

The **Methodist** Church 

The Ambassador

October - November 2017

**The Magazine Of Market Harborough
Methodist Circuit**

www.harboroughmethodistcircuit.org.uk



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

Ambassadors for Christ

Dear friends,

As I think about this letter, it is "Education Sunday": when we might focus our thoughts and prayers on the children of our communities, and their teachers (at the start of the school term). Like many jobs today, the work of a teacher is an often thankless task of unrealistic expectations, pressure from all quarters, and working many more hours than paid for.



For the pupils, school life can also be a time of great pressure to achieve, knowing that so much of their future depends on how they perform in these few short years. I hope that our churches can be places where our young people (and all those working in education) can be valued and loved, knowing that their worth in God's eyes has nothing to do with grades, exams or league tables.

I'm pleased that we have a Circuit that is investing in work with children. It is so important to reflect the scope of God's kingdom for all people of all ages. The children and their families are such a vital part of our church family. As a parent myself, I also recognise how important it is that the church is a place that can support families, and make it as easy as possible for them to participate in the life of the church. Sometimes, just getting the kids ready to come to church on a Sunday morning can be an achievement!

The work that we're doing with children and their families is a lot more than the good things we see on a Sunday morning. In fact, through our outreach work (things like "Come and Cook" at Kibworth, "Monday Tots" at Harborough, and the range of activities for all ages at Naseby) as well as the school assemblies taken by Susie Colliss and myself, *we have regular links with well over 1500 children and young people in the area.* (This is before we even mention the ecumenical youth-work at the Cube.)

'Outreach' work such as this is important. It's important because for many children it is planting seeds of God's love and acceptance, and it is building positive relationships with the church. For some young people, these positive relationships are the only affirming voices they have in their lives. This makes outreach worthwhile, whether or not we ever see them in church on a Sunday. In some situations and circumstances we are also attempting 'evangelism' and 'discipleship' with young people, which we pray will lead to Christian commitment. But please never think that our work is fruitless just because the fruits aren't seen in the ways we have come to expect.

Our work with children is done by many volunteers, and we have employed Susie Colliss to strengthen and support and develop the work in many different ways. The Circuit have recently agreed to extend her contract to 28 hours per week, because we think it is vital and we can see great potential. Of course, this



comes at a cost. At the moment, this cost is NOT paid for out of our regular Sunday offerings and covenanted giving. We are relying on a few faithful donors to our youth work fund, as well as some generous grants which will run out soon. If you would like to know more about this work, or to find out how you can make a contribution, please speak to myself or Donald Clinton-Smith (01858 461576). We would be very happy to talk to you.

So let us be thankful for all the children in our community who will shape the future. Let us remember in our prayers all who work with them, in schools, in churches, in youth work, in social work, and of course their wonderful parents!

Yours in Christ,

Andrew.

Yemen is facing one of the largest cholera outbreaks in recent recorded history. All We Can has extended its work in the country to meet the needs of people not only facing the threat of starvation but the risk of contracting this deadly disease too.

The number of people with cholera in Yemen is now the largest ever recorded in any country in a single year since records began. Life for thousands in Yemen is a desperate struggle for survival, with cholera, malnutrition and violence affecting nearly every state in the country.

Yemen's health systems are collapsing. Water, sanitation and access to food is precarious. "The Cholera outbreak is making a bad situation for children dramatically worse. Many of the children who have died from the disease were also acutely malnourished," said Dr M Relano, Unicef's representative in Yemen.

It is now estimated that 18.8 million of Yemen's 28 million people need humanitarian assistance and over seven million are on the brink of famine.

All We Can has been helping communities in Yemen since February 2017 when, with the World Church Relationships Team of the Methodist Church in Britain, an appeal was launched to support countries affected by the threat of famine. As a result of generous giving to its East Africa Famine Appeal over 2000 very vulnerable people in Yemen are benefitting from the distribution of food baskets containing wheat flour, oil, teff flour, rice, beans, sugar and salt. Tens of thousands more across East Africa in countries including Somalia, South Sudan, Ethiopia, Uganda and Burundi are also receiving food aid, nutritional treatment and healthcare.

