

Deadline for March to May 2025 edition

Tuesday 21 January 2025

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 07423 837504



yandbvcircuit@gmail.com

www.yeovilblackmorevalemc.org.uk



Circuit Magazine

Including

ircuit Plan

Issue 42

December 2024 to February 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

I wish you all a very Blessed and Peaceful Christmas and best wishes for 2025

Circuit Office will be closed from 1pm on Thursday 19th December until 9am on Thursday 2nd January.



DATE FOR YOUR DIARY:

Circuit Meeting — Wednesday 11 December—7pm on Zoom Wednesday 19 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 21st January 2025** 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.

Minister: Revd Kate Konrad—01935 415837

<u>Supernumerary Ministers</u>: Revd Ruth Farrant; * Revd Christina Le Moignan; Revd Margaret Oxenham; Revd Judy Turner-Smith; *Revd Catherine Campbell-Hyde; Revd

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Soon Cheol Choi (* before the name indicates 'not active')











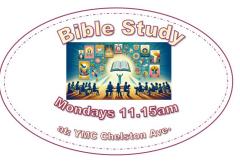


What's happening around the Circuit

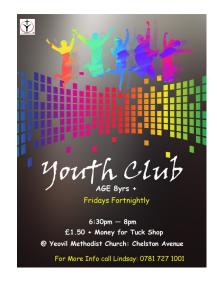












From The Revd Lin Francis

December 2024

Dear Friends,

A time for Everything

An elderly gentleman told me this week (October 23rd) that he has mince pies on his shopping list. He absolutely loves mince pies and is really sad when the shops stop selling them very early in January.

The words in Ecclesiastes tell us that there is a time for everything and in chapter 3 we read of the opposites of everything e.g. 'a time to be born and a time to die' to me at this time of year there is a time for every season and each one should be celebrated at the right time. So let's look at the important events that are coming up during the end of this current plan and then the December, January and February plan.



Light parties – Jesus is the light of the world. Many churches offer a Light Party as an alternative celebration to Halloween. An opportunity to have fun, games and crafts which highlight that Jesus is special and enable children to find out a little

about him and start a journey of faith. Out of the darkness there is light, do not be afraid of the dark, Jesus is the light of the world.

Remembrance Sunday - Remembrance Sunday is a national opportunity to remember the service and sacrifice of all those that have defended our freedoms and protected our way of life. In our churches we remember too. We also use scripture to relate to how Christ gave his life for us too. Remember the freedom we have and the opportunities we have with Jesus's guidance.



Advent – this is the starting of our ecclesiastical year it is the season which means 'coming' or 'arrival'. The hymns and readings tell us about waiting for the 'first coming' of the birth of Jesus and also the waiting of his 'second coming' to put all thigs right in the end. So often we pile in lots of

Christmas services during Advent and don't pay enough attention the real point of the Advent season. Tom Wright in his book 'Advent for everyone'

(Continued on page 4)

says: we go round the circuit: Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Holy Week and Good Friday, Easter and Pentecost and sum it all up on Trinity Sunday.'.. 'The real point is that we are signing on as part of God's larger project, God's forward purposes, his plans for the whole creation to be renewed so that the earth will be full of the knowledge and glory of the Lord.'



Christmas - we celebrate God himself becoming human. A frail baby in a cold manger takes his first breaths on this earth. Reflect on angels, parents, shepherds, Christ as Light of the World and the love, peace, hope and joy of this special time of year.



Epiphany – On 6 January we celebrate the appearance of Christ to the Gentiles as represented by the Magi (Matthew 2:1-12). So often we add the visit of the Magi to Jesus as a baby at Christmas. This isn't right. We do ourselves and our children an injustice when

do this. This event was the first event when Jesus was linked to the Gentiles and it gives us a taster of his ministry to Jew AND Gentile.

There are more special Sundays One World Week, Covenant Sunday, Candlemas, Racial Justice Sunday and all of these lead us through to Lent. They all have their place in our Church Year as Ecclesiastes tells us. I urge us all to focus on each at the right point in time and not just skip to Christmas. and the razmataz of the material world.

