

# staines



## Methodist Church



### NEWSLETTER JULY/AUGUST 2017

[www.stainemethodistchurch.org.uk](http://www.stainemethodistchurch.org.uk)

**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 imagine that for many people the situations that this country has faced over the past few weeks raise questions about prayer. We might want to question God about the senseless loss of life or the outcome of a General Election, or we might feel that our individual prayers have no significant impact on the course of history and that praying in such situations is a pointless exercise. In the course of my ministry I have heard these views expressed and many others; but just a few weeks ago, after the London Bridge Tragedy, I was present at a reflection when we looked at the passage from Luke where a religious leader questions Jesus about what is the greatest commandment? Jesus' reply to the person who asked the question is interesting in this regard. The answer forms what is known almost universally as The Golden Rule which places love of God at the centre, closely followed by a love for our neighbour. The point was made that in our prayers this rule often seems to be reversed because we tend to spend so much time asking God to sort out all the problems and perhaps only occasionally spend time in a loving conversation with Him.

We try to sort this out in our Services where we leave our requests until towards the end. Perhaps if we were to recognise the value of the relationship that God wants to have with us — and how that love was so clearly expressed in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus — we might be more willing to express our love to Him in the way that Jesus envisaged in the Great Commandment. We might also begin to understand how the second part relates to the first. God can only demand our total love and commitment if He has demonstrated such love to us in the first place. His love for us is unlimited and without condition. When we have recognised this fact we will then be able to fulfil the second part of the rule.

Much as we might want to question God and tell Him that He has got it wrong, and that it is all so unfair, we are simply required to love our neighbour without condition or limit. It is amazing how, in the midst of such appalling situations that people have faced recently, love for our neighbours is seen so often and in such selfless ways.

Christians have every reason to take prayer seriously. It is good for us to come together to let God know that we do indeed love Him with every aspect of our being. As we share this with Him we can see how our love for Him should radiate out into our community and our world. I believe that the Holy Spirit can work through us as He brings to mind the needs of our neighbour, whether it is in the lives of people whose homes have been devastated by fire in West London or the lives of young children in Venezuela who do not have enough to eat in a land overflowing with the rich resource of oil. Our hearts should ache for these and many other situations. Fortunately the heart of our God is big enough for all the pain and He relies upon you and I to make a difference which starts in our prayers.

Several people have asked if we might start a prayer meeting and I know that this is something we need to do. Over the coming weeks I will be reflecting on this and will put something in place no later than the start of the next Connexional Year. In the meantime, please keep on praying.

May you know the blessing of God over the summer.

*Andrew*

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### Congratulations Janette

Whilst congratulating Janette on her 90th birthday – which she celebrates on 15th July – I would also like to say a personal thank you to her; not only for being my friend for such a very long time, and giving me her support through my good and bad times, but also for all she has done for our Church. She has given so much of her time and talents in so many ways, and if I started to list them all I am sure I would miss some out; so I won't try.

Particularly, though, I should like to thank her for sacrificially giving of her time to play the organ, both for Sunday Services and also for Thursday lunch services. Many is the time we would have had no musical accompaniment if she hadn't stepped in.

So thank you, Janette, and enjoy your celebrations; you deserve them!

*Barbara Lownsbrough*

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### News from the Circuit

We are sorry to report the death of Joyce Griffiths of Christ Church, Feltham, on 14th June. As well as her roles as Circuit Secretary and playing the Organ, amongst other jobs, Joyce was a central part of the “Griffiths Family” who fulfill many roles. We send our love and prayers to Roger, Jonathan, and Andrew at this sad time.

## News of the Church Family

Congratulations to Heather Hall who celebrated her 60th birthday on 18th June and to Phil Hall who celebrated his 65th shortly afterwards.

Congratulations to Ian Lister whose Accreditation Service takes place on 16th July.

Chris Gardam has had an operation on his eye, and we wish him a full and speedy return to normal.

We are sorry to hear that Thekla Brown, Liz Anderson's mother, has had another fall and was taken to hospital. We send our love and prayers to Thekla, Liz and Andy.

