

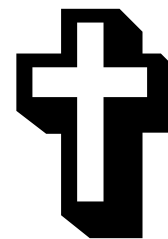
*The Methodist Church – Bristol District*

*Upper Thames Circuit*

*Monthly Newsletter*

*No 20*

*June 2015*



*Acts 4:13 "When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realised that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus."*

Dear friends

"Life is a peach and not an orange" so goes the introduction to the London Institute of Contemporary Christianity: <http://www.licc.org.uk/about-licc/video-introduction/>

In the passage above from Acts, the two disciples were described as unschooled, yet because of the journey they had taken with Jesus they were recognised as different. So my question for each church, and each individual in the Upper Thames Circuit is, "Are you being authentic witnesses for Jesus in the whole of your life. Are you a Peach or an Orange?" If I am honest I would say that for much of my life I have tried to be a peach - a whole fruit, but often I have ended up being an orange, segmented into bits for God and bits for me. Sometimes it has been better than others and I hope that today I am more peach than orange. We are of course talking about integrity here - does my life reflect Jesus in all that I do, say and think, whether it is a "church activity" or other?

I am currently reading Robbie Dawkins book "Do What Jesus Did." Through stories and illustrations he argues that followers of Jesus should be just like Jesus, who was completely integrated in the whole of his life; Jesus said of his disciples that they would do even greater things than Jesus himself did. I am regularly hearing stories of miracles up and down this country, personal testimonies of how God is healing, resurrecting and touching lives in extraordinary ways. I am meeting people who are sold out for Jesus, doing what Jesus did, living authentic lives, being peaches rather than oranges. So as I look around the Upper Thames Circuit: Abbey Meads, Braydon, Blunsdon, Cricklade, Highworth, Holy Trinity Shaw, Longcot, Lydiard Tregoze, Purton, Royal Wootton Bassett, Shrivenham, Toothill and Westlea, I want to ask each church, "What are you doing to support your congregations in living their Christian Faith with integrity?" At our recent discipleship training day when Andy and Rhoda Fearon shared with us some stories from their work in Carlisle. We learnt how their mission on one estate is transforming lives as they reach out with practical action accompanied by the gospel message, told mostly by the way they live rather than by preaching. I would say more peach than orange. I have witnessed that first hand and was privileged to meet some of the new Christians who have been touched by their work. They were recognised as people who had been with Jesus, more peach than orange.

May God bless you as you live out your Christian Faith wherever you find yourself this coming month.

Keith Osborn

NB: The deadline for items for the July/August newsletter is Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> June.

## **DISTRICT NEWS/EVENTS:**

### **Valedictory and Welcome Services for District Chair(s)**

There will be a valedictory service for Rev Ward Jones at 3.30pm on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> July in Clifton Cathedral and a welcome Service for his successor, Rev Dr Jonathan Pye, at 7.30pm on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> September in Bristol Cathedral. If there are sufficient numbers wishing to attend these services, transport (in the form of coach/minibus) could be arranged. Senior Church Stewards have been asked to complete a form for each event, identifying numbers for whom transport is required. So if you would like to attend either or both of these events, please contact your Senior Church Steward. **All requests for transport should be submitted to the Circuit Office by the end of May** at the latest. If you would like to contribute to a gift for Ward and/or Linda please contact your church treasurer, who will pass your gift, along with others, to the Circuit Treasurer, Mike Bathe. **All contributions should be sent to arrive with the Circuit Treasurer by the 10<sup>th</sup> June** at the latest, please, to meet District deadlines.

### **The New Room**

Please see below some information from Mandy Briggs about a very special week of events at the New Room in June.

“Balance” is an interactive photographic exhibition by Anne Topping (who is a photographer and creative consultant).

Anne’s photographs, which follow an environmental theme, are accompanied by activities, meditations and prayers which encourage visitors to consider how they are “human beings on a living planet.” The exhibition has been organised to tie in with Bristol Green Capital 2015.

The exhibition runs from June 8-13<sup>th</sup> at the New Room, from 10am-4pm every day. Admission is free.

A programme of events has been organised alongside the exhibition which I would like to commend to you. There are afternoon workshops with Anne focusing on some of her themes, a talk on “The Economics of Enoughness” by Simon Topping and an evening “Wonder Wander” (a reflective city centre walk) with my husband Niall Briggs. All these events are being organised on a ‘just turn up’ basis.

