



**Deadline for December 2023 to February 2024 edition
Tuesday 24 October 2023**

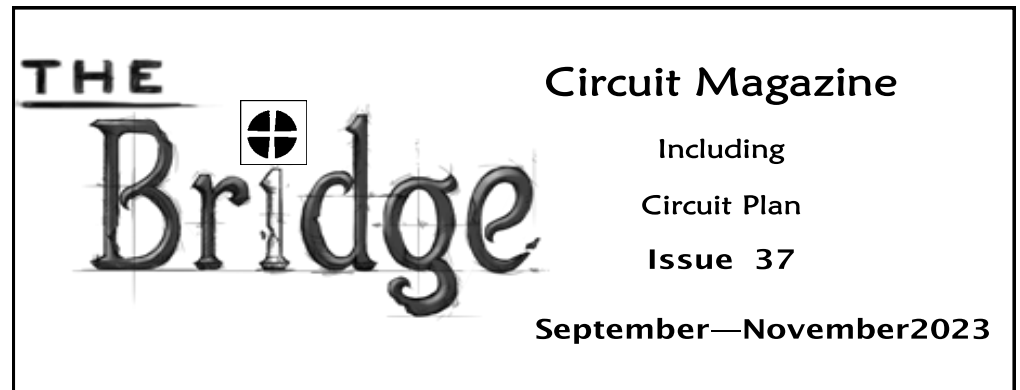
Please send all articles for inclusion in the next
edition to the Circuit Administrator at:

**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



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.

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY:

Circuit Meeting — Monday 18 September — 7pm at Wincanton Methodist Church

ANNUAL LEAVE Please note that I am on annual leave from 1pm Thursday 17 Aug. returning to work on Tuesday 5 Sept.

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 25th July 2023** 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 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!

Milford 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: yeovilincbookings@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.

The FASS Club is a Circuit club for the over fifties. Based at Yeovil Methodist Church, Chelston Ave. A small group continue to meet on Zoom on Wednesday afternoons. For details please contact Richard England rje@england-family.org Tel: 01935 850726



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!!



WCS Church
 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

September 2023

Dear Friends,

Tradition. Change. Progress.

I like solving puzzles, crosswords, sudoku's, jigsaws and many others. Having a strategy, a plan, is key, you have to work at it in order to solve the problem. In order to make progress in any area of life, of work, for family for the church; planning and preparation is vital. Those words tradition, change and progress can be viewed as negative and they can offer a conundrum which order should they be read in. From tradition, the way things are have to amended as change happens and so when change happens there is progress, or is there! Or, they can be looked at in a different way. What has to happen in order to make progress in any situation? Well usually change is necessary and of course that alters the norm, the tradition of the past.

The talks, the explorations that we are having regarding the future of this circuit mean that those three words are constantly being used, both in the negative and in the positive sense. At some points of desperation I have been looking up what these words mean, here are a few of definitions.

In the Concise Oxford Dictionary of The Christian Church it says that 'Tradition' means the revelation made by God and delivered by Him to His people through the prophets and apostles. This implies that something is 'handed over', not 'handed down.' That's quite interesting because we usually say, it's tradition, we have always done it this way.

Adrian Plass in his book Bacon Sandwiches and Salvation gives an A-Z of the Christian Life. It is a very light hearted piece of work. Under the word 'Change', he says "rare phenomenon as far as the church is concerned, except when it comes to the collection. Tends to be fairly limited even then."

So what about 'Progress' then? In the Concise Oxford Dictionary it tells of forward or onward movement towards a destination, advance or development towards completion – betterment.

(Continued on page 4)

We can so easily misinterpret words, make them mean what we want them to mean. Looking at just those brief meanings above, doesn't that put a different perspective on our circuit explorations.

Within this Circuit we have been looking at ways forward in terms of God's work here in the towns and villages of Yeovil and the Blackmore Vale. Surely we are all aware that life in the churches is never going to be what it was fifty/sixty years ago. If it was, then you would have made it so, but it won't be the same again; it has to be different to survive. Whenever the words 'different' or 'change' are spoken, there are conscious objections and the phrase 'It has always been this way, we don't want it to change' is said.

Jesus came to rescue the world, to save people and in doing so gave free will; the choice between good or evil, right or wrong. Early in Mark's gospel, Jesus is challenged for being unlawful on the Sabbath for picking corn and for healing. He was doing the right thing but not obeying the letter of the law. He therefore shows us how to do the right thing, and not necessarily follow tradition.

