



UPDATE

October 2017

Circuit 26/4,
Southampton District

Circuit
Gathering
Saturday 11th
November at
Christ Church
Chineham
from 10am.

Yes You Can!

It is an opportunity for us to share expertise and hopefully to find out how to do things which we once thought we couldn't achieve.

There will be a time of **Worship** commencing at 10.30a.m. and incorporating a two minute silence at 11.00a.m.

There will be sessions about

how we do technology,

how we do prayer,

how we use the Bible in Worship with children and young people,

how we do spirituality and

how we do Local Arrangements.

There will also be ongoing activities including refreshments, a Traidcraft Stall, a Book Stall, a Methodist Homes for the Aged stand, a display from the Prayer Walk at Silchester, craft activities and the Coracle. A Ploughman's Lunch will be available or you can bring your own.

The day will end with a 'Big Sing'.

Advent to Christmas 2017

Prayer Resource "for the circuit, by the circuit".

Theme: The Light of Hope, Peace, Love, Joy

Contributions of prayer, poems, puzzles, monochrome art and your stories are sought.

Please send them to gill@lawson-net.co.uk by Sunday 15th October.

Alternatively if you would like to be with others when producing material for our resource with others then come to a special morning on **Saturday 14th October from 10am at Burghfield Common.**

There will be a short time of worship at 10am & to conclude at 12.15pm.

You are welcome to bring lunch to eat with others at 12.30pm.

Holiday @ Home

Christ Church, Woodley ran a 2 day event in July which followed on from the one we had held in 2016. We had themes for the 2 days.

The Tuesday we used Germany and the Thursday it was Holland. Both days were open to Christ Church members and friends and also people who use our buildings for other groups or visit our café.

We had a form to complete so that we knew how many to cater for and numbers had to be restricted to how many we could seat for lunch.

We were fortunate to have a lederhosen suit and also a female German costume to put on display. We started both mornings with a simple game to help people interact with others that they may not have met before.

This was followed by art and craft groups. We had drawing and painting, card making, knitting and crochet and everyone took part in at least one activity. During this time we served coffee and biscuits.

At 12.30 we enjoyed a hot lunch together themed partly on the country of that particular day.

So on the Tuesday we enjoyed sausages and a bean vegetarian dish with an authentic German recipe of red cabbage and apple followed by apple strudel, fresh fruit and cheeses.

On the Thursday we enjoyed 3 different puff pastry plaits, Dutch cheeses and salad. This was followed by Dutch apple cake, fruit crumbles and fresh fruit.

After lunch we did some gentle exercises, Kim's game with the objects reflecting the country of that day. This was followed by a quiz about the country and then people could finish their craft work from the morning whilst we served tea and cake.

We did not make a specific charge but allowed people to make a donation according to their circumstances. The church agreed to make up any shortfall or out of pocket expenses but we made a reasonable profit which we were able to donate to our church project.

On the Sunday we had a LA service which was centred around the Holiday@Home and the hymns and readings reflected the way in which we were able to show God's love in a practical way and by sharing our time, gifts and talents we were able to come alongside people in a way that we often do not have time for on a Sunday morning.

People who live alone find that sharing a meal with others was a real joy and all the helpers felt really blessed too.

Ruth Taylor

**I lift up my eyes to the mountains—
where does my help come from?
My help comes from the Lord,
the Maker of heaven and earth.
Psalm 121:1-2 (NIV)**

For me, Summer 2017 will be remembered as a summer of mountain-top experiences! Following two brilliant Holiday Clubs at Silchester Methodist Church and Tadley Common Methodist



Church in which I was dressed as “Captain Ketchup” and the “Keeper of the Keys” respectively (photographic evidence is available!



[photos inserted by editor]), the mountain

top experiences culminated in a real mountain as Graham and I successfully climbed Mount Kilimanjaro.

Graham first reached Stella Point, the second highest of the Kilimanjaro summit peaks, 45 years ago, having tried several years before and been thwarted by altitude sickness. So this was his third time on the mountain and my debut, with the aim of repeating Graham’s achievement, this time together. 6 days of fantastic scenery, some tough walking and bouldering and a wealth of amazing memories later, we made it and stood by the sign at Stella Point, running short of time to make it to the highest peak Uhuru, but having completed what we set out to do and still with our health intact!



Many thanks to all who surrounded us in prayers and also to all who sponsored us as we climbed to raise money for Great Ormond Street Hospital Children’s Charity. It’s a charity close to our hearts as my Mum was a sister in Neurology at GOSH. Now, as President of Methodist Women in Britain for the Birmingham District, GOSHCC is her nominated charity and she is aiming to raise £12,000 over two years to fund a specialised room in Neurology. Thanks to the generosity of so many, I’m delighted to share that our climb, has raised over £3,000 (including Gift Aid). THANK YOU!

Rev^d D^r Ruth Midcalf

Reading Festival 2017

The idea of going to the Reading Festival or being involved in anything to do with it was not on my list of things to do. However, this year I saw a flyer from Emmanuel Church asking if anyone would like to help them over the weekend doing all manner of jobs, clearing tables, talking to people etc. The idea seemed attractive and it so happened that Marlene

and her team would be there with the Coracle for its first outing. I hitched a lift with Marlene and duly arrived for my instructions. What a wonderful welcome I was given. Everyone was so friendly and I was very impressed by the efficient and smooth running of the whole event. I ended up on ladies toilet duty. Not the most attractive of jobs you could say but I had a lovely position at the top of the stairs overlooking the car park and also able to see the Camper Van housing the Coracle with the sun shining in. I was joined by Monica (I think that was her name) and the other ladies kept me sustained with black coffee. The gratitude and thankfulness from the girls who took advantage of the chance to freshen up shows what a worthwhile thing this whole exercise is. After I was relieved I went and partook of the cooked breakfast on offer. Wow! What a breakfast. I thoroughly enjoyed it and again everyone was so friendly and helpful. I even ended up with a tour of the Church. If you have never ventured to the festival can I suggest you consider offering your services next year. I was able to talk to some of the festival goers and it was interesting to find out where they have come from and for some it was their first time. To me this is showing Gods love in a practical way and I applaud everyone who was involved in the whole exercise and I look forward to joining them again next year.

Linda, St Andrews

Email your news to

update@basingstokereadingmethodists.uk

The Mug and Biscuit

The Mug and Biscuit, based at St. Andrew’s Methodist Church in South Ham is open as follows:



on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 10.00a.m. until 1.30p.m. when light lunches, a variety of drinks and home-made cakes are served and on Fridays from 10.00a.m. until 12.00noon when we serve a variety of drinks and cakes.

The Mug and Biscuit Café, is looking to ‘grow’ its team of volunteers. It is an outreach venture staffed by people from the Basingstoke end of the circuit.

Do you have some time to spare?

Or maybe a friend or family member has some time to spare?

Our team members vary in the amount of time they are able to give us—some volunteer for a couple of hours a month, others volunteer for several hours a week. It doesn’t matter — everyone is welcome to join our team.

If you would like further information Marianne (01256 474865 / MarianneBunn1610@hotmail.com) would be pleased to have an informal chat with you. Attendance at a 2.5 hour Methodist Church Safeguarding training is required.