As a new venture, the New Room is also running “A Room Full of Stories” on June 10th – an evening of storytelling, poetry and music, in conjunction with Broadmead Baptist Church. This should be a really good event and something very different for us.

I would be grateful if you could share the details of these events with churches, friends, other groups and anyone you think might be interested in coming to the exhibition or attending one of the events.

Any queries, please do contact me,

With best wishes  
Mandy

Mandy Briggs  
Education and Outreach Officer, The New Room/John Wesley's Chapel, 36 The Horsefair, Bristol  
BS1 3JE  
Tel: 0117 926 4740

Email: [education@newroombristol.org.uk](mailto:education@newroombristol.org.uk)  
Website: [www.newroombristol.org.uk](http://www.newroombristol.org.uk)

### **The Key – Training Event – 13<sup>th</sup> June**

This training day is CRUCIAL for ALL those working with children and young people who have not attended any 'introduction to children's and youth work' training in the last 5 years. Methodist Church Standing Orders suggest that engaging with this kind of training is mandatory along with the Safeguarding training.

It's also a great opportunity to reflect on what you do, to meet other people in similar roles and have the chance to share stories with each other. It's fun and informative, providing practical ideas and gives space for reflection and problem solving. If you have attended similar training many years ago (such as Spectrum or Kaleidoscope) then we still strongly encourage you to attend this as an essential refresher.

It costs just £5 per person.

You can book by going to <http://www.bristol.anglican.org/event/the-key/> Complete the booking form, click 'submit', then pay on the day.

Don't hesitate to contact Emma Mills if you have any further queries or just to let her know you are hoping to attend.

### **Bristol District Youth Event**

#### Leap & Learn

This DAY EVENT has been put together as a direct response to the young people of the Methodist Church stating that they wanted to learn more about mental health. They identified that they would also like their youth leaders and churches to have more information in order to be better equipped to support them. The young people have identified "high rope" outdoor activities as something they are particularly interested in which is why we are off to "Leap of Faith" at "The Wild Place".

£10 for the full day, including lunch, is a BARGAIN PRICE. For further information, please see poster which was sent as an attachment to the email to which this newsletter was also attached.

If you know of young people in a Methodist Church who might be interested, who aren't involved in a youth group, then they are of course welcome. Ministers & Church Leaders are also invited to attend with their young people. There will be activities on the ground at the 'Leap & Learn' activity centre so those who don't like heights can still actively participate.

Please drop Emma Mills a line sometime between now and the deadline to let her know if you are planning on bringing a group, to give her a rough idea of numbers well in advance.

## Calling all Knitters and Crocheters

The Bristol District Youth Weekend takes place once every other year and it is in October this year. Despite my suggestion that perhaps it is time for a change in respect to the 'knitted character thing' we have going on, the young people voted to keep it going!!!

So this year to fit the theme of 'Heroes who Rescue' we are supplying a selection of 4 knitting / crochet patterns.

All of the characters will again be sold or auctioned at the end of the weekend to raise money for charity.

We would be exceptionally grateful if you could help please! Please could you ask around your congregations again as it has proved a great way to ensure members of the district to feel connected to this youth event!

The patterns are attached to the email to which this newsletter was attached. The first pattern isn't that clear. Let Emma Mills know if you would prefer it as a Word Document.

- We would be grateful if the predominant colours could be green and yellow please.
- Please don't create any 'official' superheroes such as 'Superman' as we won't be able to sell them for copyright reasons.
- Please replace any letters (chest or belt) with the letter 'Q'.
- Feel free to make them as individual / unique as you want.

## Understanding the Impact of Youth Work

On 18 June 2015, 9.30am - 3.30pm (9.30am refreshments, 10.00am start)

at University of Gloucestershire, Park Campus, Cheltenham GL50 2RH

Cost: £20

There is a growing consensus that those involved working with young people should develop ways that demonstrate the impact of their work.

This has resulted in many recent developments that seek to support youth practitioners, managers and commissioners in their roles. This conference therefore, seeks to explore these developments through key note speakers, workshops and discussions.

The conference is suitable for all involved in the youth sector, from volunteers, to employed workers, to managers, parish/town councils and those in the wider sector who are concerned how to demonstrate the quality of either their work or the work of others.

