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The Circuit Newsletter exists to build up fellowship across the Stamford Methodist Circuit. Items for inclusion in the Circuit Newsletter should be: Inspiring, encouraging of faith and discipleship to promote the growth of church relationships within the Circuit. Could you please send any articles for the February Circuit Newsletter to the below address/email address at this time.

Email: admin2322@gmail.com / Address: Rowan Scholtz, 9 Highfield Close, Empingham, Rutland, LE15 8QB. Articles should be sent no later than Tuesday 8th February 2022.

Rev Andy Fyall 11 Jackson Way, Stamford, Lincs. PE9 1FG Tel: 01780 762282 andy.fyall@methodist.org.uk	Rev Bekkie Wright 2 Wensum Close, Oakham. LE15 6FU Tel: 01572 720721 Bekkie.wright@methodist.org.uk
Rev Ruth Charlesworth 2 Coggles Causeway, Bourne, Lincs PE10 9LN Tel: 01778 422258 ruth.charlesworth@methodist.org.uk	Rev Helen Fyall- Hospital Chaplain 11 Jackson Way, Stamford, Lincs. PE9 1FG Tel: 01780 762282 andyandhelenfyall@btinternet.com
Rev William Booker BA Assistant Minister, Stamford Methodist Church with pastoral charge of Ryhall Methodist Church 5 Frognall, Deeping St James, PE6 8RS Tel: 01778380195	Phil Jones- Circuit Mission Enabler 5 Rycroft Close, Deeping St James, PE6 8NX Tel: 01778 346389 pdvjones@hotmail.com
Circuit Administrator: Rowan Scholtz admin2322@gmail.com Tel: 01780 481395	

Bourne Methodist Church Invite You To A Musical Evening

Given by the Stamford Concert Singers

On Friday 22nd April 2022

At 7.30pm In The Church

Light Refreshments In The Hall

Tickets are £6 each and are available from Richard Bailey: 01778 425353

Or on the door

It will be good to welcome the Stamford Concert Singers back with us again

Friends,

At the moment I am approaching the end of my time of probation as a Methodist Minister. In the next couple of months I will have the final interviews and assessments during which the Northampton Methodist District will explore, with me, the journey which I have been on as I have followed God's call. At the end of this we will decide whether I am ready to move forward to ordination as a minister in the Methodist Church and my name will be passed to Connexion to prepare me for ordination.

As a part of this process I have been reflecting on my last year and a half in the Stamford Circuit. I must say that I absolutely love being a part of this circuit. You have all given me so much in terms of time, patience, support, encouragement, love and opportunities to explore exactly what my ministry looks like. I am so grateful.

Thinking about all I have been given I found myself remembering an act of extreme generosity which I witnessed when I once attended a session of the Girls Brigade at Amesbury Methodist Church in Wiltshire. During this particular session the girls were busily making items to enter into a competition and each room I went into was a hive of activity with girls sharing resources and concentrating on their creations.

An older girl was sticking together her project when another girl, who was obviously younger, came up and asked if she could borrow the sellotape. I don't know how you would have reacted; my response would have been "sure, you can have it when I've finished". But on this occasion that is not what happened.

Instead, the older girl turned, smiled at the younger one and said "yes, take it" and then added "do you want me to come and help you stick your stuff together?" The younger one agreed that she might need help and they moved off together leaving the older girl's creation with the paper hanging off as she had not finished securing it. Bearing in mind that this was for a competition with a prize at the end and there was a good chance that the older girl would now not finish her own piece in time, I could not help but think what an amazing act of kindness and generosity that was.

That evening I saw a truly joyful giver and I left that group a better person because of it. Plans are coming together across the circuit for opportunities for us to continue to give generously to each other and some initiatives and events are highlighted in this newsletter. I thank God for the generosity I have received from you and pray that others may continue to be blessed through it in the year ahead.

God bless,

Rev'd Bekkie Wright

Pray without Ceasing February 2022



Suggestions for each day of the month. A few spaces have been left for your own concerns.

