

### Deadline for September—November 2024 edition Tuesday 16 July 2024

Please send all articles for inclusion in the next edition to the Circuit Administrator at:

Yeovil and Blackmore Vale Circuit Office Yeovil Methodist Church Vicarage Street, Yeovil BA20 1JZ

01935 432173 / 07423 837504 yandbvcircuit@gmail.com



www.yeovilblackmorevalemc.org.uk



Circuit Magazine

Including

Circuit Plan

Issue 40

June—August 2024



#### **Our Mission Statement**

To Know God's Love, To Show God's Love,

To Share God's Love



#### From the Circuit Office

I continue to work from home Tuesdays to Thursdays between 9am and 1pm, visiting the office as required. I have full access to the circuit email. Messages left on the office answerphone are being retrieved regularly for more urgent matters I can be contacted on 07423 837504 during working hours or email—yandbvcircuit@gmail.com.

#### DATE FOR YOUR DIARY:

Circuit Meeting Wednesday 19 June at Wincanton Methodist Church Circuit Service Sunday 4 August at Bell Street United Church 4pm.

Please continue to send your News and details of upcoming events for the Bridge Magazine to the Circuit Office.

The next edition, which should be ready for distribution in early August, will be the last before our friends at Bell Street, Tisbury, Motcombe and Wincanton join their new Circuits in September. Please share your news and messages for this edition. Items for inclusion should be received **well before Tuesday 16th July 2024**. Many thanks.

If you are contributing by email could you please identify each contribution (image or article) with the name of your church or group. It helps identify them much more easily.

Helen.

If you are submitting photographs for publication in the Bridge Magazine please ensure that anyone portrayed in pictures is aware that it is being taken and may be published. It is particularly important that written parental consent is obtained to publish pictures of children.

#### **Circuit Presbyters**

Superintendent Minister: Revd Lin Francis 01747 823777.

Ministers: Revd Denise Binks—01747 854631; Revd Kate Konrad—01935 415837 Supernumerary Ministers: \*Revd Richard Clarke; Revd Ruth Farrant; Revd Christina Le Moignan; Revd Joyce Norman; \*Revd Margaret Oxenham; Revd Judy Turner-Smith; \*Revd Catherine Campbell-Hyde; Revd Soon Cheol Choi (\* before the name indicates 'not active')

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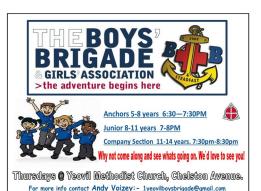


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#### What's happening around the Circuit









Please contact Ruth Jones on 07764 497532 for more information A support group for parents/ carers of babies up to 10 months.

at Bell Street United Church Shaftesbury, SP7 8AL







#### From The Revd Lin Francis

June 2024

Dear Friends,

#### 'Now remain in my love' John 15:9

Writing this letter feels very strange. I may not be leaving this Circuit but yet with four churches moving to two other Circuits, a minister moving, local preachers moving as well as Circuit stewards, I feel that I need to say farewell but yet offer encouragement and something to think about for all of us. What better place to find all of this than the bible.

John's Gospel has the Farewell Discourses in chapters 13 to 17 in which we have the accounts of the Last Supper, the journey to Gethsemane and Jesus' prayers of Intercession. The Synoptic Gospels do not have this title or some of these stories but they still have Jesus preparing his friends for his leaving them. An important part of John 14 is that he promises his disciples that he will give them another Counsellor to be with them, the Spirit of truth. Jesus didn't leave his friends, nor leave us to struggle with our Christian life alone. The Holy Spirit is someone who is called in to help in times of trouble or need.

The Methodist Church has several strange systems and it seems that many seem to go on forever. Transferring churches to a different circuit is one such system. We have been talking about this and making decisions for well over a year and as I write this, I can tell you that we had final Synod agreement last Saturday. It just means that Conference in the summer will ratify this. So all in all it has meant a long farewell. For me, it has felt strange to be celebrating the last Harvest, Christmas, Easter etc and also to have given the last this, that or whatever to two of my churches. I am sure that Denise will have felt the same with Vale Church.

