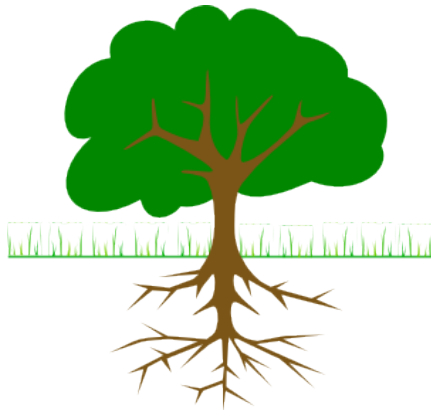


June / July 2011

The Ambassador

The Magazine Of Market Harborough
Methodist Circuit

www.harboroughmethodistcircuit.org.uk



So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, **rooted and built up in him**, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.

Colossians 2 v. 6,7

All of us in Market Harborough, Kibworth, Naseby and Husbands Bosworth Methodist Churches and Gartree Christian Fellowship are

Ambassadors for Christ

CHURCH FAMILY MEAL

After the morning service on July 24th a "WELCOME HOME" Church Family Meal will be held in church for Revd Alison Tomlin, following her year of office as President of the Methodist Conference. Those wishing to attend will be invited to add their names to a list in the vestibule at Harborough nearer the time. Anyone wishing to come from Naseby, Husbands Bosworth or Kibworth should contact Revd Peter Green (01858 414964 ; green853@btinternet.com)

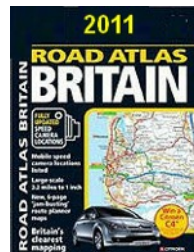
Peter Green

From The Manse

Dear friends,

“Following your nose”

I don't know about you, but I love studying maps. If I had the time, I could spend hours over an Ordnance Survey map, planning rambles or looking for features that might be worth visiting.



Of course, owning even a complete set of maps isn't much good if you don't have one with you when it's needed. For example, when I went for a walk with my family in the Blackdown Hills in Surrey, my Ordnance Survey map was safely at home. We were relying on "following our noses", but after a while it was obvious that our noses were just as lost as the rest of our bodies! Happily, we managed to get back to our starting point (and the car) before nightfall — but not without a lot of totally unnecessary effort and anxiety.

I think that you will agree with me that having a Bible lying safely on the shelf will not help us to find the guidance and instruction we all need for our lives. To

obtain the benefit from owning a Bible, we need to study it (perhaps in the company of others) and take heed of its instructions. There are already quite a few groups around the Circuit which meet for Bible study and fellowship, and you will be hearing about a project called 'E100' which has been set up to get more Christians studying the scriptures.

To conclude, let me give you one such instruction from the Bible to think about. When Jesus was asked, "What should we do to satisfy God he replied, "This is the will of God, that you believe in the One that He has sent." I wonder what "Believing in Jesus" means to you? Is it no more than agreeing that the teachings of Jesus are right and that society would be so much better. if we all took them to heart? Or do you experience a real and living relationship with Jesus here and now? You can do -and in doing so you will be following Jesus rather than your own nose!

Yours in Christ,

Brian Kennard

AFTERNOON TEA

June 29th is the 40th Anniversary of the Ordination of Revd Peter Green to the Methodist Ministry. To celebrate this event Peter and Helen will be hosting "Afternoon Tea" at their home 17, Rhodes Close, Market Harborough on **SATURDAY JULY 9TH between 3.00 and 6.00pm.**



All are welcome to come along. Helen will be providing the eats, though Peter will also be doing some baking for the event !



Market Harborough News



NEW WORSHIP SERVICES
© MARKET HARBOROUGH
METHODIST CHURCH

At our **Ignite Services** which are held on the third Sunday in the month between 5.30 and 7.30 p.m. we enjoy food, songs, discussion, prayer, informal worship and discussion around tables - exploring faith and the big issues. All are welcome and we feel certain that you will be able to contribute and gain things of value

from our worship.

The theme for 2010/11 has been inspired by Richard Fosters book "Celebration of Discipline". This is the programme for the next 6 months.