1. For people with Birthdays or Anniversaries this month
2. Andy & Helen, Hannah & Matthew
3. Ketton Chapel
4. Oakham Church
5. Rev Ruth Charlesworth
6. Ryhall Chapel
7. Those who use our premises on Mondays
8. Those who use our premises on Tuesdays
9. Those who use our premises on Wednesdays
10. Thurlby Chapel
11. Uppingham Church
12. Rev William Booker
13. Barn Hill Church
14. Bourne Chapel
15. Rev Bekkie Wright Probationer Minister
16. Those who use our premises on Thursdays
17. Those who use our premises on Fridays
18. Those who use our premises on Saturday
19. Phil Jones Circuit Mission Enabler
20. Rev'd Andrew Hollins, Superintendent Minister of the circuit from September 2022
21. Deepings Church
22. Empingham Chapel
23. Our Supernumerary Ministers
24. Those who suffer from natural disasters
25. Our Local Preachers
26. **
27. Circuit Officers
28. Circuit Administrator Rowan

Any suggestions or requests please let Nina Rawlins know on 01780 753649 or email ninarawlins@yahoo.co.uk

The Serenity prayer

God, give us grace to accept with serenity
the things that cannot be changed,
Courage to change the things
which should be changed,
and the Wisdom to distinguish
the one from the other.
Living one day at a time,
Enjoying one moment at a time,
Accepting hardship as a pathway to peace,
Taking, as Jesus did,
This sinful world as it is,
Not as I would have it,
Trusting that You will make all things right,
If I surrender to Your will,
So that I may be reasonably happy in this life,
And supremely happy with You forever in the next.
Amen.

Reinhold Niebuhr's original wording

Praying the presence of God

Reveal yourself to me, O God.

In silence,
May I sense your heartbeat of love;

In the Living Word,
May I find your truth;

In the beauty around me,
May I see your image;

In the warmth of friendship,
May I find your heart;

In the essence of being,
May I find that which stirs the soul.

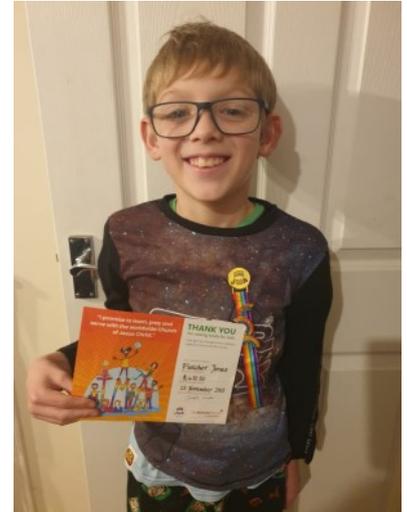
In Jesus' name, Amen.

JMA Awards

The JMA Awards were given to our small group of collectors, at Stamford Methodist Church, during the Missions Service on Sunday 28th November 2021. They were presented by Dr. Rob Burnie, who shared with us about the Nixon Memorial Hospital in Sierra Leone.

Together they collected the total of £2,192.32.

A big 'Thank you' to all the wonderful people who encourage them by regular donations.



**Carmen 3rd year, Grace 5th year, Jack 2nd year, Fletcher 3rd year
Ella 2nd year, Katie 3rd year, Kyle 19th year**

Stamford Prison Fellowship – Angel Tree Fund

The donations for 2021 from our Circuit amounted to £821.

Many thanks again for all your generous donations.
This is very helpful for the families of the people in prison.

Every blessing Maurice Wade

Come, Lord, be our guest

Come, Lord, be our guest,
Find your way among us;
You whose word and will
Sowed the seed which sprung us.
Earth your former home,
Still is where we meet you;
Therefore we greet you,
Christ, our God alone.

Come, Lord, be our guest,
Join our conversation;
Free our tongues to speak
Without reservation.
Where your people meet,
You perfect their pleasure;
Therefore we treasure
All you have to share.

Come, Lord, be our guest,
Gathered in your presence,
We confess your love
Is of life the essence.
You who made, of old,
All the earth was needing,
Blessing and leading
Show our love your way.

Come, Lord, be our guest,
Inhabit our souls so deeply;
May each of us, your folk,
Cradle you so meekly.
Live in us and breathe your love
Through our words and actions.
May our lives reveal
Your presence, hope and vision.

Andy Fyall



Submitting articles for the newsletter

We are delighted that some of our readers are inspired to submit book reviews, poems and articles to be included in the newsletter. When doing so, please make sure that you add your name to any item so that folk can follow up if they want to know more.

