



# The Messenger

Wallingford Methodist Church

June 2019  
Issue 375





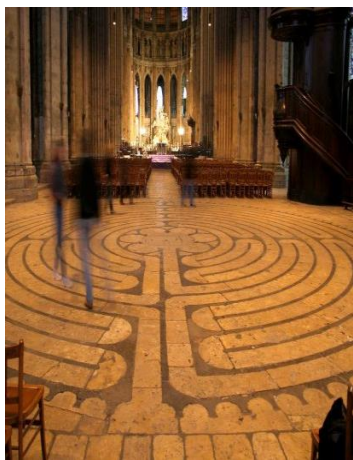
## *Thoughts for June - going round in circles...*

Just outside the Rutland village of Wing, is a turf cut maze. Actually it is a labyrinth (in a maze you can get lost, in a labyrinth you follow the path) a 14metre diameter circle, with a single grass path that winds and backtracks in a circle, leading towards the centre. It probably dates from the medieval period, and is based on the labyrinth on the floor of Chartres



Cathedral. A couple of years ago when I visited my parents in Market Harborough, we walked the labyrinth. Well my mum and I walked the labyrinth and my dad watched from his wheelchair. And as I walked I prayed. There is something grounded in walking and praying, the rhythm of your feet, the following of a path, the turning back and thinking that you are where you started but then you reach the centre. Round and round and round. I was reminded of this when I read about the labyrinth that Wantage Methodist Church are inviting us walk and pray - on Pentecost Sunday 9th June from 5-6.30pm.

For over a thousand years there has been an identifiable Christian labyrinth tradition, the one in Chartres was laid on the floor of the nave in 1201. Labyrinths were crawled by medieval monks and in the middle ages walking the labyrinth was used as a form of confessional. On the way towards the centre there is opportunity to reflect, confess and put things down, called purgation. In the centre there is time for resting, receiving inspiration and illumination. Then on the way back to the start the walker returns with forgiveness and new awareness, in union with God.



In the book 'Labyrinths From the Outside inc Walking to Spiritual Insight, A Beginners Guide' I read the following -

'One of the key reasons people walk labyrinths today is to have the experience of the simultaneity of past and present, In walking the

labyrinth we link with other cultures and eras. We also link body and soul; we simultaneously have a physical and spiritual experience. We make metaphors work for us. The journey is one foot after another, and it is a path to the holy place inside us.'

So not a case of just going round and round in circle, but using the rhythm, the experience, the journey, to discover that holy place where we can meet God.

Lent, Easter, Ascension, Pentecost - takes us this year from the beginning of March to June 9th. From there the church journeys through approx 33 weeks of Ordinary Time until Advent Sunday. This is the liturgical pattern of church worship and teaching. Again going round in a circle which encompasses the birth, life, death, resurrection and ascension of Jesus Christ and then embracing the coming of the Holy Spirit and the birth of the church.

Sometimes in life, we experience the feeling that we are on a roundabout and cannot get off - things are spinning around us and we are stuck, either sat on a horse going up and down while we cling to a pole, or in a tea cup that is spinning itself as well as the roundabout spinning, or just sat. Or as with the roundabout in South Park, Macclesfield, that was on the edge of a sand pit, the mechanism was full of grit and sand and took a lot of pushing. That is what I experienced when Alex and Elliot were little. Despite shouting for Mummy to go faster, the poor roundabout only went slowly. Roundabouts are supposed to be fun, that is why they feature in playgrounds, the sense of whizzing round and round, flying free as the world dashes by. But sometimes we go in circles. We lose perspective and the going round becomes a vicious circle. To get off may mean facing something that we would rather not, it may mean asking for help, it may be helped by walking slowly the labyrinth, laying things down, seeking inspiration and renewal, seeking that holy place within us.

The Psalmist reflects on the cyclical nature of the universe when he says 'In the heavens he has set a tent for the sun, which comes out like a bridegroom from his wedding canopy, and like a strong man runs its course with joy. Its rising is from the end of the heavens, and its circuit to the end of time.' (Psalm 19)

We have here a metaphor of the bridegroom, Jesus Christ, coming out like



a bridegroom to meet his bride, the Church. Running the course with joy. So whatever circles you are going round in at the moment, let us 'let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith.' Hebrews 12

**With love - Jocelyn**

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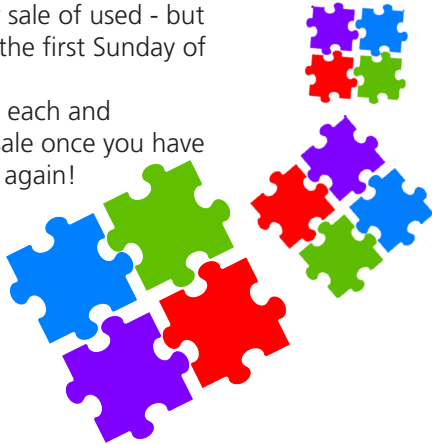
## Do you enjoy doing jigsaw puzzles?

