



## UPDATE

December 2016

Circuit 26/4,  
Southampton District

### **Let Love be reel Did you come? No?**

More than 100 people from across the circuit attended part of the day. If you didn't come, (or even if you did) read about what you missed! *Here are the reflections of some of the people who attended:*

*"It was uplifting to see people come together in such a friendly way and participating together in group activities.*

*A question was asked by Graham (the speaker) ... how would we see ourselves when facing an argument, disagreement or conflict? Many saw themselves as a passive teddy, others as an aggressive shark, a quiet and shy turtle, others as a crafty fox or a wise owl. I committed myself to one of the pictures that I thought most related to me. Graham went further by explaining the positive and negative sides of each character and it became clear to me that I could be all of these characters.*

*Jesus was not aggressive nor argumentative and came into our world to save us and not to condemn us.*

*Unfortunately, we were not able to stay the whole day, but we left feeling energised. We learnt something new and met lots of friendly people."*

**Nene and Doug Kibblewhite-Pounds,  
Christ Church Chineham**

**Denise Baugh from Old Basing** attended Graham's afternoon session. She writes:

*"I quite enjoyed the 'exercise' we did, splitting into pairs and agreeing on 4 words that were important in welcoming people. Then joining with another pair and whittling our 8 words into four, and doubling and whittling again until we were 16 people with 4 words."*

*Of course there were other things happening in the day;*

*"A very special part of attending the Circuit Gathering at St Andrew's was my visit to the Prayer Room. It had been totally transformed, using the theme of Living Water. The room was warm, smelt delicately of Rose of Sharon anointing oil and there was soothing music being gently played.*

*The room was based on Ezekiel 47: 1-12 and Revelations 5: 1-5. The Tree of Life wall hanging, green plants and coloured lights in the room illustrated the colourful abundance of God's faithful provision of fruit and leaves for healing.*

*There were two slates and some chalk which I did*



*not use, but the idea was to reflect on what needed time, attention or emphasis in my life and list them under 'less' on one slate and 'more' on the other.*

*The Living Water flowed smoothly across the length of the room, made from paper and fabric but looking like running water waiting to be touched. There were many other objects to stimulate thought and prayer. Bottles of water were there also to remind us that our tears are collected, recorded and noticed by God during painful times in our lives. For me a tray of sand was particularly memorable. Visitors were invited to write/draw a sin for which they needed redemption and then erase it by hand, symbolising how God forgives us. It was very powerful."*

**Jean Wilde of Christ Church, Chineham**

**Marianne Sales** writes: *"At 2.00p.m. we had a time of worship, which was amazing. St Andrew's was full to bursting and, led by a band, we sang some great hymns and songs. I found the prayers of intercession, led by the Rev. Dr. Ruth Midcalf, especially powerful.*

*There were a good number of people present at the Barn Dance which followed, including 8 members of the Shaw family and Ben, who is just 19 months old, danced in his granddad's arms whilst his younger sister slept in her pram."* **David Shaw** said: *"It was good fun ... for all ages ... all abilities and none"* (i.e. you could just sit at the side and watch).

*The day finished with a Chip Shop Supper and Julie Marsh from Wesley said:*

*"It was an excellent end to the day"*

**NEXT** Circuit Gathering will include a "musical from scratch". This is an exciting project, please keep the date: **Saturday May 20<sup>th</sup>**.

### **Have you seen this gazebo?**



It is the latest addition to Silchester's Ebenezer Garden.

There will be bi-monthly Retreat Days at Silchester commencing on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> January 2017. Each of the Retreat Days will draw upon a feature of the 'Ebenezer Garden' as a focus for reflection, thought and

prayer. The cost is £10 per day 10am to 3.30pm. To book for any of the Retreat Days please contact Lynda Izzard on E-mail: [lyndaizzard@outlook.com](mailto:lyndaizzard@outlook.com) Telephone: 0118 981 2785



**What about this photo?  
(more about this overleaf)**

### **BECOMING AN ECO CHURCH**

This is an ecumenical project and, although Christ Church Chineham was the venue for the Diocese of Winchester to hold the first in a series of events exploring the eco church project, other denominations are also involved. These events are entitled Tools for Transformation.