Partners involved: The University of Gloucestershire, The National Youth Agency, The Regional Youth Work Unit at Learning South West and Youth Focus West Midlands.

PLEASE BOOK YOUR PLACE NOW, via the [University online shop](#). Contact: Anita Suarez: [asuarez@glos.ac.uk](mailto:asuarez@glos.ac.uk) for all conference queries or Telephone: 01242 715153.

**CIRCUIT NEWS/EVENTS:**

## **Circuit Plan Amendments**

In the Plan for June-August, the valedictory service for Ward Jones is incorrectly shown as commencing at 3.00pm. It should read 3.30pm (but no harm in being early!).

## **Representation of Circuit at Church Council Meetings**

At the last Circuit Leadership Team meeting, it was agreed that named Circuit Stewards will represent the Circuit at Church Council Meetings, as follows:

<b>Church</b>	<b>Circuit Steward</b>
Abbey Meads	Mike Bathe
Blunsdon	Mike Bathe
Royal Wootton Bassett	Mike Bathe
Cricklade United Church	Andrew Fleet
West Swindon and Lydiard Tregoze Church Partnership	Andrew Fleet
Braydon	Paul Holloway
Highworth	Paul Holloway
Purton	Jane Phoenix-Stone
Shrivenham	Jane Phoenix-Stone

## **Lay Worker Update**

As mentioned last month, the Circuit was disappointed to receive the news that the District Grants Committee had declined to commit funds for our lay work programme when they met. This clearly has implications for our plans for the Circuit. We met as the Circuit Leadership Team on 30<sup>th</sup> March and agreed that we should take time to reflect and pray about this matter. We have also sought further understanding from the District Grants Committee.

Thank you for joining with us as we prayed for wisdom in discerning the way in which God is leading us in the light of this news. The Circuit Leadership Team subsequently met on 5<sup>th</sup> May and will be meeting again on 4<sup>th</sup> June for further prayer and discussion. Please continue to pray that God will guide us further, that we may know both the wisdom and gentleness of God (Matthew 10 v16) as we explore the way forward. The decisions made at the meeting on the 4<sup>th</sup> should enable a proposal to be put to the next Circuit Meeting, on 22<sup>nd</sup> June, for which we would also value your prayers.

Andrew Fleet

## **Mission and Discipleship Training Day**

On 16<sup>th</sup> May Andy and Rhoda Fearon from the Vineyard Church shared with us their experience of the Lord working in Carlisle.

Their theme was: "The Challenge of Making Disciples" and the event was attended by about 40 people. It was both challenging and stimulating and we are very grateful to Andy and Rhoda and family for making the journey down south to be with us for the day.

### **Action for Children**

The annual **AFC Plant Sale** held at The Podium, Highworth on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> May raised the sum of £550, which will be donated to help Action for Children support over 300,000 vulnerable and neglected children who are desperately in need of our help today. Our thanks go to all the volunteers and customers who supported this event and to Terry Williams, whose stall alongside ours contributed £167.75 towards that total.

### **Highworth Methodist Church**

The Christian Aid Committee invites you to a cream tea on Saturday, 27<sup>th</sup> June. Further details can be found at the end of this newsletter.

Highworth Methodist Church celebrates its anniversary on the week-end of 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> November. Rev Paul Ashby and his wife Carmel will be here for the week-end and Paul will be taking both services at Highworth on the Sunday.

### **Shrivenham Methodist Church**

#### Café Inspire

The next Café Inspire will be held in the Shrivenham Primary School on Saturday, 13<sup>th</sup> June, from 10.00am until 11.30am. Come along for a coffee, bacon roll and/or some yummy cake and a chance to chat to folk of all ages who enjoy doing the same. Activities (creative and otherwise) are provided for younger and older children. A DVD recording of Fiona Castle's talk at the Café Inspire Curry evening in October 2014 is now available and the proceeds will go to Fiona's international children's charity, Global Care. Please order your copy from Paul Holloway or from Bob Mawer at the Circuit Office.

