

# 'THE LINK'

*St Mark's Crescent Methodist Church*

*Maidenhead*

*Tel: 01628 631024*



*SUMMER EDITION*

*June/July/August 2019*

**[www.stmarksmaidenhead.org.uk](http://www.stmarksmaidenhead.org.uk)**

We hope you'll enjoy this change to a 3-monthly edition of "THE LINK" which covers the 2019 summer months and, as usual, we begin with

### A MESSAGE FROM REV JULIE UNDERWOOD

I can't believe it's coming up to two years since I started to get to know you all at St Mark's. Little did I know when I "happened" to meet our Superintendent, Sonia, at Synod (a God-incidence if ever I saw one!) that it would be the beginning of sharing such adventures with you. It's been a delight and a privilege to work with all the lovely people connected with this church – you really have made even the most mundane tasks a pleasure by being so helpful and enthusiastic. I hope you realise what a great church family you are!

My time with you is now drawing to a close as from the 1 September there will be a new Minister with pastoral charge of St Mark's – Rev Carmel Ieraci. It's exciting to be able to place the church into Carmel's care at this time for the building work will be well underway and, hopefully, almost completed. I'm confident that everyone will continue to pull together and support one another as you have been doing up till now to ensure that our refurbished premises are the best we can offer and, even more importantly, that you remain a welcoming community offering God's love to all.

I'm reminded of the beginning of the Book of Joshua in the Old Testament when Joshua is about to take up the baton after Moses, in leading God's people. God says to Joshua, "Now then, you and all these people, get ready to cross the River Jordan into the land I am about to give to them". This autumn, St Mark's will be at the point of a new way forward in God's mission. New leadership and improved premises provide increased possibilities for outreach in Christ's name. Now is the time for you all to start to get ready. Please don't wait until everything is in place – start praying, talking, thinking now about how you are going to use and support these new

possibilities. I'll be happy if I can leave you already making plans about future outreach to the local community.

God has blessed our 20/20 Vision plans up till now. May you continue to know God's blessing throughout the summer and into the future.

With my love and prayers

*Julie*

### NEW MINISTER

When we issue "*THE LINK*" in September, as Julie says, we'll be welcoming Rev Carmel Ieraci MA as our new Minister.



In the meantime, we thought you'd like to know a little more about her.

A native of Adelaide, South Australia, Carmel served as a Lay Bible Teaching Leader, and Foreign Resident Ambassador with Bible Study Fellowship International. During an association that spanned twenty five years, Carmel served in leadership and pioneer roles in Adelaide & Melbourne (Australia), Rome (Italy) and Southport (UK).

Through a sense of God's calling from lay to ordained ministry, Carmel trained as a Local Preacher and candidated from the High Wycombe Circuit, completing her Methodist ministerial training at Wesley House in Cambridge.

Carmel's current appointment is to the Kennet & Test Valley Circuit, where she has pastoral oversight for Bridge Street in Andover.

## 2020 VISION

We're sure you've all noticed and we give thanks to God that our building project is now well underway!!

Work began on 23 April and demolition of the existing side entrance and foyer has been quickly followed by the digging of new soakaways and foundations for the extensions. The curved brick wall of the new Burberry Room is now visible and has received many favourable comments.

Much remains to be done in the coming months, of course, but we wanted to use this edition of "*THE LINK*" as an opportunity, on behalf of St Mark's Church Council, to thank everyone for their patience and understanding as normal activities have been and will be disrupted.

With funding standing at £407,000 this time a year ago, many may have thought we would never achieve our ambitious objectives in improving church premises for the benefit of the local community but, not least of all with your support, the target of £551,000 has been reached.

We've been blessed with extraordinarily generous individual gifts and grants awarded by Methodist Church and other charitable organisations have increased our confidence that we are doing the right thing in the right place for the right reasons.

Fund-raising is not yet complete as we will have loans to repay but building works have imposed on us a short summer break from holding events at the church.

Please keep the project in your prayers and continue to think of ways in which you could help.

You might be able to

- keep a container to save odd amounts of coins to donate to the fund

- utilise the Giving Machine when purchasing on-line. PLEASE register with the Giving Machine – 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

As work develops in the period before the next edition of "*THE LINK*", you can follow progress on our NEW Facebook page or the church website ([www.stmarksmaidenhead.org.uk](http://www.stmarksmaidenhead.org.uk)).

## LOCAL ARRANGEMENT SERVICES? - TELL ME MORE...

### **Why do we have Local Arrangement services?**

In the Thames Valley Circuit we don't have enough Ministers and Local Preachers to cover all the services at our 12 churches every week. As a result, some churches are asked to make their own arrangements for worship.

