



**STAINES METHODIST CHURCH
NEWSLETTER MAY 2018**

www.stainesmethodistchurch.org.uk



**EASTER
OFFERING
2018**

**Seek
peace and
pursue
it**

**Your local Easter Offering Service is prepared
by Methodist Women in Britain on behalf of the
World Mission Fund.**

This act of worship enables the Methodist Church in Britain and
Ireland to give to the work of the 65 Partner Churches overseas.

The Methodist Church 

The service will be held at **Laleham Methodist Church, Edinburgh Drive.** _____

on **Thursday 17th May**starting at **2:30 p.m.** _____

It will be led by **Rev. J. Ushewokunze**, and light refreshments will be served afterwards

EVERYONE IS WELCOME

Minister: Rev. A. Reed **Tel:** Ashford (01784) 252559

Sunday Services: 10:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.

Sunday School: 10:30 a.m.



From the Minister

Dear Friends,

I am really excited about the prayer initiative entitled, “Thy Kingdom Come”. We began to look at this a few weeks ago during the welcome Service for Michael Pryday which was a very special occasion. I do hope that you received a copy of the booklet that the Methodist Church has prepared for us. Whilst this can be used at any time of the year it is designed for the period between Ascension which we celebrate on 10th May 2018 and Pentecost which follows on 20th May 2018. This date also happens to be Aldersgate Sunday when Methodists recall John Wesley and the warming of his relationship with God. This year “Christian Aid Week” takes place at much the same time. The fact is that so much is going on that we have included in this edition of the Newsletter a list of activities that are taking place around the Circuit. I do hope that you will be able to support events both here at Staines, but also elsewhere in the Circuit.

Getting back to “Thy Kingdom Come”, I feel that this is a truly important event that has grown in significance over the past few years. The aim is to encourage people to pray for family and friends in a simple, straightforward way. All that you are asked to do is to just note down five people who God has laid on your heart, and bring them before God each day between Ascension and Pentecost. Of course, you may find that you carry on remembering them after Pentecost which is fine.

Another thing you might like to do is to go on to the internet and type in www.thykingdomcome.global where you can sign up and add your light to the map of the world. As this is our first year engaging with this programme we have found that dates clash, but the main thing is that we are praying for people that we know and for our nation. We already have some ideas for next year and I will tell you about them when I come back from my Sabbatical which is from June until August. Once again, you will find an article in this edition of the Newsletter telling you something about what I intend to do and what arrangements have been put in place to cover my work whilst I am away. Do please read this and if you have any other questions then speak to me or to Pauline Shilston.

By the way, if you did not get a copy of the booklet I referred to earlier, please ask me for one.

God bless you during the season of Ascension and Pentecost.

Andrew

News of the Church Family

We are sorry to learn of the death of John Bennett's sister, Amelia (Millie), on 15th April at the age of 103. Our thoughts are with John and the family.

Thy Kingdom Come — 10th – 20th May 2018

At the most recent Synod of the South East District of the Methodist Church we had a very interesting presentation about "Thy Kingdom Come" You may have received the booklet, "Nine Days of Prayer – Waiting in Wonder" which has been prepared for us by the Rev. Michaela A Youngson, President Designate of the 2018/2019 Methodist Conference and one of the London District Chairpersons. If you have not, do please get in touch with Juliet or I and we will get a copy to you. The event covers the period from Ascension Day to Pentecost and we are invited to pray for five people during this time. You might like to visit the website, "www.thykingdomcome.global" where you will be able to find out more information.

