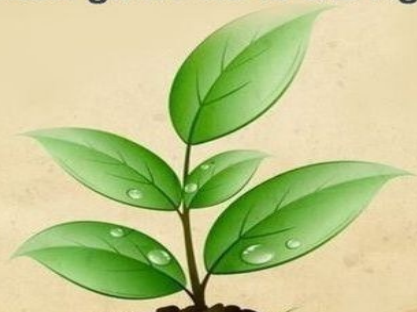


NEW *Beginnings*

When God gives you a new beginning,
it starts with an ending.
Be Thankful for closed doors.
They often guide us to the right one.



JVDB

Trust the direction that God leads you.

We know that God causes all things to work together
for good to those who love God. To those who are
called according to His purpose ROMANS 8.28.

God has a plan
TRUST IT
LIVE IT
ENJOY IT

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

07423 837504

yandbvcircuit@gmail.com



www.yeovilblackmorevalemc.org.uk

THE Bridge



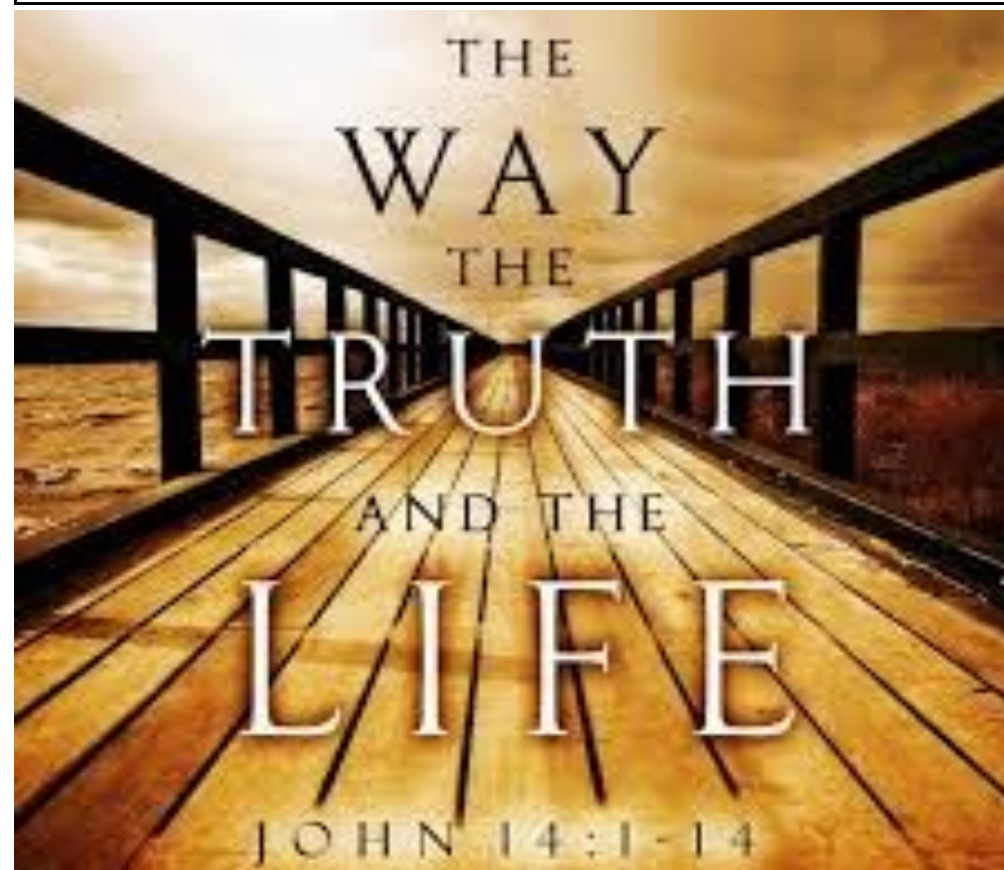
Circuit Magazine

Including
Circuit Plan

Issue 44

(Final Edition)

June to August 2025



Our Mission Statement

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



From the Circuit Office

My usual working hours are now Tuesday and Thursday mornings 9am-1pm. I mainly work from home, visiting the Circuit Office as required. I can be contacted by telephone on 07423 837504 during working hours or email yandbvcircuit@gmail.com

This will be the last edition of the Bridge before the churches join the Dorset South and West Circuit.