We need to progress with the work of God, the furthering of the gospel message and in order to do that we need to change and adapt to the situations we find ourselves in and actually hand over the reins for the best outcome for God.

Let me leave you with a poem written by Mother Mary Clare:

We must try to understand
the meaning of the age
in which we are called to bear witness.

We must accept the fact
that this is an age in which
the cloth is being unwoven.
It is therefore no good trying
to patch. We must, rather,
set up the loom on which
coming generations may
weave new cloth according to
the pattern God provides.

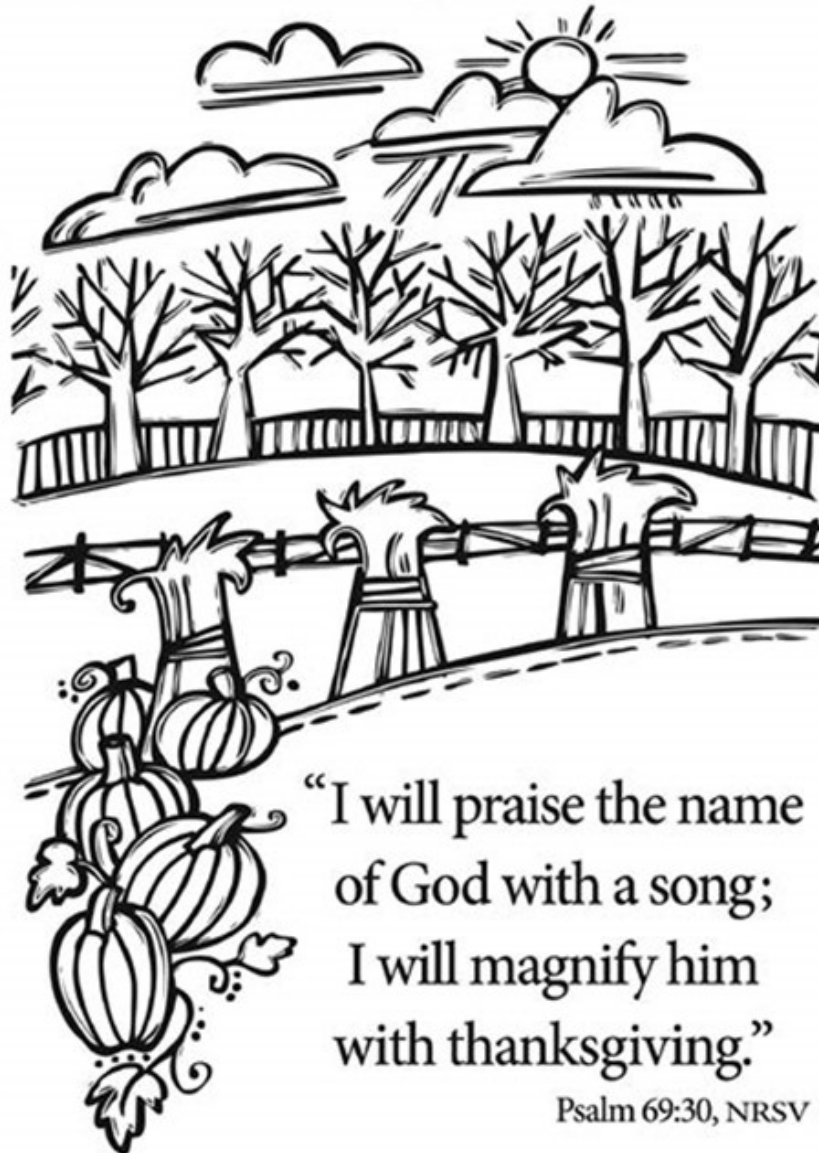
Mother Mary Clare SLG

With every blessing,

Lin

FOR THE CHILDREN

(and the young at heart)



“I will praise the name
of God with a song;
I will magnify him
with thanksgiving.”

Psalm 69:30, NRSV

grown among others in Malawi that are more resilient to climate change, to enable a living to be made from crops grown - pea soup was also served at the Christian Aid Lunch, reminding us all of this important little seed we all take for granted!