Here in the Staines and Feltham Circuit we would like to invite you to attend some of the following events which are happening over this period of time. (*All dates are in May*)

Thursday 10th	12:30 pm	Egham	Service followed by Lunch
Thursday 10th	3:30 pm	St. Dunstan's	Messy Church
Thursday 10th		Laleham	Fellowship
Thursday 10th	8:15 pm	Wendover Road	Bible Study
Thursday 10th	8:00 pm	St. Dunstan's	Ascension Day Service
Friday 11th	9:30 am	Wendover Road	Prayer Meeting
Saturday 12th	10:00 am	Staines	Messy Church
Saturday 12th	9:00 – 11:30	Staines	Big Brekkie (Ticket only)
Monday 14th		St. Dunstan's	Toddler Group followed by Knitters Group

Tuesday 15th	10:00 am	Laleham	Prayer
Tuesday 15th	noon	Ashford Common	Prayer
Tuesday 15th	8:00 pm	Southville	House Group
Wednesday 16th	8:00 pm	Staines	Fellowship Group
Wednesday 16th	8:00 pm	Staines	Choir Practice with prayer
Thursday 17th	2:30 pm	Laleham	Easter Offering Service
Thursday 17th	8:15 pm	Wendover Road	Bible Study
Friday 18th	9:30 am	Wendover Road	Prayer Meeting
Saturday 19th	10 – noon	Southville	Big Breakfast
Sunday 20th		Staines	Pindar at Pentecost (Ticket only: adult£7.50, child £3; includes cream tea. Tickets from 07712 816163)
Sunday 20th	6:30pm	Egham	Aldersgate and Pentecost. Circuit Service

You will see that there are a significant number of events going on and you may be aware of others. Do please advertise these if you can. You may also notice that some events do not have a time against them. If you wish to attend these please contact the local Church for more information.

From “The Brigitte Trust”

Sadly most of us are touched by cancer – it can be a family member, a friend or business colleague and the news can be devastating. The Brigitte Trust offers a free volunteer service of emotional support and practical help in the home when cancer, Motor Neurone Disease, or other life-threatening illness has been diagnosed. Practical issues like driving, shopping, and getting to hospital for treatment can sometimes be hard to manage, and our volunteers, who are fully DBS checked, can help. Complementing the work of the medical teams the Trust offers a volunteer who will visit weekly and build up a relationship with patient and carer, offering company and time to listen.

Our next free volunteer taster sessions take place in June and July for September training and we are particularly keen to reach out local volunteers. Please call Ingrid walker on 01306 881816 for more information, or visit our website: www.brigitte-trust.org

Vanessa Smith, Promotions Manager, The Brigitte Trust

Letter from the Sabbatical Support Group

Dear Friends,

Andrew Reed is soon heading off on a Sabbatical. The Methodist Church describes a Sabbatical as, "...a time away from the usual day-to-day job, for further study, reflection, recreation, and some renewal... The Church believes sabbaticals are important and therefore they are compulsory for all presbyters and deacons" and are required to be taken in the tenth year of travel and every subsequent seventh year. Andrew's sabbatical starts on Monday 4th June 2018 and will finish three months later on Sunday 2nd September.

Andrew has identified an area for study and reflection: the Minor Prophets and seeking to explore what they have to say to us today. This will involve a fair amount of background reading, but the main focus will be on preparing material for multi-media presentation — a topic that has fascinated Andrew for a long time and will help him to support those who follow the new course for Local Preachers and Worship Leaders that encourages the use of technology in Services. Andrew will develop his ideas how best to use the work on the Minor Prophets for the benefit of individual churches or the Circuit as a whole.

Alongside his studies, Andrew will work on his model railway and continue to build a model boat. He and his wife, Pat, will also be able to spend more time with family, friends, and each other.

A Sabbatical Support Group has been put in place to ensure that the work of the Circuit continues over the summer. Rev. Juliet Ushewokunze will be Acting Superintendent and Mrs. Pauline Shilston is the Convenor of the Support Group. Matters will inevitably arise during the Sabbatical and should be addressed to either Juliet or Pauline. Sue Burgoine will continue to work at Staines and can be contacted there as usual.

So far as the Plan is concerned, Andrew, Juliet, and Sue have compiled a Plan to cover the period from June to November and Juliet and Sue will continue to look after this during the sabbatical. Please remember Andrew, Pat and their family in your prayers during the sabbatical; that they will be refreshed and reinvigorated for the beginning of the next Connectional Year.