### **What happens then?**

The Stewards invite one or two members to organise the service.

### **Isn't that the job of the Worship Leader?**

No - but the Worship Leader is often able to help.

### **Can I get involved?**

Yes!! We may well have more local arrangements in the future and this is an opportunity for you to get involved in some way and enjoy the privilege of sharing in leading worship.

### **How do I do that?**

Talk to the Worship Leader (Eileen Chislett) or any of the Stewards - they'll be delighted to hear from you!

## SCRIPTURE UNION IN MAIDENHEAD, SLOUGH AND WINDSOR SCHOOLS

Apart from supplying churches with Christian literature and books, Scripture Union also visit schools to make contact with school children and share the good news.

Wayne Dixon is their local mission partner, responsible for making Jesus known to children, young people and staff in Maidenhead, Slough and Windsor.

In 1904, 56% of all children attended church but, by 2019, that figure had dropped to 4-5% and Christian Connections in Schools (along with others) is reaching out to the remaining 95% through such school visits and other activities, including:

- HAM – Hanging around Ministry
- Taking assemblies
- Taking RE Classes
- Christmas unwrapped
- Prayer/quiet spaces in schools

There is an open invitation to attend a celebration of 30 years of schools' ministry on Friday 12 July at 7.30pm at Dedworth Green Baptist Church.

Wayne tells us that times are changing and we need to praise God for the opportunities we now have to visit schools and speak about Jesus. He emphasizes the importance of taking these opportunities which are not possible in so many other countries.

Please remember the work of Wayne Dixon and the Scripture Union in your prayers and thoughts.

## MESSY CHURCH PICNIC



All are invited to Messy Church Picnic from 3.45pm on Sunday 9 June at Braywick Park

Please bring your own picnic and we will eat together at an appropriate point. Also bring any chairs/rugs etc.

In the event of inclement weather a decision will be made on whether to hold this event in the church hall instead. Please check your emails before setting out.

## OUR CARBON FOOTPRINT

You'll have seen and heard a great deal on TV and in the press recently about Global Warming and Climate Change and their harmful effects on wildlife and the environment.

It's easy to think "What difference can I make?" but each of us can. Every small contribution accumulates and it's far better to do something small than nothing at all.

Thames Valley churches are being challenged to report back to Circuit Meeting in December with ideas on ways in which they have responded to reducing their Carbon Footprint and reduce energy consumption.

If you have ideas on what we have done or can do at St Mark's, please talk to one of the Stewards or e-mail [info@stmarksmaidenhead.org.uk](mailto:info@stmarksmaidenhead.org.uk)

## OTHER FORTHCOMING ST MARK'S EVENTS

Date	Time	Event	Venue	Price
15 June	10.00 -11.30am	Monthly Bazaar	Church	Free
14 Sept	7.00pm for 7.30pm	Quiz Night inc Fish'n Chip Supper	Woodlands Park Village Centre	£11 pp
21 Sept	10.00 -11.30am	Monthly Bazaar	TBC	Free
22 Sept	TBC	Harvest Festival/Lunch	TBC	TBC
12 Oct	TBC	Barn Dance	TBC	TBC
19 Oct	10.00 – 11.30 a.m	Monthly Bazaar	Church	Free
1 Nov	TBC	Music Night	TBC	TBC
9 Nov	7.00pm 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	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:10.00am	Coffee/Mince Pies & Crisp & Even Brightly Film [TBC]	Church	TBC

Bookings: [bstc.boxoffice@gmail.com](mailto:bstc.boxoffice@gmail.com) or Phone: 01628-623263  
(See church Notice boards for posters and further details)

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

### MONTHLY BAZAARS

We will hold our usual Monthly Bazaar on 15 June but please note that, due to restrictions imposed by the building works, there will be no Bazaar in July nor a Garden Fete in August.



## 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 11, 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

## EVENTS AT CHURCHES IN THE LOCAL AREA

Thames Valley Methodist Circuit  
will be holding a  
**STRAWBERRY TEA**  
at High Street Methodist Church  
on Saturday, 29 June from 2.30 – 4.00pm  
£4.00 per head or more  
in aid of Methodist Missions  
Enquiries to 01628 603014 or 410970

DAVE BILBROUGH'S  
**HIDDEN KINGDOM TOUR**  
is coming to  
North Camp Methodist Church GU14 6EG  
on Sunday 13 October at 7pm  
Tickets £5 Single, £10 Family from  
[ncmc.churchsuite.co.uk/events/uaond2ua](http://ncmc.churchsuite.co.uk/events/uaond2ua)  
01252 328959 or 07941 997841

### ST LUKE'S MUSIC FESTIVAL

21 – 30 JUNE 2019

A celebration of music with a varied programme of concerts,  
recitals and workshops including...