- Pathways to Spiritual Growth - exploring spiritual disciplines

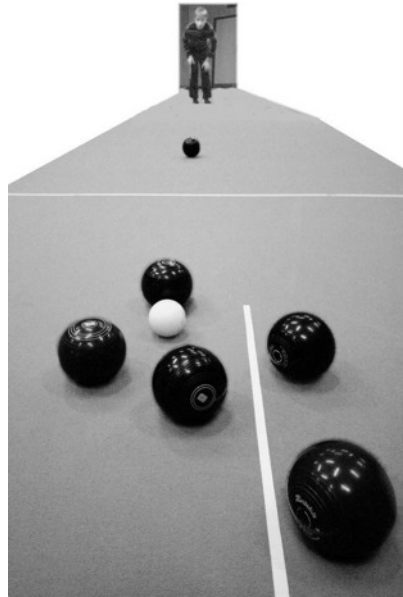
2011

June 19	Submission	Freedom from the Need to "Have It Your Way"
July 17	Service	Downward Mobility in an Upwardly Mobile World
Aug 21	Confession	Freedom in Transparency
Sep 18	Guidance	Needing spiritual direction
Oct 16	Fellowship	Synergy in Community
Nov 20	Worship	Experiencing the Greatness of God

Indoor Bowls Monday evenings from 6 p.m.

Our weekly bowls night on Monday evenings continues to provide great pleasure to its participants. The competition between “The boys” and “The girls” continues but, far more importantly we have chatter, a cuppa and lots of laughs.

You are all welcome to join us on any Monday evening - we open at 6 but you can come in any time till we finish at 8.



Spring Harvest 2011.

A group of us attended Spring Harvest at Minehead in April. At least one of our members attended Spring Harvest at Skegness. We had great fellowship, heard wonderful preaching and met friends old and new. On Sunday 29th May at our morning service in Market Harborough it was wonderful to hear Daniel Shorley tell of how he received the Holy Spirit whilst at Minehead. We all thank God for this and our own experiences.

Ivan



Some of the walking party



An impromptu meal

The E100 Bible Reading Challenge

To commemorate the 400th anniversary of the King James Version of the Bible (Authorised Version), the Bible Society and Scripture Union have recommended a challenge for Churches aimed at inspiring Christians and renewing their love for the Bible. The E100 Bible Reading Challenge is based around 100 carefully selected Bible readings (50 from the Old Testament and 50 from the New Testament) designed to give participants a good understanding of the overall Bible story from Genesis to Revelation. The “E” stands for Essential and each of the Essential 100 readings range from a few verses to a few chapters a day.



The Church will be encouraging us all to accept this challenge of completing the 50 Old Testament readings between early September and Advent Sunday 2011 and the 50 New Testament readings between the beginning of 2012 and the 3rd Sunday in Lent. It is hoped that the challenge will be launched at a service on 4th September, 2011 and that, during the period of the challenge there will be ten other services where the sermon will be related to a Bible passage within the challenge plan.

Small groups to enable members to discuss the relevant Bible passages and to encourage one another are seen as being vital to this process. Existing groups will be invited to be involved in the challenge and new groups established - day-time as well as evening. It is hoped that as many of you as possible will want to be a part of a group, probably meeting fortnightly.

There will be more details about the challenge in the next Ambassador. In the meantime, if you think that you may be able to host a small group or would like to know more, please speak to John Pearse.



Kibworth News

Kibworth Wednesday Fellowship

We meet on Wednesdays at 2.30 p.m. in the chapel.

All are warmly welcome.



.The Well continues to thrive with its coffee shop, prayer room and charity shop.

At the coffee shop afternoon cream teas and coffee mornings for older folk are held on the first and third Tuesdays in the month - lifts can be arranged. Contact Anne Bailey on 2792089.

Wednesday afternoons 3 - 5 p.m. There is a Youth Drop-In for years 7 to 9.

A message from Jane Gaffney.