The situation in Yemen is dire. Jason Snuggs, All We Can's Humanitarian Aid Manager, warns, "The country is struggling to contain the disease, in addition to the burden of widespread food insecurity and a weak health system, this increased risk of disease is putting many more lives in jeopardy. We need to continue to do all we can to respond to the needs in Yemen and other countries in the region facing the threat of famine".

The Methodist Church in Britain is urging people to continue to respond quickly, generously and collectively to this catastrophic situation by further supporting the East Africa Famine Appeal being managed by All We Can.

To give now, please visit allwecan.org.uk/famine

*The full version of this article can be read on the methodist website at:
<http://methodist.org.uk/news-and-events/news-releases/cholera-outbreak-adds-to-yemen's-misery-all-we-can-responds>*

Circuit Plan

The new Circuit Plan is available now (free of charge) with details of all our services up until 31st December. *Please take one!* (Or ask a steward if you can't find one.) The Plan gives details of all of the services in our four churches on a quarterly basis. You are always welcome at all of our services. Please note that the occasional **early communion services** at Market Harborough will now be at 9.00am (for a trial period).

Husbands Bosworth services will be at 4.30pm from 1st October (except for the occasional service at the Church of England). The chapel is experimenting with different forms of worship at the moment, in a relaxed setting. Everyone is always welcome.



“D I Y” Bible Study 31, written by

Eileen Bromley.

THE MINOR PROPHETS SPEAK TODAY

OBADIAH TREATMENT OF ‘RELATIVES’ - ASSISTANCE OR AGGRESSION?

Introduction

We know little of Obadiah except that his name means ‘Servant of the Lord’. This, the shortest of the Old Testament books, dates from somewhere between 853 - 586 BC. It is in the form of a poetic dirge (therefore rather gloomy) against the Edomites. Edom (or Seir) was to the southeast of the Dead Sea - in the mountains around Petra (the famous excavated site). As the descendants of Esau (see Genesis 27:41-46 & 36:1-8) the Edomites were related to Judah and Israel.

[1] Edom’s conduct

READ the whole book (only 21 verses).

a) For what are the Edomites condemned?

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.....
.....

b) List Edom’s actions against Israel and Judah.

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.....
.....

[2] The future

a) What is to be the future for Edom?

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.....
.....

b) What is to be the future for Judah?

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.....
.....

c) What is suggested about 'the day of the Lord'?

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.....
.....

Conclusion

What has the above to say to

a) Us?

.....
.....

b) Our world?

.....
.....

READ again and rejoice in the final words (end of v. 21).

Circuit Youth and Children's Work



Autumn is coming, remembering the Summer

As we had been thinking about Harvest at Fishes today I was going to start this with how I had noticed the fields changing as I drive to work but then I had a reading suddenly pop into my thoughts. I asked Paul if he could remember which book of the Bible it was in. Neither of us could think of it so I reached for the nearest bible, which happened to be Paul's 'best' one... you know the one that only gets used on special occasions because it has lovely gold edges on the page, not the dog eared every day one! The Bible fell open somewhere in the middle because of an old copy of Church Notices folded up in there which was being used as a bookmark. I looked at the notices, then glancing down at the page I saw the very reading I needed!

Everything that happens in this world happens at a time God chooses.

He sets the time for birth and the time for dying,
the time for planting and the time for pulling up.

Ecclesiastes 3 : 1-2

The hymns on the church notices were 'To God be the glory' and 'Give thanks with a grateful heart' now how fitting are they for harvest time!

Fishes are back after the Summer holidays and started off their new year by making their monthly collection for JMA. Well done! They are very organised with lists of names... don't worry you will forget... they will happily remind you.

Fishes are very excited about this year's Stewardship project. They are planning to join the Backpack project run by Mary's

Meals. Do you have a backpack that you don't use which is in good condition? We would love to use it and fill with clothes and other essentials for a child who is receiving Mary's Meals.

