

October / November 2011

The Ambassador

**The Magazine Of Market Harborough
Methodist Circuit**

www.harboroughmethodistcircuit.org.uk

For when two or three come together in
my name, I am there with them. *Matthew 18, 20*

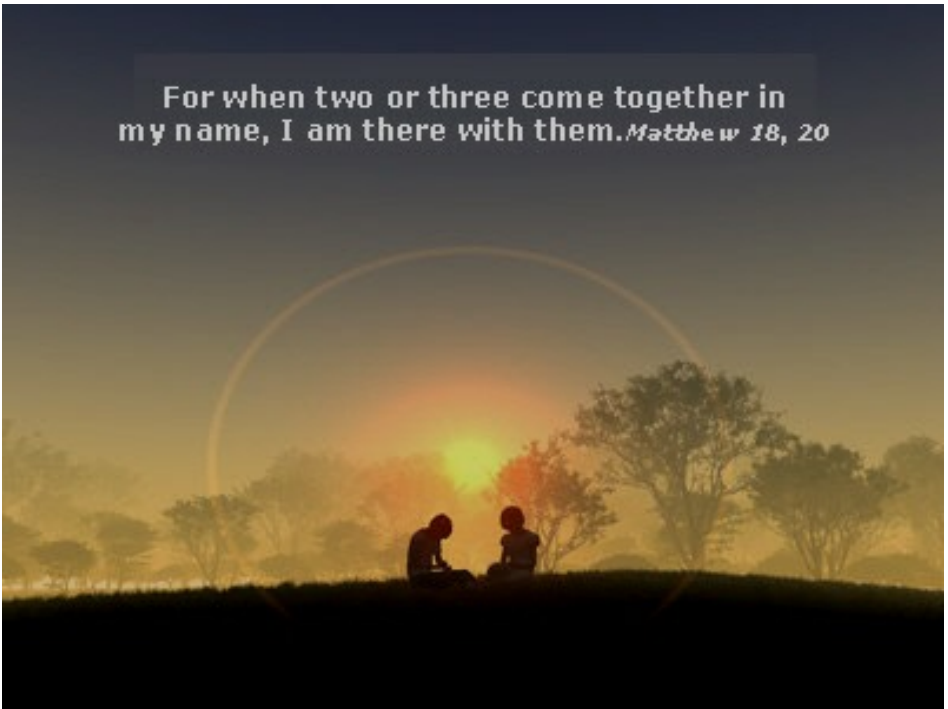


Image Copyright John R Bell.

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

Ambassadors for Christ

Dear friends,

“SECOND-HAND, AS GOOD AS NEW”

In a society where there is so much waste, the recycling of good quality clothes and other goods through charity shops such as there is at “the Well” in Kibworth is a very useful practice. The charities benefit, and good quality items are made available at reasonable prices; second-hand, but good as new.

Second-hand faith is, however, nothing like as good as new. A good Bible example would be King Joash, who we read about in 2 Chronicles, chapter 24. We are told that Joash did right as long as Jehoida the priest was alive. But when that godly man died, Joash forsook God’s ways.

Joash lived, it seems, on the spiritual capital of Jehoida rather than investing in a relationship with God of his own. And sadly there are many husbands who live on the spiritual capital of their wives, grown women and men who are still living on the spiritual capital of their parents, and so on. Remove the good influence, and they are adrift without any moorings in life. As someone has rightly said, "God has no grandchildren - only children". Are you relying on the spiritual life of your spouse, friends, parents - a second-hand faith? If so, you’re missing the real thing. You can know God first-hand - indeed, you must if you are to cooperate with God’s purpose for your life now and in eternity. As far as the spiritual life goes, near enough is not good enough, and second-hand is never as good as new.

Rev Brian Kennard

SUPERNUMERARY MINISTERS – a special welcome to Martin Hounsfield and his wife Rachel who have moved from Bedford; Stephen Beer and Anita, from Hull and not forgetting Alison Tomlin who is now with us "officially" and Peter Molcher who has moved from the category of "Prison Chaplain" to

"supernumerary". We continue to be blessed by the ministry of our established supernumeraries- Peter Green, Trevor Thomas and Dave Tomlin.

