

**Deadline for June—August 2024 edition
Tuesday 23 April 2024**

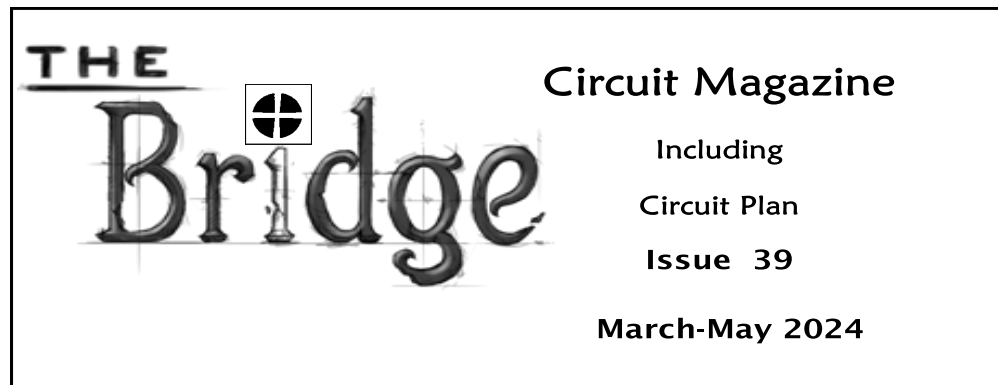
Please send all articles for inclusion in the next edition to the Circuit Administrator at:

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

**01935 432173 / 07423 837504
yandbvcircuit@gmail.com**



www.yeovilblackmorevalemcc.org.uk



Our Mission Statement

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



From the Circuit Office

The Circuit Office is open on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month between 9am and 2pm. Otherwise I will be working from home Tuesdays to Thursdays between 9am and 1pm. I continue to 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.

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY:

Circuit Meeting — Wednesday 21 February— 7pm on Zoom

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

Items for the next edition should be received **well before Tuesday 23rd April 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.

Cover Picture—Gillingham Bridge, with Gillingham Methodist Church in the background. It is with sadness we acknowledge the recent closures of Gillingham, Longburton and Yetminster Methodist Churches. Our thought and prayers go with the members of these churches as they decide where they will worship.

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')

Community Café and Clothing Exchange

BELL STREET UNITED CHURCH,
SHAFTESBURY (Bell St entrance)

Every WEDNESDAY 10.00am - 12 noon

Come along for refreshments, chat, children's clothing & baby accessories, toy corner.

Whether you are a parent (bring the children), a grandparent, a student, someone on their own, whatever your situation or age - join us for a warm welcome!

Always eat alone? Tired of cooking?

Community Meal

Every 1st Friday of the Month

At:- 12 Noon. YMC, Chelston Avenue, Yeovil

2 Course Hot Meal & Tea/Coffee.

Cost £5

To book your place please contact:-
Beryl: 475541 or Kate: 472702

COME ALONG AND MEET NEW FRIENDS!

We look forward to seeing you.

NEED A BIRTHDAY PARTY VENUE? EASY!

Hire a room at YMC
Chelston Avenue,
Yeovil!

Milford area, Yeovil. We'd love to have you at YMC Chelston! Includes hall/kitchen hire & tables/chairs
* Other times/prices are available

Only £39 for 3 hours*

Contact: Damilola (Bookings Manager) 0746 741 6577
Email: yeovilnmcbookings@gmail.com

Mid-Week Worship

Tuesday's & Fridays 11am
YMC @ Quedam
for 30 mins

You are invited to join us.
God isn't just for a Sunday.

4th Sunday Month

OVERFLOW
In The Spirit

Modern Worship
Relaxed & Informal
Opportunity for conversation & Questions
Perhaps a Drama
COME & HEAR OUR BAND!

4pm @ YMC: Chelston Avenue

Please join us for cake and refreshments afterwards.

Munch Bunch

1st Sunday of the Month!

BREAKFAST CHURCH

10:30am—11:30am At YMC: Chelston Ave.

Come and enjoy Worship with Breakfast and Chat.
EVERYONE WELCOME!

Sunday School for all ages.

Sunday's 10:30am @
YMC, Chelston Avenue.