I am writing this having just had my last day at college, the last 2 years have been amazing and it is hard to believe it has come to an end. I now have a month at Oadby, and then it is a matter of getting ready to move to Rugby. As yet we have not got a definite address as a manse is in the process of being bought. This unfortunately means that schools have not been sorted yet. It will be nice when we can do this for the children's sake. I would like to thank everyone for their support and prayers, and I and the Rugby circuit offer an invitation to you all to come across to my welcome service at Rugby Methodist Church Centre on the evening of 30th August. I have yet to have the time, but will let everyone know, and it would be lovely to see you.

with love and grateful thanks for your support

Jane

Good Friday Art and Craft Activities and Meditations at Kibworth

An enjoyable morning with the opportunity to pursue art and craft activities or to spend time reflecting on the real meaning of Easter was held on Good Friday. A gazebo style prayer tent had been erected in the Upper Room with well known and well loved verses from the Bible hanging from its roof. As people walked through the tent and a 'blessing' brushed against them they were invited to take it down and then quietly reflect upon what was written. There were also several guided meditations around the room and at the foot of the cross in the church. The morning session ended with a short All Age Worship service

The young people enjoyed making chocolate Easter nests, creating edible Easter hats, decorating Easter biscuits, making Easter cards, weaving crosses, painting eggs and making Easter baskets. They also planted a large Easter garden for the church and made smaller individual ones for themselves.

Added to all of this there were cups of tea and coffee and hot cross buns for everybody to enjoy.

In the evening a short Tenebrae service was held. During Lent candles had been lit on each Sunday and placed at the foot of the cross and at this service they were extinguished one by one and as the light faded a silhouette image of the cross, projected onto the wall came more and more into focus.

Roger Stephenson

Pam Weston has sent me some super pictures illustrating the activities. Wasn't it a great day?

Ivan







Husbands Bosworth News

COFFEE MORNINGS



Our Coffee Mornings will be on Wednesday 15 June and Wednesday 20 July 10.00-12.00 and at 25 High Street, Husbands Bosworth.

A warm welcome is guaranteed at the coffee morning, do come along.

ON SATURDAY 18 June 2.30 - 4.00



Strawberry Teas will be held in the garden of Gordon and Jackie Herbert, 10 Highcroft, Husbands Bosworth. Come along and enjoy an afternoon in their garden which has lovely views over the surrounding countryside.

	Services for June (6.30 p.m. Except where shown)		Services for July (6.30 p.m. Except where shown)
5th	Rev Trevor Thomas	3rd	Mr Roger Stevenson
12th	Mrs Kathy Morrison	10th	Mrs Jeanne Moore
19th	Rev Brian Kennard (L S)	17th	Mrs Christine Hodgson
26th	At Kibworth	24th	Mr Gordon Herbert
		31st	Rev Brian Kennard (L S)



Naseby

Naseby News

It's been a busy spring at Naseby, with our children's and youth groups growing and doing well. A particular highlight was Naseby Praise at the start of May. The evening was led by Steve Pointer as usual, but we also had visiting speakers Joseph and Iris Amoah from the Leicester branch of Catch The Fire Ministries (part of the Toronto Airport Church Fellowship). We enjoyed a lovely time of worship, after which Iris spoke and led us into a really special time spent in God's presence which led to some very encouraging testimonies.

Another highlight for me in particular was our daughter Anna's dedication at the end of May. Brian and Clare led a lovely service, which was followed by a barbeque. It was lovely to see the chapel full, and in particular Leny and Stuart, who made the trek down from Oswestry.

You're always very welcome to join us for any of our services, and in particular our next Soul Café and Naseby Praise in July (see the Circuit Planner for times and dates).



Louise Jenkinson



Gartree Christian Fellowship

'This is new territory for me, not just my last service at HMP Gartree this morning (29 May) as Chaplain, but also retirement from the active work this summer. Jean and I have done leaving services before but as this is for the last time (we think!), it has been very special. My thanks to everyone for being very kind to me over the last few weeks with prayers and thoughtfulness.