Dates for the diary.

Oct 9th 6pm Circuit service at Kibworth to recognise and commission Michael Mays as a Methodist Local Preacher

Oct 25th 7.30pm Circuit Youth Work Management Team meeting, Harborough.

Nov 23rd 7.30pm Circuit Local Preachers' meeting at Kibworth

Nov 26th 7.30pm "Harborough Praise" ecumenical event at MH Methodist (to be confirmed)

1. Training for local Church Stewards

Making Methodism the Movement it was meant to be- Spiritual and Practical Sessions

Saturday 1st of October 2011 at Empingham Methodist Church
10.00- 12.00 noon

Coffee and Cakes provided

2. Pastoral Visitors' Training

Saturday 5th November 10.00 - 2.30pm at Empingham Methodist Church

Coffee and cakes provided but please bring a packed lunch

For either or both of the above please let Polly Moverley on 01572 757591, have names please.



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.

Pathways to Spiritual Growth - exploring spiritual disciplines

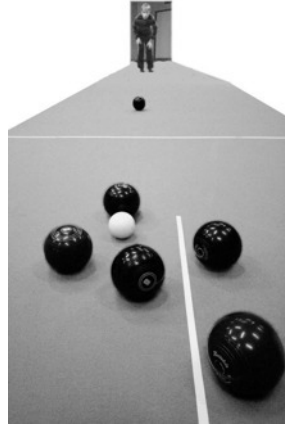
This, the theme for 2010/11 has been inspired by Richard Foster's book "Celebration of Discipline". This is the programme for the next few months.

2011

- Oct 16 **Fellowship** Synergy in Community
- Nov 20 **Worship** Experiencing the Greatness of God
- Dec 11 **Celebration** Experiencing the Goodness of God

Indoor Bowls Monday evenings from 6 p.m.

The indoor bowls goes from strength and we have a lovely evening of fellowship as we amateurs watch the more experienced and able show us the way. Because the evening is not really about 'winning' as such everyone enjoys it. Having said that we all try very hard and it's a good feeling when you have sent down a couple of good woods - unless, of course, someone knocks them out of the way with their next bowl. I am not sure what are the



overall scores but over the past few weeks the men have begun to even things out and have actually won two or three times and may be near to drawing level!

Come and join us - you will enjoy it!

YOUTH BRASS
2000

YOUTH BRASS 2000

YOUTH BRASS
2000

**Concert by Youth Brass 2000 at Market Harborough Church,
Sat 12 November**

Those of you who heard this wonderful Band when they came to help on our charity Music Making Day in March will make sure they come along again. If you haven't heard them before, **don't miss this opportunity**, they really are superb!

Details still to be confirmed, but it will probably start around 7pm. Please ring Val Sanby (01858 410827) nearer the time for more information.

CONTACT.

Wednesday September 7th saw our first meeting of the 2011 - 2012 season. We were delighted to welcome our own **Jeanne Moore** with her talk entitled "**Laughter - the best medicine**". Had any of us been feeling at all "off" she was proved right!

There was a wonderful turn - out of members and if any more ladies would like to join us at 8.00 p.m. On the first Wednesday of each month we can always make room for more.

Our project for the next year is '**Life and hope in Nepal**' and on October 5th **Maureen Hawksworth** will talk to us about this and we certainly look forward to hearing her.

There is a change from the published programme for November and January the revised programme for the next 4 sessions becomes as follows:-

Marion

5th October	Maureen Hawksworth - "Life and hope in Nepal".
2nd November	Rev Peter Green - "These I have loved". (Also a bring and buy).
7th December (7.30 p.m.)	Christmas miscellany
4th January	Kath and Malcolm Harrison. Kiwis and kangaroos

HOLIDAY AT HOME

Now in its fourth year



‘Getting Crafty’

With the help of a good number of volunteers, many from our Methodist church, another successful week of activities for older members of the community was held from 15 to 19th August.

