

'THE LINK'

*St Mark's Crescent Methodist Church
Maidenhead*



*AUTUMN EDITION
September/October/November 2019*

www.stmarksmaidenhead.org.uk

Welcome to the Autumn edition of 'THE LINK'

We hope you've all enjoyed the summer break. Here at St. Mark's work has been progressing well on the building project. The new entrance has been taking shape week by week and we're sure you will have had a glance at the work when passing the site. The project is due to be completed by the end of October. We are very grateful to the builders, Morris and Blunt, who have managed to maintain access to the halls throughout the summer term and these will be available once again when the new term starts in September.

These are exciting times for St. Mark's and we're sure that the new entrance area will have an impact on all who enter the premises and we look forward to improved kitchen facilities and updated toilet areas. With the extension of the Burberry Room (at the end of the corridor) this will give us scope for making more use of the room. The picture on the cover of this edition of the Link shows what the overall look of St. Mark's will be once the work is completed.

We look forward to welcoming back those groups which have had to find temporary alternative accommodation and to seeing even more people at St. Mark's in the future.

As we go to print, we offer an especially warm welcome to our new minister, Revd. Carmel Ieraci, who takes her first service at St. Mark's at 10.30am on Sunday, 1 September. All are welcome. Please note that this is a Covenant Service with Holy Communion.

On the same day, there will be a special welcome service at 4pm at High Street Methodist Church for Carmel and Revd Anne Ellis, who is also joining the Thames Valley Circuit. The service will be followed by tea. Carmel takes pastoral charge of High Street, St Mark's Crescent and Woodlands Park churches in Maidenhead and Anne will be Minister to St. Andrew's and Hampshire Avenue churches in Slough.

From 1 September (but not before please), you will be able to contact Carmel at carmel.ieraci@methodist.org.uk or on 01628 854747

CHURCH MONEY MATTERS

As I get ready to wrap up the accounts for yet another year, the financial position at St Mark's remains healthy. It is likely that a surplus will have been achieved despite the loss of income caused by the disruption due to building works.

Sincere thanks go to all those who give so generously throughout the year and to those organisations which have continued to use the church premises during the building works despite the loss of car parking space, kitchen and toilet facilities.

Church Council has approved the use of surplus funds to upgrade the dilapidated external features of the old main hall porch which was not planned within the 2020 Vision project. It has also been agreed to utilise General Reserves to fund replacement of lighting in the halls and small meeting rooms with LED units which should lead to significant future savings both in power usage and maintenance costs.

Ed Filmore (Treasurer)

2020 VISION BUILDING PROJECT

The building project has progressed well since the last issue of "*THE LINK*" and is on course to be completed by the end of October.

A number of unforeseen issues have arisen during the initial phases of the work leading to additional costs but these have been offset by cost savings and extraordinarily generous individual gifts and grants awarded by Methodist Church and other charitable organisations. As a result, assuming no further significant costs are incurred, the requirement for loans has fallen to half of that budgeted earlier in the year.

Fund-raising will continue as we work to repay loans and we invite you to keep the project in your prayers and to think of ways in which you could help.

You might be able to

- make a donation, however large or small
- keep a container to save odd amounts of coins
- use the Giving Machine when purchasing on-line. This will raise funds for St. Mark's at no extra cost to you and nearly £1,500 has been raised in this way.
- donate an item for future Raffles, Monthly Bazaar stalls and other fund-raising projects
- suggest new ways for raising funds which we've not yet considered

You can follow progress of the building work on our Facebook page or the church website (www.stmarksmaidenhead.org.uk).

We look forward to seeing you, your family and friends at forthcoming fund-raising events.

CHURCH CHARITY FOR 2019-20 and 2020/2021

The charity chosen to benefit from the 2018 Christmas Bazaar and 2019 Spring Fair was the local branch of Parkinson's UK but limited facilities for the Spring Fair resulted in lower proceeds than normal. With uncertainty also over the 2019 Christmas Bazaar, Church Council therefore agreed to allocate proceeds from the 2019 Spring Fair and Christmas Bazaar to the Building Fund and to "carry over" Parkinson's UK as the charity to benefit from the 2020 Spring Fair.

Our normal practice has been to alternate between international/national and local charities and suggestions for an international (or national) charity to benefit from the 2020 Christmas Bazaar and 2021 Spring Fair will be welcomed before a decision is made at the 2020 General Church Meeting.

