

STRATFORD-UPON-AVON METHODIST CHURCH
REPORTING

AUGUST 2018



Calling all PETS

Stratford On Avon Methodist Church Centre

PET SERVICE ON SUNDAY 9TH SEPTEMBER 2018 AT 4:00 P.M.

ALL pets are welcome ~ No pets are excluded

As long as small ones are kept in cages

and large ones are kept on a lead



Please feel free to bring along well-behaved humans

Any humans without a pet can be accompanied by a soft animal toy



'So God created the great creatures of the sea and every living thing with which the water teems and that moves about in it, according to their kinds, and every winged bird according to its kind.

And God saw that it was good'

Dear Friends

Thank you to everyone who helped with the Farewell Service and tea last week when we gave thanks for the Rev'd Ros Murphy's ministry and friendship. Thank you too to Sheila Giles for arranging the three recent fund raising concerts and lunches.

Conference this year was held in Nottingham and a new President, the Rev'd Michaela Youngson, and new Vice-President, Mr Bala Gnanapragasam, were welcomed into post. Michaela serves as one of the Chairs of the London District. You may have heard her speak on BBC Radio 2 in 'Pause for Thought' where she is a regular contributor. Bala serves on the board of Christian Aid and MHA and is a trustee of the London HIV/Aids Chaplaincy. He has also served as the Chair of University Hospital Lewisham.

I have printed off the Conference Digest which gives a brief report of business covered and decisions made at conference and gives links for further reading about the debates and reports. Copies of the Digest are in the Welcome Area.

This month we welcome six new church members: Roger and Stella Lobb, Anna Cooley Jan Grant, and Alan and Jan Cumming. Sadly, we bid farewell to Simon Dobson as he transfers his membership to the Dale St Methodist Church in Leamington Spa.

A suggestion has been made to have an evening Bible Study group. If you would be interested in attending such a group please let me know.

Hope you enjoy the rest of the summer.

Audrey Simpson

I have heard from two people this week who think that they have been phoned by 'scammers'. One was phoned by someone who said that the WiFi was about to be cut off for under use unless a new contract was taken out and the other was from someone purporting to be from HMRC demanding that the people receiving the call phone back HMRC on a number given and that failure to do so would result in dire consequences. If you think someone is trying to scam you, you can phone Action Fraud, the UK's national reporting centre for fraud and internet crime on 0300 123 2040 or online at [bt.com/scams](https://www.actionfraud.police.uk/).

Lunchtime Concerts

The third Lunchtime Concert was held on Monday, 30th July and I am able to tell you that the concerts raised a total profit of £287.74p enabling me to send cheques of £100 each to the charities Action for Children and Hearing Dogs for Deaf People with the remaining amount of £87.74 going to the Church. Thank you to everyone who supported these events and to those who helped them happen -- a big thank you. *Sheila Giles*

Following Ivy's Concert for the Circuit Project, she was very pleased to receive a letter on behalf of the Church and asked that I print it in Reporting. She especially liked the coloured heading



Dear Ivy

I acknowledge receipt of £213.20 that was paid into the Missions bank account on 2nd July by David Dumper. It is to be allocated to the Great Ormond Street Hospital Neurological Unit. The money will be sent off in the next few weeks along with other monies raised by the Circuit.

Many thanks for all your effort in raising such a large sum of money for such a worthwhile cause

Kind regards

Sharon



A gentle reminder that the Church Financial Year ends on August 31st and if you have contributions for JMA, please may I have them by Sunday, August 19th in order that I can complete the balance sheet. Thank you *Sheila Giles*



Taking a plastics holiday

I have found my plastics challenge quite hard going over the last few months, especially when buying fruit and vegetables in the supermarket. Everything seems to be in more plastic wrapping than ever and there are still quite a few food items which are in packaging which is labelled 'not currently recycled'. So, as it's the traditional holiday season, I'm going to try to redouble my efforts to cut down on the amount of plastics that I use and try to take a plastics holiday! Will you join me?

These are a few of the things I'm going to try over the next few weeks:

As well as trying to reduce the amount of plastic I bring home with a supermarket shop, I've been thinking about how I can avoid plastic when I'm out and about. I think it will take some organisation and planning, such as packing some snacks in a paper bag or reusable box and taking a water bottle with me, rather than buying food and drink at the petrol garage, station or motorway services which are likely to be rather too well packaged in plastic.

The hot weather will encourage me to pack light and this is a good thing, as less fuel will be needed to transport me and my luggage. I'll need to think too about what I really need to put in a plastic bag, such as sun cream, or whether there is another container I could use that would catch any spills but avoid using a single-use or short-use plastic bag. I'm sometimes tempted to buy 'travel sized' shampoo and other toiletries but this year I'm going to see how many things I can decant into smaller reusable bottles rather than taking a one-use plastic bottle with me on my travels.