This strange system may have taken a time to implement, but all is now in order. For all of the churches, much will remain the same. With God's help the preaching of the word of God, Baptism's, Marriages, Funeral Services, the presiding at the Lord's Supper, the teaching of the faith, the caring of the flock, etc will all continue. Worship will continue in your churches. The administrative elements will come from a different set of people, but it will be the same work. Denise and Colin the minsters for our four moving churches will work to strengthen the faithful, hold before you God's commitment to human community to your neighbourhoods and to all who live in them and to the world that God has made. For Kate and myself we

(Continued on page 4)

will continue with all of these things too, in a much smaller Y&BV Circuit.

Let's go back to the bible. In all times of change Jesus would have spoken to his disciples and encouraged them. He is your strength, your constant guide and He says to you 'remain in my love' and 'Love each other'. In this time of transition hang on to those words and be assured that all will be well.

As this is a summertime magazine, I hope that you will find time to take time out for relaxation, refreshment and to have some fun. Enjoy the world that God has given you, enjoy his blessings and revel in His love.

For me, it has been a real privilege to be part of your life stories at special moments, to be able to minister to you as individuals and to share God's work with you as a circuit, a church and communities. Y&BV has been a special part of my faith journey and I hope that it has for you. We have achieved much together, we have learnt a lot and God has guided us to this point in time. I wish you every blessing as you continue your journey of faith with God with new circuits and with the remaining one in a different structure. Remain in His love.

With love and prayers from

Lín

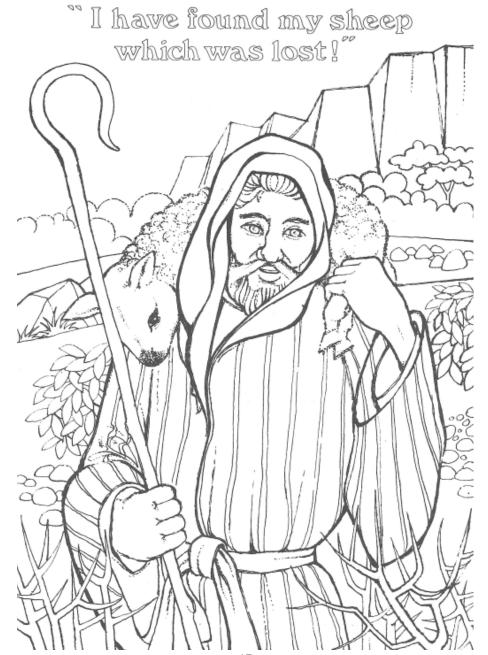
# Bridge

## SEPTEMBER TO NOVEMBER 2024 ISSUE

The next edition which should be ready for distribution in early August, will be the last before our friends at Bell Street, Tisbury, Motcombe and Wincanton leave us to join their new Circuits in September. Please share your news and messages in this edition. Items for inclusion should be received well before Tuesday 16th July 2024. Many thanks.

Helen

(and the young at heart)



crosses being given out by the children. We were reminded that Christ rode into Jerusalem, why did he choose to do this when walking was his way of reaching out to people. At our Friday 'Pause for Thought' Rev Judy had also touched on this very subject. I guess we all have our different views.

Rev Kate led our Maundy Thursday Act of Worship, the washing of feet and Holy Communion – Bible readings and hymns and responses intermingled with quiet times of reflection.

On Good Friday the Walk of Witness took place – the different town Churches joining up at various points to walk through the town to Vicarage Street and share in a bread and cheese lunch. During the afternoon there was a time of meditation and reflection at St John's and St Peter's – here various members read verses from St John's account of Good Friday, along with hymns for Passiontide. A basket of nails was passed around and we listened to a very moving poem 'The man who hammered those nails in'. – Much food for thought.

