



The **Methodist** Church

Stamford Circuit

Registered Charity :1160930

March 2023



For God so loved the world that he gave his
one and only Son, that whoever believes in
him shall not perish but have eternal life.

(John 3:16)

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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 March 2023 Circuit Newsletter to:

Email: admin2322@gmail.com

or by post to the Circuit Office at Stamford Methodist Church

**Articles for the April 2023 Newsletter should be sent no later than
Tuesday 14th March 2023.**

<p>Rev Andrew Hollins 11 Jackson Way, Stamford, Lincs. PE9 1FG Tel: 01780 762282 StamfordMethodistSuper@gmail.com Rest Day: Monday</p>	<p>Rev Bekkie Wright 2 Wensum Close, Oakham. LE15 6FU Tel: 01572 720721 Bekkie.wright@methodist.org.uk Rest Day: Friday</p>
<p>Rev Ruth Charlesworth 2 Coggles Causeway, Bourne, Lincs PE10 9LN Tel: 01778 422258 ruth.charlesworth@methodist.org.uk Rest Day: Friday</p>	<p>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</p>
<p>Phil Jones- Circuit Mission Enabler 5 Rycroft Close, Deeping St James, PE6 8NX Tel: 01778 346389 pdvjones@hotmail.com</p>	<p>Julia Husbands Circuit Children, Family and Youth Work Enabler Tel:01780 753968 Julia.cfywenabler@gmail.com</p>
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Dear All

While writing this, my wife has just gone to visit some friends – a Syrian refugee family who have lost four close family members in the earthquake. I'm writing this in mid February. By the time you read it, that earthquake may seem like a distant memory as news media will have moved on to another world crisis. But, the distress and need of millions in Syria and Turkey will be just as present for them as now. The war in Ukraine will be just as present too.

If you personally know a refugee from Ukraine, or Syria, Eritrea, Sudan, Zimbabwe or anywhere else; or people personally affected by this earthquake, then you don't see numbers. You see individual faces.

Through this period of Lent we are with Jesus in the wilderness, fasting and being tempted, because loving like God loves is really hard. The Devil says to him, “You can make it easier on yourself. Turn these stones into bread.” or, “I will give you all the nations if you just bow down to me.” But, loving is hard. There are no easy short cuts. God's love is always personal. He looks into our face – for each one of us.

Jesus understands suffering and temptation, and he gave his life on the cross for the forgiveness of our failures to love. He offers us his Spirit to heal and transform our hearts to love like God loves. He is the lens through which we understand the world.

God bless us all, and may we all have a good Lent as we prepare to celebrate the salvation of the world. God is with us!

William Booker.



Pray without Ceasing March 2023



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. Rev Andrew Hollins
3. Uppingham Church
4. Barn Hill Church
5. Bourne Chapel
6. Rev Ruth Charlesworth
7. Deepings Church
8. Empingham Chapel
9. Ketton Chapel
10. Rev William Booker
11. For those who struggle with mental health issues
12. Rev Bekkie Wright
13. Those who use our premises on Mondays
14. Those who use our premises on Tuesdays
15. Those who use our premises on Wednesdays
16. Oakham Church
17. Ryhall Chapel
18. Thurlby Chapel
19. Phil Jones Circuit Mission Enabler
20. For peace throughout the World
21. Julia Husbands CF&YM Enabler
22. **
23. Those who use our premises on Thursdays
24. Those who use our premises on Fridays
25. Those who use our premises on Saturday
26. Our Supernumerary Ministers
27. **
28. Our Local Preachers
29. Circuit Administrator Rowan
30. **
31. Circuit Officers

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

Leisure

What is this life if, full of care,
We have no time to stand and stare.

No time to stand beneath the boughs
And stare as long as sheep or cows.

No time to see, when woods we pass,
Where squirrels hide their nuts in grass.

No time to see, in broad daylight,
Streams full of stars, like skies at night.

No time to turn at Beauty's glance,
And watch her feet, how they can dance.

No time to wait till her mouth can,
Enrich that smile her eyes began.

A poor life this if, full of care,
We have no time to stand and stare.