Pauline Shilston, Convenor of the Sabbatical Support Group

Prayer Diary for the month of May 2018

“Come Holy Spirit”

Please pray/give thanks for:

- 1st our minister Andrew Reed and his wife Pat, and their families.
- 2nd the talks between North and South Korea.
- 3rd Mrs. Avril Pye, Mrs. Pauline Shilston and Rev. Andrew Reed as they prepare to lead our worship.
- 4th Action for Children (formerly NCH) and the people they work with.
- 5th candidates and political parties involved in Local Elections.
- Sun Rev. Loraine Mellor (President) and Jill Baker (Vice-President).
- 7th those who mourn.
- 8th Mrs. Margaret Ash and Mr. Jonathan Perkins as they prepare to lead our worship.
- 9th Foster Parents and the children they look after.
- 10th the Thursday Lunch team.
- 11th new members of our Congregation.
- 12th Messy Church: leaders and helpers.
- Sun Christian Aid Week 13th–19th; people collecting for Christian Aid.
- 14th students at university and college as they prepare for exams.
- 15th the continuing war in Syria and Iraq; especially the civilian victims.
- 16th Mrs. Mary Windo as she prepares to lead our morning worship and those taking part in our evening circuit service at Egham.
- 17th our neighbours.
- 18th our Fellowship and Bible Study Groups.
- 19th a long and happy life together for Prince Harry and Meghan Markle and all those who are getting married today.
- Sun Pentecost/Aldersgate Sunday. Thank God for the gift of the Holy Spirit.
- 21st our Local Preachers and Worship Leaders
- 22nd people caught up in drug trafficking.
- 23rd Rev. Julie Underwood and Rev. Andrew Reed as they prepare to lead our worship.
- 24th Aldersgate Day: thank God for John Wesley.
- 25th Minnows: the leaders, helpers and those who attend.

- 26th children who live on the streets; especially in poorer countries.
Sun Trinity Sunday.
28th those living and working in refugee camps.
29th the Manna Food Bank: contributors, volunteers, and those who need to use it.
30th Premier Radio.
31st those affected by knife crime and acid attacks.
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The Church Prayer Chain

The Prayer Chain exists for the benefit of anyone in need of prayer.

Michael & Barbara Bagg

Jim Brodie

Barbara Lownsborough

If you have a prayer request, please contact any one of the above.



Christian Aid Week, 13-19 May

Have you got your ticket yet for the Big Brekkie on Saturday morning, 12th May? Hurry now while stocks last! If we raise £210, we could pay for two days' construction training for a local builder in Haiti. The builder could then build secure, comfortable homes for people like Marcelin (see April Newsletter), giving them a safe place to weather the next disaster, and a fighting chance to build a better life.

Some readers will already have seen the short film about Vilia's house in Haiti. Vilia and her family lived in Port-au-Prince when the earthquake hit in 2010. Vilia was on her way home when she heard people running and shouting. The streets were confusing and terrifying. She couldn't even recognise her home or neighbourhood. As she searched for her home and for her mother, she had to step over bodies lying on the ground. She never got to see her mother again so, bereaved and homeless, she went back to her home town with her husband and seven children. But life was a struggle, and she had nowhere safe to stay.

Christian Aid's partner KORAL saw how dire Vilia's situation was, and reached out to help her. They built her a new home, safe and strong enough to stand up to natural disasters. Vilia will never forget her mother, but our help has allowed her to move on from the other things she lost. The new house made Vilia incredibly happy, but it's done more than that. It's been a safe haven for dozens of people when they needed it most. On that terrifying night when Hurricane Matthew hit, Vilia's neighbours quickly realised that her house was the only one in the area sturdy enough to cope with the hurricane. One by one, they fled to her house and she welcomed them in. As the storm raged on, she shared food and a safe shelter for several days.

Fifty-four people sheltered safely from the hurricane in Vilia's house. Despite the ferocity of the hurricane, her house lost only one roof panel and wasn't damaged in any other way. Many other homes in the area were totally destroyed. Vilia's crops and livestock were swept away, but KORAL helped her with a water filter and seeds for beans, sweet potatoes, yams and plantain. This meant Vilia could start to rebuild with crops that help soil retention, helping to protect her crops in the future.