In 2011 the Methodist Conference issued a Statement of Conference titled Hope in God's Future – Christian Discipleship in the Context of Climate Change. There had been a joint working group set up on climate change and theology convened by the Baptist Union of Great Britain, the Methodist Church and the United Reform Church. They agreed that the church must commit itself to the UK government target of reducing carbon emissions by a minimum of 80% by 2050. For many of us this seems such a long way ahead that perhaps we can afford to forget about it and anyway there is so much conflicting evidence on climate change isn't there, so why bother?

A theological response to climate change, however, tells us that we are guardians of God's world and surely encouraging church members to reduce carbon emissions associated with their lifestyles is not going to do any harm while the 'experts' make up their minds. This is where the church has a role to play both at local and national level.

The Methodist Church is therefore building on its existing Eco-Congregation Award scheme which encompasses spiritual, practical and communal activities to set up its Eco-Circuit Award. This links in with Christian environmental movements including A Rocha, one of the partners involved in the Anglican Winchester project. The URC, Christian Aid and Tearfund are also heavily involved.

#### Eco Church – where does the Circuit fit in?

Some churches are already registered for the project and are working on each of the five areas covered which are:

**Worship and Teaching** – services, prayers, teaching, involvement of children and young people.

**Building** – green tariff power suppliers, insulation, metered water supply, no disposable cups, low energy bulbs, cycle racks.

**Land** – encourage native wild life, composting, growing fruit and vegetables (if land is available).

**Community and Global Engagement** – environmentalist speakers, engagement with local council, car share scheme, Fairtrade and locally grown goods.

**Lifestyle** – personal carbon footprints, communal Christmas card scheme, ethical investment of money. These are some of the areas but visit [ecochurch.arocha.org.uk](http://ecochurch.arocha.org.uk) to find out more.

If you are looking for further reading on this important subject, try: *Christian Living that Doesn't Cost the Earth* – Dr Ruth Valerio  
*Just Living – Faith and Community in an Age of Consumerism* by Dr Ruth Valerio

A Christian Guide to Environmental Issues by Dr Martin Hodson and Revd Margot Hodson.

If you are looking for something to undertake yourself at home, visit the Christian Aid website for ideas.

"The earth is the Lord's and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it; for he founded it on the seas and established it on the waters." Psalm 24.

Jean Wilde, Christ Church Chineham



### **Kilimanjaro -**

#### **A Mountain Challenge for Thames Valley Air Ambulance Charity**

Dear friends, Back in February this year I had an e-mail at work from TVAA Charity Fundraisers.

It was entitled:-

'Is it on your bucket list to climb Kilimanjaro?'

As well as being a Pastoral Elder at Christ Church Woodley I am a keen Motorbike enthusiast having ridden since the age of 17 to the ripe old age of 59. Whilst I have never written such a 'list', as many of you will know I do like to travel and have done several wonderful trips with my Motorcycling friends.

I have never been to the African continent and the free spirit in me said - "Great I'd like to have a go at that."

Whilst my heart said "Sign Up immediately," my head was saying "What about your vertigo and aching limbs?"

After a month and a half of soul searching, I have now registered and will be going with a group of about 33 others to climb this 19,340 foot 'Wonder of the World' next February (18th).

As part of the challenge, I have to raise a significant amount of money for this worthwhile cause.

Will you help me in my challenge? I have to raise several thousand pound, but any amount you can afford would be great. All the money raised will go directly to the charity as I will bear the costs of flights, food and accommodation for the venture. Any sponsorship will therefore go to help the **extended hours of flights** that the Service now offers throughout the evening and into the small hours of the early morning.

Being a motorbike enthusiast I know of the great work that Air Ambulance do for those in urgent need of lifesaving treatments and how their intervention during the 'Golden Hour' saves many lives which would otherwise be lost. In the hope that we will never need to call on the Service, it is good to know that they are only a phone call away and would come to your aid if you were in trouble.

The charity gets no financial support from the government or health service, so it really is up to us to keep their great work going and allow them to continue and expand the life saving help that they offer. If you would like to donate to the cause, you can do so online at :-

<https://tvaakili2017.everydayhero.com/uk/allan> all amounts can be gift Aided if you are a UK tax payer and this can increase total sponsorship by 25%.

If you would rather I would welcome your prayers for a safe and successful climb for all participants and a happy and fruitful outcome from this, the first international charity fundraiser that TVAA have ever undertaken. Training has already started and I hope to be successful in reaching the summit despite my senior years, high altitude and fears of sudden drops!

Many many thanks for your valued support.

**Allan Crisp, Christ Church Woodley**

To contribute to Update please email  
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