FORTHCOMING ST MARK'S EVENTS

Date	Time	Event	Venue	Price
14 Sept	7.00 for 7.30pm	Quiz Night inc Fish'n Chip Supper	Woodlands Park Village Centre	£11 pp
22 Sept	TBC	Harvest Lunch	Church Hall	TBC
19 Oct	10.00 – 11.30 a.m	Monthly Bazaar	Church Halls	Free
1 Nov	TBC	Music Night	TBC	TBC
9 Nov	7.00 for 7.30pm	Quiz Night inc Fish'n Chip Supper	Woodlands Park Village Centre	£11 pp
16 Nov	10.00am- 1.00pm	Christmas Bazaar	Church Halls	Free
17 Nov	12.30pm	Church Anniversary Lunch	Church Hall	TBC
1 Dec	12.15pm	Soup & Nibbles	Church Hall	TBC
13 Dec	TBC	"High Voltage" Christmas Concert	Church	TBC
14 Dec	From 10am	Coffee/Mince Pies	Church Hall	TBC

Bookings: bstc.boxoffice@gmail.com or Phone: 01628-623263
(See website, church notice boards and weekly notices for further details)

SHADED ITEMS ARE SUBJECT TO PROGRESS WITH BUILDING WORK AND WILL BE CONFIRMED LATER

MONTHLY BAZAARS

Please note we are planning to recommence our Monthly Bazaars on Saturday, 19 October.

The Christmas Bazaar will be on 16 November and, as always, we would welcome items for Raffle and Tombola prizes as well as home-made cakes and second-hand paperbacks/DVDs.

Phone 01628 623263 for more details.

2020 VISION

**Saturday 14 September
7 for 7.30pm**

Quiz Night

at Woodlands Park Village Centre

Tickets £11pp inc Fish n' Chips Supper
(Bring own Drinks & Glasses)

Teams of 6 or ask about individual entries

**Bookings at
bstc.boxoffice@gmail.com
or phone 01628 623263**

BROKEN SHOESTRING THEATRE COMPANY

Announcing Panto 2020!

We'd like to give you early warning of our next Pantomime production so you can consider how you'd like to be involved and, most importantly, plan the dates in your diary.

Production: *Babes in the Wood*

Auditions: Monday 9 September, 7pm

Please come to the church to see what parts you might play and offer the assistance we need. All are welcome.

Rehearsals: 7-9pm(approx) Mondays & Wednesdays after the auditions. (Wed dates may change with availability of cast)

We'll provide a list of dates when you're needed but we don't usually meet over half term or Christmas holidays.

Additional important rehearsals:

Sundays 12, 19 and 26 January, afternoons from 1 pm

Thursday 30 January, Dress rehearsal from 6pm

Performances: Friday 31 Jan (evening), Sat 1 Feb (matinee and evening).

All rehearsals are important and January ones are vital.

We're also seeking additional help from parents/friends for promoting tickets, providing some costume items (small), front of house, and helping with refreshments at January rehearsals.

If anyone can take on the Box Office please let us know.

We've been producing family friendly pantomimes since 1996 to a professional standard with technical support in many areas. If you'd like to help with any of these backstage roles please talk to us about it.

We should also make it clear that there will be no "ordinary" drama classes while we are rehearsing.

Eileen Chislett and Jenny Lewington-Chislett



THAMES VALLEY VOICES

The choir start singing again on 10 September at St. Andrew's Methodist Church, Slough at 7.30pm.

All are welcome.

They will be performing a Christmas Concert on 17 December at a venue yet to be confirmed.

Methodist Women in Britain
Thames Valley Circuit

are having a Craft Stall at Slough

Canal Boat Festival

Bloom Park, Middlegreen Road, Langley
7/8 September – 11am to 5pm

Please support by making craft items or coming to the event.
For more details, contact Lyn Packer 07403739365

COOKHAM RISE members invite you to their Quiz and Supper evening at Cookham Rise Church on Saturday, 19th October 2019, 7.30pm prompt. £8pp payable on the night. Proceeds will go to Action for Children on their 150th Anniversary.

Contact 01628 522518 to book or speak to Ed or Christine Filmore if you'd like to help make up a St Mark's team.

THAMES VALLEY JOURNEYMEN (men's walking group) meet again on Tuesday 17 September for a 4-6 mile walk with pub lunch. Contact Andy Packer on 01753 522977 or ex20andy@gmail.com for venue and details

WEA (WORKERS EDUCATION ASSOCIATION)

WEA have been running a variety of adult education courses at St Mark's for many years and are looking forward to being able to utilise the extended Burberry Room in the new year.

Full details of WEA courses can be found via the Links page (<https://www.stmarksmaidenhead.org.uk/links.html>) on the church website but 2 courses being held at St Mark's in the new year are seeking further applicants.

“Reading Ancient Greek Literature”, running for 10 weeks (1.45pm - 3.45pm Wednesdays) from 8 January in conjunction with the University of Oxford, is a course designed for students with an advanced level of facility in ancient Greek who wish to read and enjoy authentic texts (in this case Thucydides and Plato) in the original language.

“The Architecture of France” runs for 10 weeks (10am – 12noon Wednesdays) from 15 January and will look at:

- Romanesque pilgrimage churches en route to Santiago de Compostela
- Gothic style fanning out from Ile-de France initially at St Denis
- Renaissance ideas arriving at Fontainbleau and The Louvre
- The Sun King's Versailles creating envy in Europe's royal courts
- The Paris of Garnier's Opera and Eiffel's Tower
- Corbusier and the twentieth century
- The latest French styles of architecture.