Our service on Easter morning was a very joyous occasion. We'd been asked to bring some flowers to decorate the cross and we didn't disappoint! There was a steady stream of young and not so young, taking their posies up to show that new life had sprung from the depths of a dark, wet winter – our gardens full of colour and hope for the coming days and that the cross too was showing us that from the darkness of Good Friday, Easter Day had brought new life and hope. The children played their part in the Easter Egg story. Narrated by Kate at various points eggs were smashed open – with the help of a bashing from a rolling pin, to show that the egg was hollow, just as on that first Easter morning, the tomb was found to be empty. With a bit more work with the rolling pin, we were all able to sample the 'empty tomb'.

It was good to see a full church sharing in the Easter Communion, followed by coffee and chat and the children searching for more eggs!

There are so many lovely Easter hymns, we don't always get the time and chance to sing them, so I will quite often open the hymn book and sing them quietly to myself. But my favourite must be 'Thine be the Glory Risen Conquering Son' – I'm sure you the reader must have yours!

Thelma

## Circuit Service and tea

Bell Street United Church, Shaftesbury

We bid a Fond Farewell
as we
Celebrate Good Endings
and
New Beginnings

Sunday 4th August
Service at 4pm
Led by Rev. Lin Francis
Followed by Tea at 5pm

We would love to see as many of you as possible at this Service as we rejoice in our years of fellowship together as Yeovil & Blackmore Vale Methodist Circuit and pray for each other as we travel on to new beginnings and a new journey with God.



#### Bell Street United Church, Shaftesbury with Ashmore Chapel

http://www.yeovilblackmorevalemc.org. uk/our-churches/bell-street-shaftesbury/

http://www.yeovilblackmorevalemc.org. uk/our-churches/ashmore/





#### **Cheap Street Church**

http://www.yeovilblackmorevalemc.org.uk/our-churches/cheap-street http://cheapstreetchurch.co.uk/index.php

Cheap Street Church has recently celebrated 30 years as The United Church. Back in 1994, after 16 years of taking alternate URC and Methodist services, a covenant was signed to work together and since that time the church has continued to absorb and welcome folk from other churches, and from no faith at all, to worship with us. Sometime this is just a fleeting visit, sometimes it becomes regular. 8 new members have been received this year and all are welcome here. Rev. Kate, our Minister, told us at our annual church meeting on Sunday that we are now the largest membership in the circuit, but there is plenty of room for more!

Whilst our Sunday service no longer has a Junior Church, our second congregation does have regular youngsters who attend. We meet once a month on a Monday evening, with worship focused on a theme – recent ones being Hope (in January) and Rebirth (in April). We centre the evening on a piece of music – usually secular – which often provokes lively discussion. Stormzy's 'Blinded By Your Grace' was a particularly memorable piece of music and perhaps one that not many had heard before or had really appreciated the lyrics. The sharing of food and drink helps the evening along and we have been heartened by the experiences shared by all ages.

Other positive news is the starting of a new Church group for teenagers. It's called The Hangout and will be run by Lydia Bird, the youth worker appointed by Reborne Community Church and St. Paul's C of E. The group will be meeting at the United Church's hall, once a month on a Sunday evening and we are very much looking forward to supporting Lydia and all involved in this venture.

A Spring Cleaning morning has recently been held in the church in order to reach some of the corners and cobwebs that can't be managed in the



#### Yeovil **Methodist** Church

http://yeovilblackmorevalemc.org.uk/our-churches/

Greetings! – A quick look back to February, when our AGM took place at the close of morning worship and in between our bring and share lunch. A well-informed booklet had been produced reminding us first of the meeting back in September 2022! Then followed present-day reports from the various groups. An in-depth review of our buildings, their upkeep and

various issues that need urgent attention - the big window at Chelston Avenue and the hall heating at the Quedam. Application has been made for the removal of the church pews to enable us to move forward with our Quedam Vision - a lengthy process to the Methodist and other various bodies. This has now been approved so we hope to move forward with this exercise. A fundraising group has been formed for events to take place for the new



Yeovil Methodist Church at Chelston Ave

window and new heating system. Bingo, film night, gift day and summer fayre are in the pipeline.

Our Mothering Sunday Service was led by Rev Margaret, who reminded us of it's true meaning, lost amid the trappings of commercialism! How girls in service would return for the first time since Christmas to their 'Mother Church' and their families, taking with them a sweet fruit cake covered with marzipan and decorated with 11 marzipan balls – to represent those disciples true to Christ – known to us as a Simnel Cake.