There were craft and similar activities, interesting speakers, food (very important) and a day out to Stamford and Burghley House & Gardens.

“Preach the gospel at all times. Use words if necessary.”

This saying is often attributed to St Francis of Assisi. However, it cannot be found in any of his writings. It is easily identified with him because it thoroughly reflects his

spirit. Perhaps these words would not have become as well known if they had been attributed to “John Smith” or “Mary Jones” and I am, therefore, glad they have been attributed to St Francis.

They are wonderful and thoroughly appropriate words.



Kibworth News

Rev Jane Gaffney

A large crowd of Kibworth folk, as well as friends from Market Harborough, descended on the Rugby Methodist Centre to support the Rev. Jane Gaffney



and her family as she was welcomed into the church as their new Minister. It was an inspiring service, led by the Rugby and Daventry Circuit staff with the District Chairman as the preacher. He encouraged us all to be more pro-active in speaking of the Lord to others.

We all continue to pray for Jane, faced with challenges and opportunities in her new sphere of ministry.

Eileen Bromley

Kibworth Wednesday Fellowship

The Fellowship has begun again and all men and women are warmly invited.at 2.30 P.M. in the church.

Transport is available Contact 0116 2793307

Oct.5th Mrs Beryl Tory – slides of New

Oct. 12th Birthday Party Mrs Jeanne Moore

Oct.19th Rev Trevor Thomas

Oct. 26th Rev Brian Kennard

Nov. 2nd Mr Ian Varey

Nov. 9th Mrs Betty Byrne

Nov. 16th Mission Aviation Fellowship

Nov. 23rd Rev Brian Kennard

Nov. 30th The Gideons

Dec. 7th The Leprosy Mission

Dec. 14th Carol Service – Rev Brian Kennard

- Brenda Whittam



The coffee shop at The Well is open Tuesdays, Thursdays & Fridays - 9.30 am – 3 pm & Wednesdays - 9.30 am – 2.30 pm **and note that from 1st October will include Saturdays from 10.00 am - 1.00 pm.**

Pop in to have a cup of Fair Trade tea or coffee; perhaps even a treat from our selection of homemade cakes or a light lunch of soup and sandwiches.

Charity Shop

We are open Tuesdays, Thursdays & Fridays 9.30 am - 4.30 pm & Wednesdays 9.30 am – 3 pm. We have a large selection of clothes on display but donations are still required to keep changing the stock. We accept Ladies', men's and children's clothes, shoes, bags and belts.

We now accept and sell second hand books, so call in and get your autumn reading matter all at reasonable prices. We also have a selection of new gifts and cards at reasonable prices.

Volunteers Needed.

To enable us to increase the opening hours to 5.00 pm and also open on Mondays we need at the moment 6 new volunteers. If you can help call in and see Bev or ring her (number below) We also need 3 new Trustees to help develop the range of services the community is asking The Well to provide.

Prayer Room.

The Prayer Room is open to anyone during the Charity Shop and Coffee shop opening hours.



Rhythm of Prayer at The Well

Bev Powell, manager at The Well, has started a 'Rhythm of Prayer'.

Daily prayers are at:-

Morning Prayers 10 am

After lunch Prayers 2.00 pm

All are welcome so if you are in the area around those times please do join her in the Prayer Room, she would love to see you.

For further details pop into The Well or ring Bev on 0116 2790148.



Husbands Bosworth News

COFFEE MORNINGS



Our Coffee Mornings will be on Wednesday 19 October and Wednesday 16 November 10.00-12.00 at 25 High Street, Husbands Bosworth.

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



Our **Harvest Festival** will be on 2 October and we welcome anyone from the Circuit or visitors to the area, to come out and share the service with us.

	Services for October (6.30 p.m. Except where shown)		Services for November (6.30 p.m. Except where shown)
2nd	Mr Roger Stephenson (Harvest)	6th	To be announced
9th	Circuit Service - Kibworth	13th	To be announced
16th	Rev Brian Kennard (Lord's Supper)	20th	To be announced
23rd	Mr Gordon Herbert	27th	To be announced
30th	Mrs Jeanne Moore		



Naseby

Naseby News

We've had a fairly quiet summer here with the exception of our annual Holiday Club. This year was Sarah's first as youth worker, and she led a very successful Spy-themed week which was much enjoyed by the children.

