

Jesus said

“I am the Light of the World”

John 8: 12



**Deadline for March to May 2024 edition
Tuesday 23 January 2024**


Please send all articles for inclusion in the next edition to the Circuit Administrator at:


**Yeovil and Blackmore Vale Circuit Office
Yeovil Methodist Church
Vicarage Street, Yeovil
BA20 1JZ**

**01935 432173 / 07423 837504
yandbvcircuit@gmail.com**



www.yeovilblackmorevalemc.org.uk

THE  **Bridge** **Circuit Magazine**
Including
Circuit Plan
Issue 38
December 2023 —February 2024



Our Mission Statement

To Know God's Love, To Show God's Love,
To Share God's Love



From the Circuit Office

The Circuit Office is open on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month between 9am and 2pm. Otherwise I will be working from home Tuesdays to Thursdays between 9am and 1pm. I continue to have full access to the circuit email. Messages left on the office answerphone are being retrieved regularly for more urgent matters I can be contacted on 07423

837504 during working hours.

May I take this opportunity to wish you all a Blessed and Peaceful Christmas and best wishes for 2024

The Circuit Office will be closed from 1pm Thursday 21 Dec returning to work on Tuesday 2 Jan.



DATE FOR YOUR DIARY:

Circuit Meeting — Wednesday 6 December — 7pm on Zoom

Please continue to send your News and details of upcoming events for the Bridge Magazine to the Circuit Office.

Items for the next edition should be received **well before Tuesday 23rd January 2024** Many thanks.

If you are contributing by email could you please identify each contribution (image or article) with the name of your church or group. It helps identify them much more easily.

Helen.

If you are submitting photographs for publication in the Bridge Magazine please ensure that anyone portrayed in pictures is aware that it is being taken and may be published. **It is particularly important that written parental consent is obtained to publish pictures of children.**

Circuit Presbyters

Superintendent Minister: Revd Lin Francis 01747 823777.

Ministers: Revd Denise Binks—01747 854631; Revd Kate Konrad—01935 415837

Supernumerary Ministers: *Revd Richard Clarke; Revd Ruth Farrant; Revd Christina Le Moignan; Revd Joyce Norman; *Revd Margaret Oxenham; Revd Judy Turner-Smith; *Revd Catherine Campbell-Hyde; Revd Soon Cheol Choi (* before the name indicates 'not active')

Community Café and Clothing Exchange

BELL STREET UNITED CHURCH, SHAFTESBURY (Bell St entrance)

Every WEDNESDAY 10.00am - 12 noon

Come along for refreshments, chat, children's clothing & baby accessories, toy corner.

Whether you are a parent (bring the children), a grandparent, a student, someone on their own, whatever your situation or age - join us for a warm welcome!

Always eat alone? Tired of cooking?

Community Meal

Every 1st Friday of the Month

At:- 12 Noon. YMC, Chelston Avenue, Yeovil

2 Course Hot Meal & Tea/Coffee.

Cost £5

To book your place please contact:-
Beryl: 475541 or Kate: 472702

COME ALONG AND MEET NEW FRIENDS!

We look forward to seeing you.

NEED A BIRTHDAY PARTY VENUE? EASY!

Hire a room at YMC Chelston Avenue, Yeovil!

Millford area, Yeovil. We'd love to have you at YMC Chelston! Includes hall/kitchen hire & tables/chairs * Other times/prices are available

Only £39 for 3 hours*

Contact: Damilola (Bookings Manager) 0746 741 6577
Email: yeovilnmcbookings@gmail.com

Mid-Week Worship

Tuesday's 12 noon
YMC @ Quedam
for 30 mins

You are invited to join us. God isn't just for a Sunday.

4th Sunday Month

OVERFLOW
In The Spirit

Modern Worship
Relaxed & Informal
Opportunity for conversation & Questions
Perhaps a Drama
COME & HEAR OUR BAND!

4pm @ YMC, Chelston Avenue

Please join us for cake and refreshments afterwards.

1st Sunday of the Month!

Munch Bunch

BREAKFAST CHURCH

10:30am—11:30am At YMC, Chelston Ave.

Come and enjoy Worship with Breakfast and Chat.
EVERYONE WELCOME!

Sunday School for all ages.

Sunday's 10:30am @ YMC, Chelston Avenue.


