

The Messenger

Wallingford Methodist Church July/August 2018 Issue 366



A Message from our Minister

Dear Friends,

The time has come and this will be my last Messenger letter before I leave. I have been reflecting on these last five years and what a privilege it has been to be your minister. Most of you will know that I arrived as a “newbie” probationer minister and in these first five years in ministry, I’ve learnt so much and received so much from you.

In all sorts of ways we have journeyed together in joys and in sorrows, in sharing worship, fellowship, conversation, meals and cups of coffee. It was lovely that some of you managed to come to my ordination service in Chester Cathedral and many more of you were with me in spirit and in prayer. We have shared Holy Communion together, given thanks to God for those who have been baptised and for others who have joined the church and become new members. With sadness I also remember those who have died and whose loss we have felt deeply, yet I also thank God for their faith and witness and service and what we gained by knowing them.

This church has a remarkable story to tell. How the church in the 1970s faced the possibility of closure because of dwindling numbers and because the building needed expensive and extensive repairs. How instead the church survived and grew and flourished. By the 1990s more seating was needed and the balcony was installed. Then the adjacent hall was purchased and refurbished, with much faith and hard work and generous giving.

Not long after I arrived, I remember asking David Kershaw what brought about this change from near closure to growth. He told me it was the firm belief that God still had a purpose for this church. He thought that strong pastoral care was at the heart of the change around. And although there was only a small group of church members, they were very committed to reaching out in service and care. There was a commitment to visit newcomers, to give practical help, to pray, to welcome, to live out the faith and to participate in church life.

This church has grown and changed since then, but this commitment to service and care and practical expression of faith is still central to how we seek to be Christians in this place. The time has come for me to say goodbye but the work and purpose of this church goes on, to share the good news of Jesus Christ. Rev Jocelyn Bennett will be arriving in this circuit this summer to become the minister for Wallingford, Didcot and Milton and you are all invited to attend her circuit welcome service on Saturday 1st September at Milton Methodist Church at 7pm.

In the coming weeks I will lead my two last services with this church family in Wallingford: on the morning of 8th July and the evening of 15th July. There will also be a circuit farewell service, held at this church on Sunday 22 July at 4pm and I hope to see many of you at one or more of these services. Ian and I will be moving in August to Worcester, where I will be a minister in the SW Worcestershire circuit, serving two churches in the city of Worcester: Bromyard Road and Ombersley Road. Our welcome service will be held at Bromyard Road Methodist Church on Monday 3rd September at 7.30pm and if any of you are able to come, we will be delighted to see you there and at tea at the manse beforehand between 4-6pm.

I have always found it hard to say goodbye. When I left teaching, one of my pupils wrote in a card "Have a good time at church". I have indeed had a "good" time with you – a time of many blessings and enriching experiences. Thank you for the way you have encouraged me and enabled me to learn and develop - I have really enjoyed my time with you and will miss you all very much.

May you continue to grow in the love and grace of God and "may you know the hope to which God has called you". (Ephesians 1.18)

With much love and every blessing,
Katherine



Extra Church Council

Please note there will be a short, extra meeting to 'move on' our planning applications for the new Notice Boards on Thursday 12th July at 7pm, prior to a Leadership Team Meeting.



Friendship Guild

(Alternate Tuesdays at 2.30pm)

July 10th

Tools with Mission - Richard Lay

July 24th

Summer Outing - Nev

Moving on...

We all try to enjoy and make the most of the beautiful, long days which summer brings. Travelling off to visit family and friends, entertaining visitors, holidaying abroad or at home, enjoying lovely spells pottering in the garden, it's a wonderful world. But we should also remember that summer is also a time for change for many.

Exams over, August will be mixed for those awaiting results which determine the next step in their future, graduation for those completing their university courses and in our Methodist Church it is time for ministers to change circuits.

We are very much aware that this year we have to say goodbye - hopefully au revoir - to Katherine and Ian as they leave Didcot, Milton and Wallingford and move to serve God in another community. Our love and prayerful support goes with them.

We are fortunate to be welcoming Jocelyn and her family to our church and Circuit in September and we look forward to serving and supporting each other as we all go forward in faith.

Please remember in your prayers those who are facing change in their lives whatever and where ever they are. We offer our love and ask God to bless each one as we travel in faith to fulfil his purpose.

'Through all the changing scenes of life' came to mind and then I read the following hymn, which changed my mind. *Pauline A*

STF664

1 Lord, you call us to your service,
each in our own way,
Some to caring, loving, healing;
some to preach or pray;
some to work with quiet learning,
truth discerning,
day by day.

2 Life for us is always changing
in the work we share.
Christian love adds new dimensions
to the way we care.
For we know that you would lead us,
as you need us,
anywhere.

3 Seeing life from your perspective
makes your challenge plain.
as your heart is grieving over
those who live in pain.
Teach us how, by our compassion,
you may fashion
hope again.

4 Lord we set our human limits
on the work we do.
Send us your directing Spirit,
pour your power through,
that we may be free in living
and in giving
all for you

Marjorie Dobson

Alec Goldsmith

It would be very remiss of me not to mention Alec in this issue of The Messenger, I feel I cannot let his passing go unmentioned until the September issue when I hope there will be a fuller obituary.

When I took over editing the newsletter Alec was a great help to me, not least because he, along with Ron, continued to print, collate and staple the magazine together.

He called to see me prior to my first issue to explain how he would like me to present it ready for print. Not a problem as I was used to formatting booklets etc.