May I take this opportunity to wish you all well in the future and to thank you all for your friendship and support during the last seven years, it has been a joy and a blessing working with you and being a part of the Yeovil & Blackmore Vale Methodist Circuit.

The back cover picture is somewhat poignant, as this was how I came to be working for Y&BV Circuit, having been made redundant in the spring, I hesitated about applying for the Circuit post, my URC minister at the time said "If one door closes and another opens, it would be rude not to knock". Knock I did and the rest is history as they say is history.

God Bless.

Helen.

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY:

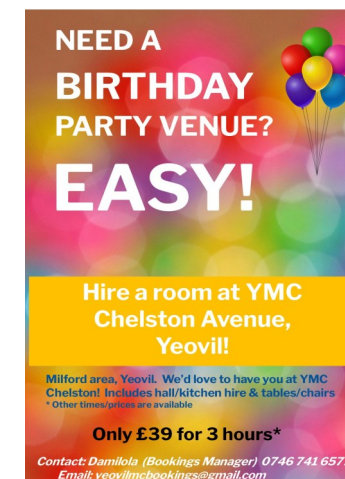
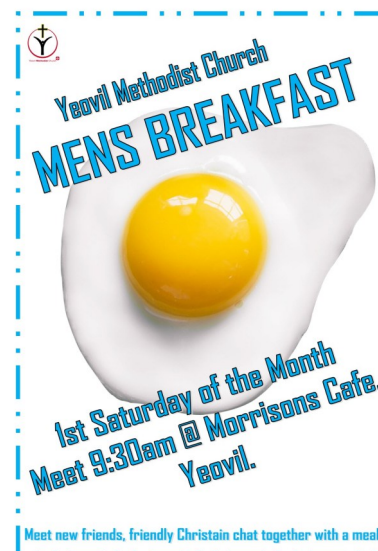
Wednesday 18 June	Circuit Meeting—7pm at Cheap street Church
Saturday 21st June	Circuit Closing and Farewell Service. 4pm at Cheap Street Church
Saturday 30 August	New Circuit Afternoon, United Church, Dorchester
	1-3pm Worship / Study
	3-4pm Cream Teas
	4pm—Welcome Service

Circuit Presbyters

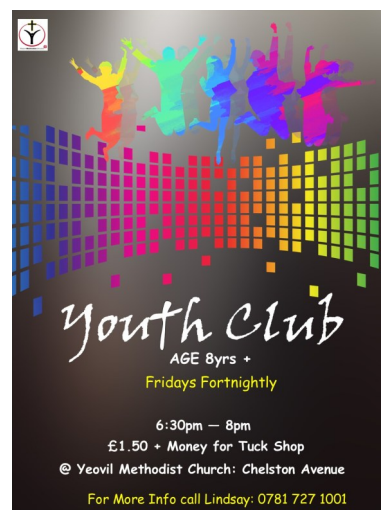
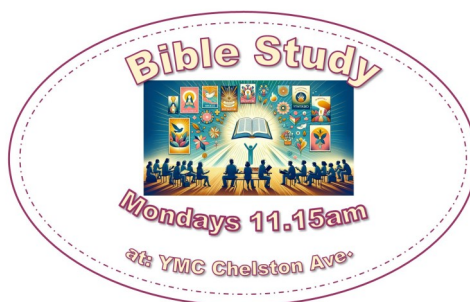
Superintendent Minister: Revd Lin Francis 01747 823777.