Margaret also spoke on 'Mothers' mentioned in the Bible and of our own mothers and how they helped shape our own lives – for some it can be a very Methodist bittersweet day.

Yeovil Methodist Church in the Quedam



We thank Margaret for leading us in a very sensitive and meaningful service. We left uplifted, along with a lovely posy - so thank you to all those who prepared those colourful spring sprays.

Palm Sunday worship was led by Colin - the palm (Continued on page 16)



#### **Wincanton Methodist Church**

http//www.yeovilblackmorevalemc.org.uk/our-churches/wincanton

Like most churches in our Circuit, Wincanton Methodist Church has had it's ups and downs in the last few years; happily I don't think our downs have been as severe as many of our churches have had. The once thriving Tots and Toys group which met in our hall, lost it's financial backing and regrettably had to disband, and the choir Spectra Musica which used to rehearse in the church once a week has also gone to the wall. Covid has a lot to answer for on many fronts.

The closure of Gillingham Methodist Church has meant that some of that congregation have now come to Wincanton, and we give them a warm welcome. Our congregation numbers are happily increasing; three years ago we struggled to reach ten in the congregation, but now we are usually in the mid-teens and sometimes in the twenties.

And a large "up" in our case is that the Methodist Homes for the Aged group (MHA's Live at Home Scheme) has increased attendance, meeting each Tuesday and Thursday, and a lunch on two Wednesdays a month with an exercise session on the intervening Wednesdays. All this is thanks to an excellent management team and volunteers.

With the disbandment of the Yeovil and Blackmore Vale Circuit Wincanton will be joining the Somerset Mendip Circuit in the Bristol District. Although we will be under a different umbrella it will not make very much difference to our church. The MHA and all the other activities will continue as before.

Another possible development though is that the Baptist Church in Wincanton are having to leave their current building, and may well be coming to our church to worship. Amicable discussions are ongoing, and we have a combined service with them when there is a fifth Sunday in the month.

So there are lots of changes on the horizon. We will miss all the contacts that we have enjoyed in the old circuit and are grateful for the huge input from the circuit into the life of our church. And we are optimistic about our future.

Bob Jones

normal cleaning schedule. As this has not happened since before Covid hit, there was work to be done and a dauntless posse stepped forward. The highlight, in more ways than one, was the lowering of the four enormous central ceiling lights and the removal of the dead flies! The difference is much appreciated, as were the efforts of all the workers, who helped either with refreshments, duster, hoover or technical expertise. When the whole church works together we can really make a difference.





#### Longburton and Yetminster Methodist Churches Close

Closure of our Churches at Longburton on Yetminster was formally confirmed at Synod in June. The last few months have not been easy for members of these two churches as difficult decisions have been made. Our thoughts and prayers go with the members as they settle into new Church Communities.



#### **Marnhull Methodist Chapel**

http://yeovilblackmorevalemc.org.uk/our-churches/marnhull/



#### **Tisbury Methodist Church**

http://yeovilblackmorevalemc.org.uk/our-churches/tisbury/

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Whilst going through the Circuit filing cabinets recently I cam across two 'Little Books of Poems' by one of the Circuit's Retired Local Preachers and thought it would be good to share one of his pieces with you in the Bridge:

A Disciple's Story

Based on Matthew 14 vs. 22-23

By Dennis Tackley

Experience cannot always be arranged
In lines with conventional metre
For life can beat to strange rhythms
Take that night on the lake as we strove
Against the wind: alright for Peter
And those familiar with Gennesaret conditions
But most of us were tired and

wished ourselves elsewhere As we laboured in our cramped positions The sky overcast, few stars, the moon Gleaming intermittently. Then this form Appeared close to us: were we nearer The shore than we thought, had the storm Blown us off course? It was a moment Before we realized it was the Master... Peter cried out, and climbed overboard But quickly sank—a potential disaster Prevented by the Master's hand outstretched To hold him up. To this day I cannot understand what happened. When we began to follow the Master's way We learnt to expect the unexpected. Later We knew that whatever scrape we were in, However adverse the winds might be, We could always sense His power within.

during the winter months. Many thanks to those whose sterling work has meant we have been able to meet and worship (even if without carpet on the floor)!