It is quite an emotional 'pull' to be leaving the people we have served and sought to support for the last seven years. Many of the men have come to faith and found a welcome within the fellowship at Gartree that has its own special nature within the fence. There are some who would remain sceptical about the faith found by people in prison but my experience is that it is real and lifechanging, they just need the freedom to prove it to themselves, their families/friends and to society. There is also a strong sense of collegiality within the Chaplaincy team with leaders from many faiths and this is a very real support when time have been tough.

I commend all those who have anything to do with prison life to you, they are worthy of your prayers and the grace of God. Many thanks.

Peter Molcher

Gartree Prison Theology Class



The Class meets every Wednesday afternoon throughout the year for 2 1 hour sessions (with a coffee break between)Over the last few months membership has grown from 8-13 men with ages ranging from 20 years to around 60.In the last 2 years we have studied the Gospel of Mark and The Theology of the Narnia Stories of C.S.Lewis We are currently looking at the Christian doctrine of the Atonement (the Cross of Christ) and how it relates to human lives today) During Holy Week

this year we watched the Mel Gibson film " The Passion of Christ". Over the next six to eight months we shall be working on an ambitious project to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the Queen's Accession to the Throne in 2012. More of that in a later issue..... Please remember us in your prayers.

Revd Peter Green



**Are not two sparrows
sold for a penny? Yet
not one of them will
fall to the ground out-
side your Father's
care.**



Matthew 10:29



**at Aigburth,
Manor Road,
Oadby**

Since the report in the last Ambassador, progress has continued at Aigburth House . It has been rewarded for the excellence of the care provided by receiving the award "Best Care Home Of The Year" - good news for staff and residents alike.

As you drive past Aigburth now there is evidence that building is well under way. At the back of the original house the walls are going up for the new building, into which all the residents will eventually transfer.

To start raising the funds needed to provide all the facilities for the residents the "Forget Me Not" community appeal was launched at Leicester Cathedral on May 24th. There were various speakers from MHA, including Gordon Shorley who is chair of the Appeal Fundraising Group. The highlight of the evening was an excellent concert by the Cantamici Chamber Choir. The sound of their beautiful singing, all unaccompanied, was really memorable.

Ivor Hales

Circuit Representative - M.H.A.



The Leicester 
'Forget me Not' Appeal

You will have already read of the development taking shape at the MHA Aigburth home in Leicester. I am writing this as chair of the fundraising group.

There is a volunteer resident support committee which raises money for residents activities and other special items to support them. At Aigburth we raise money among other things to provide and run a minibus this takes residents to the seaside, to Loughborough for canal trips as well as shopping and theatre trips. The amount of money we raise each year is about £10,000. The Forget me not appeal is to raise money over and above this for added facilities to be included in the new building. The cost of the new building is already covered but we wish to provide additional facilities such as an IT suite to allow residents to stay in contact with family by email, webcam and skype, a sensory garden for those with impaired sight, and equip hairdressing/beauty salon. The total amount we want to raise in the next 12 months is £500k this is a daunting task so we are contacting grant making bodies, individuals and running fund raising functions.

I am asking if you can help by becoming "a friend of Aigburth" for an annual donation of £5.00, buying the Aigburth Echo for £1.00 which is a newsletter detailing events in the home and also articles written by residents, many of whom have led interesting lives. The other ways are by making a donation, running an event or giving me an idea for an event but in particular by remembering the home and the appeal in your prayers. Every thing we do at Aigburth is surrounded by prayer. At the launch of the appeal in Leicester Cathedral Rev Keith Albans opened it with prayer. I am willing talk to individuals or groups about Aigburth or the M.H.A. organisation . I will provide regular updates on progress and functions. Gordon Shorley tel.no. 01858565854, email Gordon.shorley@home.gb.com

CIRCUIT WORKER WITH CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND FAMILIES

Further to the update in the April/May Ambassador, it is good to be able to welcome Circuit Worker, Sarah Jones, who joined us on 1st May. Sarah is a graduate in theology at Bangor University. Since graduating she has worked at the Birmingham Headquarters of the Boys and Girls Brigade.