What's happening around the Circuit



Seedlings
Baby & Toddler Group

Thursdays in term time 9.30-11am
Toys & Crafts, Singing & Snacks

£1 per family

For More info please contact
Lucy: 0796 673 6240



LITTLE SUNBEAMS
@ MOTCOMBE


A friendly group for
parents / carers with
babies and pre-school children

Term-time Thursdays 10 – 11.30 am
Motcombe Methodist Church,
The Street, Motcombe, SP7 9PF

FRIENDSHIP, PLAY, LEARNING, SINGING AND FUN!

NUMBERS LIMITED SO PLEASE BOOK IN ADVANCE

Contact Sarah on 07814 275985 Facebook: Sunbeams@Motcombe



THE BOYS' BRIGADE & GIRLS' ASSOCIATION
>the adventure begins here

Anchors 5-8 years 6:30—7:30PM
Junior 8-11 years 7-8PM
Company Section 11-14 years 7:30pm-8:30pm

Why not come along and see what's going on. We'd love to see you!

Thursdays @ Yeovil Methodist Church, Chelston Avenue.
For more info contact Andy Voizey:- 1yeovilboysbrigade@gmail.com




Bright Beginnings
BABY GROUP

A support
group for
parents/ carers
of babies up to
10 months.

at Bell Street United
Church
Shaftesbury, SP7 8AL

Please contact Ruth
Jones on 07764 497532
for more information



youth club
AGE 8yrs +

@ Yeovil Methodist Church: Chelston Ave

Fridays Fortnightly
Feb: 10th, 24th
March: 10th, 24th
April (Easter Hols), then back on 21st
May: 5th, 19th
6:30pm – 8pm

£1.50 + Money for Tuck Shop

More Info call Lindsay: 0781 727 1001

VALE METHODIST CHURCH
(Based at Sturminster Newton & Kings Stag)
STURMINSTER METHODIST CHURCH

EVERY MONDAY:-



PRAYER TIME:- from 2- 3pm
All welcome to join us.

'CRAFTY CUPPA':- from 3pm- 4pm

Want to learn to knit?



Trying to
Learn to
sew?



ALL ARE WELCOME TO COME AND SHARE
Join in a project together?

Cuppa's are always on the go!!



Every 3rd Saturday of Month!
10am – 12ish.

AT:- YEovil METHODIST CHURCH: Chelston Avenue

WE HAVE LOADS OF ARTS, CRAFTS, SONGS, SCIENCE, FUN
& GAMES FOR YOU TO ENJOY & YOU ARE ALL INVITED TO
STAY FOR A MEAL TOGETHER TOO!

WE CANT WAIT TO SEE YOU. EVERYBODY WELCOME!

DATES: March 18th
April 15th
May 20th

This is a free event for all, but contributions would be gratefully
received should you feel able to contribute.

FOR MORE INFO PLEASE CONTACT
Lindsay:- 0781 727 1001

From The Revd Denise Binks

March 2024

Dear Friends,

I was reflecting again on the phrase 'between a rock and a hard place'. Sometimes I find myself there either as an individual or with a community of people; it is a very uncomfortable place to be in a situation where you can't see a way through. The Bible, of course is full of examples and the one that instantly comes to mind is the people of Israel who have at last been set free by God from slavery in Egypt only to find themselves trapped (Exodus 14). The Egyptian army are in hot pursuit behind them, the vast Red Sea before them, what should they do now? If they turn back the Egyptians will either kill them or take them back into even more severe slavery, if they go forward, they will surely drown. What does Moses say to them? "Stand firm and see the deliverance the Lord will bring you today" (Exodus 14: 13). I don't blame them for being terrified, forgetting that Moses was the agent of the awesome power of the God of Abraham. God's response it to gently remind them that he is with them; they had trusted him as they daubed the blood of the sacrificed lamb on their doorposts and seen how God had protected them from 'the angel of death' now he calls them to trust him again. Then he tells Moses to place his staff in the ground and amazingly the sea parts- providing a safe place for those who trusted in God to cross, but those who pursued them to try to kill them perished themselves.

There are parallels here with the events of Holy Week. Good Friday and Easter Saturday must have felt very much like a rock and a hard place for the followers of Jesus. They were most likely in deep trauma having witnessed the arrest, flogging and crucifixion of their friend, rabbi, Messiah. They stayed in Jerusalem, but what were they to do next? Then, slowly, on Resurrection Sunday the light began to dawn on their hearts and God's plan is revealed. Sometimes individually, sometimes in groups, Jesus came to them in his risen power. He had beaten death once and for all. The true wonder of what Jesus had done would be revealed more as those who believed in him received the anointing of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost.