Church Anniversary took place in June, alongside M H Sunday. To kick start the service Rev Kate gave us a short quiz, allowing the children to keep their mobiles! -v- those of us of more mature years without! Some questions were found very quickly by the youngsters, others by us with longer memories! The exercise was to show how we need each others skills and knowledge in our daily lives. Just as we are made up of many different parts that need to work together to make us whole, so we need to come together not only in our daily living, but in our spiritual lives in making Yeovil Methodist Church work, however difficult and painful it may be at times. Our two buildings are used in many different ways for outreach and service to others in the community and they both have a part to play in the work of Yeovil Methodist Church. A lovely lunch was once more enjoyed and we do say a big thank you for all the hard work that went into it.

We were blessed with a sunny, warm day on July 1st, when our Church Fete was held in the grounds at Chelston Avenue, with various stalls, ploughman's lunches and cream teas on offer. A lot of hard work is always the order of the day, putting up the gazeboes for the stalls to be set up and preparation of the lovely lunches and teas, which were much appreciated. Then of course there is the clearing up after - no mean task! So a very big thank you to all those involved for the fun, fellowship and fund raising - a grant total of £500.01!!

As another Methodist Year draws to a close we will go forward knowing whatever lies ahead, there is one guiding us through the unknown and we must put our trust in him. Hymn 476 StheF says it all.

Thelma

"The Church was struck by lightning. The insurance company refused to pay out for the damages incurred, as there is a specific disclaimer clause for "An Act of God", which amongst others, lightning is classed as. The Minister goes to every household and asks for a donation to rebuild the church. One Christian farmer protested, "I'm sorry, but I can't give money to somebody who set his own house alight".

Yeovil Methodist Church in the Quedam



Circuit Farewell to Deacon Rebekah-Joy Spinks

On Sunday July 23rd the Circuit said a fond farewell to 'Deacon R-J' at a Service held in Vale Methodist Church, Sturminster Newton.

The service was preceded by a gathering and fellowship over tea and cake.



We wish Rebekah-Joy well as she moves to Preston and Ribble Circuit.



Our prayers go with you Rebekah-Joy. May God Richly Bless you in your work in your new Circuit.

Longburton Methodist Chapel



Final Songs of Praise

Sunday 17th September at 6pm

Preceded by tea at 5pm



Please come and join us as we celebrate the witness of this chapel for many years and pray with us as we look to the future.



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/>

www.yeovilblackmorevalemc.org.uk/our-churches/yetminster



Cheap Street /Longburton/Yetminster

The decision has been taken with regret by the Church Council to close the Longburton Chapel. Yetminster is now a class of Cheap Street and is represented on the Church Council by Barbara Driver and they continue to explore the way forward with the local Anglican Church

The work of the POD has seen new volunteers and we continually seek ways of further connecting with the public at large.

We have begun to experiment with a new congregation on a Monday evening beginning with refreshments and a time to chat and includes such topics as songs which have inspired us in our journey of faith. Other topics are welcome for future meetings.

On Sat October 7th a meeting has been arranged when Revd Kate will explore the subject of Sexuality before a decision is to be made at the Church Meeting as to whether same sex marriage will be allowed at Cheap Street Church.

Martin Turner is coming for November 4/5 when the Circuit and Sherborne Churches Together will be invited.

The Open the Book team continue to enjoy the opportunity to present Bible stories to the Abbey Primary school. We have just done Daniel and the lions and it was good to hear the children roar in a controlled way and to see their enthusiasm.



Yeovil Methodist Church

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

Greetings from both the fellowships and activities at the Quedam and Chelston Avenue!

The theme of our Coronation Sunday Worship was King Jesus -v- King Charles! The children were dispatched to find a number of photos which when retrieved had to correspond with each other to show how different our heavenly King is versus our earthly Monarch - e.g. The Crown of Thorns against a jewelled Crown of royalty. The stable where Christ was born as against Buckingham Palace, the Nazarene clothes of Christ and stately robes, so you the reader can work out other differences. The one thing these two have in common in SERVICE - the servant King in Jesus, who came not to be served but to serve (H272 SthF) asking us to learn how to serve our Lord and each other in our daily lives.

The first of many 'gifts' presented to King Charles was the Bible - 'The most valuable thing that this world affords' - a quote as it is presented - he too has come to serve, not to be served - and we have seen this through the many trusts and organisations he has set up to help others get their lives on the right track.

The service was followed by coffee and chat, then a lunch of jacket potatoes with various fillings, salads and of course puddings! So thank you to all who were involved in this. There was a time of craft work and then a short time of worship to round off the meaningful day - We all made a Joyful Noise in our singing, a reminder of the new Coronation anthem.

