

Upper Thames Methodist Circuit 7/23

Bristol District



May Newsletter 2017

This month's opening letter has been written by Mrs Carolyn Harmer, Circuit Administrator

Dear Friends

Many of you may remember me as a participant in the Roger Jones musicals 'The Witness' and 'The Spirit' performed at Bath Road Methodist Church in Swindon in 1985 and 1986, or you will more likely remember my husband who sang the part of Peter. I have been a member at Stratton Methodist Church for over 30 years and after being at home with our 5 sons, I have most recently worked as an Exams Officer organising and running GCSE exams. In October I felt the calling to apply for the post of Circuit Administrator and started working here in January. I feel most privileged to be able to serve you in this way.

On Good Friday, when I remember Jesus on the cross, I always think of his mother, Mary, and how she must have felt as she saw her son hanging there. As a mother of 5 sons, I cannot begin to imagine the pain that she must have felt. Our fourth son is just about to leave home, the last to leave, and I feel extremely sad. However, I am reminded of Mary at this time and the obedience and strength that she showed throughout Jesus' life.

Now, in between the days of the Resurrection and Pentecost, we remember the times when Jesus returned to the disciples and gave them hope. He reminded them of their mission and re-ignited their hope for eternal life. As I help Matthew to prepare for leaving home, I must look ahead to the future, to the next chapter of our lives.

I would like to end by sharing a prayer that I have found which comes from the New St Joseph People's Prayer Book.

Lord, the resurrection of Your Son has given us new life and renewed hope.
Help us to live as new people in pursuit of the Christian ideal.
Grant us wisdom to know what we must do, the will to want to do it,
The courage to undertake it, the perseverance to continue to do it,
and the strength to complete it.

I look forward to working with you all and meeting more of you over the coming months.

Yours in His service

Carolyn

NB Deadline for items for the June Newsletter is Wednesday 24th May

District News

You are all invited to apply for tickets to attend the Rededication/Thanksgiving Service at the New Room on Friday June 9th at 2pm. This will mark the opening of the Horsefair Project – the New Room's new visitor centre. Please see attached leaflet for further information.

Rededication Service

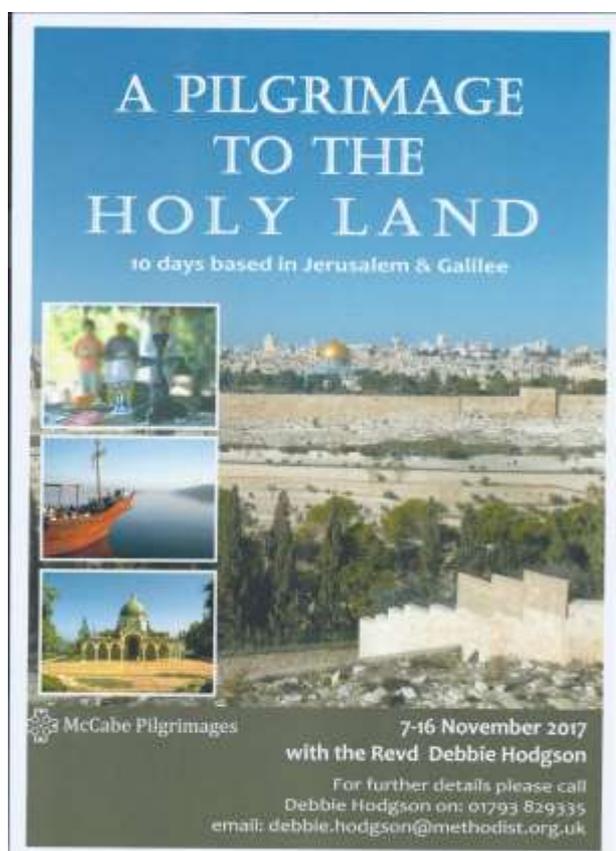
of the
Horsefair Project on
Friday 9th June 2017 at 2.00pm

Pre-booked tours of the new facilities will be available and light refreshments will be served.

Tickets available on a first come first served basis from The New Room or
admin@newroombristol.org.uk

Holy Land Pilgrimage – message from North Wilts

Debbie Hodgson has a few spaces left on her pilgrimage to The Holy Land in November. It is a fully inclusive 10 day pilgrimage visiting sites in Jerusalem and the Galilee. Please see attached poster and for more information contact her direct.



Circuit News/Events

Thy Kingdom Come



Thy Kingdom Come – 25th May to 4th June 2017

Join the global wave of prayer: Praying that people come to know Jesus Christ.