To my elderly gentleman - enjoy your mince pies, but please wait until Advent! .As we live in these challenging times this Christmas, let us all ACCEPT THE GOOD NEWS. REJOICE IN THE BIRTH OF OUR LORD. GIVE GLORY TO HIS NAME.

HAPPY CHRISTMAS. HAPPY NEW YEAR.

With love and prayers,

Lín

As we celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ, may you know peace, love and light. Merry Christmas!





FOR THE CHILDREN

(and the young at heart)



Joy to the World

DIRECTIONS: Find and circle the vocabulary words in the grid. Look for them in all directions including backwards and diagonally.





ADVENT	INFANT	MYRRH		
ANGEL	JESUS	NATIVITY		
BETHLEHEM	JOSEPH	REJOICE		
BIRTH	MAGI	STABLE		
BLESSINGS	MANGER	STAR		
CAMELS	MARY	THREE KINGS		
FRANKINCENSE	MIRACLE	WISE MEN		

Christmas Services

Tuesday 3 December

Cheap Street - Christingle with Daniel England, Brownies and Guides - 6.15pm

Saturday 7 December

Cheap Street - Sherborne Churches Together Carol Service to conclude the Christmas Tree Festival - 5pm - Rev'd Rebecca McDonald

Friday 13 December

Yeovil at the Quedam - Churches Together Carols - 6:30-8pm

Sunday 15 December

Yeovil at Chelston Ave - Nativity - 10:30am - Rev Kate Konrad

Monday 16 - Friday 20 December

Vale, Sturminster Newton 'Light Up the Candles with Carols' 10am-2pm. Large displays of carols etc.

Wednesday 18 December

Marnhull - Candlelight Carol Service at 5pm - Rev Lin Francis (Tea 4pm)

Thursday 19 December

Vale, Sturminster Newton - Carol Service with candles at 5pm

Saturday 21 December

Yeovil at Chelston Ave - Messy Church - 10am Vale, Kings Stag - Carols Service - 4pm - Rev Lin Francis

Cheap Street - Carols Traditional and Modern - 4pm - Rev Kate Konrad.

Sunday 22 December

Yeovil at Chelston Ave - Community Carol Service - 4pm - Rev Kate Konrad

Christmas Eve - Tuesday 24 December

Yeovil at Chelston Ave - Christingle 4pm - Rev Kate Konrad Cheap Street - Christmas Communion - 7pm - Rev Lin Francis Yeovil at Chelston Ave - Christmas Eve Communion - 11:15pm - Rev Kate Konrad

Christmas Day

Marnhull - 10am - Rev Lin Francis Vale, Sturminster Newton - 10:00am - Rev Margaret Oxenham Yeovil at Chelston Ave - 10am - Rev Kate Konrad Cheap Street - Worship for Christmas Day - 11:00am - Rev Kate Konrad



During 2023, one third of the kitchen fires attended by Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service (DWFRS) were in the homes of people aged over 65 and living alone. To combat this alarming statistic, DWFRS is launching a new safety campaign, with a focus on preventing cooking-related incidents and making residents safer at home.

'Cook with Care' has four key themes to help reduce kitchen fires:

Prepare - Before you start cooking, create a clear space to prepare your meals safely. Keep tea towels and cloths away from the cooker and hob, and take care if you're wearing loose clothing.

Prevent - Never put anything other than pots and pans on your cooker hob; even after you've finished cooking, the hob

Cook
with
Care

If you are over 65 and live
alone, you are more likely
to have a cooking fire.

PASSIONATE ABOUT
CHANGING & SAVING LIVES

will remain hot for some time. Never put anything metal into the microwave. Saucepan handles left sticking out create a danger; there's a risk they could be caught, leading to the pans being knocked off the hob.

Focus - Don't leave cooking unattended. Avoid cooking if you are tired, have been drinking alcohol or are taking medication that leaves you drowsy.

Stay Safe - Keep the oven, hob and grill clean as a build-up of fat or grease can catch fire when hot. Switch off the oven and/or hob when you have finished cooking and take pans off the heat.