We're now back in the swing of things after the summer break, with all our youth activities resuming. Frances Ballantyne led our September Naseby Praise in Steve Pointer's absence, and the evening was much enjoyed.

Blessings to you all

Louise Jenkinson

and everyone at the Naseby Fellowship



Naseby Battlefield Memorial



Gartree Christian Fellowship

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

I believe the membership has now grown to around 21. Please continue to keep the fellowship in your prayers,

Ivan Hodgson

ALPHA Course at Gartree.

By the time you read this, an ALPHA course will be running on Thursday afternoons, led by Brian Kennard and a team of volunteers from various churches. This will be the second year we have run ALPHA at the prison and there are already quite a number interested in joining the course. Please pray for real life-changing results! For obvious reasons (!!), there won't be a "weekend away" as ALPHA suggests, but there will be extra meetings on Saturday and Sunday 22nd & 23rd October.



All you Need to Know about Government and European Bureaucracy:

Pythagorean theorem:24 words.

Lord's prayer:..... 66 words.

Archimedes' Principle: 67 words.

10 Commandments: 179 words.

Gettysburg address: 286 words.

US Declaration of Independence: 1,300 words

US Constitution
(with all 27 Amendments): 7,818 words.

EU regulations on the sale of cabbage:.... 26,911 words

E U Regulations on Cosmetics:.....18979 words.

SORT OF PUTS THINGS INTO PROPER PERSPECTIVE, DOESN'T IT?

Thank you to Peter Arnold for the above. He provided the detail down to the regulations on the sale of cabbage. To get an idea about other bureaucracy I went online and downloaded the regulations on cosmetics and did a word count - and was amazed to see **18979 words!**

Ivan Hodgson

A Book review.

Rev Peter Green has recently been reading **“SIMPLY CHRISTIAN”** by Tom Wright (London SPCK)

Peter has written a very helpful review of this book - reproduced as follows.

It is a long time since I read a more exciting book of theology! Not surprising perhaps when the author - former Bishop of Durham and now a research professor at St Andrew's University - is one of the ablest Christian scholars and communicators in Britain today.

Tom Wright has written an account for the non-specialist reader of the fundamentals of Christianity. His powerful use of language shows an exceptional wordsmith breathing new life into old themes: God, Jesus, the Holy Spirit, Worship, Prayer, the Bible. All come alive in his expert hands, and with everything backed up by solid but palatable scholarship.

It is the first of the three main sections of the book which I found most fascinating and compelling. Here, instead of speaking of the so-called "proofs" for God (largely discredited, though in several respects still useful) the author writes of what he calls the "Echoes" of God's voice heard in humanity's frustrated longings for justice, spirituality, relationships and beauty. These longings he sees as pointing beyond themselves to the God for whom these concerns are paramount. He weaves these themes into the other sections of his book in masterly fashion.

The final two paragraphs of the book are a breathtaking tour de force, almost like the peroration of a political speech or the climax of an evangelical sermon in which the author invites us to join in the task of bringing to birth the new creation of which the Bible speaks and which is God's ultimate intention for heaven and earth. I felt like standing and applauding!

Here is a book (just over two hundred pages long) for any Christian wanting to engage with the truths of their Faith and, indeed, for anyone wishing to know what Christians believe and what Christianity is all about. It could also be a useful resource for anyone wanting the confidence to engage with the New Atheism.

Revd Peter Green (from whom the book may be borrowed)

A PRAYER FOR THE MORNING.

Dear God,

So far I'm doing alright. I've not gossiped, lost my temper, been greedy, grumpy, nasty, selfish or over self indulgent. However, I'll be getting out of bed in a few minutes and I will need a lot more help after that.

Amen

Do you know your hymns??????