It is hoped that installing a sump pump under the floor will solve this problem. Please pray for this and the Fund Raising we will be doing to finance this project.

We still have people attending our monthly Coffee Morning (the third Tuesday in the month).

The congregation at Kings Stag has met with the Sturminster `Christians Together` for the Lent course. Their Bible Study (once a week) will resume mid April.

<u>K</u>nit & <u>Sew</u>!! For <u>K</u>ings <u>S</u>tag Church Margaret`s offer



Do you want any garments or embroidery made?

Funds to go to the

`Keep Water OUT`

Project at Kings Stag

Methodist Church

(Contact Margaret:- 01258 472985

margaretoxenham14@gmail.com)

"...Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature."

\*\*Mark 16:15\*\*

\*\*BeverlyDillow.com\*\*



#### Vale Methodist Church Incorporating the chapels at Sturminster Newton and Kings Stag



http://yeovilblackmorevalemc.org.uk/our-churches

Friends from Vale Methodist Church visit to Kingston Lacy to see the snowdrops.







Over the last 3 months we have had much to celebrate, and to see Gods` hand at work in our two Churches.

#### **STURMINSTER NEWTON**

Christmas Day saw five new faces coming into our worship, and continuing to meet with us most Sundays.

As `Christians Together` in the town and surrounding area we have met during Lent for the `Life Explored` Course. Using our church as the host for these twice a week events.

Our Bible Study (once a week) will resume once this course is completed.

Our Monday Prayer time and `Crafty Cuppa` still meets and items are made at this to enhance the Church.

#### KINGS STAG

The wet weather has sadly meant that the Chapel has been often flooded



#### **Motcombe Methodist Church**

http://yeovilblackmorevalemc.org.uk/our-churches/motcombe/

#### Motcombe Methodist Church 1774-2024 Celebrating 250 years June 2024

Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> 10.30am Revd Lin Francis including Holy Communion

Tuesday 18th 12. for 12.30 Celebration Lunch—Open to all but BOOKING essential by 10<sup>th</sup> June—01747 851904

Wednesday 19th 2.30pm Ladies Fellowship Garden Party at the Village

Hall, Clock Tower

Everyone welcome. Please bring a plate of food.

Thursday 20th 10.11.30 Little Sunbeams Special Birthday Party

Friday 21st & Saturday 22nd

10-4 Church open serving tea/coffee/snacks.

Come and see the Floral displays and exhibition of our history in word and photos while enjoying a hot or cold

drink.

Saturday 22nd 9.30 leaving church Outing to Sidmouth fully booked.

Ring 01747 850685 for details

Sunday 23rd 10.30 Rev Rachel Borgas vice chair of Southampton

District.

Bring and share lunch for anyone who would like to stay

for afternoon and can't get home.

Sunday 23rd 3.30 Songs of Praise led by Revd. Lin Francis

Followed by Cream Tea.

