

Berkley Street Methodist Church



10, BERKLEY STREET, EYNESBURY, ST NEOTS PE19 2NB
(CAR PARK & ENTRANCE AT SIDE)

News & Information **January 2015**

Minister: Rev Tricia Williams Tel: 01480 473 444

E mail: revpmwilliams@yahoo.co.uk Office Tel: 01480 404 909

www.stneotsmethodist.org.uk

Services This Month

WE WARMLY WELCOME YOU IN THE NAME OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

- 2nd January** **10.30am to 1.30pm** (Includes lunch at no charge)
Messy Church - New Year fun, worship and crafts for all the family with the Messy Wise Men.
- 4th January** **10.30am** **Messy Church Team.**
Follow on service, - The Messy Wise Men for all ages.
- 11th January** **10.30am** **Katy Salmon.**
- 18th January** **10.30am** **Rev Tricia Williams**
Covenant Service and Communion. (All age worship)
- 4.00pm** **Churches Together in St Neots**
United service at the URC to launch the week of prayer for Christian unity
- 25th January** **10.30am** **Songs of Praise - the musicians & choir**
featuring your top ten hymns.
- 1st February** **10.30am** **Rev Julian Pursehouse** (Chair of District).

'The Sunday Club' - for children aged 3 upwards—meets on Sunday mornings starting on January 11th this month.

A crèche and toy area is available for the youngest children every Sunday morning (including All Age worship)



Guarantees
a **better deal**
for Third World
Producers

**Fair Trade Stall & Tea/Coffee
served after morning service**

Church Life

Mondays: **PRAYER GROUP**, 7—7.30pm resumes January 5th.
BOOK WORMS Reading Club, January 12th

Tuesdays: **WOMEN'S OWN**, 2.30pm every Tuesday
From Jan 6th.
MEN'S FORUM, January 13th New Year dinner
(For those who have booked).

Wednesdays: **LITTLE ANGELS** Mother & Toddler, 1.00-2.45pm
starts Jan 7th.
BIBLE STUDY GROUP, 7.30pm, January 14th.
Details from Laurie (385081) or Simon (471123).

Thursdays: **MORNING DEW** prayer & reflection, 9.15am,
Jan 8th & Jan 22nd .
BARGAIN CENTRE SHOP, 10am – 4pm
COFFEE & SCONES, 10am -12noon
SOUPER LUNCH, Jan 8th, 12 noon—1pm
Bowl of soup, bread roll, cake & tea/coffee, £2.
TNT CLUB: (Youth Club, 10-14yrs) 6.30-8.30pm
Jan 15th & Jan 29th .
FIRESIDE CIRCLE WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP
7.30pm: Jan 8th: Sugar Daddies
Jan 22nd New Year Dinner at BS.

Fridays: **CRAFT CLUB**, 10am—12 noon from Jan 9th .
THE BRIGADE CLUB, 6.30pm from Jan 9th ..
CHOIR PRACTICE, 7.45pm from Jan 9th

SUNDAY TRANSPORT

Bill Hodges is the co-ordinator of the Sunday Transport which provides lifts to and from the Sunday Church Services for anyone who requires it. Please contact Bill on 01480 394109.

From our Minister: Rev. Tricia Williams.

Dear Friends

Taking down the old calendar and putting up the new one is a very practical way of reminding us that the year 2014 has ended and 2015 has begun. The turn of the year is an opportunity for us to pause and reflect on all that has happened in the last year and give thanks to God for his presence with us through the good times as well as the more difficult days. If the year has been a difficult or painful one we may not want to dwell on our memories; seeking instead to focus on the fresh start and hope of a new year.



There is a text in Paul's letter to the Philippians where he says:

"the one thing I do is to forget what is behind me and do my best to reach what is ahead. So I run straight towards the goal in order to win the prize, which is God's call through Christ Jesus to the life above."

It is a profound statement about the aim, end and purpose of our spiritual journey. It is, in fact, a text for life.

Paul is not asking us to forget everything that is in the past. To erase all our experiences, deny tradition, dismiss happy memories or ignore past mistakes would be a great loss to us. What he is seeking to do is ensure that we get our perspective on life right. We cannot change the past, it has made us who and what we are today. But we can shape the future and all that the New Year may hold in store for us. Paul encourages us to keep on looking forward.

Although we may know of some of the changes that will happen in our lives and in the church – particularly the change of Minister as Dave and I prepare to move to Bexhill and Manny and Mary prepare to come to St Neots in September – but none of us knows the whole picture. May we take encouragement from Paul to press on to whatever lies ahead with the assurance that God will always be with us and his presence will strengthen and guide us.

May you know God's blessing on all you do in the coming year.