William Henry Davies 1871-1940

Contributed by Beryl Teasdale

CALLING ALL CRAFTERS

Do you knit, sew, crochet, draw, paint or have a similar hobby and would you like to join others in the church on a Thursday morning for coffee, crafts and a chat at the Well at Stamford Methodist Church?

Similar church groups have also embarked on joint projects making things such as face masks, cards for the sick or housebound, banner-making, Knitting for Peace, poppy making for Remembrance Day and nativity sets for local shops.

We will be meeting every 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month.
If you are interested please ring Anne Wiltshire 01780 482285.

Circuit Trivia Quiz

It was lovely to be back 'in person' for the Quiz after a couple of years of 'Zooming', and there was a happy, relaxed atmosphere. About 100 people from around the Circuit and other local churches enjoyed a fantastic 'bangers and mash' supper provided by Second Helpings, followed by a fabulous selection of puddings.

The quiz had questions on a wide range of topics including the fun 'Bring me...' round, as well as film, picture, Bible, general knowledge and music rounds.

The winners' shield was eventually claimed by 'Run DMC', the team from the Deepings.

As well as having an enjoyable evening of friendly rivalry, £470 was donated to the Stamford branch of Christians Against Poverty.

Many thanks to all who were involved in making this such a successful event.

STAMFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT INVITES YOU TO...

FUN AT THE FARM

At Normanton Lodge Farm, Empingham Road, Normanton
(near Rutland Water)

**Exploring the theme of
New Life, New Beginnings**

Saturday 20th May

3-5pm An afternoon of creativity, activity, fellowship and fun for
all ages in and around the farm

5-7pm Barn Dance with a live band and refreshments

Sunday 21st May

11.30am Worship in the barn for the whole Church family

Followed by a 'bring your own' picnic and games .

Family friendly.

Something for all ages

BOURNE METHODIST CHURCH

By popular demand the Stamford Concert Singers will once again be giving a concert at Bourne Methodist Church

on Friday 14th April

at 7.30pm

Tickets are £6 each (including light refreshments) and are available from Richard Bailey

Telephone number: 01778 782495

Or pay on the door!

Ketton Community Soup Lunches

Why not join us at Ketton on the third Wednesday of each month from 12.00-1.30pm for a hearty soup lunch.

Next Date 15th March!

There is a warm welcoming atmosphere to chat with and make new friends. We offer a choice of Four delicious homemade soups with bread, cheese, biscuits and fruit, all rounded off with a nice cuppa!

There is no charge but donations to charity are very welcome if you feel able.

Do come and join us and bring a friend- you will be glad you did!

The Warm Welcome Campaign

Uppingham Methodist Church has signed up with The Warm Welcome Campaign and pledged to open our doors and offer a warm welcome, in all senses, for those that need it this winter.

The Warm Welcome Campaign's mission is to support churches and other community organisations to provide a free, safe, warm and welcoming space for anyone concerned about heating their homes this winter. It was started by the Church Works Commission.

Their aim is for no one to be left in the cold. Rather, a Warm Welcome Space be available to help turn someone's difficulty into an opportunity to be seen, belong, and receive a life-giving response in their local context.