Her early weeks will be taken up with a survey of all the work in the Circuit undertaken with children and young people and at the same time meeting with as many workers and young people as possible. She will then prepare a report, together with ideas, plans and suggestions. These will then be discussed with the Management Team and priorities will be assessed. To help with this we have four members of the team who are Church Representatives. (Market Harborough- Christine Hodgson, Kibworth- Keith Woolhouse, Naseby- Ian Watson, Husbands Bosworth- Jeanne Moore) Officers and members of each Church are urged to discuss the local situation with their Representative and to pass on their requests and suggestions.

Clearly one worker is unable to meet all the needs and aspirations of each Church. Therefore, the aim is to make every possible effort to decide where priorities lie at any one time and to keep this under constant review.

As previously stated the funding for this position with the District and Connexional grants and our pledges is assured for three years. In this respect all who have currently pledged are urged to continue or re-start pledged giving now that the worker is appointed. (The Treasurer of the Management Team is now: Mrs. Jeanne Moore.1, Butler Gardens, Market Harborough, LEICS LE16 9LY, Telephone 01858 467 657) As far as the future is concerned, the question of funding through the Circuit Assessment is still under consideration.

Prayer is an essential part of our work for the Lord. To further this a Prayer Breakfast has been arranged for Saturday 30th

July at 8.30am at the Market Harborough Methodist Church. All are invited. To help with arrangements will those able to come, please let their Church Representative know so that this information can be passed to me by Sunday 17th July.

Donald Clinton - Smith

A FAMILY PRAYER.

GOD make us a family -
We need one another
We love one another
We forgive one another
We work together
We play together
We worship together.
Together we use God's word
Together we grow in Christ
Together we love all people
Together we serve our God

Together we hope for heaven.
These are our hopes and ideals.

Help us to attain them O God,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen



Sarah Jones our new Circuit Worker with Children.

Hello, my name is Sarah Jones and I am the new Circuit worker with Children, Young People and their families. I could go on for ages giving you useless information about myself, my favourite things and a minute by minute account of my life. I thought though that these were points that you could ask me about if you were really interested, I also know lots of bad jokes if you are ever in need of those (here's one for you: Did you hear about the oyster that went to a disco and pulled a mussel).

I thought I would focus on one of the major stories of my life and one I thought that you might be interested in, the story of how I became a Christian. I was born and raised in a Christian Family just outside Birmingham. I was christened as a baby and have been part of the church for as long as I can remember. Our family would attend the majority of Church events on top of Sunday services. In fact my family were usually involved in them in one-way or another (events and Sundays). Attending church really just became part of my weekly

routine more than anything else, a place to have fun and see my friends. It took me until I was about 10/11 to realise that just because I had been Christened and attended church that I wasn't automatically a Christian and that I had to make the decision of faith for myself. I was about 13/14 and on a Girls' Brigade event (can't really remember exactly which one) and came to realise that there were more people my age that believed the things I did than the small amount of people that I knew and that the things that I believed and were backed up by Sunday school teaching meant something to lots of people. So, realising I wasn't alone and that I believed in something real, I made the decision of faith for myself in a worship session during that weekend.

I continued to go to church but the lack of people my age made it harder to relate, as I got older. Weekends away, special events and trips to Greenbelt became very important to me and my growing faith. I didn't really begin to meet Christians my own age on a regular basis until I went to Sixth Form College and joined the Christian Union there. I had some very close non-Christian friends that were very important to me and would be there for me no matter what - people I am still friends with now; but meeting with people that I could discuss my faith with and understood that part of my life became very important and helpful. After College I went to study Theology at Bangor University (from which I graduated last year-2010), I made friends easily here from my course, places I lived and Christian Union a - place where some of my closest friends come from. This allowed me to discuss my faith with people I was friends with and related to.

My faith grew **SO** much stronger during my time at University not just because of CU and my friends (although they were a large part of it) but because of the places God sent me, the ways he helped me and the ways he used me to help others and to tell them about him.

What did he do in this time?