Minister: Revd Kate Konrad—01935 415837

Supernumerary Ministers: Revd Ruth Farrant; * Revd Christina Le Moignan; Revd Margaret Oxenham; Revd Judy Turner-Smith; *Revd Catherine Campbell-Hyde; Revd Soon Cheol Choi (* before the name indicates 'not active')



What's happening around the Circuit



From The Revd Lin Francis

June 2025

Dear Friends,

'I will not leave you all alone like orphans...' John 14: 18

This time last year I wrote about John's Gospel having 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. I linked all of this with the changes that were to happen last September, 2024; those three churches moving to the Salisbury Circuit along with their minister Revd Denise Binks and the Wincanton Church transferring to the Somerset Mendip Circuit.

It was a strange letter to write because for some people it was the last one they would receive from the Yeovil and Blackmore Vale Circuit, but yet for others it was about life anew in a smaller circuit. The letter I write now is the last one I will write for you as the Yeovil and Blackmore Vale Circuit will cease to be in September 2025. So, as is the norm, I need to say farewell but yet offer encouragement and something to think about from the bible.

An important part of John 14 is that Jesus 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. 'I will not leave you all alone like orphans...' it says in John 14:18. He is promising the coming of the Holy Spirit who lives with you and he will be in you. The Spirit is called on, to help in times of trouble or need and yet the spirit is always with us.

In all times of change Jesus spoke to his disciples and encouraged them. Telling them that He is their strength, their constant guide and He said to them 'remain in my love' and 'Love each other'. These words are for us too. The risen Christ is our strength and the Holy Spirit that he promised us are words to hang on to at this time of transition. The knowledge of the resurrection also gives us hope of a fresh new life, an exciting new chapter in our lives of faith and an unlocking of our opportunities to serve Him in a new circuit.

(Continued on page 4)

The Dorset South and West Circuit will give you support in all you do, it will give opportunities to grow and the encouragement from a wider group of churches and people to bounce ideas around, to share in similar work that you all carry out. For every ending there is always a new beginning, grasp the opportunities that come your way. All will be well.

As we turn to farewells, I would like to thank both Helen Coombes and Phil Butler who have worked tirelessly for this circuit in the roles of Circuit Manager/Administrator and Property/Manse Secretary respectively. Helen was due to retire from this work a year or two back, but decided to stay on in order to help us see the transfer of the YBV churches to other circuits, to keep the continuity going. Phil, is part of the Salisbury Circuit but agreed to be co-opted to remain in the property role to help see us through the sale of the unneeded manses. We are almost there. This has been difficult for Phil, following the loss of his wife, his own health issues and his preparing to move to Dorchester. I, indeed all of us are deeply indebted to both of these people. They have served the Lord faithfully, using the gifts he bestowed on them and eased us through this difficult time. Thank you Helen. Thank you Phil.

For me, as I move away I can recognise that my time here 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. My experiences and the things that I have learnt here have shaped my ministry and will go with me. Thank you for your encouragement and support. Together we have achieved much, 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 in your new circuit, Dorset South and West, remember that Jesus said: **'I will not leave you all alone like orphans...'**

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.

I wish you every blessing as you continue your journey of faith with God with new friends.

With love and prayers from

Lin



FOR THE CHILDREN

(and the young at heart)

Free Printable Bible Word Search Game

Books of the New Testament

Here's a great puzzle for anyone who's trying to learn the books of the New Testament. Find the capitalized words from the word list in the Bible word search grid. Words may appear in any direction. Here's a twist: Can you also find the name of the man who wrote much of the New Testament?