These seem appropriate to certain trades:-

Dentists:	Crown Him with many crowns.
Meteorologists:	There shall be showers of blessing.
Builders:	The Church's one foundation.
Politicians:	Standing on the promises
Optician	Open my eyes that I may see.

Out of the mouths.....

A wife invited people to dinner and at the table she turned to their 6 year old daughter and say "Would you like to say the blessing for the meal?"

"I wouldn't know what to say," the girl replied.

"Well, just say what you've heard mummy say," said mum.

The 6 year old bowed her head and said, "Lord. Why on earth did I have to go and invite all these people to dinner?"

The following is taken from the Methodist Church web site - www.methodist.org.uk/ Once there do a search for 'The One Programme'



The Methodist Church is committed to young people.



The One Programme is part of the Youth Participation Strategy and aims to give young people the opportunity to work for a year in their local churches and Districts in creative projects that help to show Jesus to others. The young people on The One Programme are called One Programme Participants. They are our OPPs - our *special OPPs*.

OPPs are young people who take a year on, growing by making the most of opportunities and engaging in operations. They get stuck in -they do something that will change them and the lives of those they work with. This is not armchair stuff. It's active. It's engaged. It's practical and exciting.

OPPs are young people aged 16 - 23.

OPPs are employed for 15 hours per week.

OPPs spend 9 - 12 hours a week in a project, circuit or church, and the rest of the time given to national initiative.

OPPs are appointed for one year (September to August).

This is part of the DNA of the One Programme - and of the YPS more widely. It's about young people getting involved, making a change in their locality. This is incredibly hopeful; it says that things can be different. It says, like Ghandi once did, that you can 'be the change you want to see'

A note from Ivan Hodgson.

Margaret and I were privileged to be able to be at Church House to see and hear the “OPPs” report back after their year’s work throughout the Connexion. It was wonderful to hear their enthusiasm and descriptions of what they had been doing and to see this year’s new “OPPs” being inducted and beginning their training.

They need our prayers. (See my suggestions later)



Methodist Youth President 2011/2012

At the same time we were privileged and delighted to see our Grandson, Sam Taylor, begin his year as Youth President. You can follow the Youth President’s work by following this link online:-

<http://www.methodistyouthpres.blogspot.com/>

Methodist Prayer Manual.

The following lovely and apt prayer written by one of the young people participating in the “**One Programme**” appears on Day 17 of “Run The Race”, the Methodist Prayer Handbook for the current year.

*Even though we fail, Lord,
You take care of us,
You forgive us and restore us.
You are the living water,
You are the forever-lasting God and all praises go to you.
Jesus, you love us. **Amen.***

In the left hand column of page 50 of the handbook (Day 17) I have written in as a reminder, “**One programme participants.**” I have also written in “**Sam Taylor, Youth President.**” This ensures that on at least this day every month, I pray for the OPPs and the Youth President. I have other names and causes written in on some other days, of course. Is this something you could consider doing as a prayer reminder?

MEADOWDALE

The numbers attending the monthly after-school club ("JAM") dropped off towards the end of last term, which was obviously a disappointment. Nevertheless, we are pressing ahead with weekly JAM as from September, helped now by Sarah Jones, and the intention is to try out a monthly all-age informal worship session at the school if arrangements can be made. Provisionally, this could be on 12th October, 9th November and 14th December.

Circuit Youth Worker.

Well, It has been a busy few months but thought I would write an article for the magazine to let you know my thoughts and what I have been up to. A lot of my time leading up to the beginning of August was spent organising holiday clubs for Market Harborough and Naseby. I think these clubs went well and the Children appeared to enjoy themselves and learn something about Moses and the story that we were telling them. We didn't have large numbers of Children attending but a good number for the programme of activities to work. I would like to thank all the people who helped make both of these holiday clubs a success.

I have also spent the time visiting the majority of the activities that happen within the Circuit involving children and young people and thought that I should make you aware of the thoughts that I have about what is happening. Let's break it up by Churches, as it is easier for me to work through that way.

