

# UPDATE 2 Autumn 2015

Circuit 26/4,  
Southampton District



## Polar Explorers

We had a week of fun and learning during our Holiday Bible Club at Christ Church Woodley – with great help from Woodley Airfield Church.

We used Scripture Union's latest manual. The material was very good and after the 'fun', we then taught the children – over 60 registered during the week – about life for those who were changed by the Holy Spirit in the days following Pentecost.

First was Peter and the theme was "Never too many mistakes to be part of God's Big Expedition"; then Stephen, "never too ordinary"; Philip, "never too near or far"; Paul, "never too bad"; and Timothy, "never too young" etc..

Our Celebration Service was on Sunday, and a pleasing number of children and parents came and shared this with us. The Church was decorated with their 'group art' work, and around the church premises parents could see the work done in groups.

We chose fun names for groups such as – Penguins, Red Ski-doods, Skateboarding Huskies, Silky Seals and Blue Polar Bears. The ages ranged from 5 – 10, and the Church buzzed all week with children's voices. We had a really good week. *Beryl Wootton*

## Quiet Day at

**Silchester Methodist Church**

**Saturday 17 October, 10am - 4pm**

Led by Andrew Hazelden (potter) &  
Angela Hiscock (worship leader)

Cost £7 – including drinks, bring a packed lunch



We are the clay,  
and You our potter;  
And all we are the  
work of Your hand.

To reserve a place contact Angela by 11 October –

01256 850432 or [angela.hiscock@btinternet.com](mailto:angela.hiscock@btinternet.com)

Profits in aid of the Ebenezer Project

This month we welcome two new ministers to the south end of the circuit. One is Rev<sup>d</sup> Ruth Midcalf who introduced herself in last month's Update. This time Deacon Marlene Skuce writes;



*I am very much looking forward to beginning my ministry as a deacon in this circuit, based at St. Andrew's Methodist Church in Basingstoke.*

*My husband, Stephen and I will be living at Oakridge and look forward to getting to know many of you across the circuit as we come to know this new-to-us part of the world.*

*Our younger daughter, Bethany, will be with us when she's not in Lincoln, where she is in her final year studying restoration and conservation. Our older daughter, Amy, will continue to live in Derbyshire where she works as an ecologist.*

*We are from Ireland originally but came to England ten years ago when Stephen, a minister with the Methodist Church in Ireland, became a lecturer at Cliff College. He now works as Director of Scholarship, Research and Innovation for the Methodist Church, based at Methodist Church House, London.*

*Before beginning my training for ministry within the Methodist Diaconal Order I worked as the community outreach worker for a church in Sheffield for six years. This, along with my experiences of seeing God at work in churches and communities in Ireland and Sri Lanka where Stephen's ministry has brought us and my background in nursing, has helped shape my journey towards ordained diaconal ministry.*

*I enjoy being with people and making opportunities for people to meet whether in small or larger groups, for fun, friendship and fellowship.*

*Following Jesus Christ has brought many challenges but more blessing than I could ever have imagined and I look forward to this next chapter in our lives as we move to Basingstoke with this privilege of sharing in something of what God is doing here.*

We publish our circuit Update at least every quarter and we are pleased to receive **any** contributions at any time.

Contact: [update@basingsstokereadingmethodists.uk](mailto:update@basingsstokereadingmethodists.uk), text Gill on 07990 815282 or send us a message through the circuit administrators.

## Advent 2015 – Preparing Together

Last spring we produced together a circuit resource for Lent. This was valued by those that read it but also many people enjoyed the composition day. Afterwards one participant wrote *“Working together, sharing our talents and our love of God is a great way for our Basingstoke and Reading Circuit to be journeying on together.”*

We are doing it again, producing a resource for Advent. Composition day is 5<sup>th</sup> October from 4pm – 9pm at Silchester Methodist Church. You do not need to attend the whole session but it will begin with worship at 4.00pm and close with prayers at 8.45pm. A light supper will be served at 6.30pm and there will be tea and coffee available throughout. We shall need people with practical typing etc. skills as well as those with spiritual inspiration & creativity.

Contributions will be welcomed from individuals, fellowship groups or churches. The suggested themes are relevant for all of us as they were for the people in the Bible:-

**Preparation** (John the Baptist),

**Challenge** (OT prophets),

**Waiting Expectantly** (Mary),

**Promise** (Jesus).

The Promise section will include Christmas Day.

Contributions can be emailed by 3<sup>rd</sup> of October to [gill@lawson-net.co.uk](mailto:gill@lawson-net.co.uk), or posted to Rev<sup>d</sup> Alison Parker 115 Cliddesden Road, Basingstoke RG21 3EY by the 1<sup>st</sup> October (please include your contact details in case we have a query). You may also bring material on the day. You may request that your entry in the resource is anonymous.

### Guidelines for Contributions

Each contribution should be no more than an A5 page (½ of A4 folded to make a booklet).

Most pages will be produced in black & white but colour contributions will be accepted. We can type up something that has been written by hand. We are hoping to use only original material. Hymns that are out of copyright can be reproduced freely.

Please contact Alison if you have any queries; 01256 465064 [alison.m.parker@googlemail.com](mailto:alison.m.parker@googlemail.com)

Here are some ideas of things you could produce:

A prayer or poem

Words about a favourite scripture passage or hymn

A Testimony

A quiz or puzzle

A picture either drawn or photographed.

May God bless you in all your endeavours.

**Circuit Safeguarding Training** at Oakridge Methodist Church Monday 28th September 2015, 7.45p.m.

Anyone who has taken on a new role within their church needs to check whether they are required to complete the foundation module.

Contact Marianne [mariannebunn1610@hotmail.com](mailto:mariannebunn1610@hotmail.com)

## **“Change is not an option”.**

*Well, this is an interesting thought! It is true, of course, but it is not something I have ever really thought about.*

*This is the way Rev<sup>d</sup> Jayne Webb introduced the session she led on change management at St. Andrew's on June 6th. The session continued in a thought-provoking and challenging way. One part I found particularly interesting was the section about habits and the suggestion that we need to be made aware of the habit 16 times in order for us to be able to break the habit. Jayne's presentation was quite powerful and it really made an impact on people.*

*This was really brought home to me by a gentleman who is 90+ years old. This gentleman was able to recognise that sitting in the same place in church every Sunday is a habit of his and he suggested that the next day he should sit on the opposite side of the church.*

*This apparently didn't happen, but it was, after all, the first time he had thought about it and so he will presumably need to think about it 15 more times before he is able to break the habit. Marianne*

### **After an afternoon at Oakridge in July Debbie Veel wrote:-**

*.....And a celebration this afternoon to mark the end of sparklers - Joan is 75 and has been running the parents and toddler group for 9 years- but we also wanted to celebrate St Bernard's nursery's OUTSTANDING Ofsted and all the community groups who are involved with the church.*



*A wonderful afternoon of tea and cake and friendship and community. But for me the most Holy Spirit moment was when Joan said the Nepalese grandma*

*didn't understand what she (Joan) said - maybe not - but she sure has understood the love Joan shows week by week.*

*And EVERY single person in the room got that the Nepalese scarves wrapped round Joan were love and respect mingled together. We all have been richly blessed today and that will stay with me for a very long time. **God is good all the time  
All the time God is good***