If you would like to know more, please go to www.warmwelcome.uk

Opening Hours: Monday 10am-12noon & Wednesday 10am-12noon

Address: Uppingham Methodist Church, Orange Street, Uppingham, LE15 9SQ

Stamford and Rutland Circuit Diary

Date	Time	Event	Venue
MARCH 2023			
Tues 7th	Lent Meeting 10.30am Soup from 12noon	Lent group & soup lunches A warm welcome awaits	Empingham MC
Wed 8th	8.30am	Circuit Ministry Team Meeting	
Thurs 9th	7.30pm	Circuit Leadership Team Meeting	
Fri 10th	12.30-1.30pm	Christian Aid Lent Lunch	URC Hall, Broad Street
Tues 14th	Lent Meeting 10.30am Soup from 12noon	Lent group & soup lunches A warm welcome awaits	Empingham MC
Wed 15th		Northampton District Presbyteral Synod Meeting	
Wed 15th	12noon-1.30pm	Community Soup Lunches	Ketton MC
Thurs 16th	7.30pm	Circuit Local Preachers & Worship Leaders Meeting	Via Zoom
Fri 17th	12.30-1.30pm	Christian Aid Lent Lunch	URC Hall, Broad Street
Tues 21st	Lent Meeting 10.30am Soup from 12noon	Lent group & soup lunches A warm welcome awaits	Empingham MC
Fri 24th	12.30-1.30pm	Christian Aid Lent Lunch	URC Hall, Broad Street
Sun 26th	6PM	Circuit Prayer & Praise Guest Speaker—Matt Forsyth (Northampton Methodist District Mission Enabler)	Ryhall MC
Tues 28th	Lent Meeting 10.30am Soup from 12noon	Lent group & soup lunches A warm welcome awaits	Empingham MC
Fri 31st	12.30-1.30pm	Christian Aid Lent Lunch	URC Hall, Broad Street
APRIL 2023			
Tues 4th	Lent Meeting 10.30am Soup from 12noon	Lent group & soup lunches A warm welcome awaits	Empingham MC
Fri 14th	7.30pm	Stamford Concert Singers Tickets £6 each (including light refreshments). See page 7 for more details	Bourne MC

Special Services around the Circuit

Maundy Thursday 6th April

Bourne ~ 6.30pm Service

Deepings ~ 2pm Service

Empingham ~ 7.30pm joint Tenebrae service for the Rutland section Churches

Stamford ~ 7pm Service. *Holy Communion led by Revs. Andrew Hollins & William Booker*

Good Friday 7th April

Bourne ~ 10am Walk of Witness

Deepings ~ 10am Walk of Witness beginning at St Guthlacs. Worship at Deeping MC beginning at 10.30am

Ketton ~ 7pm Service. *Reflective Worship led by Rev. Andrew Hollins.*

Oakham ~ Morning Walk of Witness followed by Ecumenical Service of Worship.
Please contact Tony Law for more details cgaa240@googlemail.com

Ryhall ~ 10.30am Good Friday Walk with the Cross starting from Ryhall Methodist Church, walking to St Johns Parish Church, stopping several times on the way to remember and pray.

Stamford ~ 11am Service. *At the Cross' Reflective Worship led by Rev. Andrew Hollins.*
~ 12noon Stamford Churches Together Walk of Witness.

Uppingham ~ 10am-2pm Ecumenical Act of Witness, standing before the cross.
Please contact John Bassill for more details johnbassill@icloud.co.uk
~ 12pm Good Friday reflections.

Easter Sunday

Thurlby ~ 6.30am Sunrise Service at Thurlby Manor followed by breakfast at Thurlby Methodist Church

Uppingham ~ 6.15am Churches Together Sunrise Service. Outside at the Middle, Newtown Road, Uppingham

Take A Fresh View
Methodist Women in Britain are holding a
Creativity Day on Sat 15th July
at Barn Hill Stamford.
10-4pm

And much more!!

This is organised by a National MWiB task group and your support is requested to make it a success.

This event is open to everyone so please book the date and watch this space for further details.



Bourne MC Pancake Coffee Morning

Our pancake and coffee morning held on the 18th of February was not as well attended as hoped but we still managed to raise £100 for MHA

Thank you to all those who came along and to those involved.

Kaleidoscope Quiet Morning

“Spring Springing”