In the life of the Circuit, it can sometimes feel that we are in that place between a rock and a hard place; so many of our churches have closed over the past few years and we stand alongside and pray with and for those who have lost their spiritual homes. We continue our discussions

(Continued on page 4)

with other Circuits regarding boundary changes and we feel uncertain about the future and how we will be affected. In all of this we remember the God who parted the Red Sea and saved the people of Israel, the God who loved us so much that he came to suffer and die, whose resurrection power has defeated death once and for all for all who believe, who calls us to stand firm and see what he can do. Many of us will have stories of how he has brought us through difficult times in the past, let us share them with one another and give thanks to God as we trust that he already has a plan and can see a way through even the darkest of times.

We pray for one another, and particularly Lin and the Leadership Team as we face the days ahead, that God will grant us the wisdom, patience, discernment, and courage to follow him into the unknown.

Your friend and minister

Denise

Holy Week and Easter Services

Maundy Thursday 28th March

10:30am	Cheap Street	Maundy Thursday Communion. Revd Kate Konrad
6:00pm	Vale (Kings Stag)	Tenebrae Service. Revd Margaret Oxenham
7:00pm	Bell Street	Maundy Thursday Communion. Revd Denise Binks
7:00pm	YMC Chelston Ave	Maundy Thursday Communion. Revd Kate Konrad

Good Friday 29th March

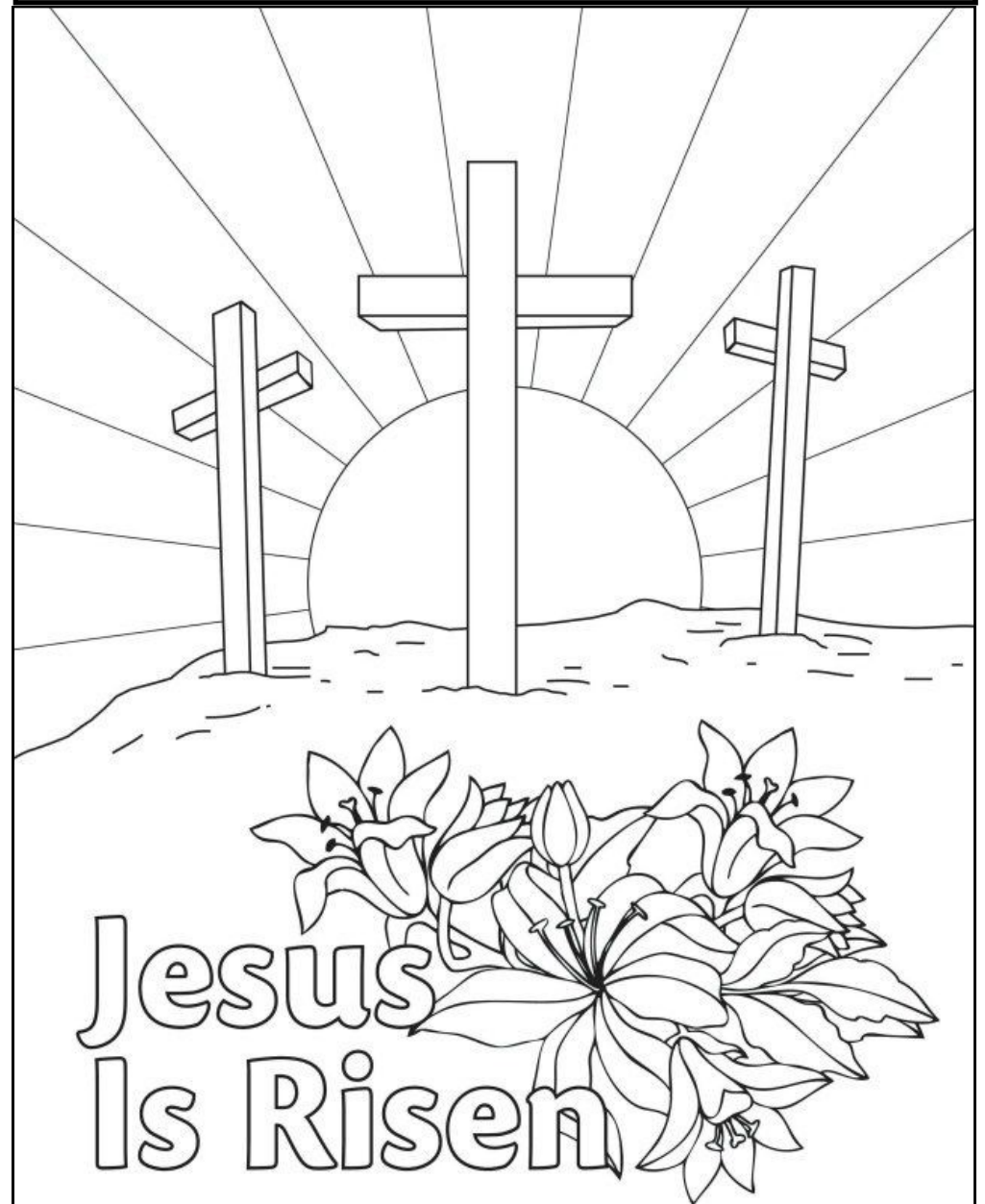
10:00am	Bell Street	Reflections on the Cross. Revd Denise Binks followed by CTS Walk of Witness
11:00am	Vale (S. Newton)	Good Friday Meditation. Revd Margaret Oxenham
11:00am	YMC in the Quedam	Good Friday Reflection. Revd Kate Konrad.
11:30am	Tisbury	Reflections on the Cross. Revd Denise Binks