YEOVIL & BLACKMORE VALE PREACHING PLAN 2024		JUNE					JULY				AUGUST			
		2	9	16	23	30	7	14	21	28	4	11	18	25
		10 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary time	11 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary time MHA Sunday	12 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary time Refugee Wk	13 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary time	14 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary time Conference Sunday	15 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary time	16 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary time Action for Children Sunday	17 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary time		19 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary time	20 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary time		22 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary time
Lectionary Related Principal Services Year B		Gen. 3: 8-15 Psalm 130 2 Cor. 4:13 = 5:1 Mark 3: 20-35	Ezek. 17: 22-24 Ps.92:1-4, 12-15 2 Cor. 5: 6-10 (11-13) 14-17 Mark 4: 26-34	Job 38:.1-11 Psalm 107: 1-3, 23-32 2 Cor. 6: 1-13 Mark 4: 35-41	Lam. 3: 23-33 Psaim 30 2 Cor. 8: 7-15 Mark 5: 21-43	Ezekiel 2: 1-5 Psalm 123 2 Cor. 12: 2-10 Mark 6: 1-13	Amos 7: 7-15 Psalm 85: 8-13 Eph. 1: 3-14 Mark 6: 14-29	Jer. 23: 1-6 Psalm 23 Eph. 2: 11-22 Mark 6: 30-34, 53-56	2 Kings 4: 42-44 Ps 145:10-18 Eph. 3: 14-21 John 6: 1-21	Exadus 16: 2-4, 9-15 Ps 78: 23-29 Eph. 4: 1-16 John 6: 24-35	1 Kings 19: 4-8 Psalm 34: 1-8 Eph. 4: 25 = 5:2 John 6: 35, 41- 51	Proverbs 9: 1-6 Psalm 34: 9-14 Eph. 5: 15-20 John 6: 51-58	Joshua 24: 1-2a, 14-18 Psaim 34: 15-22 Eph. 6: 10-20 John 6: 56-69	Deut. 4: 1-2, 6-9 Psalm 15 James 1: 17-27 Mark 7 1-8, 14- 15, 21-23
Bell Street, Shaftesbury (73)	10:30	LFS	Whitford	A Turner- Smith	Binks HC	Way	Oxenham	LFS	Litchfield	Binks HC	Choi	Binks ATS	C Farrant	Binks HC
	4:00										CIRCUIT			
Cheap Street Sherborne (81)	10:30	Farquharson	Konrad HC	Litchfield	Konrad	LFS	England	Konrad HC	Catchpole	Konrad	Besant	Konrad HC	R Farrant	LFS
	6:30		Taizé					Taizé						
Marnhull (17)	10:00	A Turner- Smith	Francis HC	R Farrant	Way	C Farrant	De Gruchy	J Turner- Smith - HC	C Farrant	Choi	LFS	Francis HC	Litchfield	Farquharson
Motcombe (16)	10:30	LFS	C Farrant	Francis HC	Borgars/ Francis - CA	Litchfield	LFS	Whitford	Cheetham HC	J Turner- Smith	Francis	De Gruchy	J Le Moignan	Francis HC
Tisbury (15)	10.30	Binks HC	Oxenham	Communitea Saturday LFS	J Turner- Smith	LFS	Binks HC	Besant	Communitea Saturday LFS	Priestley	Whitford	A Turer- Smith	Binks HC	Choi
Vale (Sturminster Newton & Kings Stag) (16)	10.30 SN	De Gruchy	LFS	J Le Moignan	Oxenham	Binks HC	C Farrant	Farquharson	Way	De Gruchy	Binks HC	Priestley	Oxenham	Whitford
	6:00 KS		Francis		Binks HC	Oxenham SoP		Bullock		Binks HC		Oxenham HC		Francis
Wincanton (16)	10.30	J Turner- Smith	Catchpole	C Farrant	Whitford	United @ Baptists	R Farrant HC	J Le Moignan	Francis	LFS	Oxenham	Bullock	Francis HC	J Turner- Smith
Yeovil Methodist Church Chelston Ave (76)	10:30	Konrad MB	LFS	Konrad HC	De Gruchy	Bullock	Konrad MB	Way	Konrad HC	Francis	Konrad	J Turner- Smith	Konrad HC	Hardiman
	4:00				Konrad Alternative Worship					Konrad Alternative Worship				
Tuesday at Y	eovil'	Methodist C	Church in the	e Quedam, '	Vicarage Str	eet, Yeovil								
YMC in the Quedam		4	11	18	25	2/7	9	16	23	30	6	13	20	27
	11am	De Gruchy	Catchpole	A Turner- Smith	J Turner- Smith	Way	Catchpole	J Turner- Smith	Way	Choi	De Gruchy	A Turner- Smith	Francis	Choi

Membership numbers in brackets as of 1.11.23

References: ATS - All together Service: CA - Church Anniversary; HC - Holy Communion; LFS - Local Fellowship Service: MB - Munch Bunch.