Saturday 13th May 2023

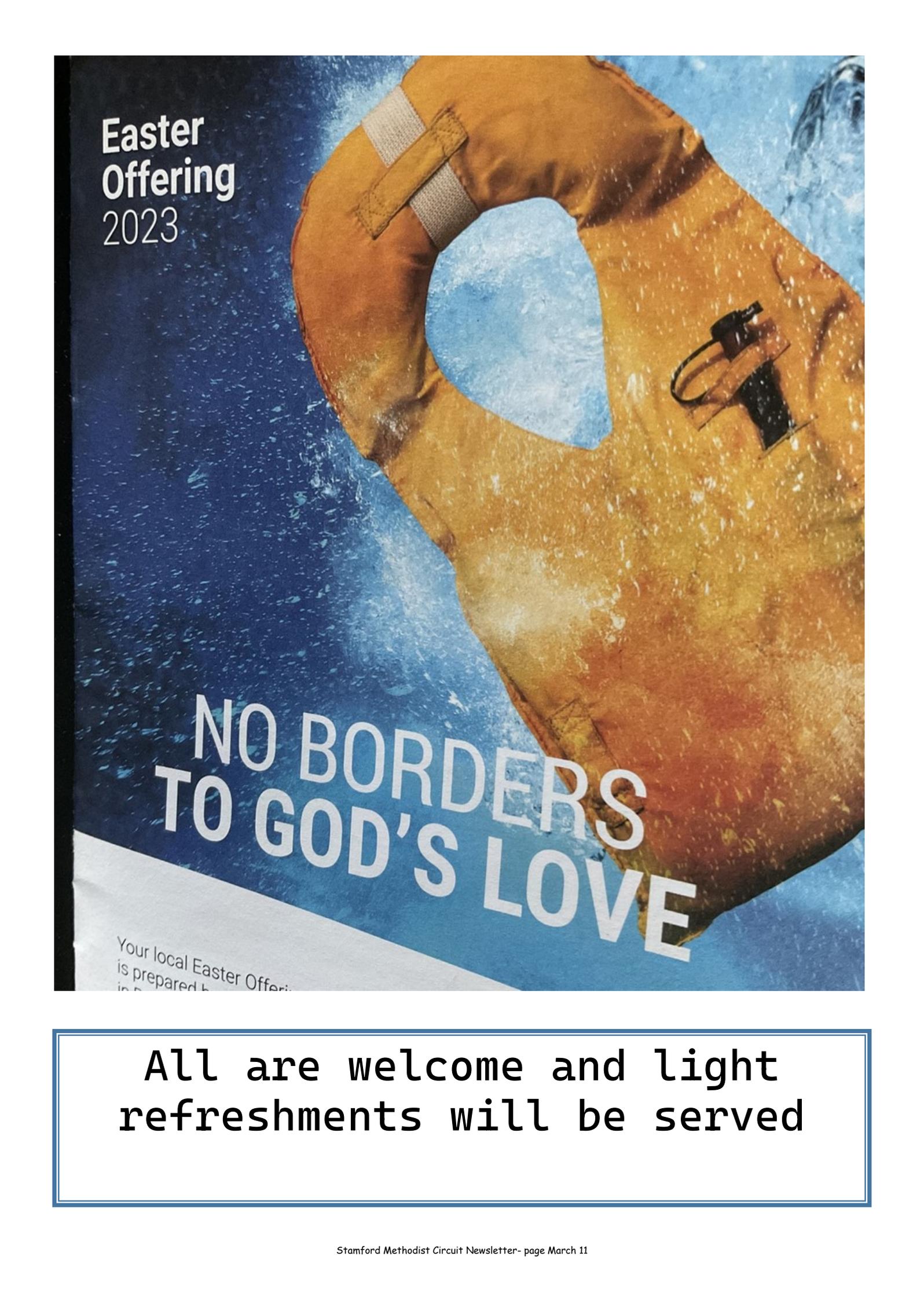
9.15am for 9.30am – 11.30am

At the home of Beryl and Ron Teasdale,
Ashbrook, First Drift, Wothorpe, PE9 3JL

Join us for personal reflexion, stillness and sharing.
An informal time of relaxation and peace.

Tel: Linda Bosworth 01572 823965 to book a place.

Saturday August 12th 2023 “So Glorious”

A large, orange life preserver is the central focus, floating in clear blue water. The water is bright and bubbly, suggesting a sunny day. The life preserver has a white strap and a black handle. The overall scene is one of hope and rescue.

**Easter
Offering
2023**

**NO BORDERS
TO GOD'S LOVE**

Your local Easter Offering
is prepared by...

**All are welcome and light
refreshments will be served**

Please PRAY for:

Bourne

We pray for all those caught up in the earthquake in Turkey and Syria, for those who grieve at the loss of family and friends, for those who have survived but have lost everything and for those who have gone to help. Lord may they know your blessing.