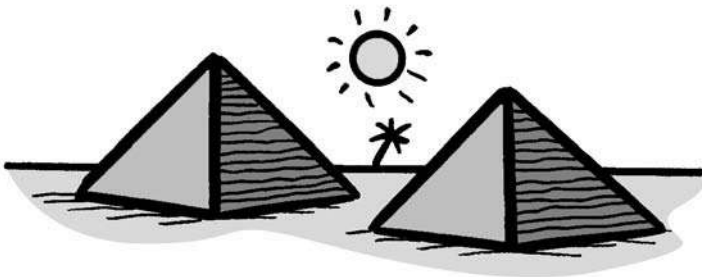


2 out of 3.... 😞

We had planned for 3 Holiday Clubs but only 2 took place. Unfortunately we didn't get enough response from children in Husbands Bosworth for the club to take place.

In Harborough we had between 15 – 27 children each day, mostly around 15 but on Thursday we had 27 as we were joined by 2 childminders with around 8 children. In Naseby we had around 30 children each day which is more than we had thought! We had to borrow tables from Harborough and Ian had to get chairs from the store room so everyone had a space to sit. What a wonderful problem to have.

The Holiday Club was based on the life of Joseph so our post box for daily drawings, jokes, and prayers was a pyramid in a sand tray and the random points were numbers buried in sand. The weather was kind for most of the days for both clubs so lots of outside games could take place.



The teenagers in Naseby were wonderful as ever, helping the young ones with all the activities and taking part in the ever messy teen challenges. In Harborough we had our first teenage helper and the offer of another one for next year! The children at both clubs responded to all the singing, prayers, crafts and games with enthusiasm.

In Harborough we ended the holiday club with a picnic on Friday lunchtime and at Naseby with a BBQ on Friday night. Both were well attended and enjoyed by both children and parents. Thank you so much to all the adult helpers at both Clubs, we couldn't do it without you. A HUGE thank you to Ruth who did all the planning and powerpoints so that I didn't have to worry while Paul was in hospital.

Monday Tots becomes **Holiday Playtime** in the school holidays and is very popular with mums and children. We had 20 mums and 29+ children each week enjoying our wonderful inside and outside space along with toys, crafts and other activities. Huge thanks to everyone who came along and helped by making tea, washing up, putting toys away, chatting to parents, playing with the children and generally being there!

The Monday Tots Twin Lakes trip was a great success as usual thanks to the wonderful organising by Sue Routely . The trip took place in the middle of the Holiday club so children from the Holiday club could come too if they wanted.

If you come into Church in Harborough on 2nd or 4th Tuesdays in the month you will see enough pushchairs to start a shop! These are **Stay, Play and Weigh** Tuesdays. Parents can bring their baby in to weigh them, stay for coffee and biscuits (sometimes cake too) and chat to other mums while the babies play and interact with each other.

The group's Facebook page has over 400 followers now, not sure where we would put all the pushchairs if they all turned up! Quite a few of the mums have moved over to Monday Tots as the babies have started walking and become ready for new adventures.

Prayer Spaces are being offered to more schools in the area so please pray that the schools will see the benefit of this for their children. I tried something new at Husbands Bosworth and held a Prayer space event in a classroom with the children aged 9 – 11. This worked really well and would be really good for those schools like Naseby and Husbands Bosworth who have limited space. In both HB and Naseby we are able to use the Chapel because it is so close to the school and the children love visiting the chapels for these events.

Naseby school invited me to join their worship team to plan prayer activities for their new Prayer Shed which children can access during lunch breaks. They decided they would like to have a day where visitors could sing along to worship songs on a CD and another day for quiet reflection and reading bible stories with older children available to read to the younger ones.

I am very excited by my new adventures planned for the new school year. I am hoping to be working more closely with the schools in our circuit by going into the classroom for special activities/lessons and in assemblies (now known as Collective Worship).