Tricia

Sunday 18th January – All Age Worship and Annual Covenant Service

The annual Covenant Service is a celebration of all that God has done and an affirmation that we give our lives and choices to God. It is an invitation to us all to renew our covenant relationship with God.

In preparation for the service you may like to reflect on the words of the Covenant Prayer:

*I am no longer my own but yours.
Your will, not mine, be done in all things,
wherever you may place me,
in all that I do and in all that I may endure;
when there is work for me and when there is none;
when I am troubled and when I am at peace.
Your will be done
when I am valued and when I am disregarded;
when I find fulfilment and when it is lacking;
when I have all things,
and when I have nothing.
I willingly offer all I have and am
to serve you, as and where you choose.*

(Methodist Worship Book page 288)

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity – 18th to 25th January

The theme this year is “**The Well is Deep**” based on Jesus’ encounter with the woman at the well and comes to us from the churches of Brazil.

The theme invites Christians from all over the world to meet and pray together and be reminded of what we have learnt on our ecumenical journey and challenges us to go deeper in our understanding of one another as we pray for the unity of all Christians as Christ himself prayed.

**UNITED SERVICE - SUNDAY 18TH JANUARY 2015 at 4.00 pm
AT ST NEOTS UNITED REFORMED CHURCH**

You are also invited to the **Lunchtime Services** which will be held each day from **Monday 19th January to Friday 24th January at 12.30 pm in the United Reformed Church**. The services, around 30 minutes each, will be led by people from the different churches in the town.

ALL WILL BE VERY WELCOME

PASTORAL CARING SUPPORT TEAM

Contact the Coordinator, Ann Hodges on 01480 394 109 (mobile 07531 867 824) or in Ann’s absence, Margaret Roberts on 01480 212 960.
For Transport to church on Sundays contact Bill Hodges on 01480 394 109.

Songs of Praise - Morning Worship - January 25th

Many thanks to the 47 people who submitted their 'Top hymns'. We have had an incredible 110 different hymns and choruses nominated, and if you want to find out which was the most popular then . . . sorry, you'll have to wait!

Our morning worship on **January 25th** will be a special 'Songs of Praise' which will be led by our musicians and choir, and where the Top 10 hymns will be revealed and sung! So put that date in your diaries, and prepare your lungs and throat for a good work-out at the end of January!

PS For those who want all the facts and figures, the full details of the vote will be published in the February notices. Simon Cooper.

Compass

Exploring the Christian faith together.



Compass will be meeting for the final session at **7.30 pm on Tuesday 6th January** at 30 Milton Avenue.

The session will invite us to reflect on where we are on our Christian journey as followers of Jesus and will include reflection on the Covenant Prayer. (*Top of page 5*)

New Year Souper Lunch 8th January

A choice of soups with bread roll and choice of cake. Served from 12 noon together with tea/coffee, all for just £2.

Men’s Group New Years Dinner Tuesday 13th January 2015 at the **Eaton Oak**, 7p.m. for 7.30p.m. cost **£19.00** including service charge. This is an **open invitation to all Church members**. Pre booking was required by end of December with Ron Bull. **Pub Games** evening **moved to 10th Feb not 17th**.

Morning Dew, 8th & 22nd January

Morning Dew is a prayer time which meets fortnightly on Thursday mornings at 9.15am in The Upper Room. Everyone is welcome, you can pray out loud or just keep silent, however you feel like praying.

TNT Youth Club, 15th & 29th January

Open to anyone aged 10–14, we meet from 6.30pm to 8.30pm once a fortnight. We have an interesting program of activities for each term, so see Simon if you know anyone who is interested in going or can help.



Women's Own meet **every** Tuesday at 2.30pm

Here are dates when speakers have been invited:

Jan 20 th	THE CHINESE NEW YEAR	Margaret Riches
Feb 3 rd	THE HOLY LAND	Peter Lane
Feb 17 th	JAPAN	Judith Johnson
Mar 3 rd	SINGING TOGETHER	Graham and Sue Bull
Mar 17 th	TRAVELS ON A NARROW BOAT	Chris and Liz Thompson
Easter break		
April 14 th	LOVE STORY WITH PRIMROSES	Carol Gosling
April 21 st	OBERAMMERGAU	Angie Barnes
July 14 th	HELLO AND GOOD-BYE	Patricia Williams

Fireside Women's Fellowship

dates, into 2015 all at 7.30pm:

- 8th Jan – **Sugar Daddies** - Cake demonstration
22nd Jan - **FIRESIDE NEW YEAR DINNER** catered by Chefs Table
Solutions from 7.30pm, dinner at 7.45pm to be held at the Church.
5th Feb - **Films Near and Far**; - Daphne Brown, **Open Meeting.**
19th Feb - **One day, I'm going to write....** - Barbara Garwood.
5th Mar - **Keeping it in the Family** - Eric Britt.
19th Mar - **History of Barretts** - Alan Huckle.
16th Apr - **Outing** (details to be arranged).
23rd Apr - **Walking the footpaths of the UK** - Bob Halliday.
7th May - **Games Evening at 30, Milton Ave.**
21st May - **Practice for Women's Service.**
11th Jun - **Practice for Women's Service.**
25th Jun - **Craft Games Evening.**
9th Jul - **Astronomy My Way** - David Roberts, **Open Meeting.**
23rd Jul - **Farewell Faith Supper** - at 30, Milton Ave.