Easter Sunday 31ST March

6:30am	Park Walk Shaftesbury	CTS Sunrise Service
10:00am	Marnhull	Easter Morning Holy Communion. Revd Lin Francis
10:30am	Bell Street	Resurrection Sunday Celebration. Holy Communion Revd Denise Binks
10:30am	Cheap Street	Easter Morning Holy Communion. Revd Margaret Ridgewell
10:30am	Motcombe	Easter Morning Service Revd Judy Turner-Smith
10:30am	Tisbury	Easter Morning Service Mrs Margaret Whitford
10:30am	Vale (S. Newton)	Resurrection Sunday Celebration Holy Communion Revd Margaret Oxenham
10:30am	Wincanton	Easter Morning Holy Communion. Revd Ruth Farrant
10:30am	YMC Chelston Ave	Easter Morning Holy Communion. Revd Kate Konrad
6:00pm	Vale (Kings Stag)	Easter Evening Holy Communion. Revd Denise Binks

FOR THE CHILDREN

(and the young at heart)



Christmas. Maybe you can work out what the numbers represent!

The evening service saw us move downtown to a bring and share tea and candlelit carol service. It was good to welcome so many from the community that support our coffee mornings, and to have them with us to show off our lovely sanctuary in the glowing light of candles, enjoying well known carols and readings. Kate resplendent in her cape of 'Light'! lit the Christ candle and as the story progressed so the others were lit from this main candle. We were reminded of how 'Love' came down at Christmas in the form of the Christ child. We all took 'Love' home with us in the shape of a small glass coloured 'L' to feel and marvel at when times are tough. These had been made with of course, what else but thought and love – Thank you.

Rev Judy led our Christmas Eve morning service of carols and Holy Communion with the Christingle Service taking place in the afternoon – coming full circle in the advent story of 'Christ the light of the world' shining in all four corners of the globe – through all seasons! A simple concept for children to learn and understand and a real reminder to us adults of why we celebrate this special season in our lives.

Rev Kate led the Christmas morning Service – it was good so many were able to come together on what is always a busy family time.

Later that week the community tea took place, a very happy get together for 70 people and a mayoral visit!

Our friend Dick Sinden led New Year's Eve act of worship in which he focused on The Three Kings (Wise Men, Maji, Astrologers) all these names can be likened to those men from the east, maybe Persians who have always been a big part of the Christmas story. So it was good to sing 'We three Kings from Orient Are' – not found in our hymn books, yet we've all sung it from childhood. I have it in an old News Chronical Carol Book. The tune is set by a J H Hopkins, perhaps it was inspired by the poem of Longfellow 'Three Kings Came Riding'. As Dick unravelled the story questioning its authenticity in so many ways - In Longfellow's poem he speaks of horses neighing as they entered the great inn-yard! So there may be someone reading this that can shed some light on the carol itself – its origins and why its not in the hymn book.

I write this on the eve of changing the calendar – none of us knows what is in store in the coming year, but as we travel from the old to the new there is someone travelling along with us and we must put our faith and trust in him to guide and strengthen us whatever lies ahead.