#### Phakamisa (a Ministry of Pinetown Methodist Church, South Africa)

Thank you to all who supported the visit to the Circuit from Thokozani Poswa, Director of Phakamisa in South Africa. She has now arrived safely back in Pinetown, following her UK tour, taking with her many treasured memories of her first visit outside South Africa. The Phakamisa (UK) Trust has recently been able to transfer £16,000 to Phakamisa to help support its work with AIDS orphans.

You can find out more about Phakamisa at [www.phakamisa.org](http://www.phakamisa.org) which is a web site run jointly by the UK and South African Trusts (or contact Bob Mawer at the Circuit Office – contact details at the end of this newsletter).

### **Royal Wootton Bassett Methodist Church**

Come along for a **Vintage Tea and Musical Soiree** between 4pm and 6pm on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> June. You will enjoy a delicious tea including a sumptuous selection of sandwiches, cakes and puddings,

along with unlimited tea or coffee. Places are limited and you'll need a ticket (£12.50 per person) so make contact soon with Rev David or Chris Perkins (01793) 853197, or Fiona Fleet (01793) 345320. You will be helping to raise funds for a new Clavinova. Further information is at the end of this newsletter.

### **Circuit Service: 13<sup>th</sup> September**

Rev Dr Jonathan Pye, who has been appointed as Bristol District Chair w.e.f. 1<sup>st</sup> September, has accepted an invitation to take a service in our circuit on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> September. Further details will be advised later.

### **OTHER NEWS/EVENTS AND ITEMS OF INTEREST**

Please note the following items forwarded from the **Ammerdown Centre**, Ammerdown Park, Radstock, Somerset BA3 5SW

#### June

5-7 June Celebrating the Seasons: Exploring our Life Journey Through the Labyrinth led by Revd Dr Sally Welch This weekend course will be a creative and imaginative exploration of both the path we have journeyed along and the road ahead, using the labyrinth to focus and direct our reflections. We will look at seasons not so much in relation to one particular age or stage in life, but as a metaphor for the constant growth and decay that occurs through life. We will celebrate those parts of our lives that are flourishing, and explore other areas which might not be doing so well. This exploration will take place within the context of walking the labyrinth (Ammerdown has its own uniquely designed labyrinth) and through our creative responses to the experience. For more information or to book a place go to <http://ammerdown.org/Celebrating-the-Seasons-Exploring-our-Life-Journey-with-the-Labyrinth> , email [centre@ammerdown.org](mailto:centre@ammerdown.org) or ring 01761 433709

8 – 10 June In-depth Introduction to Enneagram led by Karen Webb The Enneagram is an ancient, extraordinarily accurate, model of human personality and spirit. Describing nine personality types and their interactions, it enables us to look deeply into our own character, harmonise our daily lives and our relationships, and understand our particular best path to growth. For more information or to book a place go to <http://ammerdown.org/Enneagram-An-in-depth-introduction-2015> , email [centre@ammerdown.org](mailto:centre@ammerdown.org) or ring 01761 433709

12 June Quiet Day led by Libby Dobson and Sarah Chabowska Ammerdown Guided Quiet Days offer an opportunity to take time out from our busy lives to pray, reflect and meditate in the Christian tradition with the help of Libby Dobson and Sarah Chabowska. They invite you to travel with God on a journey of discovery. The theme for this year will be 'Journey of the Heart - Pathways and Blessings'. For more information or to book a place go to <http://ammerdown.org/Guided-Quiet-Day-2015> , email [centre@ammerdown.org](mailto:centre@ammerdown.org) or ring 01761 433709

#### July

3-5 July Be a Jew for the Weekend led by Peter Walters (Shimon Yaakov ben Avraham) who offers an experience like no other: the chance to taste what it is like to live as an Orthodox Jew for a weekend. Peter writes: "During this weekend we (Jews and non-Jews alike) will try to get a sense

of being traditionally Jewish, learning about how a Jew feels, thinks and acts. Traditional prayers, Shabbat experience and study of the word of God from a Jewish perspective will be mixed with meditation, guided reflection, music and chanting... as well as a taste of some Jewish food. For more information or to book a place go to <http://ammerdown.org/Be-a-Jew-for-the-Weekend-2015> , email [centre@ammerdown.org](mailto:centre@ammerdown.org) or ring 01761 433709.

