

# UPDATE Winter 2015

**Circuit 26/4,  
Southampton District**

*The Circuit Advent  
Resource is available soon!*



## BASINGSTOKE GREEN WEEK SEPTEMBER, 2015 **Greening Chineham**

This is the third year this event has taken place and the first time we have hosted activities here at Christ Church. It is organised by Basingstoke Transition Network and supported by Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council. Local organisations take part including Buckskin Evangelical Church and Festival Place are also involved. In fact they started off the week with exhibitions and a pop up shop promoting energy efficiency plus a display of electric cars. (Did you see that blue BMW? WOW!!)

At Christ Church Chineham we had a book swap stall which was better attended than usual and the remaining books went to local charities and the book box on platform 3 at Basingstoke train station. The clothes swap also went well and at the end we were able to box up some winter clothes to send for refugee aid. There were also some greening games for children to enjoy and Vicki Ellis ran a successful craft activity using recycled items.

If you missed the Jeremy Irons film "Trashed" you may borrow it to show at home or in home groups by ringing me on 01256 841713. It certainly makes you 'think before you bin' anything.

The week ended with a conservation event and litter pick at Tollhouse Meadow in Chineham. On Thursday 24th September there was a well-attended meeting of the Basingstoke Environment Network chaired by Councillor Hayley Eachus. This included a fascinating talk on Sustainability by Gary Cooper, Operations Manager, explaining what happens to rubbish generated by retailers and shoppers at Festival Place. Bob Legg showed slides of the work undertaken by Incredible Edible – did you know there is an Easter Orchard in Memorial Park where we can help ourselves to fruit from the 49 trees they planted there? They also have exciting plans for Basing View which are worth looking out for.

The evening ended with a talk by Lucy Martins, Climate Change Officer for BDBC who spoke

about the Council's actions on caring for the environment, followed by a question and answer session. This revealed the passion with which people care about recycling and the dilemma the council has in meeting these needs within a limited budget.

A big thank you to the many Christ Church members who helped make our event such a success and to those who came along – the best turnout we have had to date. Christ Church was the right venue for this event: we have a local reputation for recycling; the church council agreed at their September meeting to include Greening Chineham on the Parish Mission Action Plan ... and furthermore some new people came into our church for the first time.

Jean Wilde

### READING FESTIVAL WEEKEND

Festival fans were offered a respite from the mud and music as we opened our Church for the 5<sup>th</sup> year to serve Breakfasts. Claire Guy was one of our many volunteers helping, she says "It is all about giving people somewhere to go, a safe,



Mayor Sarah Hacker serves breakfast to festival goers

clean environment with toilets and anything else they need for a bit of rest and a chance to chill out. A change made by the Festival Organisers meant numbers

were down this year, but it is not about making money, I love seeing all the young people."

A box of Chocolates were bought for the volunteers, one young man, when walking onto the premises raised his arms and said "I'm Home", other young people asked why we were doing this, many just came in to relax and catch up on some much needed sleep or just to use the toilets, they were all very appreciative and several came back each morning.

On behalf of Emmanuel I say a big thank you to the Boys & Girls Brigades, all the volunteers from our Church and others within the Circuit, a special thank you to Jon Tagoe who kindly took Festival goers back to the site in his car. You are all amazing and it couldn't happen without you.

## 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Weekend of 3<sup>rd</sup> Basingstoke Boys Brigade based at St Andrew's

Well what a fantastic Anniversary weekend we have just had. It was lovely to see so many faces supporting the boys as they received their rewards, especially the old members of our Company, officers from other companies and the Chief Executive/Secretary of the Boys Brigade Andrew Johnston who kindly presented the awards for us. We were also delighted to have the Deputy Mayor Jane Frankum and her son with us.

We had 19 boys receiving awards (3 were unable to come) and our new Queen's Colour looks magnificent at the front of the Church now duly dedicated by our own Charlie Philip who was once our Chaplain.

Both our Colours will be paraded on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> November at the Remembrance Day Parade in the War Memorial Park.

Myself, and the other Officers are looking forward to the coming year as we grow from strength to strength with the support of the members of St Andrew's.

Theresa Strachan – Captain



**AT CAVERSHAM HEIGHTS METHODIST CHURCH  
26<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> May 2015.**

30 people over 4 days came to enjoy a time of friendship, fun and food. Transport, if required, was provided by a team of willing drivers.

Each day began at 10 o'clock with a welcome cup of tea or coffee and biscuits and then our guests were able to choose from a variety of activities. Play reading led by David Cliffe was a great favourite and caused much hilarity. Craft activities were mosaics, card making and picture frames made from rolled up paper strips, planting up containers and flower arranging in cups and saucers – all of which our guests were able to take home with them.

'Seated Yoga' with Aleigh Dindar on Tuesday and Friday mornings kept everyone moving and after a break for a two course lunch afternoon activities included a recital of delicate hand bell ringing by Carol Walker, an illustrated American holiday talk by Ray Goodman, Bingo on day 3 with David Hebert as 'caller' and a reminiscence session with items from Reading Museum on the final day.

Quizzes by Meryl Beek, newspapers, magazines, table games and jigsaws were available for those who preferred quieter activities. Singing took place every day – led on the first day by a group from Reading Bach Choir and on the other days led by Jim Plunkett on the piano, who managed to get everyone rolling in the aisles at his jokes and raising the roof with the singing. One of the sessions took the form of 'Songs of Praise' and traditionally the final afternoon the 'Last Night of the Proms'

Tea and cakes were served about 3 o'clock and each day closed with our Minister, Rev'd Jenny Dowding, giving us a 'Thought for the Day' based around holiday souvenirs and linked to Bible passages about God's love and Jesus as the Good Shepherd.

In true holiday fashion we all enjoyed ice cream cones on the final afternoon donated by Elaine Harris. The whole event was masterminded efficiently by Sherryl Quint and her committee, supported by a large team of over 20 volunteers from both Caversham Methodist Churches.

**Quotes from guests** – all anonymous – including:

- from someone who has been all three years: "it gets better every year"
- "you have made one old lady very happy"
- "loved the friendly atmosphere"
- "a happy holiday for all"
- "I would like to come to your church"

"Another successful 'Holiday@Home'. Thanks to the Minister, organisers, volunteers and drivers. The food was excellent, tea and coffee flowing, activities and entertainment superb. Nothing to improve upon.

See you next year. God bless you all. **Elaine"**

### **Ladies' Breakfast**

A recent September morning at Christ Church Chineham began with a delicious meal in the Shaftesbury Room. This ladies' breakfast proved to be such a good idea that for the next one in January a larger hall will probably be needed!

We enjoyed the continental style breakfast, and the room looked very attractive, with floral decorations on each of the tables. It was lovely to have time to relax and talk to our friends over the meal, and we appreciated listening to three ladies of our fellowship who talked about their personal journey with Jesus through their lives, in both good and difficult situations. The testimonies of Denise Bain, Judi Winstanley and Judy Wonci were an encouragement to us and reminded us of the importance of our Christian fellowship.

We look forward to the next ladies breakfast on 23<sup>rd</sup> January when Caroline Carver will be speaking about "Reflections from my garden". Please think about joining us – you will be most welcome.

Doris Kay, Christ Church, Chineham

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