On 14th July Rupert and Pam Caporn will be moving to Exmouth. We are sorry to see them go, and send our prayers and good wishes with them. They have both made considerable contributions between them to the life of the Church: Steward, Senior Steward, Local Preacher, Choir Member, being amongst the roles performed by one or both of them.

Although, in line with our privacy policy, their address will not be made public here; if you ask one of the Stewards they will supply it if you have not already got it.

After the publication of the distributed copies of this Newsletter, we heard of the death of "Reg" Moss on 29th May aged 91. He, and his wife Pauline, worshipped regularly with us until they moved away a few years ago. Reg was very involved with the Boys' Brigade on the musical side, and led bands up to international level. We remember in our prayers Pauline, his children Anne (who was a Member of the Youth Club in the 1960-70s), Roger, and Sally, and the grand-children.

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## Belated News of the Church Family

(an oops moment)

I must apologise for the fact that I got my June and July mixed up. Last month's Newsletter should have contained congratulations to two Ruths.

Rev. Dr. Ruth Midcalf, who was a Member of our Church until she moved away recently was Ordained as a Methodist Minister on 25th June. On the same day Ruth Lownsbrough, Barbara's daughter-in-law, was Ordained in Coventry. Apologies to both of them for the omission.

## Prayer Diary for the month of July 2017

“Come Holy Spirit”

Please pray/give thanks for:

- 1<sup>st</sup> all those who have had to leave their homes in the wake of the Grenfell Tower fire.
- Sun Thank God for all who were recently ordained, and their families.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> the people who are affected by, and those fighting, the forest fires in Portugal.
- 4<sup>th</sup> the Leaders and staff of “Adventure Plus” and Rev. Peter Clark as they prepare to lead our worship on Sunday.
- 5<sup>th</sup> Our minister, Rev. Andrew Reed, and his wife Pat.
- 6<sup>th</sup> Local Preachers and Worship leaders as they meet tonight.
- 7<sup>th</sup> Our Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh.
- 8<sup>th</sup> Messy Church.
- Sun Action for Children.
- 10<sup>th</sup> those who are mourning.
- 11<sup>th</sup> Rev. Andrew Reed and Rev. Dr. Ruth Midcalf as they prepare to lead our worship
- 12<sup>th</sup> for our police, firefighters and ambulance crews.
- 13<sup>th</sup> Staff and helpers of Notting Hill Methodist Church, and all those supporting the people of Grenfell Tower.
- 14<sup>th</sup> East to West.
- 15<sup>th</sup> those living on the streets.
- Sun Thank God for Local Preachers, and for Ian Lister’s accreditation service today.
- 17<sup>th</sup> local shopkeepers.
- 18<sup>th</sup> Rev. Andrew Reed as he prepares to lead our worship.
- 19<sup>th</sup> teachers and pupils as they come to the end of the school year.
- 20<sup>th</sup> our government.
- 21<sup>st</sup> those affected by the terrorist attacks in Manchester and London.
- 22<sup>nd</sup> holidays — whether “at home” or elsewhere.
- Sun Thank God for Rev. Peter Clark and Rev. Barbara McIntivey and their families as we join them in their farewell service at Southville.
- 24<sup>th</sup> the Armed Forces.
- 25<sup>th</sup> Rev. Alan Wickens and Rev. Andrew Reed as they prepare to lead our worship.

- 26<sup>th</sup> people at risk of death from starvation in Nigeria, South Sudan, Yemen, and Somalia.
- 27<sup>th</sup> Those organising the “Flights of Fancy” Holiday at Home.
- 28<sup>th</sup> refugees.
- 29<sup>th</sup> Christians persecuted for their faith.
- Sun All You Can.
- 31<sup>st</sup> Thank God for the outpouring of love and support shown to those people involved in recent traumatic events.