10-12 July Jewish-Christian Dialogue Weekend: Visions of the Other led by Fiona Hulbert and Rabbi Mark Solomon Jews and Christians have co-existed, often in great tension, for two thousand years. This weekend will explore some of the ways in which we have seen and spoken about one another and learned, often without acknowledging it, from one another's beliefs and traditions – and how we can create a more open dialogue for fruitful co-existence in the future. For more information or to book a place go to <http://ammerdown.org/Jewish-Christian-Dialogue-Weekend-2015> , email [centre@ammerdown.org](mailto:centre@ammerdown.org) or ring 01761 433709.

17- 19 July Praying with Music: Mozart's Mass in C minor led by Euan Tait This year Euan Tait will share with you his love of Mozart's Mass in C Minor. He writes: "Mozart's great Mass takes the soul on a powerful and very recognisable human journey towards Christ. There is the Kyrie's fierce pleading, then loving humour, dancing, confrontations, and the cries of our longings. We will explore the inner life and the humanity of this work in a context of loving prayer, praying both with music and with Scripture. My hope is that we will all discover fresh ways of faith through Mozart's great gift to us." For more information or to book a place go to <http://ammerdown.org/Praying-with-Music-2015> , email [centre@ammerdown.org](mailto:centre@ammerdown.org) or ring 01761 433709.

#### Flame FM (Local Radio Station Sponsored by Swindon Churches Together)

Please see the following extract from an email sent out by Barbara Aftelak:

The Flame planning group met last month and have decided 'Friends of Flame' (FoF) is a good way to disseminate information about Flame. We would therefore be grateful if you could print off the attached and put it up on noticeboards and encourage folk to consider blocking the dates in their diaries so that they can get involved. (We have specifically avoided the longer May bank holiday in 2016.) The next edition of FoF will be July.

If you have any ideas about the Launch (see note on FoF) please do let me know!

Barbara's contact details are on the poster attached to the email to which this Circuit Newsletter was attached. Further information about Flame FM can be found on the Flame FM web site:

[www.flamefm.co.uk](http://www.flamefm.co.uk)

#### Child Protection Co-ordinator (Volunteer)

Do you have a few hours a week spare to invest in the young people of our town?

A Hares Farming is seeking to recruit a Volunteer Child Protection Co-ordinator to join our new social action project, "Growing together". We aim to inspire young people to grow and cultivate organic produce and bring it to local market. By growing tasty fruit and vegetables together, we hope to promote the values of tolerance, respect and hard work – and show that growing together can be fun as well as rewarding! This local project will be based on our family run organic farm in Highworth. As a member of the Growing Together Team, the Volunteer Child Protection Co-ordinator will oversee our safeguarding arrangements. Appointment will be subject to Safer Recruitment procedures including a Disclosure and Barring Service check.

For more information about this pivotal role and an informal chat about our exciting new venture, please contact Jon Hares on 07878 422858 or email [jonathan.hares@btopenworld.com](mailto:jonathan.hares@btopenworld.com).

#### **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:**

Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> June	Circuit Leadership Team Meeting, 1 Garraways, 5.30pm
Saturday 6 <sup>th</sup> June	District Stationing Meeting
Saturday 6 <sup>th</sup> June	Vintage Tea Experience and Musical Soiree Royal Wootton Bassett Methodist Church 4pm – 6pm
Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> June	Circuit Invitations Committee Meeting, Purton 7.30pm
Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> June	Circuit Meeting, Braydon 7.30pm
Saturday 27 <sup>th</sup> June	Highworth Christian Aid Committee Cram Tea 2.30pm – 5pm
Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup> July	Local Preachers and Worship Leaders Meeting, Longcot 7.30pm

#### **Contact Details**

**Please note** the new email address for Mike Bathe, Circuit Treasurer, with immediate effect:

metabathe@gmail.com

**Please note** the following new address for Stella Tidmarsh, which takes effect immediately:

Dormer Cottage  
29 High Street  
Shrivenham  
Swindon  
Wilts  
SN6 8AN

Telephone and email details remain the same

#### **UPPER THAMES CIRCUIT CONTACT DETAILS:**

Office hours: 9.30am – 12.30pm on Wednesdays and Fridays

Telephone: (01793) 764544

Email: [upperthamescircuit@gmail.com](mailto:upperthamescircuit@gmail.com)

Email: [superkeithosborn@gmail.com](mailto:superkeithosborn@gmail.com)

