



UPDATE June 2018

**Circuit 26/4,
Southampton District**

Our last circuit Update was published at the beginning of October 2017. Shortly afterwards three more Articles were received, all referring to events that had happened in the summer. Further articles were not forthcoming so publication was delayed, might never happen?

**(email your church news to
update@basingstokereadingmethodists.uk)**

Then more news was received, which is printed on the reverse - an example of the church giving to the community. But first back to last summer

Pilgrimage – September 2017

Over a year ago I put my name down as having an interest in going on a two day pilgrimage. At the time I was energised to do it but as the time drew nearer I did wonder what I had signed up to. Let's face it, I am not built for doing long walks, I suffer from agoraphobia and IBS. Not a remedy for success. Still I had signed up and had been out doing a little training and getting used to a back pack on my back. The day arrived and Marlene picked me up and we headed to Hinton Admiral where we were to start our pilgrimage. There we met up with our fellow walkers (12 in all) and then it was time for the off. What had I let myself in for, there was no going back now. The sun was shining and there was a good feeling amongst the group. Everyone was so friendly and supportive and encouraging. We had little stops on the way where a poem/reading was read before we were on our way again. Most of the walk was through woodland and then we were walking along to the ferry to take us over to Hengistbury Head. Once across the river we continued to walk and stopped by the beach to eat our packed lunches. After lunch we continued walking to the top of the Head and once at the top we continued in silence. From the top we could look down to see where we had walked and it was quite amazing. We continued walking and ended up in Christchurch Priory in time for Evensong at 5.00pm. It was then on to the Travelodge for our overnight stay and a lovely welcome shower. Then out to a local restaurant for a meal and then bed. Well day one completed and it was absolutely marvellous.

Day two took us inland and I had a bit of a "wobbly" after breakfast but a quick prayer (Help me Lord) soon sorted that out. I knew we were going to be walking through water meadows but I don't think I quite understood the word "water". A water meadow is so named because there is a lot of water and as it had rained quite hard the previous night there was a lot of water and also cows. It was heavy going as you had to watch where you put your feet but the help and encouragement from the group was amazing

and at no time was I left to cope by myself. Having managed to negotiate the water meadow and a stile we continued on our walk towards Bransgore Methodist Church. At the Church we ate our packed lunch and partake of the lovely cakes the ladies had made (well you have to don't you?). Lunch was followed by a communion service led by Tom Stuckey (husband of Chris who organised the pilgrimage). We had the opportunity of letting Tom take our backpacks back to the house so I took advantage of this offer. We then continued along very muddy tracks and after negotiating crossing the very busy A27 we were soon back at Hinton Admiral. All in one piece and many new friends and acquaintances made. For me it was 2 of the most wonderful days I have ever experienced. I had no expectation as to what I was expecting but I give thanks to God for being there for me at all times. A special thanks to Marlene for her encouragement and practicality.

Linda St Andrews

Old Basing Methodist Church

At Old Basing Church in June 2017 we celebrated 150 years of Christian witness in the village. We had been praying together for a long while, seeking a vision of what God was calling us to do in our generation. We knew that our side room, kitchen and toilet, was not fit for purpose for any hospitality that we felt that we were being called to do. After much heart searching and prayer, we decided that major repairs to the fabric of our building and a complete refurbishment of the side room should go ahead. We had raised enough money to fund this major work. With the side room ready for our 150th celebrations, our prayers were answered when MHA Live at Home scheme moved into our area and we became involved in providing hospitality to elderly people living alone in their homes. In October with apprehension and excitement we were able to welcome our first guests.

There was an air of great excitement as they arrived by special bus, with Claire McEnoy, the MHA Live At Home manager, The delicious hot meal was much appreciated, conversation flowed freely in the relaxed atmosphere. Memories were shared of the London Blitz, life in the armed forces and of moving to new homes in Basingstoke. We all enjoyed a sing song of the old music hall and wartime songs and finished the afternoon with table games giving rise to much friendly competition.

It has been such a joy to offer this hospitality and both hosts and guests have been richly blessed. We now meet together monthly.

We would appreciate your prayers for this continuing work and for further developments in our outreach mission.

Joan Winfield

*Cream Teas at Silchester every Sunday
in June and July from 3pm to 5.30pm*

Wasps Amazing Fabulous Joyful

Good ministry Worship amazing Blood Sisters

Once in a life time Highlight of the year Varied

Exciting Brilliant Roller Coaster Insightful

Fun Exciting Fun Filled Jam Packed

Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious Boggy but calm

Exciting adventure which will grab me back next year

Challenging but fun Tiring Exhausting but rewarding

Do you remember Make A Day Of It! Four years ago we were planning this important day 31st August 2014 when our new circuit emerged. Everyone was given a special "tree" postcard and every church in the circuit was given a young tree. Here is the story of one of those trees.

When Tony picked up our tree on that memorable 'uniting' day between the two circuits, it looked just like a twig stuck into the soil.

It was put into the Vestibule for those who were unable to come the celebration day to see it. But soon after, our vestibule and car park, went into makeover mode so I rescued it. With a bit of tender loving care it soon began to grow.

I asked our Property friends where it would be best for the tree to have a permanent growing space, within the church premises. "What is it?" they asked, and so began a search until we found out that it was a SERVICE tree – part of the Maple family of trees – and would grow to 50ft. "Nowhere," they said, and at a church meeting I was charged with finding a permanent place to put it where our folk would still be able to see it.



Sorbus torminalis

Once a year we have a Service called, Praise in the Park, when all the Woodley Churches celebrate Unity and the beginning of Carnival week.

So I wondered whether Woodford Park would have space for such a tree. I asked one of our Town Councillors who gave me the details of the Town Clerk, and we have been in email contact ever since.

Yes, Woodford Park had a space near the Park Gates, which would be right for such a tree – but how big was it at present. When I said 18 inches I was asked to keep it until it measured a Metre!!!

So I have been 'nursing' it ever since.

This spring I measured the tree just as it was coming into leaf again and it was 94 centimetres, so I guessed by the autumn it would have grown another 6cms, so

I contacted the Town Clerk again and she agreed that the town gardeners would be happy to receive it once all its leaves had dropped.

I re-potted the tree, and as the leaves opened they were such a beautiful rusty green colour with the sun shining through them. I took this photo and showed it to our April Church Meeting and asked whether we could come up with suitable wording to have on a plaque reminding us and other people who saw the tree where it came from and why it was in Woodford Park. But I shall be so sorry to see it go.

Beryl Wootton, Christ Church Woodley

These are some quotes gathered by Linda Hoe from participants at last summer's Boys Brigade camp on the Isle of Wight!