Not long after Hurricane Matthew, another tragedy struck and Vilia's husband passed away. This time, KORAL gave her the cash she urgently needed to keep sending her children to school.

KORAL's work is funded by Christian Aid, and it's not too late to contribute to that by joining in this year's house-to-house local collection (see Geoff Nicholson) or holding a red bucket at Staines Station during the morning rush hour (see Linda Marshall). Give the wider community of Staines a chance to contribute to the vital work of Christian Aid in Haiti and the 36 other countries the charity currently works in.

Linda Marshall

February Church Collections


Here are the figures for February and from the beginning of the Methodist Financial Year that started on 1st September 2017,

Last year to 31st August 2017 the total was		£17,102·93
Average Weekly Collection last year (52 weeks)		£328·90
Total this year from 1st September 2017 (26 weeks)		£7,725·50
Average Weekly Collection from 1st September 2017		£297·13
February 2018 Total Collections (4 weeks)		£1,099·58
Average February 2018 weekly collection		£274·90

John Bennett

March Church Collections

Here are the figures for March and from the beginning of the Methodist Financial Year that started on 1st September 2017,

Last year to 31st August 2017 the total was		£17,102·93
Average Weekly Collection last year (52 weeks)		£328·90
Total this year from 1st September 2017 (30 weeks)		£8,959·73
Average Weekly Collection from 1st September 2017		£298·66
March 2018 Total Collections (4 weeks)		£1,234·23
Average March 2018 weekly collection		£308·56

John Bennett



Oberammergau June 24th – July 1st 2020

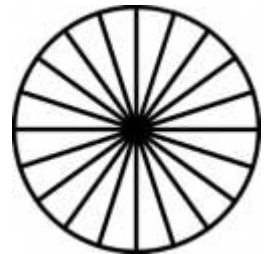


UPDATE: 23rd April 2018

Our original allocation of places for the Oberammergau trip is now completely full and the deposits and booking forms for 24 people have been sent off to McCabe. However, I am delighted to report that I have just been able to secure the option on a further 10 places, so for those people who have told me that they are still thinking, or who have asked me on behalf of others they know who might be interested, there is still a chance to look into the idea further on a completely no-commitment basis. I have plenty of brochures still left and would be very happy to chat to anyone about the trip.

Roz Sendorek

Update on our “Giving Hundred”

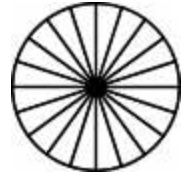


We are very pleased to announce that several people have already shown their commitment to our Giving Hundred stewardship campaign. Michael tells us that he has received several enquiries about the ENVELOPE SCHEME, either about joining from scratch or about people who already belong to the scheme increasing their giving, while Geoff has also had promises of increased giving from some of our regular givers via the STANDING ORDER SCHEME.

Look out for the Giving Hundred Wheel in the entrance hall to keep track of progress!

Many thanks, The Stewards

How Can I Give by Standing Order?



Giving by Standing Order simply means agreeing a figure which will slip painlessly once a month from your bank account into the church's. This can quite literally be any amount that you like, but whatever the amount, it never changes unless you choose to alter it at your own bank. As Treasurer, I am the only person who knows what any individual gives because I see the names on the bank statements. For everyone else, the amounts given by standing order are just presented as one total figure each month on the accounts.

Standing Orders are a great way to organise your giving. Once they're set up, which you can do very easily by getting a form from me which you then fill in and take to your bank, you literally don't have to do anything. Your monthly giving just happens and people say that they find that it's like having income deducted at source – as it goes out automatically, and you never handle the money physically, you don't miss it. What's more, as a regular giver, you can increase the value of your Standing Order by 25% at no absolutely cost to yourself by filling in a Gift Aid declaration (see Martha Love to do this). This increases the value of each £1 you give by 25p.

If you would like to know more, please speak to me after church one day, or e-mail me (gbnicholson@yahoo.co.uk), and I'll be happy to run through the details with you.