**Please note:** *the Upper Thames Circuit Office will next be open on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> June*

**A VINTAGE TEA EXPERIENCE & MUSICAL SOIREE**

**ON**

**SATURDAY 6th JUNE 2015 - 4-6pm**

**AT**

**Royal Wootton Bassett Methodist Church**

**Raising funds for A New Church Clavinova**

**Come and enjoy a delicious tea  
served on fine china and Including:  
A sumptuous selection of sandwiches,  
cakes and puddings,  
with unlimited teas and coffee**

*To book places and for tickets call:*

**Rev David or Chris Perkins 01793 853197**

**[skyeperky@hotmail.com]**

**Or**

**Fiona Fleet 01793 345320**

.....

**£12.50 per person (limited numbers)**



**HIGHWORTH CHRISTIAN AID COMMITTEE**

Invite you to a

**CREAM TEA**

on

**Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> June**

Between

2.30pm & 5.00pm

In the garden of

'Elsbridge'

Swindon Road, Highworth.

(almost opposite Shell garage)

Tickets £3.50 from the Lighthouse Bookshop or phone Val Swift (01793 762963)  
to reserve.

All proceeds to Christian Aid



# Bristol District Children & Youth

## 1. Mental Health Workshop & High Ropes Activities

June 27<sup>th</sup> : For young people aged 11-23 who are linked with a Methodist Church in the Bristol District & their Youth Workers

### EXCITING NEW BRISTOL DISTRICT YOUTH DAY EVENT

Morning = Mental Health Workshop

Afternoon = High Ropes & ground level fun outdoor activities

The young people of the Methodist Church have identified that they want to learn more about mental health in order to support their friends. They also identified that they want their youth workers and churches to be educated so they are better equipped to support people with mental health problems.

This workshop has been organised in response to that request. Dr Pooky Knightsmith who is facilitating this workshop is extremely experienced in working with young people and has experienced what it's like living with mental illness herself. I have attended workshops she has run and found them truly captivating & informative, offering practical solutions, resources and advice about where to go for help. This is her website <http://www.inourhands.com/student-workshops/> The workshop will be interactive & pitched carefully to make sure it's suited perfectly for young people. The youth workers will learn a great deal too.

In the afternoon we will be taking part in 2 hours of fun outdoor adrenaline filled activities at "The Leap of Faith" based at Bristol's new "Wild Place" attraction (just off the Cribbs Causeway M5 junction 17). Again these are activities which the majority of young people from our district have expressed an interest in. There will be high rope activities and also fun team work challenges on the ground, so there will be something for those who don't like heights. Adults are welcome to join in any of the activities (some have an 18 stone weight limit but none have a max age limit!). Check out their website here <http://www.leapoffaith.co.uk/>

**The afternoon activities will only be open to those who attend the morning workshop**, although if someone wants to attend JUST the morning workshop then they can do free of charge.

The event will only cost each individual (young people & youth workers) **£10 each!** A real bargain considering the Leap of Faith activities alone would usually cost an individual £30!!

**SAVE THE DATE: Morning workshop venue & exact timings to be provided soon!**

## 2. The Key

June 13<sup>th</sup> : Crucial Children & Youth Workers Core Skills Training Day

This training day is crucial for ALL those working with children and young people who have not attended any 'introduction to children's and youth work' training before. In fact Methodist Church Standing Orders suggest that engaging with this training is mandatory along with the Safeguarding training.

Please could you advertise this training day, passing the info onto anyone working with children or young people in an Anglican or Methodist church in the Bristol Area (the whole of the Bristol District and the Bristol Diocese), encouraging them to attend by reinforcing how crucial and invaluable it is.

The 'Key' training day we ran in January was a huge success and we hope to see many of you at this 2<sup>nd</sup> one.

It costs just £5 per person (you might want to suggest that your church or circuit can help with this cost?).

**SAVE THE DATE: Venue to be confirmed ASAP**

(hopefully in the Bradley Stoke area: near the motorway & a fairly central point within the District).

### **3. 3Generate**

**Methodist Church's Children & Youth Assembly**

NEW DATE 20<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> November

NEW VENUE "PGL Adventure Centre, Swindon"

Please note the booking line opens on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> June 9am. This event sold out within a couple of days last year so I strongly advise that you have collected in all the necessary information from the young people wanting to attend by the 6<sup>th</sup> June so you can get your tickets as soon as the booking line opens. It is a fabulous event and would be great if more of our district attended. Please ask your churches and circuits for assistance with funding.