We pray for those in our own congregation who are ill or in hospital. For all those who are still struggling with mental and economic difficulties.

We pray for all those who preach to us each week from our pulpit, may we hear and act on the message they bring to us.

Empingham

We pray for all in so much need in our world, We pray for peace.

Help us to be a blessing where we are.

Thank you for the opportunity to share God's love through our weekly Post Office and Toddler Group.

We pray for our coming Ecumenical Lent Group as we grow and learn together.

Ketton

As this letter goes out our hearts are broken by the news we witness of the devastating earthquakes in Turkey and Syria. Heavenly Father we thank you for Rescue Aid and help that has poured in and for miracles we have seen, but we pray especially for those bereaved, homeless and living in unimaginable conditions. Help each one of us to respond in whatever way we can to support your people at this sad and dreadful time.

May we always be grateful and thankful for what we have and through your Grace offer to others.

Oakham

Oh Lord we try to follow in your footsteps and be our best in praising your divine presence.

We try to keep those who feel troubled in times around them and we try to support them.

Each day we need to praise your name and use our strength to glorify your Being.

Churches are slowly diminishing and congregations are getting smaller, mostly due to aging populations.

We need to lead those still fit enough to keep their prayers and share time with those in care homes or neighbours nearby.

The times have changed from keeping quiet Sundays families and regular services to going shopping or seeing children playing various games like football or rugby. There are many 24 hours of large shops that can be used on any other day.

My question is why do we have to follow these modern patterns? Why do we have to shop on Sundays? Why can't we go back to basics and rethink of how much we love our Lord and we should be making him first.

Amen

Stamford

Those who are mothers, those who long to be a mother and those for who Mothering Sunday is a difficult time.

We thank God for the signs of Spring – lambs, bulbs flowering and lighter mornings.

For those who continue to struggle at these times, and for those who are doing their best to support these people.

Please PRAY for:

Deepings

The start of our Lent House group that more will join
Churches Together Good Friday Act of Witness
A generous response for the Food Bank that is facing increased demand.

Thurlby

Lord, We pray your blessing on our trial of a "warm space" in our Church on Wednesday mornings from 9am - 12noon, that village people in need may feel able to come for companionship. We pray for all those who are finding life difficult with money worries, sickness or bereavement.
thanks

Uppingham

"Be still and know that I am God"

EMPINGHAM METHODIST CHURCH

Empingham Toddler & Baby Group meet on Thursday's during term time
10.30 - 12noon

Lots of toys, activities, singing and fun.

Refreshments £1 a family.

A warm welcome to join us. We look forward to seeing you.

Eileen Ray 01780 460676

The Future of the Circuit Newsletter

Dear All, the newsletter and how it is used around the Circuit is being reviewed. We would really appreciate hearing your views about the Newsletter,

Do you read the newsletter?

what you enjoy?

what you would like to see?

Do you pass it on to others when you have finished?

All comments received would be very helpful-even if it is to say you do not read it.

**Please do send me any feedback by the end of February to
Admin2322@gmail.com**

or

**F.A.O Rowan at Stamford Methodist Church, 11 Barnhill,
Stamford, Lincs, PE9 2AE**

Thank you to all those who have already sent responses.

The wonders of modern telecommunications

I was very pleasantly surprised to receive a telephone call early the other morning. It was my longstanding friend, Musa Jambawai, ringing from Sierra Leone (SL) the first ever such call!

We first met about 40 years ago when he came to an agricultural college near Bedford, sponsored by the British Council, on a 2 year course to learn British farming practices so that he could introduce improved methods back home. He found his way to our church in Bedford and when we discovered he had nowhere to go during the college holidays (they were not geared up for students to stay out of term time!) my late wife Pauline and I invited him to spend the holidays with us.

After his return home we continued to keep in touch although in those days it was only possible by post and sometimes months would pass before we had a reply.