What's happening around the Circuit



Yeovil Methodist Church, Chelston Ave
 Thursdays on term time 9.30-11am
 Toys & Crafts, Singing & Snacks
Seedlings
 Baby & Toddler Group
 £1 per family
 For More info please contact
 Lucy: 0796 673 6240



LITTLE SUNBEAMS
@ MOTCOMBE
 A friendly group for
 parents / carers with
 babies and pre-school children
 Term-time Thursdays 10 – 11.30 am
 Motcombe Methodist Church,
 The Street, Motcombe, SP7 9PF
 FRIENDSHIP, PLAY, LEARNING, SINGING AND FUN!
 NUMBERS LIMITED SO PLEASE BOOK IN ADVANCE
 Contact Sarah on 07814 275985 Facebook: Sunbeams@Motcombe



THE BOYS' BRIGADE & GIRLS' ASSOCIATION
 >the adventure begins here
 Anchors 5-8 years 6:30 – 7:30PM
 Junior 8-11 years 7-8PM
 Company Section 11-14 years 7:30pm-8:30pm
 Why not come along and see whats going on. We'd love to see you!
 Thursdays @ Yeovil Methodist Church, Chelston Avenue.
 For more info contact Andy Voizey:- 1yeovilboysbrigade@gmail.com



Bright Beginnings
 BABY GROUP
 A support group for
 parents/ carers
 of babies up to
 10 months.
 at Bell Street United Church
 Shaftesbury, SP7 8AL
 Please contact Ruth Jones on 07764 497532 for more information



youth club
 AGE 8yrs +
 @ Yeovil Methodist Church: Chelston Ave
 Fridays Fortnightly
 Feb: 10th, 24th
 March: 10th, 24th
 April (Easter Hols), then back on 21st
 May: 5th, 19th
 6:30pm – 8pm
 £1.50 + Money for Tuck Shop
 More Info call Lindsay: 0781 727 1001

VALE METHODIST CHURCH
 (Based at Sturminster Newton & Kings Stag)
 STURMINSTER METHODIST CHURCH
 EVERY MONDAY:-

 PRAYER TIME; - from 2- 3pm
 All welcome to join us.
 'CRAFTY CUPPA' :- from 3pm- 4pm
 Want to learn to knit?
 Trying to
 Learn to
 to sew?
 ALL ARE WELCOME TO COME AND SHARE
 Join in a project together?
 Cuppa's are always on the go!!



Every 3rd Saturday of Month!
10am – 12ish.
 AT:- YEOVIL METHODIST CHURCH: Chelston Avenue
 WE HAVE LOADS OF ARTS, CRAFTS, SONGS, SCIENCE, FUN & GAMES FOR YOU TO ENJOY & YOU ARE ALL INVITED TO STAY FOR A MEAL TOGETHER TOO!
 WE CANT WAIT TO SEE YOU. EVERYBODY WELCOME!
 DATES: March 18th
 April 15th
 May 20th
 This is a free event for all, but contributions would be gratefully received should you feel able to contribute.
 FOR MORE INFO PLEASE CONTACT
 Lindsay:- 0781 727 1001

From The Revd Lin Francis

December 2023

Dear Friends,

A gentleman I knew at work some thirty years ago was obsessed with the lighting up times. The local evening paper was delivered to the company we worked for every day. He would immediately look to see what the lighting up time was for that evening. I was always intrigued by this and particularly heartened with the details once Christmas was over. You might ask, why, then?

I do not like the long dark nights. I much prefer the light evenings when I can be outside, and prefer to travel to and fro in the light. Once the shortest day, 21 December, has gone and the nights draw out, I am happier. I feel more hopeful and positive. When we celebrate Christmas we usually have family or friends around and this helps, but once this is over it is so easy to think of the cold winter weather, and the darkness. For me, just knowing that the spring and summer are coming is wonderful.

Within many of the church council meetings and children's group leaders meetings there has been a lot of talk about light. The Light Parties for 31 October, advent candles and do we have the traditional four red and one white candle or use the different colours and of course talk of having a Christingle Service. Candles, torches and light. Many town and parish councils are also discussing light - Christmas trees and lighting up the high streets. We all need light to cheer us.