Passion Play

Rehearsals for the Passion Play will be starting at Berkley St at 7.45pm on Monday January 12th and will continue every Monday evening until Easter. So if you'd like to act, dance or sing come along then . . . we still have plenty of room for singers in the choir, and one or two of the acting roles have still to be cast, so it isn't too late if you'd like to be involved. For further details, contact Simon on 471123 or scooper19@sky.com

Christmas Collections & Fund Raising

The Coffee Morning on 13th Dec raised £184.00.

Over the Christmas period the following donations have been received and sent on to the respective charities:

Action for Children - offering from the service on Christmas morning - £178.00

Spurgeons - retiring collection after the Sunday Club nativity service £71.60

Christian Aid - donations in lieu of Christmas cards to the church family - £31.50

Many thanks to all who have contributed.

The **Royal British Legion** have also thanked us for raising £41.95 out of a district total of £17,545.99 for the annual **poppy appeal**. (Ed)

Offertory and Gift Aid

Have you ever wondered why some people put blue envelopes in the offertory bag? Or why some people pass the bag without making a contribution? Do you know what Gift Aid is?

The envelope scheme is open to anyone to join. Each person has a set of weekly envelopes with a unique number which helps people to give regularly. The amounts given are recorded by the stewards each week, listing the amount against the envelope number. Only the Gift Aid Secretary (Bill Ashdown) and treasurer (Elizabeth Cracknell) have a list of names and envelope numbers so the amounts given week by week remain confidential. You don't have to be a tax payer to be part of the envelope scheme, but the church can claim Gift Aid on donations made through the envelope scheme if you sign a Gift Aid declaration.

Some people find they don't always have cash to put in the weekly offering and prefer to make donations directly into the church bank account. The church can also claim Gift Aid on these donations if tax payers sign a Gift Aid declaration. If you would like to make donations directly to the church, the treasurer can provide details on how to set this up.

The Gift Aid Scheme allows charities to recover income tax on donations made by UK tax payers. The current rate is 25p for every £1 donated, so your gift could be worth an extra 25% to the church if you are a tax payer. All you need to do is sign a Gift Aid declaration and make sure your gifts can be recorded either through the envelope scheme or by direct giving. **Bill Ashdown** (474062) or **Elizabeth Cracknell** (217855) can provide more information and the Gift Aid declaration form. They will be pleased to hear from you, why not act now?

St Neots and Huntingdon Methodist Circuit

Focus on Faith-Sharing

Informal worship – teaching – discussion
at Huntingdon Methodist Church
(High Street, Huntingdon, PE29 3TE)

Sundays at 6.30pm



Part 1

- Sun 1st March Why is evangelism God's idea?
- Sun 8th March How to share your story
- Sun 15th March Who can you share your story with?
- Sun 22nd March Leading people to Jesus and what next?

Part 2

- Sun 7th June How can your Church reach the community?
- Sun 14th June Making the best of Festivals (Christmas and Easter)
- Sun 21st June Changing Church, Changing World (Fresh Expressions)
- Sun 28th June Community events and outreach

Series based on the Church Army publication "Stepping into Evangelism"
Order your free copy from Loraine Hartley email: loraine.h@icloud.com
Tel: 01480 464989 by Monday 2 February 2015

Members of those Churches in the circuit without evening worship are invited to share in the above series of informal acts of worship/fellowship, with opportunity too for conversation and learning from each other. You are welcome to come along, gain from the experience, and prayerfully consider engaging with more people in being more equipped, more intentional and gracious in sharing the Good News about Jesus.

Rev David King. (Extracts from the circuit plan letter.)

Berkley Street Church Steward Team:

Daphne Brown	daphne@44sunset.com
David Corley	chris.corley@sky.com
Anne Cracknell	acracknell317@btinternet.com
Brenda Horden	Hordens@hotmail.com
Chris Thompson	chris.j.thompson@tesco.net

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What Me – A Church Steward ?? !!

Might God be calling you to be a Church Steward? Could you become part of our team here at Berkley Street?