I'm also going to look through my bathroom cabinet and see how many products are packaged in plastic, or contain plastic, and see how many of them have alternatives. To start with I know I could replace liquid soap in

a plastic bottle with a bar of soap wrapped in paper but I've also heard that you can get bars of shampoo so that's something to look into, as that would reduce the number of one-use plastic bottles that come into the house by quite a few.

Thinking of plastic bottles I read recently that , according to an organisation called 'Recycle now', every UK household uses around 480 plastic bottles a year but only recycles about 270. That equates to more than 23 million bottles that don't get recycled and either go into landfill or find their way into the environment - on land, in rivers and into the sea.

Sarah Hill

Organ playing

As of September 1st, I cease to be the churches full time organist and instead will play on a rota with other Church Friends who have offered to play. We are very fortunate to have six people able to play for us.

If you are a competent pianist/organist and are willing to help out at an occasional service, please speak to me after church on any Sunday. I will be organising the rota each quarter and will still take responsibility for the choir. Again, if you are interested in singing, speak with me. We do not have auditions for our choir but an ability to read music is very helpful.

Sheila Giles

Maureen Beckett has sent the reminder that there will be no brunch or brunch bunch in August, but they will resume again on **Saturday 8th September**.

AND

Two dates for your diary, **Beetle Drive on Monday 22nd October**, and **Bazaar on Saturday 24th November**. Any new ideas welcome, but you can all start collecting for the old favourites now.

Light up a Child's Future

Stratford & Evesham Methodist Churches Circuit Project 2018/19

It is sobering to remind ourselves that almost 600 million people in Africa have no access to electricity. 75% of Kenyan families depend on homemade kerosene lamps, which produce little light, lots of toxic black smoke, and can easily cause house fires.

So a project which enables them to use free energy, allows children to study in the evening, which saves the need to buy fuel and which also helps to combat climate change, is seriously worth our support.



100% of the funds raised will be used to buy more lamps.

Our new circuit project will help the Elsa Conservation Trust's Centre for Education in Sustainability in Central Kenya provide solar lamps to needy families who still rely on kerosene lamps. Costing less than £10 they can really 'Light up a Child's Life.'

One of our Kenya Directors recently wrote:

'Nothing has made me happier than the fact that one of the needy children who we donated a solar lamp to managed to score 375 marks out of 500 This is a great achievement for a child in a local school, who before getting the solar lamp could only use a smoky lantern lamp to study and couldn't get such marks! With these kind of marks, I believe Ibrahim Kanyi will join one of the national schools! I believe his performance has been contributed by having a solar lamp through which he could study for more hours without having to worry about his lungs due to the toxic smoke from the lantern'. Mark Boulton. Eco-Circuit Convenor

Money raised at our Harvest Festival will go to this circuit project but if anyone wishes to do more fundraising for it please see Rev Audrey.

BIBLE ANIMALS AND BIRDS

When you have found all the creatures listed, the letters that are left will give you some of the words from the front page of what God saw. Enter them at the bottom of the sheet.

R	E	E	B	S	C	O	L	T	A	N
E	W	V	H	G	S	N	D	N	G	O
E	D	E	O	T	T	O	X	E	N	S
D	E	D	R	D	O	I	C	V	E	A
P	L	I	S	U	A	L	I	A	U	Q
M	C	E	E	S	T	A	G	R	L	W
H	R	T	O	H	F	L	O	W	A	F
S	E	O	K	P	E	L	U	M	M	R
I	A	P	W	M	A	L	T	V	B	O
F	I	T	A	W	A	R	O	S	G	G
O	O	C	H	I	N	D	D	M	D	S

3 letters APE; BEE; DOG; EWE;

4 letters CALF; COLT; DEER; DOVE; FISH; HAWK;
HIND; LAMB; LION; MOLE; MULE; OXEN;
STAG; WOLF; WORM.

5 letters CAMEL; EAGLE; FROGS; HORSE; QUAIL;
RAVEN; SHEEP; STOAT.

7 letters LEOPARD; OSTRICH; VULTURE.

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Stratford-upon-Avon Victorian Christmas Market Festival – an Invitation to Showcase Your Talents!

Following the huge success of the inaugural Victorian Christmas Market Festival that took place in Stratford-upon-Avon in 2017, which saw, on the Saturday, an incredible 91% increase in footfall over the same period last year, the Town and District Councils are again working in partnership with event organiser, LSD Promotions. This year's three-day event will take place **on Friday 7, Saturday 8 and Sunday 9 December, 2018.**

We would like to offer you the opportunity to showcase your talents, free of charge and play a part in making the festival a magical event not to be missed!