So, when you read this, spring will be with us all with all that this season brings us as the calendar moves on!

Thelma



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 with Longburton Chapel and Yetminster Methodist Church

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



By the time you read this Yetminster will have had its last Service and Longburton had the last Songs of Praise before Christmas.

So sadly these two chapels will be sold.

Rev Duncan Goldie moved out of the Sherborne manse this week to accommodation provided by the URC and we wish him God speed in adapting to his new life and new opportunities.

Churches Together on Feb 2nd are holding a Snowdrop Service taken by Rev Kate at Cheap Street for those recently and not so recently bereaved.

The Christmas Tree Festival was again a great success attracting many children and parents

The POD was very useful as a collecting point for the Shoebox Appeal and continues to have a steady flow of visitors

We have 3 new members on our Church Council which is encouraging.

The alternative worship service on a Monday evening continues so we wait to see how it develops.

And so to Easter and the year moves on.

Don

(See also report on final service at Yetminster on page 13)



POD PROGRESS Update to end December 2023

The Pod is pretty established in Sherborne now, as we approach our 3rd Birthday in April 2024. We have become very popular for many different reasons, and have been visited over 9000 times.

April 2021 to October 2023	No. of Visits	Bibles taken	Christian CD's & Books taken
YEAR 1	2693	48	135
YEAR 2	3406	218	121
First 6 months of YEAR 3	2171	139	175

November 2023 was a record month with 442 visits. (Over 40 sessions this averages 11 visits EVERY 2 hour session)

We have helped with fundraising for various charities. The Yeovil Breast Cancer Unit Appeal has especially benefitted as we have received donations of jewellery which have generated thousands of pounds at auction. As well as that we have taken £3137 for jewellery displayed in the window, which the hospital have thanked us for. Nearly £2000 was donated last year in 2023.

Recently we have raised £150 for Yeovil Freewheelers Bloodbikes through donations for soft toys, and £250 was able to be raised for the MacMillan Cancer Support charity through a cake sale held at the Pod. Also the 180 pots of Don's honey raised money for VYM! Maureen has her handmade cards at The Pod, fundraising for the Yeatman Hospital, and Janet's cards raised £277 for The Red Bus.

Last year we started getting donations of used white goods and TV's from Marsh's Electrical shop to pass on to those in need, via SHARES and The Rendezvous. This has been a useful link.

Local knitters have continued to bring in beautiful knitted items, totalling 3759 to date! These have been passed on to Hospital Baby Units, Dementia and Stroke Wards, orphanages overseas, The Women's Refuge, and some items went into the boxes for our Shoebox Appeal. The community loved joining in with this appeal again this year where the Pod was a drop off point and base for assembling many of the total 112 Shoeboxes that we sent off.

two minutes silence. It was soon time for the draw to take place and see the delight on faces when their number was called out! It was a very happy occasion and thanks must be given to all those involved in the preparation. £502 was raised for Church funds and Yeovil Breast Cancer Unit, plus £140 for the stall supporting 'Save the Children'.

Dick Sinden led us on Sunday in a thoughtful address remembering the loss of life in conflict not only in the two world wars, but so many in conflicts past and present. He also reminded us of those in our own town whose lives were cut short when the bomb intended for Westlands exploded over Vicarage Street, taking out the shelter at the back of the church where many were sheltering. This reminded me of my former years, growing up against the background of the bombed school room and the destruction inside until the rebuilding of the hall in the early 50's. We are thankful for those who went before in rebuilding our lovely church as we see it today. The children also had been busy learning of the relevance of the poppies and showed us many ways of remembering in things they had made.

With Advent Sunday looming there was a hive of activity in both our building, decorating, trees going up, those with craft making skills came into their own with some lovely handcrafts telling the Christmas story.

Rev. Kate led us in a challenging service - sorting the treasure from the trash in our lives. The youngsters had been busy making 'mud pies' we were encouraged to break open a pie to find 'treasure' - a glass bead to remind us that in any sort of rubbish in our own lives there is a little gem waiting to enhance not only ourselves but others.

Christmas Lunch followed and what a feast we were given, so a big thank you for all the hard work that went into a very colourful and enjoyable meal, not forgetting the mouth watering puddings! Well done to everyone. Well done too to our friend Beryl who we learnt had received the Mayor's Award for her work in the community.