In addition, there are spaces available on the 8 week course **“Nutrition & Health: Science, Food & Marketing”** which runs from Thursday, 26 September, 10.30am – 12 noon, at St Joseph's Centre, Cookham Road

For further information, e-mail weamaidenhead@hotmail.co.uk

SERVICES FOR SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER/NOVEMBER

Date	10.30am
1 Sept	Revd Carmel Ieraci – Covenant Service
	Welcome Service at High Street for new Ministers in the Circuit at 4.00pm followed by tea
8	Revd. Dr. Malcolm White
15	Mrs Liz Tottingham
22	Revd Carmel Ieraci – Harvest Service
	Eton Wick Methodist Church Singing the Faith Service at 3.00pm
29	Joint Service at High Street Methodist Church
6 Oct	Revd Carmel Ieraci – Holy Communion
13	Mr Elijah Kommu
20	Deacon Andy Packer
27	Revd Carmel Ieraci
3 Nov	Revd Carmel Ieraci – Holy Communion
10	Mrs Nicola Shaw
17	Revd Carmel Ieraci – Church Anniversary Service
24	Mr David Ridley

FLOWER ROTA

1 Sept	Mr and Mrs Mike Basford
8	Miss Sheila Thornton
15	Mr Anthony Nicholls
22	HARVEST
29	Mrs Helen Harris
6 Oct	Mrs Joyce McKenzie
13	Mr and Mrs Chris Hawkins
20	Dr and Mrs Ed Filmore
27	Mr and Mrs Mike Hogg
3 Nov	Mrs Mary Davis
10	REMEMBRANCE SERVICE
17	Mr Gerald Price
24	Mrs Audrey Lelliott

Don't be alone on Christmas Day

CHRISTMAS LUNCH

Churches Together in Maidenhead invite you to their Christmas Day lunch at the SportsAble Club at Braywick from 12 noon to 3.30pm. Lunch will be followed by entertainment and the Queen's Speech. Transport is provided if requested.

To book your place, contact Keith Cartland on 01628 636179, 07765 505767 or e-mail keith.cartland@btinternet.com

And, finally, with our autumn committee meetings due soon and for your amusement:-

*Oh give me your pity for I'm on a committee
Which means that from morning to night
We attend and amend, and contend and defend
Without a conclusion in sight*

*We confer and concur, we defer and demur
And reiterate all of our thoughts
We revise the agenda with frequent addenda
And consider a load of reports*

*We compose and propose, we suppose and oppose
And the points of procedure are fun
But though various notions are brought up as motions
There's terribly little gets done*

*We resolve and absolve but we never dissolve
Since its out of the question for us
What a shattering pity to end our committee
Where else could we make such a fuss*

(St Mark's Committees are not like this, are they?!!!)

Please note: THE NEXT ISSUE OF "THE LINK" will be for December/January/February. The deadline for articles will be Noon on Sunday, 17 November. Please hand or e-mail your items to Christine Filmore.

e-mail chrisfilmore@aol.com, or phone 01628 623263



ST MARK'S CRESCENT METHODIST CHURCH SERVICES AND REGULAR ACTIVITIES



Day	Time	Activity
Sun	10.30am	Morning Worship
	11.45am	Prayer Meeting after Morning Worship
	3.45-6pm	Messy Church (Monthly - see notice board for dates)
	6.30pm	Evening Service (usually 1 st & 3 rd Sundays)
Mon	9am -1pm	Birdwood Nursery (with lunch)
	2.30-3.30pm	Maidenhead Highway Townswomen's Guild Keep Fit Group
	5.30-8.30pm	Slimming World
	7.30-9pm	ALL-SORTS Drama Group (Fortnightly)
Tue	9am-1pm	Birdwood Nursery (with lunch)
	10am-12 noon	Tuesday Singers
	5.15-6.45pm	Brownie Guides (11 th Maidenhead)
	7.30-10pm	Maidenhead Musical Comedy Society rehearsals
Wed	9am-1pm	Birdwood Nursery (with lunch)
	1.30-3.30pm	Pilates Group
	5.30-7pm	Brownie Guides (1 st Pinkney's Green)
	7.30-8.45pm	Weightwatchers
Thur	9am-12noon	Birdwood Nursery
	Morning	Talking Newspaper Association
	10.30-2.30pm	Lunch & Leisure (Age Concern Slough & East Berks)
	2-4pm	Tea at Three (Over 50's) - fortnightly
	2-3pm	Yogatime
	7.30-10pm	Maidenhead Highway Townswomen's Guild (1 st Thursdays)
Fri	8-9.30pm	Elite Academy of Dance
	9am-1pm	Birdwood Nursery (with lunch)
Sat	6.15-7.45pm	Guides (1 st Pinkneys Green, Miss Baden-Powell's Own)
	10am-1pm	Craft a Gift Workshop (1 st Saturdays)
	10-11.45am	Monthly Bazaar/Coffee Morning (3 rd Saturday)
	Morning	Talking Newspaper Association

Please note that **highlighted** regular activities have moved elsewhere during building works at St Mark's but we hope to welcome them all back at the end of the year