For published items, please ensure you have the permission of the author and add their name as author of any work.

Please send all entries for the March newsletter no later than Tuesday 8th February 2022, including Prayers for the Prayer page from Church Stewards *(anything sent after this date will not be included)* - **Thank you**

STAMFORD AND RUTLAND METHODIST CIRCUIT CALENDAR

Date	Time	Event	Venue
FEBRUARY 2022			
Sat 5th	7pm	Worship Concert Led by Chris Bowater This has been postponed due to Covid and will now take place on Saturday 9th July.	Stamford MC
Sat 26th	10am-4pm	Circuit Study Day considering Conflict Resolution, led by Rev'd Clive Fowle This has been postponed due to Covid and will now take place on Saturday 2nd July	Stamford MC
MARCH 2022			
Sun 20th	6pm	Circuit Service to welcome Julia Husbands as Circuit Children, Family and Youth Work Enabler	Stamford MC
Fri 4th	12.30-1.30pm	Christian Aid Lent Lunches	URC Hall, Broad Street
Fri 11th	12.30-1.30pm	Christian Aid Lent Lunches	URC Hall, Broad Street
Fri 18th	12.30-1.30pm	Christian Aid Lent Lunches	URC Hall, Broad Street
Fri 25th	12.30-1.30pm	Christian Aid Lent Lunches	URC Hall, Broad Street
APRIL 2022			
Fri 1st	12.30-1.30pm	Christian Aid Lent Lunches	URC Hall, Broad Street
Fri 8th	12.30-1.30pm	Christian Aid Lent Lunches	URC Hall, Broad Street
Fri 22nd	7.30pm	Stamford Concert Singers Tickets are £6 each and are available from Richard Bailey tel: 01778 425353 Or on the night, at the door. (See page 15)	Bourne MC

Stamford Churches Together Christian Aid Lent Lunches

At URC Hall, Broad Street, Stamford (dates above)

Soup, bread and cheese and drinks

All profit goes to Christian Aid

Everyone is welcome

GOD'S BLESSINGS

I asked God to take away my habit.
GOD SAID NO.
It is not for me to take away, but for you to give up.

I asked God to make my handicapped child whole.
GOD SAID NO.
His spirit is whole; his body is only temporary.

I asked God to grant me patience.
GOD SAID NO.
Patience is a by-product of tribulations, it isn't granted, it is learned.

I asked God to give me happiness.
GOD SAID NO.
I give you blessings. Happiness is up to you

I asked God to spare me pain.
GOD SAID NO.
Suffering draws you apart from worldly cares and brings you closer to me.

I asked God to make my spirit grow.
GOD SAID NO.
You must grow on your own! But I will prune you to make you fruitful.

I asked God to give me all things that I might enjoy life.
GOD SAID NO.
I will give you life, so that you may enjoy all things.

I asked God to help me LOVE others, as much as He loves me.
GOD SAID...
Ahhhh, finally you have the idea.

Anon



Love is: the name of a District wide campaign to encourage churches to use that theme to engage with its communities. It runs from Sunday April 10th to Friday 22nd April.

Here at Stamford we are initially doing 3 things with the backdrop of this theme. Evening Prayers will reflect this theme (with help from our District Mission Enabler Matt Forsyth)

Our Palm Sunday Worship online will utilise the idea of “Love Is...”

We will encourage all of our members to use the “Love Is” Actions sheet to show love to friend, neighbour and stranger from 11th to 22nd April – *see opposite page*.

You may however want to use this theme within your fellowship to do some home-grown outreach with this title – that's up to you.

There are various district resources to help you do this – see the Methodist District website

LOVE IS _____.



The Methodist Church
Northampton District



LOVE IS _____.

Writing a letter to someone you miss, or care about

Day 1 Action



The Methodist Church
Northampton District



LOVE IS _____.

Sharing a link to our online Evening Prayers this week...

Day 2 Action



The Methodist Church
Northampton District



LOVE IS _____.

Making a donation to a charity new to you...

Day 3 Action



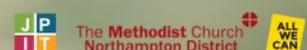
The Methodist Church
Northampton District



LOVE IS _____.