Several years later he candidated for the Methodist ministry and achieved a great deal through hard work and prayer. Then the most dreadful civil war engulfed the country and several times he had to flee for his life. He survived all this and in 2014 came to England once again, this time as guest of the British Methodist Conference in his capacity Secretary of the Methodist Conference of Sierra Leone. We were very pleased that his busy schedule enabled him to spend 2 weeks with us in Bedford.

But this was not our first contact with that country. More than 10 years before we first met Musa, Revd Sidney Groves with his wife Mary came to North Bedford as Circuit Superintendent (and our local church minister) on their return from SL as Missions Partners in the same area. Mary was a qualified doctor and among other things became paediatrician for our severely disabled daughter, Sarah, providing welcome support at a very difficult time in our lives. Sidney was nephew to Alderman John Nixon (a former Lord Mayor of Newcastle) who had funded the Nixon Memorial Hospital established by the Methodist Missionary Society in Segwema in SL in the 1950's in memory of his wife (it was this link which inspired Sidney to serve overseas).

After leaving Bedford, Sidney became Africa Secretary for the Methodist Church Overseas Division but sadly died in 1986. A church in Kenema, Eastern SL is named the Sidney Groves Memorial Church.

Mary continued her interest in SL and with her second husband, Colin Rowe (a retired Methodist Minister) founded the Friends of Nixon, a UK Charity, which seeks to help the hospital, firstly after the devastation of the civil war and then expanding the hospital's activities in line with the priorities of the SL Government. The largest single contributor to this work is Stamford Methodist Church. It was fitting that Musa was able to attend a meeting of the Charity as his last act in the UK before returning home in 2014 (on the final flight before the route was closed because of the Ebola epidemic!).

Now that we have regular internet contact (albeit on Musa's old mobile phone) it seems incredible how the world of mass communication has changed over these past years. I am so proud and humbled to have had such close links for so many years with someone living in one of the poorest countries on earth.

John Bassill

Kaleidoscope Quiet Morning Reflections

Darkness to Light

Eleven of us met together on Sat 11th February to share in the Kaleidoscope session lead by David and Linda Bosworth.

After coffee, we began by David playing “O Lord, my heart is not proud” by Margaret Rizza (from Psalm 131). It was a good way to settle us down and prepare ourselves. There was then a time of silence and a prayer with responses which began “*We come with our faith and with our doubts... We come with our hopes and with our fears... We come as we are, because it is God who invites us to come....*”

After a short silence David told a story “Light in the darkness” which was about discovery and re-discovery and very beautiful.

There was then a time of prayer with responses asking Christ Jesus to be with us.

David played the music “You Raise Me Up” by Secret Garden which was inspiring and resonated with us all....

You raise me up, so I can stand on mountains;

You raise me up, to walk on stormy seas;

I am strong when I am on your shoulders;

You raise me up...to more than I can be.

David then read a poem that he had written at a time of darkness in his life. It was deep and heartfelt and the words helped us to understand how God had worked through that time.. lifting him out of the darkness and anguish and into a place of certainty and light.

We heard wonderful testimonies from various people about their own personal experiences and how God had entered in and done great things in the dark times of their lives...all very different experiences but evidence of God’s truly amazing power, love and care. The deep sharing of particular, important and sometimes painful memories was something that I felt a privilege to be part of.

A time of quiet gave us a while to ponder and reflect by reading, colouring in, making up stories with the story cubes or writing meditations and poems. A time to take stock and be alone or join with others around the craft table with coffee and snacks on hand. It was a special morning where stories were told and shared which will be remembered by each of us and where friendship blossomed even more. We all look forward to the next Quiet Morning “*Spring, Springing*” with Kaleidoscope on 13th May and would love you to join us as we experience God together.

Beryl Teasdale

Stamford Circuit's Prayer & Praise

Theme: Be bold; be brave

Guest speaker: Matt Forsythe,
*Mission Enabler from the
Northamptonshire District*



6pm on Sunday 26th March 2023

with cuppa & cake from 5:30pm
in the school/back room of:

Ryhall Methodist Church

on Mill Street, Ryhall PE9 4HF with
on-road parking available.



All are welcome to this rekindled circuit event.

rejoice reflect receive respond