## Prayer Diary for the month of August 2017

“Come Holy Spirit”

Please pray/give thanks for:

- 1<sup>st</sup> our Minister, Rev. Andrew Reed, and Pat, his wife.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Mrs. Shirley Price as she prepares to lead our worship
- 3<sup>rd</sup> those affected by the terrorist attacks around the world.
- 4<sup>th</sup> the Junior Church as they take a break this month.
- 5<sup>th</sup> Members of our Church Family in need.
- Sun Methodist Women in Britain.
- 7<sup>th</sup> the house-bound.
- 8<sup>th</sup> Mrs. Margaret Willis as she prepares to lead our worship.
- 9<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> “Flights of Fancy” – Holiday at Home.
- 10<sup>th</sup> our local hospitals, and the staff who run them.
- 11<sup>th</sup> young people seeking their first employment.
- 12<sup>th</sup> Care Homes, the residents and the staff.
- Sun for those living in war-torn areas of the world, with no peace in sight.
- 14<sup>th</sup> The new President of Conference, the Rev. Loraine N Mellor.
- 15<sup>th</sup> The Vice President of Conference, Jill Baker.
- 16<sup>th</sup> Rev. Andrew Reed as he prepares to lead our worship.
- 17<sup>th</sup> all those who receive their “A” level results today, and those who do not receive the grades needed.
- 18<sup>th</sup> Ministers who are changing circuits.
- 19<sup>th</sup> our Church and Door Stewards.
- Sun Pastoral Leaders.
- 21<sup>st</sup> The Chairman of our District.
- 22<sup>nd</sup> Mrs. Margaret Ash as she prepares to lead our worship.

- 23<sup>rd</sup> Ashford Hospital, Doctors, Nurses, and other health professionals.
- 24<sup>th</sup> all those who get GCSE results today, and those who do not receive the grades expected.
- 25<sup>th</sup> those whose relationships are going through a difficult time.
- 26<sup>th</sup> Canaan Christian Bookshop.
- Sun Rev. Juliet Ushewokunze as she moves to our Circuit.
- 28<sup>th</sup> The Churches that make up our Circuit.
- 29<sup>th</sup> the wounded, injured, and sick service men and women training for the Invictus Games in Toronto in September.
- 30<sup>th</sup> young people as they change schools, go to college or university.
- 31<sup>st</sup> the end of the Connexional year.



### The Church Prayer Chain

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

Michael & Barbara Bagg      01784 244088

Jim Brodie                      01784 461003

Barbara Lownsborough      01784 455599

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

## MHA

Thank you to those who gave donations to Methodist Homes following the appeal made on MHA Sunday on 11th June. I am pleased to say that £112 was raised by friends at Staines (most of which was gift-aided) and would like to thank those who gave, for their generosity to this worthy cause.

*Stephanie*

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## May Church Collections

Here are the figures for May and from the beginning of the Methodist Financial Year that started on 1st September 2016.

Last year to 31st August 2016 the total was	£18,348.36
Average Weekly Collection last year (52 weeks)	£352.85
Total this year from 1st September 2016 (39 weeks)	£13,793.43
Average Weekly Collection from 1st September 2016	£353.68
May 2017 Total Collections (4 weeks)	£1,216.85
Average May 2017 weekly collection	£304.21



Note: There was no evening service on 21st May (Aldersgate Sunday Service at Laleham)

*John Bennett*

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## London Strolls

The strolls start at 9:45 at Staines Station unless notified otherwise.

15th July

**Richmond Park to Teddington**

19th August

Sydenham and Crystal Palace  
Are there dinosaurs in them there hills?

16th September

Marylebone to Mayfair  
From Regents Park to Green Park

All welcome to join us on this outreach activity of our church.  
If you have never been on a London Stroll perhaps now is the time to start!





## It's all aboard for **Flights of Fancy**

### Our 2017 'Holiday at Home'



Join Captain Andrew and his crew  
Wed 9<sup>th</sup> – Fri 11<sup>th</sup> August for fun  
activities, great food, fine outings,  
nostalgic films and good company  
10am – 4pm daily  
at Staines Methodist Church  
£25 for your all-inclusive 3 day break

Wed 9th, Thurs 10th & Fri Aug 11th 2017 10am-4pm

Are you of retirement age and wondering what to do during August when travel prices are high and everywhere is busy and full of holidaying schoolchildren? Or have you just not yet given August a passing thought? Either way, why not book in for “FLIGHTS OF FANCY”: our Holiday at Home?