Naseby: **Youth clubs** at Naseby are running well and are well organised so do not need any attention on that front.

Kibworth: Sunday School and Moms and Tots are both well-organised and running well, moms and tots being run by the community and pre-school leaders not necessarily the church.

Youth club- has a good attendance but after a long run the leader is leaving so I am working on maybe getting some sort of youth activity up and running in Kibworth.

Market Harborough: Sunday school: Well organised, they are planning some promotion of their new programme to hopefully boost the number of attendees on a Sunday and reach out to more members of the community.

Youth Club: I feel the youth club set up is out of date and is shown by the lack of young people that attend and am in the process of discovering what the community of young people may want, what may get young people to attend as a way of reaching out in the community and affecting more people.

I am working on making contacts with people to hopefully get these up and running and coming up with more ideas that may work in the community but may not.

Sarah

Thank you for this up date Sarah - you are in our thoughts and prayers and we are grateful for all you are doing.

Ivan

News of Rev. Frances Ballantyne's Induction:-

Rev Frances Ballantyne has had a successful ' Preach with a view' to become a group minister (part-time) with the South Leicestershire Group of Churches within the URC.

She intends to continue as a healthcare chaplain.

The induction date is Saturday November 12th at 4pm at Whetstone United Reformed Church. Jeanne Moore, as representative from this Methodist circuit will be taking part.

All are welcome to come and celebrate this occasion with Frances and David.

LOVE

1 Corinthians 13

If I speak in the tongues[a] of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonour others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away. For we know in part and we

prophesy in part, but when completeness comes, what is in part disappears. When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put the ways of childhood behind me. For now we see only a reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.

And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

John 13 v 35.

By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.

District News

Northampton District

August 2011

Executive Committee Discussions and Decisions:-

Roy Slocombe reports on discussions and decisions of the district executive committee.

The district executive met for its June meeting with somewhat reduced numbers. In March, we had said farewell to the Revds David Jebb and Joseph Suray as synod-elected members of the executive but unfortunately the spring synod only managed to elect one replacement.

Barry Wilford, who was appointed, was unfortunately unable to attend his first meeting due to a pre-arranged holiday but we look forward to welcoming Barry to our September meeting. With the chair's agreement,

the Revd Tim Woolley, district director of mission, was also absent as he was involved in the Venture FX Pioneers selection conference.

Nevertheless, the executive addressed a full agenda as it continued to seek to support the mission of the district. It dealt with, among other things, the future of circuits, training and development, and ecumenical matters.

HEALTHY CIRCUITS

The Northampton District chair, the Revd Peter Hancock, made a presentation to the spring synod on the outcome of the "Healthy Circuits" discussions that have taken place across the district, and in particular the five area meetings, at which more localised views were shared. The executive will now use this information to influence its discussions and formulation of policy. Since the synod last met, circuits have received a research paper, written by the

Southampton District, about the federation of circuits. Federation

can enable adjacent circuits to work together, whilst still retaining their own identities and structures.

Circuits have been asked to let the chair know their views on circuit federation, and potential activities in this area, so that an initial report can be presented to the September synod. The executive recognises that some circuits may require longer to complete their discussions, and would prefer that the matter not be hurried to meet a fixed deadline.

TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT PLANS

Following the recent departure of the district training and development officer, the executive has looked closely at the most effective way in which the district can provide support to its churches and circuits. Matters are not helped by uncertainty over long-term connexional funding for training and development officers, as well as district development enablers.

The executive therefore decided not to fill the current training and development vacancy at the moment. Instead, we will buy in ad hoc skills and experience to address any requirements the district, circuits and local churches may have.

For all enquiries about what might be available, please contact the Revd Tim Woolley, district director of mission: t.r.woolley.00@cantabgold.net.

ECUMENICAL FUNDING AND OPPORTUNITIES

The district ecumenical officer, the Revd John Anderson, warned the executive that many county ecumenical bodies are likely to come under increased financial pressure in the coming years due to the present budget constraints that all the denominations involved face.