MATTHEW
MARK
LUKE
JOHN
ACTS
ROMANS
(I and II) CORINTHIANS

GALATIANS
EPHESIANS
PHILIPPIANS
COLOSSIANS
(I and II) THESSALONIANS
(I and II) TIMOTHY
TITUS

PHILEMON
HEBREWS
JAMES
(I AND II) PETER
(I, II AND III) LETTER OF JOHN
JUDE
REVELATION



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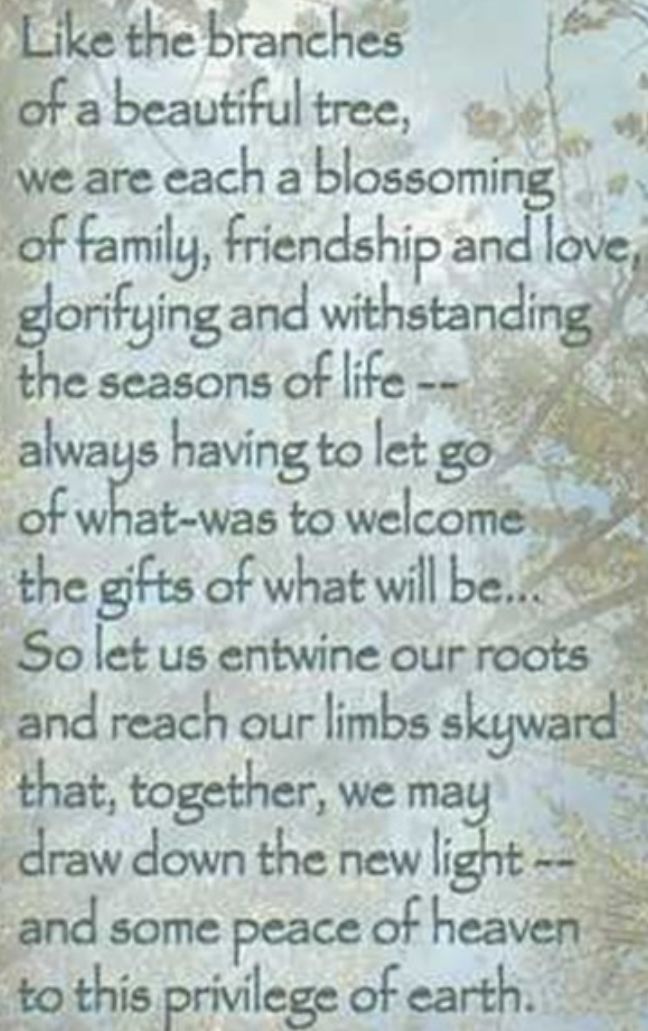
Yeovil & Blackmore Vale Methodist Circuit Closing Service & Farewell and Retirement for Rev Lin Francis

Cheap Street Church
Saturday 21st June @ 4pm
Followed by tea.

New Circuit Welcome Service Saturday 30th August 3pm United Church Dorchester

1-3pm Worship / Study
3-4pm Cream Tea
4-5pm Service lead by
Rev Rachel Bending

Everyone is welcome to attend all
or part of the afternoon



Like the branches
of a beautiful tree,
we are each a blossoming
of family, friendship and love,
glorifying and withstanding
the seasons of life --
always having to let go
of what-was to welcome
the gifts of what will be...
So let us entwine our roots
and reach our limbs skyward
that, together, we may
draw down the new light --
and some peace of heaven
to this privilege of earth.

-Terah Cox

We will continue this work and await what adventures the new circuit will bring us and how God will move forward with us and remain at the centre of our lives.

As we come to the end of the current circuit, can I reach out and say a big thank you, to anyone who has helped the circuit over these years. From the volunteers to the staff.

We need to be praying for each other, for our new areas, meeting new people and becoming new circuits together. May God be with us all in our transition periods, may we not forget that he is our centre and that he has a greater plan for us, our churches and our communities.

Every Blessing

Mark Parsons.

YMC Senior Steward.





Yeovil Methodist Church

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

“One More Step Along the World I Go” as the song goes, from the old to the new. Remembering the past but also looking forward to the new circuit and what this may bring and mean for YMC.

Yeovil Methodist Church is not unfamiliar to change and uncertainty, but we are all looking forward to what this will hold for our future, with Gods guidance and our trust in him, we know this will be ok.