Inviting someone along to your main Easter worship...

Day 4 Action



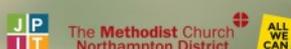
The Methodist Church
Northampton District



LOVE IS _____.

Giving someone your time when they need to talk...

Day 5 Action



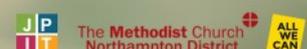
The Methodist Church
Northampton District



LOVE IS _____.

Picking up litter or making your community beautiful in some way...

Day 6 Action



The Methodist Church
Northampton District



LOVE IS _____.

Buying someone a coffee,
particularly someone you
don't know well...

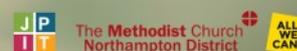
Day 7 Action



LOVE IS _____.

Showing your faith through
a window display in your
home...

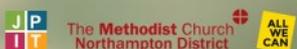
Day 8 Action



LOVE IS _____.

Offering to pray with
someone who is struggling
today...

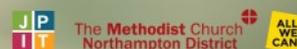
Day 9 Action



LOVE IS _____.

Phoning a friend to see
how they REALLY are...

Day 12 Action



LOVE IS _____.

Buying a buy one/get one
free offer & giving the extra
item to your Foodbank...

Day 11 Action



LOVE IS _____.

Running an errand for a
needy neighbour...

Day 10 Action



LOVE IS _____.

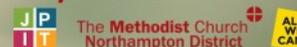
A Prayer you could use during these days

Father, help me to live this day to the full,
being true to You, in every way.

Jesus, help me to give myself away to others,
being kind to everyone I meet.

Spirit, help me to love the lost,
proclaiming Christ in all I do and say. Amen

From Lectio 365 App



LOVE IS _____.

A Prayer for self-denial as we go through Lent

Giving God,
Who gave up the glory and wonder of heaven
Coming to your world which we had marred,
Help me to follow your example.

Help me to let go –

of that which denies faith;
[Pause]

of that which belies my selfish ambitions;
[Pause]

of that which refutes the rights of others;
[Pause]

of that which *I* know I must shun;
[Pause]

Lord,
In place of these things
May I humbly bear witness to
Love, hope and faith,
Rooted firmly in you.

Amen.

Christians Against Poverty

It is my 60th birthday next month (22nd) and I have decided to use it as an opportunity to challenge myself and highlight the plight of the homeless by spending 60 hours living on the street. I will be starting at 10am on Monday 7th February and finishing at 10pm on Wednesday 9th so 2 nights totalling 60 hours.

I am aiming to raise £6,000 which I will be splitting 50/50 between CAP and Fresh Hope ministries. Fresh Hope is headed up by my colleague Louise Rose at St George's and provides support for the homeless of Stamford.

I have set up a page at **Justgiving.com** where people can contribute by searching for my name.

If you think it is appropriate, I would be grateful if you could raise awareness of my challenge around the church network.

Every blessing
Simon Jary

Reflections About Friendship

In her book *About Friendship*, Lynne Gerard talks of how there is something exceptional about a close friendship which is life-giving. It is a mutual sharing of support and discovery, a mutual giving of courage and strength. We have the opportunity to see life through each other's personal perceptions and through this friendship we help each other recognise and develop our inner potentials.

Lynne believes the special friends we keep are sent to us, that our friendship is not a chance occurrence but our paths have crossed for a special reason. She talks of friends who have come and gone, leaving fond memories of times shared together and the influence they have left.

After reading this book I thought back to the many special friends who have come and gone throughout my life and the legacy they have left. It does infact seem like each one was sent to me for a purpose at a particular time. I think of the many friends who have touched my life in a very special way, giving advice and loving concern and leaving memories of shared laughter and joy which will stay forever.

In the Celtic tradition there is a beautiful understanding of love and friendship which is the idea of soul love: the old Gaelic term for this is *anam cara*. *Anam* is the Gaelic word for soul and *cara* is the word for friend. So *anam cara* in the Celtic world was the soul friend – a spiritual guide, a teacher or companion who you could share deeply with. How lovely to be a soul friend to someone and perhaps someone has been a soul friend to you? God blesses us in many different ways and I am sure one of those ways of blessing is through special friends.