The Archbishop of Canterbury is inviting people around the world to join the movement, and The Methodist Church has become a partner in the initiative. The World Methodist Council is also encouraging Methodists across the world to take part.

The aim of Thy Kingdom Come is that Christians pray that people might know Jesus Christ during a focused time between Ascension and Pentecost 25th May – 4th June 2017.

The hope is that:

- People will commit to pray with God’s world-wide family – as a church, individually or as a family
- Churches will hold prayer events, such as 24-7 prayer, prayer stations and prayer walks, across the UK and in other parts of the world
- People will be transformed through prayer by the Holy Spirit, finding new confidence to be witnesses for Jesus Christ



Thy Kingdom Come – 10 days of prayer

The following days/sessions of prayer have been agreed across the circuit. If your church or prayer group would like to add an extra session, please let us know at the Circuit Office and we will circulate the details.

Date	Morning	Afternoon	Evening
Thursday 25th May		Cricklade United Church	Shrivenham 7pm Prayer
Friday 26th May			
Saturday 27th May	Shrivenham 8.30am Prayer St Mary’s CE Cheney Manor 7.45-8.45am		
Sunday 28th May		Prayers at Lydiard Tregoze	Service at Lydiard
Monday 29th May			
Tuesday 30th May			
Wednesday 31st May	Royal Wootton Bassett Highworth 6am -	Royal Wootton Bassett Highworth	Royal Wootton Bassett Highworth – till 9pm
Thursday 1st June			Shrivenham 7pm Prayer
Friday 2nd June			
Saturday 3rd June	Shrivenham 8.30am Prayer		
Sunday 4th June			

Circuit Services

Sunday May 28th As a circuit, we have been invited to join with the West Swindon and Lydiard Tregoze Partnership for a picnic in Lydiard Park. An open air service will take place in the Walled Garden at 5.00pm. This was decided after the plan had been made so some churches may choose to continue with their evening service.

Gospel Choir

There has been very positive feedback from those who attended the workshop in February. There is now a weekly rehearsal opportunity on Wednesdays 7.30pm at Eastcott Studios, Eastcott Hill, Old Town, Swindon. This is open to anyone who would like to come and join in.

What has been hugely encouraging is the number of people from no particular church background who have come forward.

Please pray for them in particular, but also for some more musicians.

Bible Month

At the last Circuit Meeting it was agreed to set aside the month of June 2017 for the study of James. Material is available on the Methodist Church website www.methodist.org.uk/prayer-and-worship/bible-month

See flyer attached to advertise in your churches.



Upper Thames Methodist Circuit

BIBLE MONTH 2017

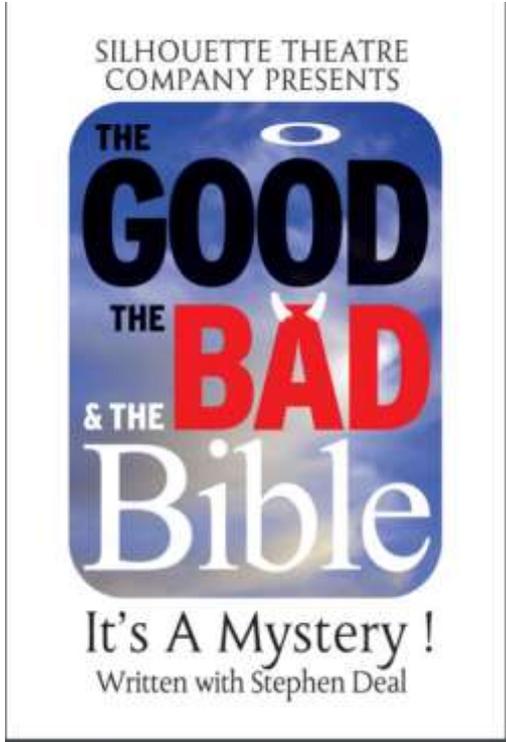
30 days with James

— #BibleMonth —



Join a concerted study in our churches over 30 days:
Sunday 11th June
to **Sunday 2nd July**

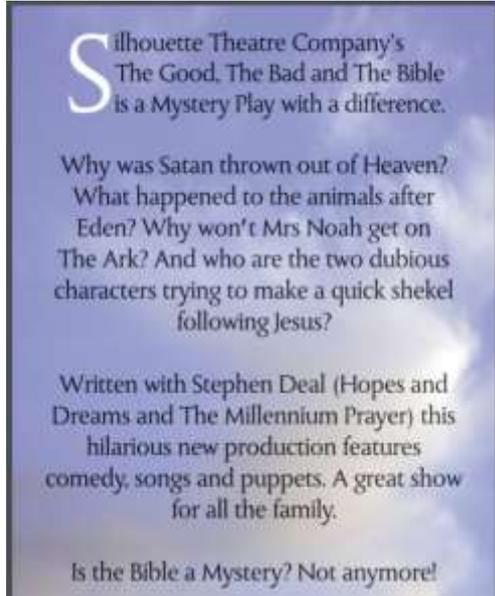
Silhouette Theatre Company – save the date!