Yeovil Methodist Church at Chelston Avenue

YMC have been planning an activity to mark the 80th Anniversary Celebration of VE Day in May. Looking back at war time and offering the community a cream tea served in a ration box. There will be music, dancing and an opportunity to share together as well as to admire some stories and memorabilia from that time. We have also been using the Quedam site to host some well supported events by the community. Trying to grow the site into a well-used community building for all, offering a lot of services that our public might need. Including mid-week worship as well as a busy community coffee morning on Tuesdays/Fridays, where people are coming and finding God for the first time! Hallelujah! This is exciting and a God given opportunity for outreach in the town centre.

At Chelston we been doing our monthly community meal and running a monthly Messy Church, which has now been running for 15 years! The toddler group is thriving and beginning to feed into other groups and worship too, which is wonderful. Thursdays there is a well-attended Community Fellowship Group. Members arrive on a minibus and come for friendship and fellowship. Lots of fun had by all. Many of whom haven't been out of the house all week or spoken to anyone that day. This is a lifeline to them.

Yeovil Methodist Church in the Quedam



All our groups are well supported by the community, trying to provide the community with their needs. Not always easy. Working with the new circuit we are hoping to grow this work at both sites and working closer to the community and other churches in Yeovil. We have a large group of youth which attend both Sunday morning and weekly groups. Feeding the local area and giving them a safe place to meet.

(Continued on page 15)



Cheap Street Church

<http://www.yeovilblackmorevalemc.org.uk/our-churches/cheap-street>

<http://cheapstreetchurch.co.uk/index.php>

What a glorious Spring we have enjoyed this year! Our church garden, lovingly tended by our Garden Gnomes, is enjoyed by many from the town as well as our own congregation and in Spring it is at its best. Many compliments have been given as people pass through or stop to eat their sandwiches on one of the benches. It can be busy at the front of the church, with Cheap Street bustling with life, but there is always a peaceful spot in the back garden. Somewhere to sit and thank God for the many wonderful things that surround us.

Something we must give thanks for are the 5 new members that have joined the church this Spring. We warmly welcome Andrew, Sue, Angie, Claire and Julia to our church and look forward to them finding their true place in our community.

Another thing to be thankful for is the 31 years since the signing of the covenant between the Methodist Church and the URC. Rev. Lin Francis was with us for our service at the beginning of April when this important date was remembered.

Cheap Street Church has been very active within projects with Sherborne Churches Together this Spring. Back in March, The World Day of Prayer was celebrated at the Catholic Church, with prayers and readings prepared by the women of The Cook Islands. The beautiful floral wreath was worn by individual readers as they spoke the words of different women.



An ecumenical Lent Course has also been held in various venues across Sherborne with Rev. Kate leading one in our church hall which was very well attended by people from almost every church in Sherborne. Several people then took advantage of the opportunity of a very tasty Lent lunch at the Catholic Church hall afterwards. Holy Week was marked by a Maundy Thursday service in church but also a Good Friday Ecumenical Walk of Witness through the town, with Rev. Kate playing the role of the Chief Priest.

As I write, Rev Kate is hoping very shortly to move house to a new manse in Sherborne, just one of the very many changes that will go along with our move to the Dorset South and West Circuit. All these changes will bring their challenges but all will also bring their rewards. We look forward to the future, together.

Caroline



Marnhull Methodist Chapel

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

This is the final edition of the Bridge Magazine – does the Dorset South and West have something similar – we wait to hear or see.

Since the last edition we have celebrated Mothering Sunday – I do not like the day called Mother's Day. My daughter knows this and she "searches" and usually finds a card for Mothering Sunday. She has said you need to buy fairly promptly as they can be difficult to find. Small posies were handed out by Lin to everyone there.

During Lent, Churches Together in Marnhull have held six half hour Reflections on differing aspects of prayer, led by the Revd Gaenor (from St Gregory's Church), Revd Lin and Jacintha from the Church of Our Lady. On three of the weeks a soup lunch was served with proceeds for the Food Bank.