*Let love be real, in giving and receive
without the need to manage and to own;
a haven free from posing and pretending,
where every weakness may be safely known.
Give me your hand, along the desert pathway,
give me your love wherever we may go.
As God loves us, so let us love each other:
with no demands, just open hands and
space to grow.*

(Singing The Faith 615)

Beryl Teasdale

Please PRAY for:

Bourne

We pray for the people of Afghanistan, particularly the children as their families try desperately to feed them, and keep them warm and sheltered especially now that winter has arrived.

We pray for the people of Tonga and the islands in the South Pacific that have been affected by the devastating volcanic eruption and tsunami.

We pray for those at home who are still struggling with the effects of covid. We give thanks for all who work in the NHS continuing to care for the sick and dying and dealing with the vaccination programme even though they themselves are exhausted. We pray for the bereaved, particularly our Minister Ruth on the death of her father. Lord comfort them and all those who are in need.

Deepings

We pray for those that are struggling with their mobility and unable to join us in presence for worship on Sundays.

We pray for our meeting with Julia Husbands to review our work with children and young people and how we start things up again.

Empingham

We give thanks for celebrating 18yrs since first opening the community Post Office in our church building and the opportunity this has given us, pray for us as we share Gods love with those who come and stay for refreshments. Pray for the newly formed ecumenical prayer group, praying for our two churches and the people of Empingham.

Ketton

Dear Lord and Father, we are having so many catastrophes in your wonderful world; Tsunamis wiping out whole Islands around Tonga with terrible devastation and loss of lives,

Afghanistan is in the grip of freezing temperatures where there is very little food and the children are suffering malnutrition and frostbite. We earnestly pray for your intervention as we seem helpless to be able to be of any use, so we bring these problems to you dear father, in love and faith,

We do have some positives as the pandemic appears to have reached a manageable level- hallelujah praise the Lord,

Please bless all the sick, homeless and elderly in our communities give them your love and peace dear Lord Father Almighty. Amen

Oakham

Lord Jesus, thank you for lovely frosty mornings with blue skies and sunshine to lift our spirits.

We pray that we may face a new year with renewed hope for our congregations to grow, and for everyone to feel safer to join in with church worship and activities. Amen.

Stamford

Pray for outreach, growth and opportunities to share the Good News.

Please PRAY for:

Thurlby

We pray for our congregation, that the love of God will be in their hearts, the peace of knowing that He meets all needs and the comfort of His presence with them through every eventuality. We pray that our Church will continue to be a beacon of love and hope in this village.

Uppingham

Lord God thank you for the joy that we have shared over the Christmas season.

Circuit

Give thanks for
opportunities to worship together,
those who make a difference in our lives,
the commitment and dedication of NHS staff – medics and non-medics.

Please pray for

The opportunities to share faith during the '*Love is...*' period (See article elsewhere in the newsletter),

Rev'd Andrew Hollins, preparing to join the circuit,

Rev'd Bekkie Wright, attending Probationers' Committee and Synod with a view to ordination in the summer,

Rev'd Ruth Charlesworth in her bereavement following the death of her father. Pray also for her mum, Sue and the wider family.

David Thompson, longstanding church member at Stamford and Local Preacher, has died.

David was latterly resident at Rose Lodge Care Home, Market Deeping. He had been a wonderful witness for Christ, member of the Lay Witness Movement and a professional football referee.

Please pray for his widow, Anne, and for all the family.

David's funeral service will be at Stamford Methodist Church.

Details to be announced.



Appreciation of Pastoral Care ... in verse.

A wing of joy comes through the post
a delight to savour, a voice of hope
the lady with grey hair from barn hill
a wonder of joy, a message from our saviour
I praise the efforts of our team
that help us all to dream
a difficult time, too hard to navigate
but lets thank god for the helpers
who bring the light and encourage hope
and remind us of the time of vespers
and the sight of the cross on the beam
well done, allow, have the faith to get through it
and to those who doubt , let us say nope
believe in his plan and lets just do it

God bless you all
Malcolm Read

*Thank
you*



The Well Café at Stamford Methodist Church

**The Well is now open again on Wednesdays
Thursdays and Fridays 10am-2pm**

The Well is our café situated within the Church building,
providing delicious hot meals, drinks, cakes etc at an
amazing price.

Add to that a fair-trade shop and you have the best location
for chat in Stamford.