Yeovil Music Centre have adopted the Quedam premises as their base and the Christmas Concert was well attended, enjoying festive music - the Community Choir leading us in the singing of favourite carols, a most enjoyable evening.

The third Sunday in Advent saw a hub of activity in both buildings. The children took over morning worship with Rev Kate standing in to plug any loopholes! A 'sketch' nativity which told the story of Festive Fred, who went to find the greatest gift! Falling asleep he had this dream of being a shepherd in the fields and so the Christmas story unfolded with the help of a few others including the congregation. Everyone entered into the spirit of how children can tell the story in their own way - to find the greatest gift - well done everyone. We also enjoyed the singing of the Twelve Days of Christmas, with the children holding up cards of the various items. We also learnt from Kate the alternative version a sort of secret code from the early

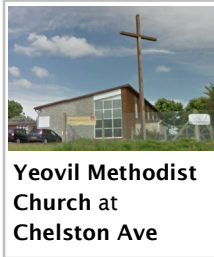


Yeovil Methodist Church

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

Greetings from Yeovil Methodist Church

How appropriate for November 5th Service, the theme of a much support Munch Bunch – ‘Light’, top of the list must surely be Christ – ‘The Light of the World’, without this light in our daily living we would struggle to cope with all that life throws at us. Light from the moon and stars, a simple tealight to remember loved ones. The lights that are given off as fireworks are set off into the night sky and the wonder of the Northern Lights that streak across the heavens from earth’s magnetic energy. There are many hymns that refer to light, the beauty of stained glass as light streams through them. We talk of light at the end of the ‘tunnel’ – a speck as the train speeds through can be seen at the end or when after a difficult time we see things more clearly. Then how many times do we hear ‘don’t hide your light under a bush!’ – God has given us all talents in many different ways and it’s left to us how and when to use them.



Yeovil Methodist Church at Chelston Ave

We acknowledged the Boy’s Brigade and Girl’s Association as they renewed their vows and we responded to support them and their leaders. We learnt 140 years were being marked across the country with various activities planned. Here in Yeovil a sleepover in the main hall at the Quedam took place and we saw via a video, all the games and tasks that were undertaken. We say thank you to all the leaders who give their time and support to those youngsters in laying a foundation for their lives ahead. We were also introduced to ‘Prayer Bear’ – this little bear is passed round the group at their meetings to encourage and help in prayer time. There was a blessing for the shoe boxes that had been sent off to distant lands – 14 in all – I’m sure when opened those boys and girls faces will ‘Light’ up at the surprises they will find.

November 11th – we woke to a bright, crisp, sunny autumnal morning, much to the relief of many across the land and especially those organising the fair at Chelston Avenue, coffee and cakes greeted us, with the tables laid out in the church and stalls in the adjacent room – looking for a good read, a puzzle or a gift – you were spoiled for choice. It was well supported and gave people an opportunity to mingle and chat with friends. A hush descended as 11am approached and we observed the

(Continued on page 15)

Yeovil Methodist Church in the Quedam



The knitters, like other visitors who bring their donations to the Pod, are so pleased to have a way of helping people, which the Pod provides. The knitters often express how “having someone to knit for” helps their well-being. Others are donating bottle-tops to fundraise for the Air Ambulance, used postage stamps for Weldmar Hospice (which we trim before passing on), used spectacles for Africa, and practical clothing, shoes, blankets and sleeping bags for refugees. These are picked up regularly by SHARES and taken to the distribution centre RAFT in Taunton.

But more than all of this, The Pod is a hub of physical, mental and spiritual support. We are often signposting people to activities and help on offer in our town, as well as having many deep conversations as visitors feel comfortable to do that in the Pod. 431 Christian Books have either been borrowed or found new homes, and 422 Bibles have been picked up at The Pod! Some visitors have also come to us specifically to ask for prayer.

We have made 15 referrals to the Foodbank and our emergency Food Cupboard has been used 62 times. Very soon we will have a Community Fridge in The Pod, which will be managed by Sherborne Town Council, and this is for use of anyone, not just those in need, as the whole idea of it is to lessen food waste. We are perfectly placed in the heart of our town for people to pop in!

We are now thinking about how we can offer more support, deepening relationships, and Kate is planning to run the HOPE Well-Being Course in the Church Hall after Easter, which we could direct people to.