If you are interested in taking part in the Festival this year, please would you kindly read the attached letter, Terms & Conditions and fill out the application form. The deadline for applications is **Friday 28 September, 2018. (SEE footnote below)**

Please also take note of the attached Contact Privacy Statement, and sign the consent section at the bottom of the application form, to allow us permission to keep your data on file.

We do hope you will take full advantage of this unique opportunity to join us on what promises to be a very enjoyable and festive occasion for all.

Kind regards,

Lisa Cowley

Admin Officer and PA to the Town Clerk

Stratford-upon-Avon Town Council

01789 269332

If you are interested in being involved in this, please contact Margaret Smith for details. She has all the necessary information .

DOOR STEWARDS FOR SEPTEMBER

2ND LYNNE DUNNINGHAM
LIZ WALKER

9TH JAN GARDNER
DAVID DUMPER

16TH HELEN JORDAN
BILL GILES

23RD GILLIAN LOADER
ROSEMARY CORVIN

30TH SYLVIA BEVAN
STEVE FARMERY

FLOWER ROTA

SEPTEMBER 2ND =
SUSAN MOLLOY

SEPTEMBER 9TH –
JANE ROWLEY

SEPTEMBER 16TH –
SHEILA GILES

SEPTEMBER 23RD –
SHIRLEY DUMPER

SEPTEMBER 30TH -
GILLIAN EDWARDS



COFFEE ROTA FOR SEPTEMBER

2nd Sue Rimmer and Janet Lampitt

9th Kath Fraser and Penny Brain

16th Gillian Loader and Shirley Dumper

23rd Gillian Ledgerd and Ray Childerhouse

30th Jacky May and Susan Nagarth

AUGUST OFFERTORY ROTA

5TH GILLIAN EDWARDS

STEVE FARMERY

12TH JOHN PARKES

BILL GILES

19TH MARGARET SMITH

BARBARA HAGGETT

26TH MARGARET FARMERY

*To EVERYONE with a birthday in AUGUST
we wish you A VERY HAPPY DAY*

*especially GILLIAN BOWERS; IVY CALVERT;
MARILYN SHOREY and MICHAEL LEDGARD*



Earth is gift of God's creation

At the Eco-gathering on Saturday 2nd June held in the community garden at Mickleton Methodist Church we sang 2 new hymns to familiar tunes. We sang the following words by Edith Sinclair Downing to the tune Abbot's Leigh by Cyril Vincent Taylor (1907-1991) I would like to share it *Evelyn Ho*

Earth is gift of God's creation
ours to nurture or neglect.
We are called to witness boldly
that all life deserves respect.
How can we see rich and homeless
and not recognise our sin,
or see creatures held as captives,
and not mourn what could have been?

We are kin to every being,
sharing space on earth, our home.
Yet we squander vast resources,
seek to save ourselves alone.
Can we lose our tunnel vision,
see those who are cast aside,
sense the hurt of broken pledges,
from the planet's silent cries?

When our lifestyle lessens others
we become a measure less.
When we choose to live more simply
we confirm what we profess.
As we seek to keep life holy
we affirm our sacred self,
grieve each loss of fish and flower
which decreases nature's wealth.

Tending space within earth's garden,
honouring the future there,
we can serve with God as partners,
a community of care.
Strengthened by the rainbow's promise,
sign of God's enduring grace,
let us dare to live our calling
in our time and in our place!

SEPTEMBER 2018 DIARY DATES

- 2nd Morning worship and JAM meet at 10.30am
Friendship Lunch
- 4th 10.00am Holy Communion in the Church
- 8th 10.00-12.00 Brunch and Brunch Bunch
Also Rescue Squad
- 9th 3.00-5.00 Youphonix!
4.00pm Pet service (See Front Page)
- 15th 10.00am – 1.00pm Macmillan Coffee morning
- 16th Church Anniversary Friendship Lunch
6.00-7.00pm Ecumenical service
- 22nd 2.30-4.30 Action for Children
- 23rd 3.00-5.00 Youphonix!

WEEKLY MEETINGS

- Sunday: 10.30am Morning Worship then a cuppa
- Monday: 10.00-12.00 noon Monday Makers
10.00-12.00 noon Card Making
2.30pm Bible Group
- Tuesday: 10.00-12.00am Knit, Stitch and Natter
10.00am Prayer Group
- Wednesday: 9.30-11.30 Wesleys Baby and Toddler Group
- Friday: 9.30-11.30 Wesleys Baby and Toddler Group
2.00pm Cake and Company

Items for September Reporting are needed by **Sunday August 26th** by
Sheila Giles S/A 296789 or e.mail sdgreporting@mypostoffice.co.uk

Church email stratforduponavonmethodist@gmail.com

Church office phone number 01789 298835