There is a need for the Church Stewards, working as a team, to display a number of skills eg caring, listening, thinking, communicating, planning, doing, ministering, praying etc. No one can possess all of these skills and the present stewards endeavour to work as a team as they share in and support one another in the leadership of the church. The post of Church Steward involves more than counting the collection, opening and closing the premises and welcoming everyone to worship.

The duties of Church Stewards are defined in the "Standing Orders of the Methodist Church" as:

"The Church Stewards are corporately responsible with the Minister, or Probationer, exercising pastoral responsibility in relation to the local church for giving leadership and help over the whole range of the church's life and activity. They are particularly charged to hold together in unity the variety of concerns that are contained within the one ministry of the Church."

Church Stewards are normally appointed at the Annual Church Meeting but may also be appointed by Church Council at other times when there is a vacancy. The appointment is for one year and it is usual for existing Church Stewards to offer themselves for re-appointment up to a maximum of six years. Any Church Member can be nominated for the position of Church Steward.

It may seem daunting! It is a challenge! Are you up for it?

Please give this your prayerful consideration and talk with one of the Stewards – we will be pleased to talk with you.

Anne, Brenda, Chris, Daphne and David

Shorts . . .

Volunteers for doing the after service refreshments, to do the coffee and scones on Thursdays. Fresh rotas are on the wall in the Crèche area with space to put your name.

Methodist Homes have sent their grateful thanks to all of our members who signed Christmas cards which have been forwarded to local staff and chaplains for distribution. They have been delighted with the response.
Marian Bull

About this Newsletter.

Simon Cooper and Chris Thompson have been sharing the production of this newsletter for the past two years. Can you do better? What about working alongside us to learn how we do it with a view to taking a turn?

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Other Diary Dates

February

10th Church Council, 7.30pm.

17th Shrove Tuesday Pancake party, from 6.00pm.

18th Messy Church, 10.30am

March

8th Messy Church, 10.30am

14th Workshop, sharing experience working with children & young people.

19th Circuit Meeting, Huntingdon, 7.30pm

April

8th Messy Church, 10.30am

25th ACTIOS Quiz Night at New Street Baptist.

May

10th Annual Church Meeting, (after morning worship).

25th Messy Church, 10.30am

June

2nd Circuit Meeting, Alconbury, 7.30pm.

July

1st Church Council, 7.30pm.

Sept

17th Circuit Meeting, Brampton, 7.30pm.

Nov.

4th Church Council, 7.30pm.

Circuit Services and Events in 2015

1. 29th March, Circuit Service at **St Ives** at 4.30pm, with District Chair, Rev Julian Pursehouse and the President of Conference, Rev Kenneth Howcroft.
2. Rev David Shaw at Circuit Service on 17th May 2015 at **Alconbury** at 6.00pm.
3. Visit of Rev Paul Wilson, **Huntingdon**, 11th & 12th July.
4. Farewell Circuit Service for Rev Tricia and Dave Williams at **Berkley Street** on 26th July at **4.30pm**, with a fellowship tea to follow.
5. Welcome service for Rev Manny and Mary Pillay at **Berkley Street**, 3pm, 5th Sept.
6. Rev Julian Pursehouse, District Chair, reopening & rededication of **Huntingdon Church Hall**, 4.30pm, 27th Sept.

Items for the weekly notice sheet should be sent to Chris at chris.j.thompson@tesco.net 01480210900 by 6pm on Wednesdays. The deadline for items for the **February** Monthly News is **January 28th** but the earlier the better.



FOCUS - For Prayer – January 2015

“God has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of his glory in the face of Jesus Christ.” (2 Corinthians 4.6)

- Give thanks to God for the light that has come into the world through Jesus Christ. Pray that his light may fill our lives and guide us in the year ahead.
- At Messy Church on Jan 2nd we explored how the Wise Men were led by a star to worship the infant Jesus. Pray that God may use all our worship and outreach activities to draw men and women, boys and girls to Jesus that all may know the light and life that He offers to all.
- This year will bring changes and challenges to individuals and the Church family. Some will be moving house, starting a new job, getting married, celebrating the gift of a child while others may be making adjustments to their lives following the loss of work, retirement or bereavement. Pray that they may know God’s presence and encouragement in all their new beginnings.
- As we share in the annual Covenant service on Jan 18th pray that God will give us a new understanding of what it means for us to say, ‘I am no longer my own but yours’, and that we may be ready to commit ourselves afresh to God’s call to love and serve him in all our life and work.
- As we mark the annual Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (18th – 25th January) give thanks to God for the opportunities to pray and work with Christians in other churches in the town sharing the Good News of Jesus with our community.
- Rehearsals for the Passion Play begin this month - pray for all who are involved in its organisation and those who will take part. Pray that this event may touch the lives of many people in the town as the story of Christ’s passion is made known in word, drama and music.

If you have any particular concerns that you would like included in next month’s Prayer Focus please contact Tricia.