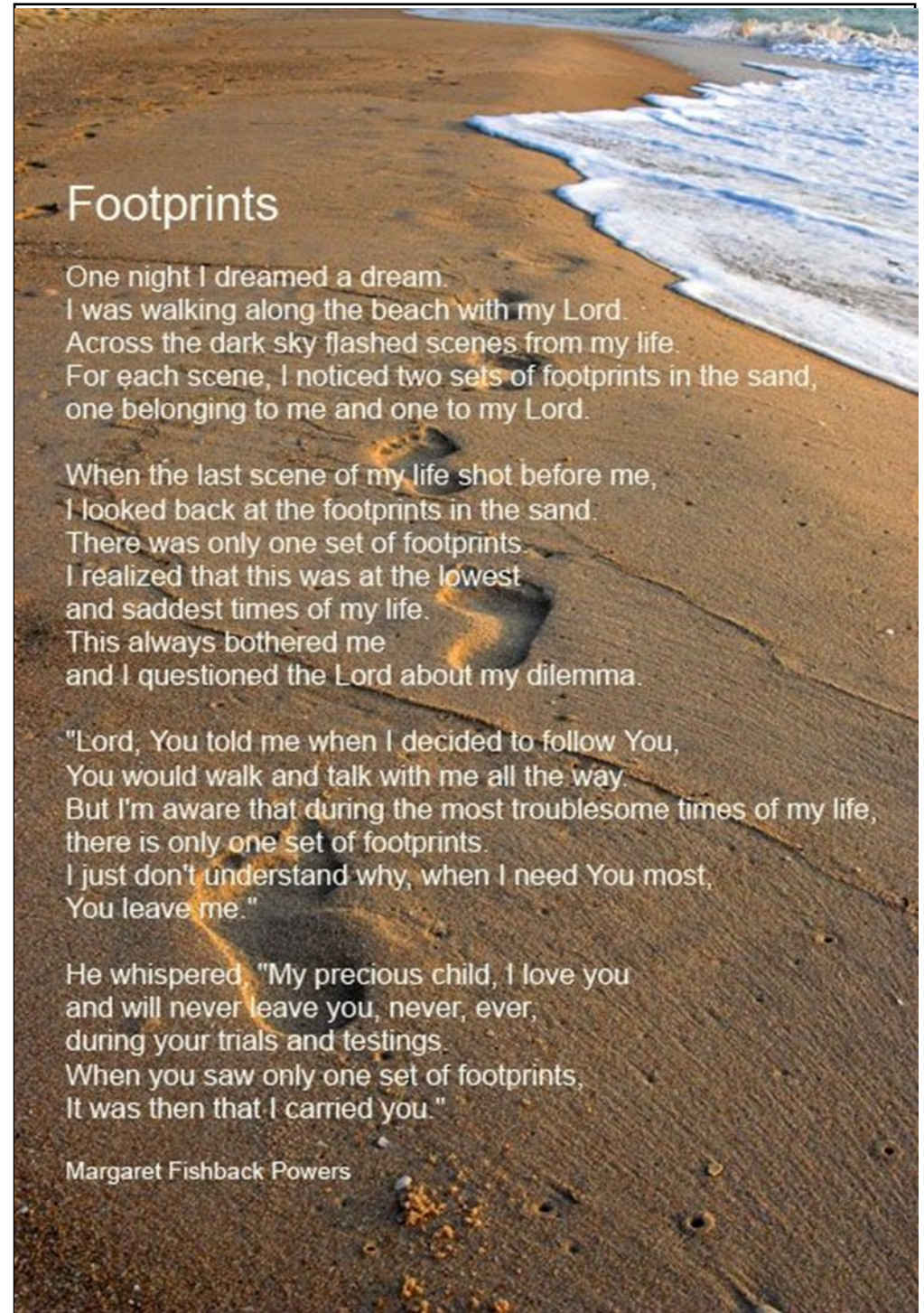
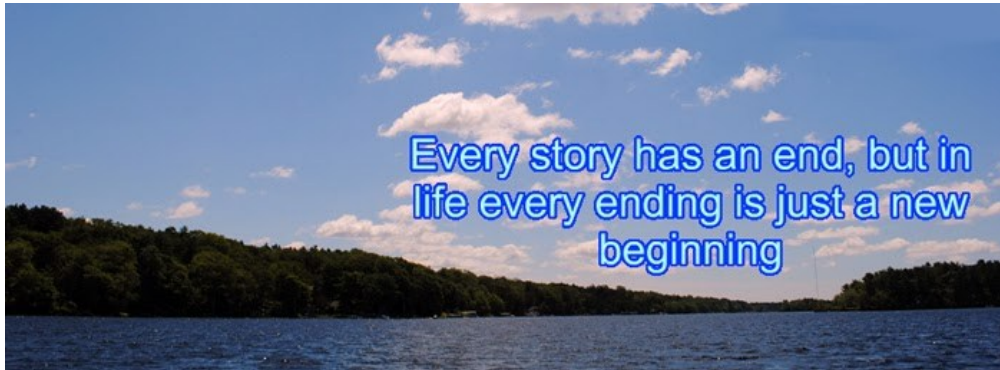
Lin led us in a Good Friday Reflection. She had brought many photographs and post cards from Oberammergau which were laid out in a cross from which we chose one to use as individual prayer and meditation. This quiet time was very moving and thought provoking.