Don't forget it's open to children too aged 8+ so please pass this onto the children's workers in your church.

Children & young people attend this event without their youth workers, although any offers from youth workers (employed or voluntary) to help at the weekend would be gratefully received. If you volunteer at the weekend then you won't be charged to attend. I have done it for 3 years now and find it really rewarding. Please contact me for further info if you are interested.

For further information, please see the flyer attached to the email to which this newsletter was attached.

### **4. European Methodist Youth Camp**

**We are looking for a youth worker (paid or voluntary worker) to possibly take 2 young people to Belfast in the summer! Can you help? Travel and the ticket price which includes accommodation & food will be covered!**

We have 2 members of the DYC (age 17 and 14) really keen to go to this conference and it would be a great experience for them. Sadly we are struggling to find an adult to go with them and the organisation state that at least one adult needs to attend to be responsible for young people under the age of 18.

Check out the full details here, it really is a very exciting opportunity [http://download.emk-jugend.de/201501161135\\_EMYC\\_CampProgrammeInformation.pdf](http://download.emk-jugend.de/201501161135_EMYC_CampProgrammeInformation.pdf)

If you are interested in finding out more please contact Emma ASAP [Emma.YouWorkEnabler@VirginMedia.com](mailto:Emma.YouWorkEnabler@VirginMedia.com) or 07989 496316.

It is not 100% certain that we will be allocated the places or that we have got the funding yet but we are investigating all that at the moment. You will not be expected to pay for the event ticket or

the transport costs. We are ideally looking for a male youth worker but would be grateful to hear from anyone who is interested (who has up to date CRB/DBS checks and safeguarding training).

## **5. Connecting Disciple LOCAL**

**17<sup>th</sup> June : A chance for lay workers from the Bristol and West Midlands Region to get together, network, worship, celebrate!**

This FREE OF CHARGE event is primarily aimed for lay workers but volunteers are more than welcome to attend too.

## **6. Lay workers Gloucestershire Circuit Support Group**

**Are you employed by the Methodist Church and based in the Gloucestershire Circuit & feel you will benefit from meeting with others in similar roles?**

A new informal support group has been set up for the Gloucestershire Circuit. The first meeting was in a coffee shop in Gloucester City Centre. It's a great opportunity for lay workers to share ideas, off-load, learn for each other, ask for advice, share resources and talk about good news stories too! If you are a lay worker working for the Methodist Church in the Gloucestershire Circuit then it would be great if you could join us. It's all relaxed and flexible.

If you are not a lay worker in Gloucestershire then why not set your own group?

It could be similar to this one, or an interdenominational youth work support group within a particular town/city, or a volunteer youth workers support group for your area?

If any support groups like this already exist, no matter how informal, I would love to hear about it, thanks Emma.

## **7. Ark Bus Drivers Required**

**Are you able to help this fantastic project? Are you over 25 with a full clean driving licence?**

If interested or if you would like more information, contact them via their website  
[www.thearkbus.org.uk](http://www.thearkbus.org.uk)

## **8. DMLN : Bristol & West Midlands**

**Discipleship & Ministries Learning Network Facebook Group: A great way to connect with what's going on in our region of the Methodist Church**

News, resources, articles and events from the Discipleship & Ministries Learning Network in Bristol & West Midlands.

If the below link doesn't work then type "DMLN Bristol & West Midlands" into Facebook.  
<https://www.facebook.com/pages/DMLN-Bristol-West-Midlands/334381623380567?fref=ts>

They are now on twitter too @DMLNbwm

Click on this link to see answers to frequently asked questions about the DMLN  
<http://www.methodist.org.uk/learning/fags>

## **9. The Youth Work Foundation**

**Financial support to would-be youth workers across England to help them access [JNC recognized qualifications](#).**

The Foundation's mission is to support the most deserving applicants to become qualified youth workers regardless of their background.

This mission is built on a belief that young people benefit from youth workers who have a variety of backgrounds and life experiences

<http://www.nya.org.uk/supporting-youth-work/youth-work-foundation/>