This new venture is designed to give you fun, companionship, and some unusual opportunities as we explore different types of air travel from the safety and security of our very own church hall. From hot air balloons on Wednesday, through Comets and the history of British Airways on Thursday, to Concorde on Friday, we'll be reminiscing as we travel through the ages of manned flight. All sorts of activities are planned, including making hot air balloons that really fly (and some that don't!), visiting the British Airways Museum at Waterside, trying out new crafts, watching films, and meeting past captains and crew of different planes. But everything is optional! You might just prefer to sit in our First Class passenger lounge and read the morning papers. If so, that's fine. It's your holiday so it's up to you...

Every day there will be a variety of refreshments and a hot lunch

which reflect the day's travels. Our Captain and Crew will be there to meet your every need. Your holiday price of £25 for 3 days includes all outings, activities and food. Transport to and from church can also be arranged for those who need it.

Where else can such a travel bargain be found? This special offer is open to anyone who uses our Church, plus any of your friends and neighbours whom you think would enjoy this exceptional Mini-Break. For further details and bookings, see Joan Gardam, Roz Sendorek or Pauline Shilston, or e-mail roz.sendorek@btinternet.com. Book early, as places are limited.

*Roz Sendorek*

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## **Methodist Women in Britain**



*A Summer Tea*



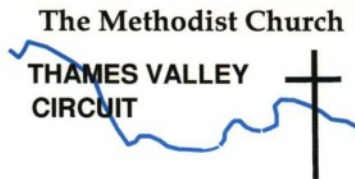
*Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> July at 2:30 p.m .  
Laleham Methodist Church*

*Bring and Buy Stall  
supporting "CRY"  
(Cardiac Risk in the Young)  
All Welcome*

## Greetings!

Lou and Mike Ashford send their love to everyone. They are really looking forward to welcoming a coach load to their church in Highworth in September. Meanwhile, if anyone is travelling in the area of North Wiltshire and the Cotswolds and fancies popping in for a cuppa they would be very welcome. Email Lou at [Louashford231@gmail.com](mailto:Louashford231@gmail.com)

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### **Lay Worker High Street Methodist Church, Maidenhead**

The Thames Valley Circuit is seeking a lay worker for High Street Methodist Church, Maidenhead. This is a one year fixed term contract for 30 hours (10 sessions) per week at a salary of £21,000 p.a. with some evening and weekend work.

High Street Maidenhead is a town-centre church with a membership of 165, a range of midweek activities and one main Sunday morning service at 10:30 a.m. with occasional evening services and 8:00 a.m. Communion services.

The Circuit is seeking a self-motivated leader for the church who can build bridges between groups which use the premises and the congregation, and assist with pastoral care and mission and outreach.

A full job description and application form can be obtained from the Senior Circuit Steward: e-mail [connie.jeffery@talk21.com](mailto:connie.jeffery@talk21.com) or ring 01628 662500. Closing date for return of completed application forms is 15 July 2017. It is an Occupational Requirement for the post holder to be a professing and practising Christian (Equality Act 2010).

## Cherish Those Memories (incorporating Computer Corner)

As the summer is here (unless the hot spell in June was it!) it is likely that many photographs will be taken. These days most are digital — either taken with a camera or a mobile phone — which is an easier and cheaper method than using film; although this does still exist. Although it was easier to pass around an album to show friends, rather than holding a screen in front of their face, digital photography is the clear favourite.

It is fine until the unthinkable happens: the file gets corrupted or you lose your phone. You sometimes hear people say that their “lives” were on the phone that they have lost or damaged.