The Pod Volunteers are really fantastic and love being part of this project. There are 22 at the moment, but we welcome more to join the team! Half are from Cheap Street Church and half from other churches, with 2 non churchgoers who are very community minded! We all came together recently to meet each other and discuss how the Pod is getting on, sharing ideas for the way forward. We will be meeting again, together with the Pod Management Team, in February.

I really feel thankful to God for the blessings of this project. Everyone involved, together with the local community, and visitors from other places, have contributed to create something wonderful, and blessed each other in many ways!

At the start we also had the financial blessing of £5000 from an anonymous donor. As we have spent much of that now, we will be needing to fundraise for the project’s continuation, our main expense being the electricity bill!

Thank you so much to everyone who is, or has been, part of The Pod, for all your prayers and amazing support!

Lynn Heaton



Gillingham Methodist Church

Gillingham Community Cinema:
www.filmatgmc.org.uk



Sadly this will be the very last report from Gillingham Methodist Church, but we did not go quietly.

Our final congregational worship service took place on the morning of 10th December 2023 with Holy Communion led by Rev Lin Francis. We were joined on this occasion by members of Motcombe Methodist Church who had been planning a local fellowship service until Rev Lin invited them to join us on this most significant Sunday for our Church. The congregation numbered 48, more than double our normal attendance even on a good Sunday, and this was reflected in the vastly increased volume of the hymn singing. The companionship and support of so many made what might have been a somewhat subdued occasion all the more enjoyable despite it being our last service.

This was followed in the afternoon by a Circuit service of thanksgiving for the life and service of Gillingham Methodist Church. This was very well attended by members of other Churches around the Circuit and by a large number of old friends and former Gillingham members. Again, the volume and quality of the singing made the service all the more enjoyable. The service was followed by refreshments and reminiscing in the Church Hall in the finest Methodist tradition.

Our very last act as a congregation was to host our annual Carols By Candlelight service on 14th December 2023. This was an open invitation to all and was very well attended indeed with even the gallery being brought into use (hopefully those making the effort to climb the stairs did not find it too dusty). On this occasion, the strength of the singing encouraged our organist Gordon Amery to let rip with the full power of our Sweetland Organ creating a truly awe-inspiring sound. Again, in true Methodist spirit, the service was rounded off by serving hot drinks and mince pies all round. It was Christmas after all.

PS. On an inspection walk round the following day, we were relieved not to find any tiles brought down by the previous evening's event. In addition, the collection and donations for refreshments meant that we were able to send £346.15 to Action for Children.

Phil Butler



Tisbury Methodist Church

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



Wincanton Methodist Church

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



Yetminster Methodist Church

The final service at Yetminster took place on Sunday 21st January in the 175th year of the Chapel and in the week of prayer for Christian Unity. Rev'd Kate Konrad conducted the service. Members of the congregation chose the hymns, hymns probably being traditionally the most significant part of a Methodist service! Between the congregations hymns of adoration, lament, looking forward and celebration were chosen. Scripture was a key feature of the service with readings from Lamentations, Ephesians and John. The history of chapel was again celebrated as it had been at its 150th anniversary using the booklet prepared by Cliff xxx.

Rev'd Ruth Farrant spoke and her message along with Kate's blended together to acknowledge the loss, it is a terribly sad day when any chapel closes and we have lost a significant number in recent years but also to acknowledge that the church isn't the building but the people. Each and every member of the church is the temple of the Holy Spirit where God dwells and He journeys with us into the future.

In the week of Christian Unity it was the Anglican Church attended in large numbers and it is in St Andrews that most of the congregation it is hoped will find their new place of corporate worship. In attendance to were several local preachers who have given it time and preached the word including Dennis Tackley. The Anglican Church in the area is hoping to start a more non conformist service with a focus on hymnody for want of a better phrase a hymn sandwich on the fourth Sunday of the month and Y&BV local preachers meeting will be asked if they would like to help with that. Can we demonstrate that once a Methodist building closes we don't leave an area but continue to work with other Christians in the area to build the Kingdom of God. I do hope so.

Kate

Motcombe Methodist Church



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

2024 began with our **Covenant Service** when we were joined by members of St Mary's Church. On January 28th we worshipped at St. Mary's Church for **Christian Unity Service**. We have also welcomed a number of people from Gillingham Methodist Church.

68 boxes were filled for the **Shoe Box appeal** – a record! Thank you to everyone who took part in the workshop to fill the boxes and to those who donated on line .