Love from
Susie x





Kibworth News

Wednesday Fellowship

All men and Women are warmly welcomed to the Wednesday Fellowship and there is a door-to-door bus for those who want to use it. (cost 50p). We meet in the Methodist Church in School Lane, Kibworth at 2.30 p.m.

Sep. 27 – Leicester Cathedral (Martin Hounsfield)

Oct. 4 – AGM (A. Murphy) (Bus)

Oct. 11 – Harvest

Oct. 18 – John and Pat Sharman

Oct. 25 – Party (slides) (Bus)

Nov. 1 – Dorothy Ireland (slides of Jerusalem) (Bus)

Nov. 8 – Ron Preece

Nov. 15 – Rev Andy Murphy

Nov. 22 – Eileen Gregory (Bus)

Nov. 29 – Scrabble/ games

Dec. 6 – Bring and share tea (Bus)

Dec. 13 – Meal-out in Wigston

Anyone attending our meetings can use the door-to-door bus – please ring Brenda on 0116 2793307 for details

The Well

45 High Street, Kibworth

**Invites
Senior Citizens
to come for:-**



Afternoon Cream Tea - 2pm

Monday 2nd October 2017

Monday 6th November 2017

Monday 4th December 2017

Monday 5th February 2018

Transport available
for more details please contact
Jill 0116 279 3927 or
Emma @ The Well 0116 279 0148



Naseby News

The main news from Naseby comes from our annual holiday club. This year's theme was the story of Joseph, so the chapel was transformed (well, almost) into ancient Egypt, complete with palm trees and hieroglyphic inscriptions.

Everyone had a great week, and our teenage helpers surpassed themselves. It's really rewarding to see so many children not only coming and having fun, but looking up to some really good role models. It was also fantastic to have 60 turn up for the family barbeque at the end of the week.

Really well done to Ruth and Susie for all their hard work and planning, and their boundless energy to pull off two holiday clubs (Harborough, then Naseby) in such quick succession.

Here is a roundup of our regular activities:

Monday 2 - 4.30pm

Arts and Crafts group (all ages welcome). Contact June Spencer for more info (01604 740761)

Monday (1st & 3rd of month) 7.30 - 9pm

Teen Spirit (secondary school age). Games/activities/discussion on a Bible-related theme. Contact Ruth Watson (01604 740845)

Tuesday 7.15 - 9.15pm

Painting group (all ages and abilities welcome). Contact June as above.

Tuesday (2nd of month) 3.45pm

Jaffa (Reception - yr2). Activities/crafts/bible story Contact Ruth as above.

Wednesday 10am - midday (1st Weds)

Coffee morning, open to all

Wednesday eve (last in month)

Fusion (school years 3-6). Games and activities with a short talk. Contact Ruth as above.

Thursday 2 - 3.15pm

Music and Mayhem. Pre-school music and play. Contact Susie Colliss.

Friday 9 - 10am

Chapel open for prayer

Friday 2 - 3.15pm (3rd Friday)

Play and Pray. Pre-school activities/crafts/songs and Bible theme. Contact Susie Colliss.

Louise Jenkinson



Thank you to everyone who donated to the work of Methodist Homes on MHA Sunday in June. £125 was raised, which will be increased by gift aid. Our support of this organisation is much appreciated. At the moment they are focusing on supporting Chaplains in care homes and retirement living schemes; music therapy in dementia care and Live at Home schemes. Autumn copies of 'Heart and Soul' magazine are available for anyone who would like to read more about their work.

Shirley Hales MHA rep



Market Harborough News



OLD FRIENDS

'OLD FRIENDS' invite you to join them as they continue their Autumn Tour on Friday 24th November at 7.30 pm with a concert in support of 'The Children Might Foundation' (CMF).