It's vital that we do all we can to protect our communities, especially those people who are perhaps more vulnerable because of their age or where they live. By highlighting some of the potential dangers in the kitchen, DWFRS hope to encourage safer cooking behaviours amongst those most at risk.

There is more information on the DWFRS website about safety in the home, www.dwfire.org.uk/safety-at-home and anyone with an older friend or relative who lives alone is asked to share this advice with them.

If you are concerned for someone's safety, you can contact the DWFRS Safe & Well team - call 0800 038 2323 or visit www.dwfire.org.uk/safe-and-well-visits



Yeovil **Methodist** Church

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

Y.M.C. Harvest '24 proved to be an interesting productive and challenging weekend!

On the Saturday evening we came together to enjoy a lovely meal of jacket potato with various fillings and salads, followed by a wide selection of pudds! So a big thank you to all who had a hand in this.

Then the main event of the evening THE QUIZ! Not an individual one as you might expect, but working together on each table with various objects, pictures and questions to work out in a given time, then we all moved on to another table and a new set of questions! I think we all Yeovil Methodist learnt guite a lot—it was good to have fun and enjoyment together. Well over £200 was raised. The harvest service on Chelston Avenue



Church at

Sunday was led by Rev Kate. A large array of tins, boxes and packets were brought up to the front for the Lord's Larder—a total of 174 items, which

Yeovil Methodist Church in the Ouedam



I'm sure will be most appreciated by the team who make up he bags and boxes for those in need of this provisional support. Kate's theme was 'Charity begins at Home' compiled by the Methodist team of 'All we Can'- to support their partners in various countries—such as Liberia, dealing with poverty, poor education, lack of training—to find a way of encouraging these people to find a better future for themselves.

We enjoyed traditional and new harvest hymns. Fellowship

continued with a welcome drink and chat.

The uniformed organisations have held their special service and there has been a Celebration Service of the Vine Youth Ministry which was followed by a BBBQ!

The children's alternative to Halloween focusing on LIGHT will also be taking place.

'So Let your Light Shine' Thelma





Cheap Street Church

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

Greetings from Cheap Street Church to you all as we settle into the new normal of our smaller Church Circuit.

However, as Lin explained, on the day to day matters and how we worship God ourselves, it makes little difference. Here at Cheap Street it has been business as normal this autumn with church life springing back into action after the summer.

Almost the first event of September was the evening visit of The Princess Royal, in her capacity of patron of Save the Children Uk, to a concert in church. The evening was organised by Anne Dearle, a long standing member of our congregation, to celebrate 30 years of support from the Cambridge Choral Scholars. The build up to the event was exciting, with visits from the security team and the sniffer dogs, who investigated every crevice of the church and the Rendezvous downstairs. No doubt a few spiders were disturbed! The Gentlemen of St. John's and the Schola Cantorum of Leweston School sang to a packed church and raised over £11,000 for Save the Children. This was the final concert to be organised



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by Anne, who was awarded the British Empire Medal for her charity work in 2021, and she thanked the church for all their support over the years. What a way to finish!

As if that wasn't enough excitement for one weekend, the following day was the wedding of Robin to Julie from our congregation. A beautiful occasion, heralded at the concert the evening before by a spirited rendition of a verse of I'm Getting Married in the Morning! We wish Robin and Julie every happiness together.

September continued with our traditional harvest service, led by our minister Kate, with our offerings going to the Sherborne Food Bank. The church looked beautiful, decorated with bouquets of flowers from our gardens, skilfully arranged by a group of ladies from the church. We were lucky enough to have the worship band there to play for us and we raised our voices in praise and thanks for His bounty.

Caroline Wolffsohn



This circuit, is really blessed to have a well-established and successful Christian outreach for girls in Marnhull. For over 30 years Girl's Brigade has been on a mission to support girls and young women in their life and faith, as part of the Marnhull church family. The Girls' Brigade is an International Uniformed organisation with a firm

commitment for local groups impacting local communities - your community! The Marnhull group is here to benefit all churches in the area and works strongly with other local GB groups across Somerset and Dorset.