The executive was delighted to hear that John will continue in his post, and also act as the prime point of contact in the Shire and Stoke and Leicestershire Churches Together bodies.

The Revd Stephen Mosedale will lead on ecumenical matters in the Milton Keynes area, particularly in view of developments there to create a Methodist/URC united area. We still need to find people to be the prime points of reference for ecumenical affairs in Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire. These posts form part of the list of vacancies mentioned in the previous issue of District News.

Anyone who may be able to help in these areas should contact either the district chair, the Revd Peter Hancock - phancock002@googlemail.com or the synod secretary, the Revd Martin Wellings:

PROPERTY POINTS

Roy Littlecott, district property secretary, describes the work of a group that helps churches and circuits with development schemes, and suggests ways of making sure schemes get the go-ahead.

Exciting plans for new or renovated buildings can energise a church or circuit, though there are many administrative hoops to jump through before the necessary permissions can be granted.

The district property panel (DPP) is part of this process and consists of 12 property professionals, who consider all proposed major schemes for new development at churches and manses.

The panel does not itself make decisions or give advice but, instead, provides reasoned comments to managing trustees and the district consent giving body.

It is well worth obtaining the views of the DPP at an early stage in any project. This can save a lot of hassle later if it becomes clear that certain aspects of the scheme are impractical or unsustainable.

An essential element is that all schemes must include an explanation of the mission dimension of what is proposed. The Revd Tim Woolley, director of mission, is on the property panel and happy to discuss possible schemes with those involved: t.r.woolley.00@cantabgold.net; Tel. 01604 784424.

Top tip: Often, when a scheme is submitted, the DPP has to ask for copies of plans and other relevant papers to be sent (usually as an email attachment) to the district. It is far better for churches and circuits to take the initiative and forward these details at an early stage in the development process. In this way, managing trustees can consider any comments

from the DPP, and incorporate them into the design, where appropriate.

Contacts:

For manses, please send materials to Peter Greenaway:

peter.greenaway@btinternet.com; Tel. 01788 814086.

I deal with all other projects, and can be contacted at:

rj_littlecott@hotmail.com; Tel. 01604 406200.

SAFEGUARDING SUMMER

By Gill Crippen, district safeguarding officer

A new connexional year provides new opportunities and challenges in the Church's mission as we focus on the area of safeguarding.

A new safeguarding handbook has been in circulation for several months, and every circuit and church should have safeguarding on their September agendas. The opportunity to renew policies and appoint co-ordinators in churches and circuits should not be missed! Others in the district and I are willing to come and meet you to help with these important tasks.

The scope of safeguarding - adult and child, domestic violence and safer recruitment - might be too much for one church and circuit co-ordinator, so the new connexional year brings an opportunity to consider who else in the circuits might be able to serve in these

roles. We are not looking for experts but for those who are willing to work with me, as well as superintendents and the district safeguarding group (DSG), who will support the district's 23 circuits in this important work.

From September, the new Connexional Foundation Training in Safeguarding will be required for many roles within our churches. The DSG has been working on how this training can be delivered in our district, and circuits have been asked to identify anyone who would like to be trained to deliver the training locally.

There will be 'training the trainers' opportunities in three or four locations, as well as at the district office in Northampton. Anyone interested in becoming a trainer should speak to his or her superintendent minister or safeguarding co-ordinator. Dates for training sessions will be posted on the district website and in the synod directory.

For further information on safeguarding, including the July summer mailing to all circuits, please contact me:
northamptonso@btinternet.com.

Matthew Chapter 8 verses 2 and 3.

Then a man suffering from a dreaded skin disease came to him, knelt down before him and said, "Sir, if you want to you can make me clean."

Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him, "**I do want to,**" he answered, "Be clean!" At once the man was healed....

Just think about those words of Jesus, "**I do want to,**" and remember what He says:-

"I DO WANT TO!"

AN IMPORTANT NOTE FROM IVAN

To be sure that articles can be included in the December / January edition of Ambassador ,they need to reach me **by Sunday November 13th at the very latest, please** 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.

Thank you all.

Ivan Hodgson