Alec put me at ease from those first moments and as the past few years have gone by we shared many a joke, a quiet chuckle, reflections on life, a tale to tell and eventually shared the printing, stapling and folding of the newsletter.

I know, along with so many in our fellowship who have known him much longer than I, how much he will be missed and thank God that we are privileged to have known and worked with him.

Pauline A

September issue of the Messenger

Deadline for the September issue of the newsletter is

Friday 24th August

Please forward any items to paulineainley@btinternet.com

Church Stewards

July 1st	S Ifill	July 8th	B Kershaw
July 15th	B Kaur	July 22nd	S Ifill
July 29th	B Kershaw	August 5th	M Swift
August 12th	D Savage	August 19th	C Hill
August 26th	B Kaur		

Door Stewards

	10.30am	6.30pm
July 1st	E Chamberlain/S Smith	S Scrivener
July 8th	P Smail/G Hall	R Atkinson
July 15th	M & J Chalkley	L Bolton
July 22nd	S&D Shepperson	4pm Ron Atkinson
July 29th	P Maskrey/H Brown	S Scrivener
August 5th	I & S Scrivener	B Calcutt
August 12th	A & A Lowe	R Atkinson
August 19th	E Chamberlain/S Smith	L Bolton
August 26th	P Smail/G Hall	S Scrivener

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Registered Charity X65308

Weekday Activities

Weekday Activities

Tuesday

Lunches	12.30 - 1.30pm
Friendship Guild Group	2.30pm (Alternate Tuesdays)
Exploring Christianity Group (ECG)	7.30pm (Alternate Tuesdays)

Wednesday

Tots Time	9.30 - 11am weekly (term time)
Unison Bible Group - Vestry	10.30am (Alternate weeks)
BLOC Brazilia Bible Group	10 - 12noon (Alternate weeks)
Loving Hands - Crafty knitters	2 - 4pm
BB&GA Anchors	6pm
Juniors	6.45pm
Company & Seniors	7.30pm
Shillingford House Group (Now meeting at Crowmarsh)	8pm (Alternate weeks)

Thursday

Coffee Morning and chat	10.30 - 12noon
Borough Bible Group	2pm (Alternate weeks)
Choir Practice	8pm (Special occasions only)

Friday

Prayer Meeting - Church	7.30pm - 8pm
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Organists

	10.30am	6.30p
July 1st	Gill Hall	Libby Bolton
July 8th	Libby Bolton	Libby Bolton
July 15th	Gill Hall	Gill Hall
July 15th	Gill Hall	4pm James Garnett
July 29th	Libby Bolton	Libby Bolton
August 5th	Gill Hall	Gill Hall
August 12th	Libby Bolton	Libby Bolton
August 19th	Gill Hall	Gill Hall
August 26th	Libby Bolton	Gill Hall

PA Operatives

	10.30am	6.30pm
July 1st	W Warrick	Ian Scrivener
July 8th	Graham Ifill	TBA
July 15th	Ian Scrivener	Norman Atkinson
July 15th	Iain Revell	4pm Iain Revell
July 29th	TBA	Ian Scrivener
August 5th	E Swift	TBA
August 12th	W Warrick	Norman Atkinson
August 19th	Graham Ifill	Iain Revell
August 26th	Ian Scrivener	Ian Scrivener

Coffee Rota (Sunday Morning)

July 8th	Nicky/Sarah	July 15th	Pauline A/Shirley
July 22nd	Angela/Belinda	July 29th	Sue/Mary
August 5th	Nicky/Sarah	August 12th	Ruth/Norman
August 19th	Angela/Belinda	August 26th	Pauline A/Shirley

Lectionary Readings

July 1st	Lamentations 3:23-24 2 Corinthians 8:7-15	Psalm 30 Mark 5:21-43
July 8th	Ezekial 2:1-5 2 Corinthians 12:2-10	Psalm 123 Mark 6:1-13
July 15th	Amos 7:7-15 Ephesians 1:3-14	Psalm 85:8-13 Mark 6:14-29
July 22nd	Jeremiah 23:1-6 Ephesians 2:11-22	Psalm 23 Mark 6:33-34' 53-56
July 29th	2 Kings 4:42-44 Ephesians 3:14-21	Psalm 145:10-18 John 6:1-21
August 5th	Ezodus 16:2-4;9-15 Ephesians 4:1-16	Psalm 78:23-29 John 6:24-35
August 12th	1 Kings 19:4-8 Ephesians 4:25-5:2	Psalm 34:1-8 John 6:35:41-51
August 19th	Proverbs 9:1-6 Ephesians 5:15-20	Psalm 34:9-14 John 6:51-58
August 26th	Joshua 24:1-2a;14-1 Ephesians 6:10-2	Psalm 34:15-22 John 6:56-69

Sunday Worship

	10.30am	6.30pm
July 1st	Barbara Kershaw	Helen Carter
July 8th	Rev Katherine Pickering S	Rev Keith Underhill
July 15th	Daphne Savage	Rev Katherine Pickering S
July 22nd	Frederick Obeng	4pm Circuit Farewell
July 29th	Peter Hemmings	Rev John Anderson
August 5th	Anderson S	Andrew Dixon
August 12th	Barbara Sexton	Malcolm Newton
August 19th	Marlene Chalkley	Local Arrangement
August 26th	Daphne Savage	A Grist

A - All Age Worship, P - Parade, S - Communion Service