesus and asked him how it felt being on the cross. He replied "I was so worried about where to put my feet and it has been different every time I have done it".

Viviann Edwards

St Andrew's Methodist Church.

Opportunities to get involved!

In our new circuit we shall have two Circuit Meetings and two Circuit Assemblies, where everyone in the circuit can gather together to share worship, learning and fun, a year.

We are planning **Special Interest Groups (SIGs)** including:

Growing and Caring for God's People SIG

(people knowing more about God and looking after God's people inside and outside the church)

- † To gather and share methods of Spiritual growth
- † To consider and share patterns of pastoral care
- † Discover useful training schemes
- † To investigate ways of providing emergency care and supporting those who do it
- † Look at creating safe environments for all events

Spreading the Kingdom SIG:

(more people knowing God & experiencing His love)

- † To explore innovative preaching and outreach

- † To investigate and share outreach experiences
- † To consider the interaction with denominations (i.e. LEPs, Churches Together/Alliance groups...)

Inclusion SIG

(including more people in more things)

- † To consider ways of including more people in worship and general circuit life particularly those who may be excluded (such as by disability or lack of skill with technology).

Resources SIG

[making better use of our physical resources]

- † To share our material resource
- † To explore current knowledge and practice in the churches concerning environmental issues
- † To explore making financial and property management services available to churches

Communication SIG

[exploring better ways of communicating]

- † To explore & advise on technology in Worship
- † To explore & advise on personal & church use of electronic media & communications

Planning For Future / Vision SIG

- † To investigate ideas for the future life of the circuit

Children & Young People (C&YP)SIG

- † To share experiences of working with C&YP
- † To advise churches & circuit on working with & involving C&YP

Prayer SIG

- † To pray for the life of the circuit
- † To organise prayer events for the whole circuit

Also we shall have **Getting it Done** groups (GIDs) that perform, when required, the essential tasks required for the smooth running of the circuit.

Examples of GIDs are:

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|-----------------------------|-------------------|
| Circuit Meeting Planning | Budget Planning |
| Circuit Assembly Planning | Circuit Stewards |
| (Re)Invitations Committee | Plan-making Team |
| Lay Worker Appointing Team | Lay Annual Review |
| Property sale/purchase Team | Manse Upkeep |

Would like to be a part of (or start) a SIG, or are interested in the work of a GID please ?

If so please contact one of us.

For more information or to send us news for the next Update contact:

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