We all know the importance of sharing the love of Jesus with young lives and their families - offering them a stability and foundation of strength, for all that life throws at them. Girls' Brigade's aim is to help Girls to become followers of the Lord Jesus Christ and through self-control, reverence, and sense of responsibility, to find true enrichment of life. That may sound rather formal, and it probably is... but who doesn't want the young people in their lives and within their local area to know the awesomeness of God:

(Continued on page 12)



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





the difference between right and wrong; the knowledge and desire to choose what's good in the eyes of God and the importance of thinking about those around them as



well as themselves? We know, that doing life with Christ at the centre, is an enriched life... however hard our circumstances.

It is a privilege as church to be able to introduce this life to our families. At GB, girls can have fun with friends whilst picking up some of those great lessons in life... how to be a good friend; how to care about family, the countryside, our pets; How to be thankful, faithful, helpful, healthy and creative.... How to forgive, share, encourage and be courageous! Learning to lead, to be money wise and streetwise – all by focusing on the stories of Jesus, learning from different characters in the Bible and through God's all-encompassing narrative. With GB, girls have a friendship base that transcends school, age and backgrounds. Girls are encouraged to be open, to share and to grow in confidence... it is a safe place.

We want to secure the work of God for girls in this part of Dorset for the future, and therefore have two ways you can help us. Would you pray for us, and for all work with young people in the circuit, and will you spread the word, by telling people about your local GB group in Marnhull. We have girls join us from many towns and villages, from 4 years old to 18, and some stay involved with GB right into adulthood. If you have children, grandchildren, neighbours, friends, church families or contacts who live in the area and might come and have fun... earning badges through games, crafts, stories and discussions, then do tell them about us. Encourage them to send me a message on WhatsApp or Messenger I can send them our photoflyer or answer questions. Let's bring Jesus to them and show our communities what God's church can do.

Thank you as ever, Rachael 07771897262

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. <u>Isaiah 9:6</u>



Marnhull Methodist Chapel

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

The year seems to go very quickly and the shops are already full of Christmas decorations, cards etc. and before we celebrate the birth of Jesus the shops will be

taking these items down and bringing in items for Valentines Day, Mothering Sunday and Easter.

However we have celebrated the harvest with thanksgiving when we were delighted to welcome the Revd Gwyneth Owen to lead our service and join us for lunch. Our gifts were taken to the Vale Pantry in Sturminster Newton.

A quiz evening was held in September when we had a full house with teams of four with ages ranging from 12years to 90 plus. One team was in the lead until the very last round when a team comprising members from our fellowship and friends from the village did very well and leapt to the top. A finger buffet supper was enjoyed and £262 raised.

We also joined our Girls Brigade members at their Enrolment Service with the theme "Following Jesus". We joined the girls in singing "I will make you fishers of men" which most remembered from their Sunday School days. After the service we were able to help with GB funds nationally by buying fridge magnets (beautiful fish), quiz sheets and popcorn. £100 was raised with half going to headquarters and half staying with the company.

Looking forward to December there will be a United Advent Service at St. Gregory's Church on Sunday 1st December at 4pm. This Sunday is also our 125th Church Anniversary. Our Carol Service is on Wednesday 18th December at 5pm preceded by refreshments at 4pm. Christmas Day Service and even further ahead a United Covenant Service on 12th January.

Not too soon I hope to wish you all a Peacefull and Happy Christmas and New Year.