The reason that I am spreading all this doom and gloom is to remind people of the need to back-up their data. If you have a computer you can usually back-up onto a disk: either CD/DVD or an external hard drive. More recently, tablet computers use a memory card (either SD or micro SD) to store their data. An alternative option is “cloud” storage, where you upload your data to an on-line provider who stores it for you. It is quite likely that you will never suffer data loss, so it is up to you what, if any, steps you take. I have a relative who is so protective of the thousands of pictures that he has taken during his lifetime that he keeps a copy at home and a second copy “off-site” at his daughter’s house. I thought this was a bit extreme until the recent tragedy at Grenfell Tower where those who survived lost everything.

One last thought about back-ups: don’t forget that formats change. I have some data stored on 5¼" floppy disks, which are not used nowadays, and some old Newsletter files that were created using software from now-defunct companies. If you are keeping copies, make sure that as formats become obsolete you change them to current formats. There is one format which has lasted for centuries: hard copies (paper).

On the subject of memories, take time to listen to, and get information from, older members of your family if you can; I can personally vouch for the fact that many questions come to mind when there is no-one to answer them. In this digital age, it is so easy to collect sounds, pictures, and words to cherish.

*Dave Price*

## Services for the month of July 2017

	2 <sup>nd</sup>	10:30 a.m.	Songs of Praise service led by the Choir [pw]
		6:30 p.m.	Rev. A. Reed [Communion]
Action for	} 9 <sup>th</sup>	10:30 a.m.	Leaders and Staff from “Adventure Plus”
Children Sunday}		6:30 p.m.	Rev. P. Clark
	16 <sup>th</sup>	10:30 p.m.	Rev. A. Reed [pw]
†		6:30 p.m.	Rev. A. Reed / Rev. R. Midcalf
	23 <sup>rd</sup>	10:30 a.m.	Rev. A. Reed
††		6:30 p.m.	<b>Circuit Service at Southville</b> led by Rev. A. Reed
	30 <sup>th</sup>	10:30 a.m.	Rev. A. Wickens [Communion]
		6:30 p.m.	Rev. A. Reed

pw denotes “Preparation in Worship” from 10:20 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.  
— a chance to take a few minutes to prepare ourselves for worship

† The evening service on 16<sup>th</sup> July is the of Accreditation Service as a Local Preacher for Ian Lister.

†† The Circuit evening service at Southville on 16<sup>th</sup> July is the Farewell Service for Rev. Peter Clark and Rev. Barbara McIntivey

### Church Directory

The wait is almost over. We need to complete the final entries during July for our Directory due to be published on 3rd September 2017. This is a final opportunity for those people who wish their details to be included in the Directory to pass them to us. If you have already provided information and it has changed do let us know.

*Many thanks, Andrew*

## Services for the month of August 2017

6 <sup>th</sup>	10:30 a.m.	Mrs. S. Price	[pw]
13 <sup>th</sup>	10:30 a.m.	Mrs. M. Willis	
20 <sup>th</sup>	10:30 p.m.	Rev. A. Reed	[pw, Communion]
27 <sup>th</sup>	10:30 a.m.	Mrs. M. Ash	

*There are no evening services at Staines during August.*

*The only evening service in the Circuit during August is at Ashford Common at 6:30 p.m., where you will be most welcome.*

pw denotes “Preparation in Worship” from 10:20 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.  
— a chance to take a few minutes to prepare ourselves for worship

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## Dates for your Diary

July

Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> 9:45 a.m. London Stroll (p.8)

Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> 2:30 p.m. “A Summer Tea” at Laleham (p.10)

August

Wed-Fri 9<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> “Flights of Fancy” – Holiday at Home (p.9)

Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> 9:45 a.m. London Stroll (p.8)

September

Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> 6:30 p.m. Welcome Service for  
Rev. Juliet Ushewokunze at Laleham.  
Preacher: Rev. Conrad Hicks  
(Assistant District Chairman)

Items for inclusion in the September Newsletter to David Price  
(Staines 462204 or [dave@shirleyanddave.me.uk](mailto:dave@shirleyanddave.me.uk))  
by Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> August at the latest please