SILHOUETTE THEATRE COMPANY PRESENTS

THE GOOD & THE BAD Bible

It's A Mystery!
Written with Stephen Deal



Silhouette Theatre Company's
The Good, The Bad and The Bible
is a Mystery Play with a difference.

Why was Satan thrown out of Heaven?
What happened to the animals after
Eden? Why won't Mrs Noah get on
The Ark? And who are the two dubious
characters trying to make a quick shekel
following Jesus?

Written with Stephen Deal (Hopes and
Dreams and The Millennium Prayer) this
hilarious new production features
comedy, songs and puppets. A great show
for all the family.

Is the Bible a Mystery? Not anymore!

Save the date! The Good the Bad and The Bible is coming to St. Alban's Watchfield
On **Friday 19th May at 7pm**. Tickets are £5 for adults; thanks to a generous donation from the
Methodist Forces Board young people go free! The play is aimed at adults and children aged 10+.

This is the same company who performed 'A twist in the tale' at Highworth at Christmas.

For more information or posters to advertise the event. Please contact: Emily Young
e: fwstalbans@gmail.com t: 07422 972943.

Church News

Highworth Methodist Church

Saturday 20th May

Rev Graham Horsley is coming to Highworth Methodist Church to lead a day looking at 'Fresh Expressions' of the church. We would be delighted if friends from across the circuit would like to join us. Details including timescale will be sent out soon. Further details from Lou Ashford at louashford231@gmail.com

Please see flyer attached.

Royal Wootton Bassett

Revd David Perkins sabbatical

Please pray that David's time with God will be refreshing and invigorating.

Pray that David and Christine, with him for part of the time, can rest and make great memories together.

Pray that those charged with leading in David's absence will be blessed.

Pentecost Praise – Sunday 4th June 10.30am at Royal Wootton Bassett Methodist Church. This will be a mix of hymns, songs modern and songs new plus a dramatised reading and a 1 minute (60 seconds) sermon (younger people will be able to join in with the Junior Church). Do feel free to join us, as all will be welcomed.

Braydon Methodist Church

Geoff Walters
and his singing ensemble

ENCORE

Present an evening of delightful musical entertainment

On

Wednesday 17th May at 7.30pm

at the Methodist Church, Royal Wootton Bassett

Tickets £6

Available from 01666 860794

Or 07890929514

Proceeds in aid of Braydon Methodist Church Refurbishment Fund.

Cricklade

Café Theos talk by Martin Palmer

Our next speaker for Café Theos will be none other than Martin Palmer on Monday 12th June. Please take time to read the attached flyer about his talk and background. We are fortunate to get him as he is quite a globetrotter and he is in regular demand by the media. He has a history with our area and some of you may have known his father who was a vicar in Swindon. He is a very high profile figure so we would like to get as large an audience as possible. If you require more information then please contact Graham Stockill.

West Swindon and Lydiard Tregoze Church Partnership

Roughshod Theatre are performing in Toothill Church on Thursday 4th May 7.30pm – see attached flyer. Tickets are required for this event, even though admission is free. Tickets are required for both adults and children. The event is only suitable for children over the age of 12 years. Tickets are available from the West Swindon Partnership office on 01793 874221.

Dates for your diary

Thursday 4th May	Roughshod Theatre at Toothill Church 7.30pm
Wednesday 17th May	Musical entertainment at Braydon 7.30pm
Friday 19th May	Theatre group at St Alban's, Watchfield 7pm
Saturday 20th May	Graham Horsley weekend at Highworth
25th May – 4th June	10 days of prayer
Sunday 28th May	Circuit Service at Lydiard Tregoze
Sunday 4th June	Pentecost Praise at Royal Wootton Bassett 10.30pm
Monday 12th June	Martin Palmer at Cricklade 7.30pm

Contact details (Upper Thames Circuit)

Office Hours	Monday & Wednesday 8.30 – 12 noon
Telephone	01793 764544
Email	upperthamescircuit@gmail.com
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