We are planning to have a monthly sale of used - but complete - jigsaws at coffee time on the first Sunday of each month.

Donated puzzles will be sold for £3 each and hopefully you will return them for resale once you have completed them so they can be sold again!

Proceeds will be donated to church funds. The first sale will take place on **Sunday July 7th** Please bring any of your surplus puzzles on the day of the sale.

Thanks from the fund raising team.



Minister Rev'd Jocelyn Bennett  
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Registered Charity X65308



**Margo Dean**  
**born 1st May 1919**  
**and still going strong...**

Last year when Margo was 99 a lot of people helped her to celebrate but that was only a rehearsal for this year. Not many people reach 100 and even fewer are as active as Margo.

This year's celebration started on Tuesday with a birthday cake at Tuesday lunch complete with a firework, then on Wednesday, the actual birthday, there was a family lunch. That day Margo received 104 cards but by Saturday there were 150 in total including one from the queen.

On Saturday 4th May there was a party for 74 family and friends in the church hall. Tea was provided and later Margo's daughter, Sue, gave a lovely speech to give the highlights of Margo's life. Everyone toasted Margo's health and then a huge cake decorated as a garden with cats playing in it was presented.

So many family and friends in attendance ensured that there was a lovely, warm atmosphere at the party. Margo must have been exhausted but very happy to have shared her special event with her innumerable well wishers and we all hope she enjoys her future birthdays as much as this one.

**Ode to the Spell Checker**  
**(from Alex Lowe)**

Eye halve a spelling chequer  
It came with my pea sea  
It plainly marques four my revue  
Miss steaks eye kin knot sea.

Eye strike a key and type a word  
And weight four it two say  
Weather eye am wrong oar write  
It shows me strait a weigh.

As soon as a mist ache is maid  
It nose bee fore two long  
And eye can put the error rite  
Its rare lea ever wrong.

Eye have run this poem threw it  
I am shore your pleased two no  
Its letter perfect awl the weigh  
My chequer tolled me sew.

**The Messenger**

Any items for the next  
double issue of the Messenger  
should be sent to Pauline Ainley  
no later than  
Tuesday 25th June  
[paulineainley@btinternet.com](mailto:paulineainley@btinternet.com)

## Food Bank Analysis For April 2019



As we come to the end of another month we are conscious that there are only three more months left before we have to vacate the present building. To this end we have been having communication with the scouts regarding the use of their 'hut 2'. I am able to say, at this point, that we are having constructive talks with them about the possible re-location of the Food Bank together with the Citizens Advice Bureau. We have only had a very preliminary discussion so far and we are aware that there are quite a few issues to be raised, not least the question of change of use. However, all the sides involved seem keen to proceed and it is now a question of working through the various items that need to be resolved. The building itself is not in a very good state of repair so there will need to be quite a large amount of refurbishment carried out, all of which could take some time. If you are able, please pray that those who need to give authorisation to various issues raised, will be sympathetic to the need and will act swiftly.

The numbers of people using the Food Bank this month are 80 adults and 37 children. We have had quite a number coming to us for the first time and once again we have dealt with a large proportion of single people. It has been great to give out Easter eggs to everyone who has received a food parcel. This is largely thanks to Cholley school who, instead of asking for general donations this Easter, asked for eggs to be given instead. The result was that we collected 70 Easter eggs from them in the week before Easter! We have also received Easter donations from other sources together with donations that come in regularly from individuals and groups. My thanks go to you all on behalf of our clients. *Jean Burt*





## Anniversary Lunch      Sunday 23rd June

A delicious two course Sunday lunch will be on offer this month to mark the church anniversary.

Joan and helpers will be preparing roast lamb and vegetables, dessert and tea or coffee, all for £10.

To join the lunch on Sunday June 23rd, please put your name on the sign up sheet in the atrium.