Sally (Williams)

CIRCUIT PREACHING PLAN DECEMBER 2024—FEBRUARY 2025

YEOVIL & BLACKMORE		DECEMBER						JANUARY					FEBRU	UARY	
		1	8	15	22	25	29	5	12	19	26	2	9	16	23
PREACHI PLAN 202	NG	Advent Sunday	2 nd Sunday of Advent	3™ Sunday of Advent	4th Sunday of Advent	Christmas Day	1 st Sunday of Christmas	2 nd Sunday of Christmas	Sunday after Epiphany	2 nd Sunday in Ordinary Time	3 rd Sunday in Ordinary Time	4th Sunday in Ordinary Time	5th Sunday in Ordinary Time	6th Sunday in Ordinary Time	7th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Lectiona Related Prir Service Year C	cipal s	Jer. 33:14-16 Psalm 25: 1-10 1 Thes. 3: 9-13 Luke 21: 25-36	Malachi 3: 1-4 Benedictus (Luke 1: 68-79) Phil. 1: 3-11 Luke 3: 1-6	Zeph. 3: 14–20 lusish 12: 2-6 Phil 4: 4-7 Luke 3: 7-18	Micah 5: 2-5a Magnificat (Luke 1:46b-55) or Ps. 80: 1-7 Heb. 10: 5-10 Luke 1: 39-45 (46-55)	Isalah 52: 7-10 Psalm 98 Hebrews 1: 1-4 (5-12) John 1: 1-14	1 Samuel 2: 18- 20, 26 Pusim 148 Col 3: 12-17 Luke 2: 41-52	Isaiah 60: 1-6 Pualm 72: 1-7, 10-14 Eph 3: 1-12 Matt 2: 1-12	Covenant = see below OR lusish 43: 1-7 Pusim 29 Acts 8: 14-17 Luke 3: 15-17, 21-22	Isaiah 62: 1-5 Psaim 36: 5-10 1 Cor 12: 1-11 John 2: 1-11	Nehemiah 8: 1- 1, 5-6, 8-10 Pualm 19 1 Corinthians 12: 12-31s Luke 4: 14-21	Jer. 1: 4-10 Pualm 71: 1-6 1 Cor 13: 1-13 Luke 4: 21-30	Islah 6: 1-8 (9- 13) Pusim 138 1 Cor 15: 1-11 Luke 5: 1-11	Jer 17:5-10 Pualm 1 1 Cor 15:12-20 Luke 6:17-26	Gen 45:3- 11,15 Puslm 37:1-11, 39-40 1 Cor 15:35- 38, 42-50 Luke 5:27-38
Cheap Street Church 4: Sherborne (81)	10:30	England	Konrad HC	Clark	Konrad	11am Konrad	Farquharson	De Gruchy	Konrad HC	C Farrant	Konrad	R Farrant	Konrad HC	Bullock	Konrad
	4:00								Together in						
								3011	- Juliusuy	10 3011001 9,					
	6:30		Taizé						Taizé				Taizé		
Marnhull (17)	10:00	Francis CA	R Farrant HC	Choi	De Gruchy	10:00 am Francis		A Turner- Smith	Francis Cov - US with Anglicans	R Farrant	J Turner- Smith	C Farrant	Francis HC	Farquharson	De Gruchy
Vale (Sturminster	10.30 SN	A Turner- Smith	Francis HC	J Turner- Smith	Francis CS	10:00am Oxenham		Francis	Oxenham Cov - US with Anglicans	Choi	Bullock	Francis HC	A Turner- Smith	Way	J Turner- Smith
Newton & Kings Stag) (16)	6:00 KS		Francis HC						Francis Cov		Konrad		Francis HC		Konrad
Yeovil Methodist Church Chelston Ave	10:30	Konrad MB	C Farrant	Konrad Nativity	J Turner- Smith HC	10am Konrad	LFS	Konrad MB	England	Konrad Cov	Francis	Konrad MB	England	Choi HC	Francis
	Tueso	lay at Yeovi	l Methodist		ne Quedam,	Vicarage St	reet, Yeovil								
YMC in the Quedam		3	10	17	24		31	7	14	21	28	4	11	18	25
	11:00	A Turner- Smith	R Farrant	J Turner- Smith				A Turner- Smith	Way	Choi	J Turner- Smith	Konrad	A Turner- Smith	Way	J Turner- Smith

Membership numbers in brackets as of 1.11.23

References: CA Church Anniversary; Cov - Covenant Service; CS - Carol Service; HC - Holy Communion; MB - Munch Bunch; SoP - Songs of Praise; US - United Service