- He helped me through family illness
- He sent me over to Romania to help on a Children for Christ Camp for 10 days during the summer of 2008.
- In Summer 2009 I worked at Camp Arnold at Timberlake a Camp owned by the Salvation Army in Washington state - a place where I had an amazing summer thanks to a friend who

had been in 2008 and invited me this year. Through the worship sessions, faith of the Staff, support the team had for each other and seeing children come to Christ each week you couldn't help but come home with a much stronger faith.

When I initially finished university I was unemployed and then got employed for 6 months by the Boys' Brigade and Girls' Association in Birmingham, spending a lot of time concerned about finding long term employment, probably becoming quite selfish about the matter. I had to remind myself that God was there and he knew where I was going and I needed to be patient and to let him work in my life, allowing my life to follow the path he has for me. I needed to trust in him. He has brought me here. I must trust him to guide me through my time here and the plans he has for this circuit and its work with Children, Young People and their families.

I look forward to my time here.

God Bless

Sarah Jones

Jean Molcher mentioned the following to me and I thought it might interest you! I loved it!
Has anyone any ideas for such collective names?

Ivan

Looking in a crossword solver book the other day I found the following collective names -

- A diligence of Messengers
- A faith of Merchants
- A decanter of Deans

- A converting of Preachers.

- A bench or Psalter of Bishops.

- A chapter or dignity of Canons

As we seem to have quite a few retired Methodist ministers in the circuit can anyone come up with a collective name for retired ministers? Perhaps someone could think of one for the wives as well (polite ones only!)



Prayer Points for The Cube 19th May 2011

- Harborough Youth and Community Trust exists to respond to God's call to serve the Young People of Market Harborough. Read Isaiah 61:1-4 as you pray for the mission work of The Cube Young People's Centre.
- Thanks be to God that we were successful with a grant application to Leics County Council towards the running costs of a Youth Centre. They have funded 2 evenings of a drop in Youth Facility for 2 years!
- Thanks be to God for the talented team of people that make up our Trustees, Supervisory Board and Youth Panel. Please pray for all involved with this work, in particular that we are sensitive to God's leading in all we do.
- Our Planning application was submitted on the 6th May to refurbish the former Bowls Pavilion on Symingtons Rec, turning it into a top class Youth Facility. Please pray as our application goes through the planning process. It is likely to be 8 weeks until the decision is announced.
- Please pray for the Trustees, the Supervisory Board and the Youth Panel as the detail of the 'what', the 'when' and the 'how' of the project is finalised.
- Please pray that God will continue to create a sense of excitement and anticipation amongst the Young People of Market Harborough.
- Please pray for the Supervisory Board members who are preparing the business plan which will allow us to apply for further funding.
- Please pray as we start to build a team of volunteers to help in the running of every aspect of the project from working with young people to mowing the grass. If you would like to find out how you could help then please contact Lou Bamber loubamber@yahoo.com.
- Thank you for your prayers. Gary Brown Development Worker cube.gary@harboroughchurches.org

Attending a wedding for the first time, a little girl whispered to her mother, "Why is the bride dressed in white?"

The mother replied, "Because white is the colour of happiness, and today is the happiest day of her life."

The child thought about this for a moment then said, "So why is the groom wearing black?"

A Sunday School teacher asked her class why Joseph and Mary took Jesus with them to Jerusalem A small child replied, "They couldn't get a baby-sitter."

Three boys are in the school yard bragging about their fathers. The first boy says, "My Dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, he calls it a poem, they give him £500."

The second boy says, "That's nothing. My Dad scribbles a few words on piece of paper, he calls it a song, they give him £1000"

The third boy says, "I can beat you both. My Dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, he calls it a sermon, and it takes eight people to collect all the money!"

Thanks to Alan Mason for these funnies

AN IMPORTANT NOTE FROM IVAN

To be sure that articles can be included in the August / September edition of Ambassador ,they need to reach me **by Sunday July 10th** to 14 Fairway, Market Harborough or via email to ivan.hodgson1@ntlworld.com.

'Phone 01858 461282. If articles reach me before this date it would be super - it gives me more time in case there are problems. I know that I am not able to devote the same time to preparation as usual during July which is why I need to get as much together early in the month.

Thank you all.

Ivan Hodgson