The Revd Ruth Farrant led our Easter Morning Service which included meditations on Mary, Cleopas and Peter and Communion.

We hope to see many of you at the Closing Service on Saturday 21st June when we will say Farewell to the Yeovil and Blackmore Vale Circuit and look forward to a new era with new preachers – both Presbyters and Local Preachers.

With Blessings from all at Marnhull.

Sally





Vale Methodist Church

Incorporating the chapels at Sturminster Newton and Kings Stag

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



STURMINSTER NEWTON- During the Lent period `Sturmintser Newton Christians Together have used our premises for our annual Lent Bible Study Course. This year we shared the Salisbury Diocese Course based on Courageous leaders in the Bible. Each Monday evening and Friday morning around 30-40 people have shared together at our building. On Good Friday (as usual) we will meet as `Christians Together in the Market Square for an act of worship @ 12 noon.

KINGS STAG- During the winter months the Kings Stag congregation has been meeting in the Local Anglican Memorial Chapel in Kings Stag while our premises have been decorated. From April onwards we have been able to meet again in our own Chapel and on March 23rd Rev Kate Konrad came and led our Covenant Service in our own Chapel which was a real blessing. On Maundy Thursday Rev Lin Francis will lead our Usual Communion Service for Maundy Thursday, and on April 19th (Easter Saturday) we will hold our annual Easter Tea Party form 2.30pm - 4pm.



God of All Seasons

By (the late) Rev Laurance R Stedeford

God of the springtime green,
I worship Thee.

God of the rising lark,
I praise Thy name.

God of the infant's smile,
I bow the knee.

God of the empty tomb,
Thee I proclaim.

God of the summer heat,
I worship Thee.

God of the growing young,
I praise Thy name.

God of the daily work,
I bow the knee.

God of the Spirit's fire,
Thee I proclaim.

God of the autumn gold,
I worship Thee.

God of the ripening grain,
I praise Thy name.

God of the harvest glow,
I bow the knee.

God of he evening years,
Thee I proclaim.

God of the winter snow,
I worship Thee.

God of the leafless tree,
I praise Thy name.

God of the hungry grave,
I bow the knee.

God of the resurrection morn,
Thee I proclaim.