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## Didcot Divas Present Concerts In Aid of



Songs from the shows - comedy - monologues.  
Music fun and laughter for the whole family with Guest Performer

**Bethan Pithers**

Student of Performing Arts at Abingdon & Witney College

**Saturday 6th JULY 7pm**

Harwell Village Hall

and at

**Saturday 20th JULY 7pm**

East Hagbourne Church

Please come along and support this ladies' choir raise funds for a most deserving cause and exceed the amount the DIVAS made last year (£5000 plus for Sobell House 2018)

TICKETS £10

Children/Students £5 concession

to book and for further information please contact  
Judithsawyer2010@hotmail.com or telephone 01235 798387





## Wallingford Street Pastors April 2019 Newsletter No 21

### Thought about volunteering?

Too often recently we have had to send out teams of three instead of the normal four (2 men and 2 women) so if you are over 18 and have been a member of a church for at least a year then I would ask you to consider if this is something you would like to investigate. Two of our trainees have had to drop out for family or work reasons. We thus have only one person in the final stages of training before being allowed out on patrol. We try to maintain enough volunteers so that each one only patrols about once a month. What about you, or someone you know?

### What does a patrol involve?

We operate from Ridgeway Christian Centre (the base) meeting at 9:30pm on Friday nights. Having prayed together, enjoyed a coffee and chatted about current issues, we go out onto the streets of Wallingford at about 10pm. At that time there are still quite a lot of the younger folk out and it is good to get the chance to get to know them and chat to them, winning their confidence in case they ever need us.

We give out an enormous number of lollipops, which serve as ice-breakers and help to reduce the effects of a bit too much alcohol. We carry flip-flops to give to girls (mostly) who have gone out in high heels and find walking difficult after a few drinks. We don't want them to hurt their feet so as well as giving flip-flops we pick up bottles and glasses and sweep up any broken ones that we come across.

We then have a break back at base with coffee and cake from about 11:30 - 12:00. The atmosphere changes as the clientele of the pubs tends to be a bit older. Some of the pubs have live sport on big screen TV and some have live music or disco. People leaving these events can have high spirits in both senses of the word and our job is simply to keep a calm atmosphere and give any help that is needed.

Sometimes people want to talk. They may have had some upsetting event in their family or at work. They have hoped to drown their sorrows but still need a listening ear.

Will I get attacked or verbally abused? Verbal abuse is extremely rare and none of us has ever been physically attacked in 7 years of operating, but I can't guarantee it won't happen. Part of the training is to equip you to deal with situations that might arise. I hope my comments in the last newsletter about knife crime have not put you off but rather challenged you to think "Can I make a difference?". I believe that the answer is YES. Think about it and get in touch.

*Neville*

## Organists 10.30am 6.30p

June 2nd	Gill Hall	Gill Hall
June 9th	Gill Hall	
June 16th	Libby Bolton	James Garnett
June 23rd	Libby Bolton	Libby Bolton
June 30th	Gill Hall	Gill Hall

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## PA Operatives 10.30am

June 2nd	Ian Scrivener	6.30pm Ian Scrivener
June 9th	Iain Revell	Riverside 14.30
June 16th	Norman Atkinson	Iain Revel
June 23rd	Iain Revel	Norman Atkinson
June 30th	Graham Ifill	Ian Scrivener

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## Coffee Rota (Sunday Morning)

June 2nd	Sally/Belinda
June 9th	Ruth/Norman
June 16th	Pauline /Joan
June 23rd	Sue/Mary
June 30th	Pauline A/Shirley



## Sunday Worship 10.30am

June 2nd	Tabitha Griffiths
June 9th	Deacon Selina Nisbett
June 16th	Frederick Obeng
June 23rd	Rev Helen White C
June 30th	Rev Jocelyn Bennett/Smith

*A - All Age Worship*  
*S- Communion Service*

*L - Local Arrangement*  
*C Church Anniversary*

## 6.30pm

Rev Jocelyn Bennett S
<b>14.30 Riverside</b>
Local Arrangement
Rev Helen White C
Rev Jocelyn Bennett

*P - Parade*  
*U - United Service*

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## Lectionary Readings

June 2nd	Acts 16:16-34 Revelation 22:12-21	Psalm 97 John 17:20-26
June 9th	Acts 2:1-21 Romans 8:14-17	Psalm 104:24-34, 35b John 14:8-17
June 16th	Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31 Romans 5:1-5	Psalm 8 John 16:12-15
June 23rd	Isaiah 65:1-9 Galations 3:23-29	Psalm 22:19-28 Luke 8:26-39
June 30th	1Kings 19:15-16; 19-21 Galations 5:1,13-25	Psalm 16 Luke 9:51-62

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## Church Stewards

June 2nd	Daphne Savage
June 9th	Wendy Warrick
June 16th	Belinda Kaur
June 23rd	Graham Ifill
June 30th	Wendy Warrick/ Daphne Savage

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## Door Stewards 10.30am

June 2nd	M & J Chalkley
June 9th	E Chamberlain/S Smith
June 16th	S & D Shepperson
June 23rd	P Maskrey/H Brown
June 30th	I & S Scrivener

## 6.30pm

S Scrivener
Riverside 14.30
B Calcutt
R Atkinson
S Scrivener

