



1) A word from Helen and Neil Bishop on behalf of Stream 4 Justice, Compassion and Peace—SAVING THE PLANET FROM DISASTER - AN UPDATE ON COP26

At the beginning of November last year, the 26th United Nations' Climate Change Conference (COP26) took place in Glasgow. It was widely billed as the last chance to save the planet from disaster and during the Conference the circuit held an online prayer meeting to pray for the outcome.

Unfortunately, the Conference did not deliver everything that was hoped for. The COP26 President, Alok Sharma, told the closing session, 'We can now say with credibility that we have kept 1.5 degrees alive, (which is the target for limiting global warming to avoid catastrophic climate change). But, its pulse is weak, and it will only survive if we keep our promises and translate commitments into rapid action.'

Most of that rapid action will need to come from governments or organisations. In the run-up to COP26 the Methodist Connexion joined the growing list of Christian churches and charities which have undertaken to divest from, or switch their investments away from, carbon generating industries. We need to make sure that our own local churches and charities do the same. There is also the opportunity to become an eco-church, as Fillongley did recently, with different stages - bronze, silver, and gold - on the way to becoming completely eco- friendly.

There was widespread disappointment that COP26 failed to address the urgency of phasing out fossil fuels, so Friends of

2) Touch of Hope is back in Business!

I have just returned from a visit to Croatia, the first for over two years. I was wondering how much our work is still needed in Croatia, Serbia, and Bosnia. From day 1 my colleagues and I received a resounding YES that we should continue our work of Reconciliation. We conducted a taster workshop just outside Osijek for 13 people for 9 men and 4 women, including 4 from Bosnia. Our plan is to recommence our programme of workshops in September.

Our visit also included reconnecting with former participants who were pleased to see us and who are fully supportive of continuing the work. Our newly trained facilitators will be assisting in leading workshops, and we want to train more facilitators.

As expected, the war in Ukraine is bringing back painful memories of the past war in the former Yugoslavia. Refugees from Ukraine are moving into the Osijek area. There is a possibility of involving them in our own workshops.

On the Sunday I preached in a small evangelical church near

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the Earth disputes that COP26 has in fact kept the world on track to avoid a higher rise in global temperatures. Developing countries and environmentalists were also disappointed that once again there was no commitment to compensate for the damage already done by climate change to the poorest people in the world and for the cost to them of divesting from the little bit of carbon they use. The government's decision to reduce rather than increase its support to developing countries sent the wrong signals ahead of COP26.

However, it would be hypocritical to press for governments and other organisations to take more rapid action, and switch more quickly to sustainable investment, if we as a church don't also try to do this ourselves. For example, we have switched our pension funds to a new provider which promises to invest them only in sustainable, carbon neutral or alternative energy industries. You may have taken similar actions you wish to share with the rest of the Circuit. Please, get in touch with us at Stream 4 as we continue to explore together the way to become a completely eco- friendly Circuit

[All quotations and facts have been taken from The House of Commons Library article on COP26 at Parliament UK.]

the border with Serbia. The small congregation were very welcoming and produced an enormous lunch after the service which went down very well with me! The village Ilaca is a pilgrimage site for Catholics as the Virgin Mary is alleged to have appeared there in the 19th century. The church sends its greetings to our circuit.

We also attended a book launch for Dragica who came to Nuneaton three years ago. The book is about her and her peace work.

Our work is generously supported by the Fund for World Mission. However, we shall need more money if we want to do all that we plan.

I am happy to come to churches to talk more about this exciting work of reconciliation. I felt the Spirit guiding us all the way on our visit. We need more people to join us on our committee. Thank you.

Rev Clive Fowle Coordinator of Touch of Hope. Healing the hurts of war in Croatia, Serbia and Bosnia.

3) Circuit Jubilee Celebrations Bedworth



Bedworth Church enjoying their Jubilee celebrations with a traditional British fish and chip lunch followed by a royal quiz and a sing-a-long of old favourites including 'Roll Out the Barrel' (containing fruit juice of course!) We rounded off the party with a toast to her Majesty and the National Anthem. As you can see a good time was had by all.

Ridge Lane

On Friday the 3rd June Ridge Lane Methodist Church and Community Hall opened its doors at 10am for the village folk to come and partake in the planned celebration. We had joined with our friends at Mancetter Parish Council who provided, and helped erect, the bunting and balloons inside and outside the church. The shields that had been made especially for Ridge Lane and Mancetter by the Parish Chairman, (107 in total) had been painted by the children and adults with pictures and script illustrating the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, and these were placed on the lamp posts in the village.

The children were issued with ration books, again by our friends at Mancetter, and these entitled the children to a sweet ration. They didn't mind queueing! Everyone who attended was given a lapel badge which had the event printed on it. The hall had tables groaning with plates of food, plus the tea, coffee and squash kept up with the demand. A gentleman on the Parish Council also produced a card for each year of our Queen's reign with something that had happened then and was displayed on boards inside the church. This was of immense interest to all who came and reminded people of exactly when it happened. As the weather was so kind, we were able to open the garden. The children played with the outside games provided and the parents used the lawn for a picnic tea. The shields will be auctioned by the Parish Chairman and the proceeds will be donated to a charity of his choosing.

Woodside Avenue Methodist Church

Having had a marvellous Pentecost Service with Rev Graham Gee, it was all change for Woodside to host the Woodside Avenue Residents' Street Party. This was intended to be in the church carpark but was largely transferred indoors when the weather proved unpredictable.

Bunting had been placed around the carpark and church interior, with masses of red, white, and blue ribbons attached to the cross.

The church, as neighbours, shared in the Jubilee celebrations and it was a great occasion to meet, greet and befriend all who attended.

Thanks to Marcus Torchon, Richard Wilde, and Graham Gee for their parts.

Richard welcomed residents to a short act of thanksgiving in the church, with songs, comments, and prayers, finishing with the National Anthem. To the principal organisers, Trudy and Christine, many congratulations. We look forward to possible future joint events.

4) Please pray for these Circuit Calendar Events

Sunday 26th June - Family Service at Bedworth Methodist Church 3pm-4pm—All welcome.

Save The Date from Birmingham Methodist District

Saturday 16th July The Farewell Service for the current Chair of the Birmingham Methodist District, the Rev Ian Howarth, will be at 3pm at Coventry

The Welcome Service for the new Chair of the Birmingham Methodist District, Rev Novette Headley, will be on Saturday 3rd September at 2:30pm at Coventry Central Hall.

Due to annual leave over the summer the next Circuit Newsletter will be available in September. Please refer to the Circuit Website for all up to date news and information. <https://www.covnunmethodist.org.uk/>

We welcome Churches and individuals to offer prayer concerns, news items, inspirational poems, moving testimony (up to 200 words), or even a Bible puzzle or crossword to be included in the next Newsletter. Please send any articles, by **Monday 5th September 2022** to the Circuit Office c/o Bedworth Methodist Church, Mill Street, Bedworth, CV12 8JZ, Email: office@covnunmethodist.org.uk