The Christingle originates from the Moravian Church which influenced John and Charles Wesley. Johannes de Wattville started the tradition in Germany. It was designed to teach children at Christmas about the Saviour's birth and has been used since 1747. During the service, everyone receives a

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Christingle - literally "Christ light" and its meaning is then explained.

The orange represents the world

A candle is Jesus the light of the world

A red ribbon or tape wrapped around the orange symbolises the blood of Jesus

Four sticks holding dried fruit and sweets to signify the four seasons and the gifts we are given in the fruits of the earth

This is a really simple and visual way of appreciating that Jesus is the light of the world; that he can make a very real difference in all our lives. It is also a fun thing which should capture not just the children's attention, but

May the light of Christ put paid to all of your fears, may His light shine in the darkness of your lives and shine among you all, this Christmas. May He enable us to be His light, shining in the darkness of the world at this time.

Wishing you peace and love and light, this Christmas and New Year.

With every blessing,

Lin

CIRCUIT THANKSGIVING SERVICE

**For the Life and Witness of the
Methodist Church in Gillingham**

At GILLINGHAM METHODIST CHURCH

Sunday 10th December at 3pm

Followed by Tea at 4pm

FOR THE CHILDREN

(and the young at heart)



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Yeovil Methodist Church

<http://yeovilblackmorevalemc.org.uk/our-churches/>

Vision Day – An afternoon when we were given a well thought out and meaningful presentation of how our premises in the Quedam could not only be used by us, but by the wider community. As a church family we need to look to work for the greater good of us all. We have all heard the expression concerning transport! ‘Use it or lose it!’. Not something any of us wanted to hear, but we do need to make our presence work for us.

So, we have been charged to prayerfully consider how we go about working and worshipping together to enhance our lives and the lives of others in the community.

On a Tuesday we have a large number of those outside YMC who depend on the hospitality we offer and for many I guess it is a life line to being accepted and welcomed into a safe space. It may take time but I’m sure Mark’s personal vision and his desire to make a difference, with our support and prayers of the church family, will come to fruition. God does move in mysterious ways!



Yeovil Methodist Church at Chelston Ave

Harvest – ‘To reap, gather in, receive’ – Rev Kate reminded us of Lammas – a former church feast day, held on August 1st, a forerunner to our harvest, as we know it today, taking place any time between August and October. We focused on how we get our food today – the example being – a favourite biscuit! A Jammy Dodger, its various components e.g. The jam – (fruit/sugar), flour etc, those needed in the manufacture and packaging, it’s transport to shops and outlets. Those who stack shelves and record it’s value as it passes through the checkout into our hands. So we must be thankful for bringing it to our tables in so many different forms.

The words of hymn 126 in Singing the Faith encompass all we need to be thankful for, and yes we were thankful for the lovely hot meal that had been prepared – Cottage Pie and Veg and of course Crumbles for pud. The hard work of those behind the scenes was much appreciated.

Yeovil Methodist Church in the



There was also a large consignment of tins and packages for the Lord’s Larder brought and displayed alongside loaves of bread that were sliced and offered at lunch.

We also remembered those struck down with Covid – You were missed!

All is safely gathered in we hope!

Thelma

Southampton Eco District Webinars

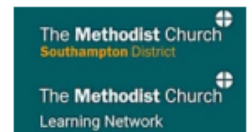
Helping our District reach **Net Zero by 2030**

Creation Mondays 7-9 pm

- **Opening devotions**
 - Revd Andrew de Ville, Chair of the Southampton District
 - followed by these speakers
- **October 23, 2023**
 - **Lament, Hope & Wisdom: Reflecting theologically on the environmental crisis**
 - Revd Margot Hodson, John Ray Initiative
- **November 13, 2023**
 - **Why be an Eco District?**
 - Revd Ian Souter, Bristol District Eco Champion
- **December 11, 2023**
 - **Calculating Carbon: Understanding carbon calculators**
 - Adrian Frost, Climate Stewards
- **January 22, 2024**
 - **Integrating Creation Care & Evangelism**
 - Holly Adams, Evangelism and Growth Team
- **February 12, 2024**
 - **Understanding Sustainable Buildings**
 - Dr Ho Lim, Stratford upon Avon Methodist Church
- **March 11, 2024**
 - **So what *should* we do about climate change?**
 - Jo Crocker, Winchester Action on the Climate Crisis
- **Information and registration for the webinars:**
- <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/cc/southampton-eco-district-events-2606229>