Many thanks, Geoff Nicholson

Avril and Alan's London Marathon Run for



Sunday 22nd April 2018 is a day I will never forget because WE DID IT; we completed the 2018 London Marathon! I don't think anyone ever doubted that Alan would finish but it was never a given for me!

I have cheered Alan on at numerous marathons; but to be on that start line, surrounded by 40,000 people, all with their own stories to tell as to why they were running, was truly inspiring and incredibly emotional. As we lined up in our pen, songs such as "I'm a believer" and "To be a hero" belted out of the loud speakers. Then we looked up to see a plane pass overhead with a banner stating, "Jesus loves you all".

I knew this run was going to be hard but I could never have envisaged quite how hard. After training for 4 months in rain, wind and snow, it turned out to be the hottest London Marathon on record with temperatures around 24 degrees Celsius. The heat became our enemy and had to be taken very seriously. As we passed fire stations, the fire crews sprayed us with their hosepipes. Extra shower sprays were set up along the course and wonderful people came out of their homes with bottles of

water for us.

Young and old could not have encouraged us more; and then there were the Lilly Ugandan cheer points. Our daughters Charlotte and Aimée had done a magnificent job ensuring that we had people at many points around the course with water, jelly babies, sun cream, and loud voices.

Alan never left my side; this man who has completed marathons in 2 hours and 57 minutes stayed beside me for 6 hours and 19 minutes dousing me with water, carrying my water bottles, constantly checking I was OK, and generally being an absolute star.

The miles ticked by as we ran past the “Cutty Sark”, over Tower Bridge, through Canary Wharf, Shadwell, and numerous other places until we eventually reached Westminster. As we ran along the Embankment and into The Mall the atmosphere was electric.

Crossing the finish line brought all the emotions to the fore as I realised what we had achieved. It has been the toughest thing I have ever attempted; to wear the medal around my neck continues to be overwhelming.

Thank you for all your prayers, words of encouragement, and such generous sponsorship. Your support has meant that so far we have raised £3,320.

My struggle to complete the London Marathon is over, but we know that children living in poverty face struggles that just go on and on and on with no medal at the end. Lilly Uganda is helping to alleviate some of those struggles for 32 children by giving them access to education, health-care, and good nutrition. I mentioned earlier that each runner has their own story to tell; mine and Alan’s is Lilly Uganda, and we both thank you for being part of that story.

Avril Pye

Services for the month of May 2018

	6 th	10:30 a.m.	Own Arrangements	
		6:30 p.m.	Rev. A. Reed	[Communion]
	13 th	10:30 a.m.	Mrs. M. Ash	
		6:30 p.m.	Mr. J. Perkins	
†	20 th	10:30 p.m.	Mrs. M. Windo	
		6:30 p.m.	Circuit Service at Egham	
Trinity } Sunday }	27 th	10:30 a.m.	Rev. J. Underwood	[Communion]
		6:30 p.m.	Rev. A. Reed	

“Preparation in Worship” is now *every* week from 10:20 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.
— a chance to take a few minutes to prepare ourselves for worship

† 20th May is Pentecost and also Aldersgate Sunday

Dates for your Diary

May

	10 th -20 th		“Thy Kingdom Come” (p.4)
Saturday	12 th 9:00-11:30	Christian Aid	“Big Brekkie” {Ref}
	13 th -19 th	Christian Aid Week	{Ref}
Thursday	17 th 2:30 p.m.	Easter Offering Service at Laleham	(p.2)
Sunday	20 th 2:30 p.m.	“Pindar at Pentecost”. Performance of “Children of Eden” by Pindar Theatre Performers. Details on p.6.	

From Monday 4th June 2018 to Sunday 2nd September 2018 our Minister, Rev. Andrew Reed, and his wife, Pat, will be on sabbatical. Please see the letter on p.6 for details of arrangements in his absence.

Items for inclusion in the June Newsletter to David Price
(Staines 462204 or dave@shirleyanddave.me.uk)
by Sunday 20th May at the latest please