Bible Studies are continuing this term when we are studying Peter.

Little Sunbeams. Numbers are nearly at their maximum now as this group continues to flourish under the direction of Sarah and Margaret – Thank you!

Our **coffee morning** in January was held in aid of the Village Magazine. £115.15 was raised.

Lunch Club Still very active and providing food and support to older villagers.

Ladies' Fellowship In January Kate read a selection of 'love' poems. A very enjoyable afternoon!

In February we will be preparing the World Day of Prayer service. This year it will be held on March 1st at 2.30pm in St Mary's church.

Future Events

250 Anniversary Celebrations

June 22nd Coach trip to Sidmouth.

June 23rd Service led by Revd. Rachel Borgars (assistant Chair of Southampton District)

June 23rd 3pm Memories and Cream Tea + Exhibition of Archives.

Stella

9 This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him.

10 This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.

1 John 4: 9-10



Marnhull Methodist Chapel

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

Although a little late - A Happy New Year to you all from Marnhull

Although a few months ago now (in October) we welcomed Freya into our church family as she was Christened by Lin. This was a joint service with the Girls Brigade members who were renewing there promise and membership for another year. Freya's mother and aunt had both been GB members when they were younger – I believe in the Christchurch area.

We followed the Advent Liturgy while lighting the candles in the advent ring and also celebrated our Church Anniversary at the beginning of December.

Our Candlelit Carol Service took place on 20th December with an offering for the work of the Salvation Army. The story of the nativity was told in a slightly different way – by verse read by members of our fellowship including Freya's father and a member of the Girls Brigade. We thank Phil Butler for once again coming and projecting the words on the screen.

Lin led our Christmas Day service with the offering going to Action for Children.

Our Covenant Service was led by the Revd Gwyneth Owen due to Lin being unwell and we were joined by the Rector and friends from the parish church.

Three of our fellowship have moved recently to be nearer family. John to Sherborne where he has joined Cheap Street, Barbara to Sussex and Jane to Scotland. Audrey has spent time in hospital and is now in Nazareth Lodge, Sturminster Newton. Our prayers are with them all.

Sally

Bethlehem was God with
us, Calvary was God for us,
and Pentecost is God in us.

Robert Baer

qualelany

OPEN INVITATION TO ALL TO TAKE PART IN 'TORN CURTAIN'

A CHRISTIAN MUSICAL BY ROGER JONES

SATURDAY 27TH APRIL 2024

To be performed at Yeovil Methodist Church, Chelston Avenue at 6:30pm after learning it from scratch during the day

SINGERS- Registration at 9:45 to start 'note bashing' at 10am

Midday meal provided at a cost of £5
Bring your own packed tea

AUDIENCE- Entry free but there will be a retiring collection
Join us for tea and drinks at 5:30pm

6:30pm PERFORMANCE
Come and support the performers

If you are interested in coming to sing, please contact Kate Killick (01935 472702) by 31st March- to give time for me time to order your musical score- price £8

There will be a 'taster' session on Sunday 3rd March 3pm at YMC Chelston Avenue for anyone who is interested in taking part to listen to some of the musical

PURPLE HARMONY CHOIR AT YMC CHELSTON AV

We are a small group of singers now, especially since Covid but we still enjoy our meetings every two weeks (alternating with Youth Club). We have such a variety of music to choose from which has built up from when we started in 2001.

We are hosting a 'Musical in a day' on Saturday 27th April 2024 where singers can come and learn 'Torn Curtain', a Christian musical written by Roger Jones, during the day which will then be performed at 6:30pm. This was originally planned for 2020 but of course was postponed due to Covid. (See opposite poster for more information)

There will be a taster session on Sunday 3rd March 3pm at Yeovil Methodist Church, Chelston Avenue for anyone who is interested in taking part to listen to some of the musical.



Vale Methodist Church
Incorporating the chapels at
Sturminster Newton and Kings Stag
<http://yeovilblackmorevalemc.org.uk/our-churches>



Photos taken at the Winter Wonderland held at Sturminster Newton between 18th and 23rd December.



Top Left — Anne's Christmas Sleep

Top Right — Christmas Outside

Left — House Ready for Christmas.

Jesus said to her,
“I am the resurrection
and the life. Whoever
believes in me,
though he die, yet
shall he live,

John 11:25



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