Address any queries to:

ecodistrict@sdmc.org.uk





Bell Street United Church, Shaftesbury with Ashmore Chapel

<http://www.yeovilblackmorevalemc.org.uk/our-churches/bell-street-shaftesbury/>

<http://www.yeovilblackmorevalemc.org.uk/our-churches/ashmore/>



Cheap Street Church with Longburton Chapel and Yetminster Methodist Church

<http://www.yeovilblackmorevalemc.org.uk/our-churches/cheap-street>

<http://cheapstreetchurch.co.uk/index.php>

<http://www.yeovilblackmorevalemc.org.uk/our-churches/longburton>

<http://www.yeovilblackmorevalemc.org.uk/our-churches/yetminster>



We enjoyed what was sadly the last Songs of Praise at Longburton led by Janet English in September.

The decision has been taken by Cheap Street Church Council to close the Chapel and sell the property.

Likewise Yetminster congregation have come to the conclusion that the time is right to cease worship at that Chapel and the final service will be a joint service to take place in the new year.

While it is sad to see these closures it does relieve the burden on the few remaining members and enables them to seek fellowship elsewhere and the Anglican church at Yetminster has been very welcoming.

Cheap Street has welcomed 6 new members albeit they are transfers from other churches near and far.

We had an enjoyable Harvest Service led by Canon Eric Woods he having retired from Sherborne

A morning discussion was recently held on the subject of marriage as laid out in the scriptures and how we interpret them for today. This was led by Rev Kate and was very challenging but only attended by a minority of the congregation

We are due to have a secret ballot at the Church Meeting in November to

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The Harvest Display at Motcombe Methodist Church



Marnhull Methodist Chapel

<http://yeovilblackmorevalemc.org.uk/our-churches/marnhull/>



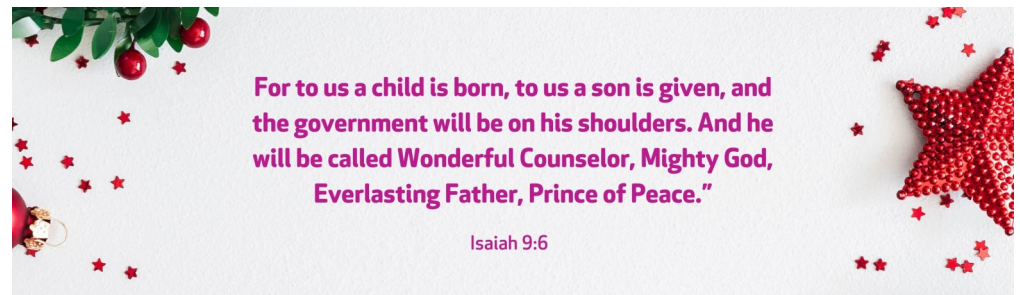
Tisbury Methodist Church

<http://yeovilblackmorevalemc.org.uk/our-churches/tisbury/>



Wincanton Methodist Church

<http://www.yeovilblackmorevalemc.org.uk/our-churches/wincanton>



For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."

Isaiah 9:6



Motcombe Methodist Church

<http://yeovilblackmorevalemc.org.uk/our-churches/motcombe/>

We had a grand celebration of **Harvest** this year. Revd. Sue Litchfield showed us how we should all share God's wonderful provision for us on this earth. The service was followed by a harvest meal in the church and we were joined by many Gillingham members. £165.44 was raised for All We Can, and all gifts were donated to the Local Women's Refuge.



Little Sunbeams continues to thrive and we are very grateful to those who give of their time and energy to support this venture. 15 children and 13 adults with a menagerie of furry animals enjoyed the Little Sunbeams Teddy Bear's picnic in Motcombe Meadows. It was very hot and ended early but everyone went home tired and happy!

Lunch Club has continued in the church while the kitchen has been out of action. The club provides much support to those who live on their own and welcome the time to chat as well as eat!

In our **Bible Study** sessions we have learnt much about Amos and we will continue with a study of Obediah before looking at Advent material.

Our MacMillan coffee morning in September raised £155.75.

Our organist **Tony Savage** is well known in the circuit and we were delighted to host a coffee morning to celebrate his 90th birthday! It was a most enjoyable occasion and Tony was even persuaded by the children to play the organ for us!