The Foundation is a registered Rwandan charity, based in Rwamagana, in the Eastern Province of the country. Its principal aim is supporting children's education through the provision of school fees, school materials and medical care. CMF understands that educating children requires the support of their families, and so they are building homes for the neediest which greatly increases the children's chances of success (A house with 3

bedrooms built with unburned bricks can cost £2,000. A stronger house with burned bricks costs about £3,000)

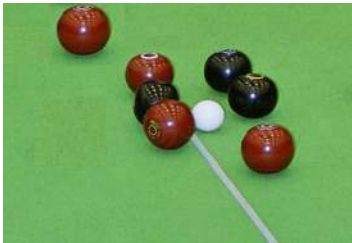
By giving goats to families and by empowering women through a farming project, CMF is helping the families to generate much needed income.

While visiting Rwanda earlier this year looking at Fairtrade projects, Anita Beer and Lynne Mold spent a few days with those benefitting from the work of CMF. We commend the work of this charity to you. Come along and have some fun as well as enjoying the delicious refreshments, each one, of course, containing a Fairtrade ingredient,

Please book the date in your diary.

Indoor Bowls at Market Harborough - Monday evenings from 6:30 to 8:30 pm

We enjoy our regular sessions of indoor carpet bowls. Part of



the reason for enjoyment may be because the evening is not really about 'winning' as such, although we all try our very best. It is all about fellowship and friendship. **Come and join us** - I guarantee you will enjoy the fellowship and the game.

From Here to Eternity

John Rackley will be leading a holiday retreat 'From Here to Eternity' in Italy in September 2018. Using the writings of Henri Nouwen, he will explore what it means to have a mature faith and the different ways in which the spirit moves us at different times of our lives. For more information:

www.umbrianretreats.com 01733 552535 / 07702 341041

Words, words, words



'What's it all about, Alfie?' How do those words fit together?

The link is about making things sustainable. By using natural materials which come from sources that can be replaced like bamboo. Or growing plants for food or to make fabrics or palm oil or energy in a way that doesn't harm the environment. Or by helping people to continue living in their area because they can earn a living to support their families.

There are two events in October in Market Harborough that will provide ideas and products that are about **upcycling**, **repurposing**, **Fairtrade** – as above!

An Eco Market Saturday, October 7th 9.30 am - 12.00 noon at the Methodist Church

A Fairtrade and Eco Fair, Saturday, October 28th 10.00 am - 4.00 pm at the Congregational Church
Crafts, clothes and food to peruse and buy

Both are opportunities to show our care for God's World and it's People



Husbands Bosworth News

Husbands Bosworth Methodist Church 1912 - 2017

Lloyd Jones and John & Margaret Scurrah thank everyone for the gifts and kind words expressed at the recent Circuit Service held in Bosworth.

John and Margaret expect to have moved away by the time this edition is printed. They will miss you all but look forward to making new friends in East Leake, which is on the Nottinghamshire / Leicestershire border.

Please continue to support our Bosworth Chapel. Some changes will occur including different times to services, check the Plan for details.

Our Services for the next 2 months are:

October

- 1st 4:30 pm Rev Andy Murphy
- 8th 4:30 pm Rev Brian Kennard
- 15th 4:30 pm United Service at All Saints' Church
- 29th 4:30 pm Mrs Christine Hodgson

November

- 5th 4:30 pm Rev Andrew Murphy (Communion)
- 12th 4:30 pm Mrs Kathy Morrison
- 19th 4:30 pm United Service at All Saints' Church
- 26th 4:30 pm Mr Steve Pointer





DESERT ISLAND HYMNS

Our next instalment of 'Desert Island Hymns' will be at Market Harborough on Sunday 5th November at 5.00pm, where we will be singing the choices of local preacher and musician Steve Pointer. Steve is currently the musical director for Great Bowden Parish Church and he has served our Circuit as a preacher and musician for many years. Steve will lead us on the piano as he talks us through some of the hymns and worship songs that are special to him.

Deadline for the next edition

The next edition of The Ambassador will cover December - January. If you have anything you'd like to include in the next edition, please ensure your submission reaches Dave Kennard by Sunday 12th November. Articles can be emailed to mhambassador@gmail.com, posted to 40 Tungstone Way, Market Harborough, LE16 9GG, or handed to Dave at Harborough after the morning service.