- Thames Valley Chorus
- Psalms for the Common Era Workshop
- Inversion (Organ and Flute)
- Gaslights (Old Tyme Music Hall Songs)
- Andrew Gallacher (Piano) and Simon Purdy (Violin)
- Maidenhead Choral Society with Rhidian Jones and Isabel Nisbet

For details, visit [www.stlukeschurchmaidenhead.org.uk](http://www.stlukeschurchmaidenhead.org.uk)

## SAFEGUARDING

The next "Creating Safer Spaces" (CSS) Refresher Course, will be taking place at Eton Wick on Saturday 8th June, starting at 10.00am.

All those who have attended the basic course should attend this refresher course as it will present the latest approaches to safeguarding.

Please contact me if you would like to attend the course or would like any information about safeguarding.

Mike Hogg  
Church Safeguarding Co-ordinator

## OPPORTUNITIES TO WORK FOR THE METHODIST CHURCH

We've been asked to advertise two exciting and challenging opportunities:

### **Lay Pastor**

The Berkshire Surrey Borders Methodist Circuit is looking to appoint a full-time Lay Pastor, based at Bracknell Methodist Church, and also working at the Church@ThePines (an Anglican / Methodist ecumenical partnership) also in Bracknell.

Rev Jackie Case (01344 411417, bsbcircuit@btinternet.com) would like to hear from you if you

- Have experience of, or a calling for, working with young families
- Have experience of, or a calling for, Pastoral work with the elderly or housebound
- Are willing to share leadership in the two churches
- Are able to nurture and encourage spiritual growth in the Church and local community

- Have sympathy with the Mission and activities of the Methodist Church
- Can identify, prioritise and follow-up Mission opportunities
- Are able to foster and develop links with local schools
- Are happy to work closely with and influence colleagues in the local faith communities

Starting salary is £22,035 based on a 37.5 hour week, closing date for applications is Monday 10 June and interviews will be held week commencing 17 June.

### **Messy Church Intern**

There is an opportunity for an 18-23 year old to work in a local church for 15 hrs a week from 1 September 2019 to 31 August 2020 at a salary of £6,825 pa.

Applicants should have excellent communication skills with experience of Messy Church and the position will involve work with Messy Church in a local church, growth of social media amongst churches in the South East, Southampton & Channel Islands Methodist Districts and development of a new project to bring Messy Church to families in prison visitor centres.

Application packs available at [www.methodist.org.uk/oppjobs](http://www.methodist.org.uk/oppjobs) or e-mail [lucy.moore@brf.org.uk](mailto:lucy.moore@brf.org.uk)

## SERVICES FOR JUNE/JULY/AUGUST

Date	10.30am	
2 June	Mrs Kay MacKenzie	
9	Mr Neville Walton	
16	Revd Margaret Dudley	Holy Communion
23	Mr Arthur Baker	
30	Joint Service at High Street	
7 July	Mr Evan Richardson	
14	Revd Richard Cattley	Holy Communion
21	Deacon Andy Packer	
28	Mr David Ridley	
4 Aug	Mrs Sue Clifford, MBE	
11	Joint Service at High Street	
18	Joint Service at High Street	
25	Revd Julie Underwood	Holy Communion

## FLOWER ROTA

2 June	Mrs Sara Motion
9	Mrs Jeanette Fahy
16	Mr and Mrs Mike Hogg
23	Mrs Isabel Smith
7 July	Mr and Mrs David Esling
14	Mr and Mrs Mike Hogg
21	Mr and Mrs B Lennox
28	Mrs Ayo Sobo Keane
4 Aug	Mr and Mrs David Black
25	Mrs Sarah Shell

Please note: THE NEXT ISSUE OF "THE LINK" will be for September/October/November. The deadline for articles will be Noon on Sunday, 18 August. Please hand or e-mail your items to Christine Filmore who would welcome any contributions from readers.

e-mail [chrisfilmore@aol.com](mailto: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 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> 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 <sup>th</sup> 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 <sup>st</sup> 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 <sup>st</sup> Thursdays)
Fri	8-9.30pm	Elite Academy of Dance
	9am-1pm	Birdwood Nursery (with lunch)
Sat	6.15-7.45pm	Guides (1 <sup>st</sup> Pinkneys Green, Miss Baden-Powell's Own)
	10am-1pm	Craft a Gift Workshop (1 <sup>st</sup> Saturdays)
	10-11.45am	Monthly Bazaar/Coffee Morning (3 <sup>rd</sup> 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