The A.G.M. for the **Ladies' Fellowship** was held in September. In October we watched an inspirational power point presentation given by Ruth, who is a volunteer with Mercy Ships. She showed us terrible pictures of disfigurement but also the smiles when operations had been carried out. £147.20 was collected for this worthy cause.

Stella Taylor

decide whether to allow same sex marriage in Cheap Street Church.

A second congregation service continues monthly on a Monday as Rev Kate continues to seek the right way forward for the Church

Meanwhile our Senior Service also continues on a monthly basis.

The Christmas Tree Festival will take place from Dec 2-9th again organised by Churches Together in Sherborne.

The Pod continues its work of welcoming all and is the collection point of the shoe box appeal this year.



Gillingham Methodist Church

<http://yeovilblackmorevalemc.org.uk/our-churches/gillingham/>

Music at Gillingham Methodist Church:
www.musicatgmc.org.uk

Gillingham Community Cinema:
www.filmatgmc.org.uk



Longburton Chapel

Methodists through the ages have always been very supportive of the small village chapels, and this could be seen as Longburton marked their Harvest Service and the drawing to a close of worship. The whole circuit being represented on an evening entitled 'Mission Accomplished!'

It was a celebration of those who had gone before with many a tale that brought a smile to us all and also of those who in recent years had worshiped and maintained the building and it's adjoining graveyard, even during Covid.

The church was decorated with a harvest banner, fresh flower arrangements and a corner for donations for the food bank. Prior to the service we had enjoyed a welcome cuppa and an array of sandwiches and cakes, served up on some lovely old plates, which I am sure could tell their own story!

Hymns had been chosen by various members and we made use of the old Methodist Hymn Book! A reminder of one of their late stalwart members. Prayers were led by Rev Kate and Rev Lin. A new chapter awaits the building, but I am sure it will not be very far from many people's thoughts, their mission of God's word has been accomplished!

Theлма—Yeovil Methodist Church

'I read this recently and it made me giggle.....' Lin

Remember old folks are worth a fortune, with silver in their hair, gold in their teeth, stones in their kidneys and gas in their stomachs.

I have become a little older since I spoke to you last and changes have come into my life.

I am quite a frivolous old girl. I am seeing five gentlemen each day.

As soon as I wake up Will Power helps me out of bed, then I visit Lou. Next it's time for Mr. Quaker to give me my oats. They leave and Arthur Ritis shows up and stays for the rest of the day. He doesn't stay in one place very long, so he takes me from joint to joint. After such a busy day I'm ready for bed with Johnny Walker.

WHAT A LIFE!

And oh yes, I'm flirting with Al Zymer.

The Vicar came the other day and said, "At your age you should be thinking about the hereafter."

I told him "Oh I do, no matter where I am, in the lounge or upstairs, in the kitchen or the cellar, I ask myself - Now what am I here-after ???"



Vale Methodist Church

Incorporating the chapels at
Sturminster Newton and Kings Stag

<http://yeovilblackmorevalem.org.uk/our-churches>



Vale Methodist Church
Celebrated their 1st
Anniversary on Sunday 3rd
September.



VALE METHODIST CHURCH
(based at Sturminster Newton & Kings Stag)

NEW

'FRIENDS AND NEIGHBOURS'

Do you feel alone?

Worried about keeping
warm?

Long for Friendship?



Beginning at Sturminster Newton Methodist Church

On November 2nd 2023

(Thursdays once a fortnight)

Come and join us any time from:-
10.30am. - 3pm

Games: puzzles: food: film shows:
Build new friendships.

Programme for the day: -

10.30am:- Welcome and hot drinks

10.40am:- Morning games/puzzles/crafts

12.noon:- Hot lunches

1pm:- Sing-a-long

1.30pm:- Film Time

2.30pm:- Afternoon tea.

3.00pm:- Farewells.

Dates for your diary:- Nov 2nd ; 16th ; 30th; Dec 14th; 28th.

PRE-CHRISTMAS SALE



AT:- STURMINSTER NEWTON
METHODIST CHURCH.

ON:- NOVEMBER 18th (SATURDAY)

FROM :- 10AM - 2PM

Loads of Christmas Gifts

Tea/coffee & Cakes.