We helped celebrate a special birthday with our friend Damilola, along with her many Nigerian friends and family, some had travelled many miles bringing with them their vibrant singing in their native tongue and wonderful coloured costumes. Refreshments were laid on for the church family, followed by her party later in the day at the Quedam.

Rev Ruth took a most inspiring service combining the key dates which came together in May this year - something that doesn't happen often - remembering Ascension Day, Christian Aid Week, Wesley Day and Pentecost. The children learning about pigeon peas - the crop that is now



**Yeovil Methodist
Church at
Chelston Ave**

(Continued on page 12)



Tisbury Methodist Church

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



Marnhull Methodist Chapel

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



Wincanton Methodist Church

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



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



Motcombe Methodist Church

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

Motcombe Methodist Church July 2023

Our **Anniversary Service** in June was led by Revd. Lin Francis and followed by lunch in the church. The church was full of flowers! Thank you Margaret (and Tesco!) for once again ordering and organising the lunch. At the close of the service each person was given a church prayer sheet to take, and asked to pray for all the decisions, needs and opportunities that need to be addressed and asking for God's guidance in every decision made.

Bible Studies this quarter have revolved around Elijah and Elisha and that they trusted God no matter what was happening in their lives.

Lunch club continues to be an important link with villagers of any denomination who can join for a meal and friendship.

The monthly **coffee morning** in April raised £230.28 for Jill Jenkinson's next trip with 'Wheels for the world'. In May £81.60 went towards helping street children to obtain a birth certificate. £56.05 was raised in June for the sewing equipment for a community in Uganda. In July £69.46 was raised for Mercy Ships.

Little Sunbeams continues under the direction of Margaret and Sarah and

(Continued on page 8)

Conference Business Digest

A report for local churches about the business of the 2023 Methodist Conference

The 2023 Methodist Conference, held at the Hilton Birmingham Metropole:
Presbyteral Session 22-23 June;
Representative Session 24-29 June.
methodist.org.uk/conference

The Conference is the governing body of the Methodist Church and meets annually to discuss matters affecting the life of the Church, the nation and the world.

their helpers. This is definitely fulfilling a need as help and support are given to both children and their carers.

Our contribution to the **Village fete** in June was organised by Margaret and team Uphall! Craft and other activities were prepared for the children in the chill-out zone - all free including the drinks.

In April Revd. Lin came to speak at our **Ladies' Fellowship Anniversary**. She spoke about how important our fellowship is with each other as we journey through life with all its ups and downs. We have many memories of the past but we need to help each other in the present and share God's love for each and everyone.

In May we enjoyed an afternoon of music with Revd. Colin Marsh and his wife Ann.

The June Garden Party was once again held at the home of Joyce and Bruce on a beautiful sunny day. They were thanked very much for the many years we have been able to visit their lovely garden and have fellowship together.

In July, Gillian, a representative from the Leprosy Mission came to speak to us

After her talk she answered our questions. £101.14 was raised for this worthy cause. Treatment in the early stages can prevent disability.

We were sorry to hear of the death of Alan Appleby. He and his wife Audrey who came from Shaftesbury, with the help of others, were the ones who were able to keep Motcombe church open in the 1970's. The family were pleased to have representatives from Motcombe at the funeral and for Margaret and David to say prayers. Copies of 'An Open Door' which was written by Audrey about the 18 years leading worship in Motcombe have been made available to anyone who would like a copy.

Shortly after tying the knot a young married couple started arguing over who should make the coffee. Being a good Christian woman, the wife went to the Scriptures for her answer. She said the Bible specifically stated that men should be the ones to make the coffee. Puzzled, the husband asked her where in the Bible it said that. Very confidently the wife opened the Bible. It's right here - HEBREWS.



Vale Methodist Church

Incorporating the chapels at
Sturminster Newton and Kings Stag

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



On June 18th we joined together at Sturminster Newton to say a `BIG Thank - you` to Deacon Rebekah-Joy for her 5 years of ministry with us.

We also said a BIG `Thank-you` to Christine Lydford for the huge number of years she has been a member and steward at Sturminster Newton. Recognising all the years of hard work she has put in, often behind the scenes



Hunger Lunch` to support the Ethiopian Famine for Tearfund at Sturminster Newton.



AT KINGS STAG METHODIST CHURCH.
Begins on Sept 6th @2PM
'CHRISTIANITY EXPLORED'
A seven-week course.
ALL ARE WELCOME TO JOIN US.
Extra Information from:- Rev Margaret
Oxenham (01258 472985)
oxenham334@btinternet.com.