CIRCUIT PREACHING PLAN JUNE TO AUGUST 2025

YEOVIL & BLACKMORE VALE PREACHING PLAN 2024/25		JUNE					JULY				AUGUST				
						BIBLE MONTH (THE GOSPEL OF ST JOHN)									
		1	8	15	22	29	6	13	20	27	3	10	17	24	31
		7 th Sunday of Easter Sunday in Ascensiontide	Pentecost MHA Sunday	Trinity Sunday Refugee week	12 th Sunday in ordinary time	13 th Sunday in ordinary time Conference Sunday	14 th Sunday in ordinary time	15 th Sunday in ordinary time Action for Children Sunday	16 th Sunday in ordinary time	17 th Sunday in ordinary time	18 th Sunday in ordinary time	19 th Sunday in ordinary time	20 th Sunday in ordinary time	21 st Sunday in ordinary time	22 nd Sunday in ordinary time
Lectionary Related Principal Services Year C		Acts 16 16-34 Psalm 97 Rev. 22: 12-14, 16-17, 20-21 John 17: 20-26	Acts 2: 1-21 or Gen 11:1-9 Psalm 104: 24-34, 35b Rom. 8:14-17 or Acts 2: 1-21 John 14:8-17 (25-27)	Proverbs 8: 1-4, 22-31 Psalm 8 Rom. 5: 1-5 John 16: 12-15	Isaiah 65: 109 Psalm 22:19-28 Gal. 3: 23-29 Luke 8: 26-39	1 Kings 19: 15-16, 19-21 Psalm 16 Gal. 5: 1, 13-25 Luke 9: 51-62	Isaiah 66: 10-14 Psalm 66: 1-9 Galatians 6: (1-6) 7-16 Luke 10: 1-11, 16-20	Deut. 30: 9-14 Psalm 25: 1-10 Col. 1: 1-14 Luke 10: 25-37	Gen. 18: 1-10a Psalm 15 Col. 1: 15-28 Luke 10: 38-42	Gen. 18: 20-32 Psalm 138 Col. 2: 6-15 (16-19) Luke 11: 1-13	Eccl. 1: 2, 12- 14; 2: 18-23 Psalm 49: 1-12 Col. 3: 1-11 Luke 12: 13-21	Gen. 15: 1-6 Ps. 33: 12-22 Hebrews 11: 1-3, 8-16 Luke 12: 32-40	Jer. 23: 23-29 Psalm 82 Heb. 11: 29 - 12:2 Luke 12: 49-56	Isaiah 58:9b-14 Psalm 103: 1-8 Hebrews 12: 18-29 Luke 13: 10-17	Prov. 25: 6-7 Psalm 112 Hebrews 13:1- 8, 15-16 Luke 14: 1, 7-14
Cheap Street Church Sherborne (74)	10:30	A Turner- Smith	Konrad HC	Konrad Baptism	Litchfield	R Farrant	Coates	Clark HC	Francis	Konrad	Priestley	Konrad HC	C Farrant	Choi	Crossman
	6:30		Taizé					Taizé				Taizé			
Marnhull (17)	10:00	Oxenham	Francis HC	Bullock	Choi	C Farrant	De Gruchy	Francis HC	R Farrant	A Turner- Smith	De Gruchy	Choi HC	R Farrant	James	Konrad
Vale (Sturminst er Newton & Kings Stag) (15)	10.30 SN	Francis HC	De Gruchy	J Turner- Smith	Francis	Priestley	Francis HC	Konrad	C Farrant	Litchfield	Oxenham	Coates	Oxenham HC	A Turner- Smith	De Gruchy
	6:00 KS		Francis HC		Konrad	Francis SoP		Francis HC		Konrad		Oxenham HC		De Gruchy	Oxenham SoP
Yeovil Methodist Church Chelston Ave (76)	10:30	Konrad MB	James	Francis	Konrad	Francis HC	James MB	Oxenham	Konrad HC	J Turner- Smith	Konrad MB	Sinden	Yarrien HC	J Turner- Smith	Bullock
Tuesday at Yeovil Methodist Church in the Quedam, Vicarage Street, Yeovil															
YMC in the Quedam	11:00	3	10	17	24	2/7	8	15	22	29	5	12	19	26	2/9
		A Turner- Smith	De Gruchy	J Turner- Smith	Choi	Francis	Coates	Konrad	Francis	A Turner- Smith	De Gruchy	Choi	Coates	Choi	De Gruchy

Membership numbers in brackets as of 1.11.24

Reference: HC - Holy Communion; MB - Munch Bunch; SoP - Songs of Praise: