



Coventry & Nuneaton

METHODIST CIRCUIT

Dear Circuit Contact

Weekly Circuit News Thursday 29th February 2024, No. 065

There will not be a Circuit News sent out for a couple of weeks due to illness.

Message from our Superintendent Rev. Jill Marsh

You may have seen that the President and Vice-President have sent us this statement on the situation in Gaza (see below).

I'm including this in our Circuit News to invite you to send this statement to your local MP, either as an individual Methodist, or as a Methodist Church if you agree on this together. Thank you for considering taking this action, Jill Marsh

22 February 2024

A Statement from the President and Vice-President on the situation in Gaza

We are deeply disappointed that the headlines today are about a parliamentary process and not the horrors of what is happening in Gaza. Such a vote should be above party politics and we urge the UK government to denounce actions that epitomise a collective punishment of the population of Gaza.

The scale of the destruction and tragic loss of life in so short a space of time is incomparable to any other conflict in recent times. We grieve for all lives lost on 7 October and in the subsequent fighting. There is no justification for such widespread killing of tens of thousands of innocent people and we are gravely concerned for the entire population of the Gaza Strip.

One and a half million people currently shelter in crowded conditions with little food and water in the city of Rafah. The horrific strikes on southern Gaza have killed many in recent days and those injured are unable to get treatment because of Israel's attacks on hospitals.

We were alarmed to hear reports that the Nasser Hospital in Gaza has been shelled, killing patients, staff and others sheltering there. The protection of hospitals during a war is a basic and inescapable requirement in international law.

The International Court of Justice has called on Israel to ensure that its forces do not commit any of the acts covered by the Genocide Convention. Yet attacks on Gaza have continued with inadequate regard to the protection of civilians. For those crowded into Rafah there is nowhere left to go. It is disturbing to hear that some in the Israeli government are discussing the possibility of creating settlements across the Gaza Strip. Time will tell whether what we witness in Gaza today is an ethnic cleansing of the present population.

Meanwhile, for those sheltering without food and water the situation is critical. To meet the basic human needs of such a large population there is no alternative to an immediate ceasefire. We urge our Government to demand an immediate halt to the shelling for the preservation of innocent life and require that Israel abide by the provisional ruling of the International Court of Justice.

We call on Hamas to immediately release the remaining hostages and urge all governments to work with Israeli and Palestinian parties to achieve an agreement that ensures protection, support and a viable future for innocent victims of this conflict and security for all in the region.

In prayer we stand alongside all those in the region whose heart breaks with ours as we witness the unfathomable suffering. With the psalmist we pray:

You are my help and my deliverer;

you are my God, do not delay. (Psalm 40:17)

The Methodist Church in Britain has launched an appeal to support partners of the Methodist Liaison Office who are working in Gaza. [Find out more and donate here.](#)

Rev. Jill Marsh

Please save these dates!

2nd March 2024 Circuit Service at 2.30pm, Arley Methodist Church

Please join us for a short service where we will worship together and recognise the long service of some of our preachers.

Following the service there will be time to enjoy a cup of tea and delicious cakes. If you are able to bake, please come along with your star bake or showstopper.

Donations for cake will be given in support of Coffee Shop Sunday.

14th April 2024 Circuit Service at 4pm, Balsall Common Methodist Church

This will be a Circuit Service of farewell for Rev'd Jane Braund. Please join us as we say thank you and farewell to Rev Jane Braund (one of our circuit ministers) as she begins her sabbatical and then moves on to her next circuit.

We will be celebrating Jane's ministry among us and giving her our blessing as she leaves.

We will also be saying thank you to Mike Hobbs who will be finishing as Treasurer and Circuit Steward.

Lastly the dedication of our Easter Offering gifts will also be included at the same service.

Please bring cakes to share.

Donations will be in aid of our circuit project, Coffee Shop Sunday.

28th April 2024 IGC Worship at 4.30pm, Bedworth Methodist Church

This is an opportunity for us to come together across the circuit, from all generations to worship and eat together in the afternoon. Please encourage your families to save the date and come together.

Saturday 15th June 2024 Circuit Service at 3pm, Bedworth Methodist Church.

We will be saying thank you and farewell to Deacon Sheila Dawson, who is leaving the circuit to retire nearer to her family and thank you to Andy Pinks who will be finishing as a circuit Steward. Andy has acted for an extra year as Senior Steward for which I am thankful. Please bring cake to share.

Good News from around the Circuit

At the end of January, we let you know that Peter Dipple from Nuneaton Methodist Church had signed up for a 100-mile walking challenge for Cance Research UK throughout February 2024.

Well done to Peter for completed the challenge on Monday 19th February 2024, 10 days ahead of schedule.

Wesley Hall Methodist Church Arley

Please come along to our Games Night on Saturday 9th March, 7pm till 9pm.

£10 including jacket potato. Tickets via Joyce Lea - 02476392376.

Meriden Methodist Church New Garden

We are trying at Meriden to develop the garden into a peace garden. Through our conversations around the village, people have said they like the idea of a peaceful space for garden gatherings, with some room for produce that can be shared.

This is what we will work towards from now on.

As spring approaches, we will be happy to receive offers of support and goods. We particularly need compost, some wood primer, and some outdoor paint.

Bird feeders and bug houses would be a great addition.

We will also be happy to receive plants and pots.

We will be holding a bring and drop off with coffee and cakes being offered as a thank you. This will take place at the church on Wednesday 20th March 12.30-2.30.

Please come along and meet us.

Woodside Avenue Methodist Church

Woodside Fellowship

- We had a very enjoyable meeting last Tuesday. Keith Chapman gave us a very interesting, illustrated talk, using our church screens, about the remarkable pre-historic paintings found in caves throughout Europe. We meet again on Tuesday, 12th March, at 2pm, when we look forward to welcoming Rod Drew again to give us a further talk about his interesting (and at times very funny) career as a Pharmacist. Followed, of course, by a refreshing cup of tea and biscuits. Our friends from other churches in the circuit are very welcome to join us.
- Woodside Coffee morning
Please join us at our next coffee morning 10.30 - 12 noon on Saturday March 2nd. We invite friends from around the Circuit to share in supporting the Circuit's 2nd Mile Project in aid of The International Children's Trust. Gifts for the Tombola will be welcome or indeed High Value gifts for Sale on eBay will be gratefully received.
- Woodside welcomes former Minister, Rev Andrew de Ville to lead worship on their Church Anniversary, Sunday 3rd March at 10.30am All are welcome.

Extra arrangements in the Circuit during Lent and Easter

Balsall Common Methodist Church Lent Breakfasts

This year's Lent Breakfasts are on the Theme of Trailblazers of Faith: Women Spiritual Icons in Christian History.

Saturday 2 March: Evelyn Underhill led by Mark Bratton

Saturday 9 March: Teresa of Avila led by Anne McCormick

Saturday 16 March: Julian of Norwich led by Susan Mobberley.

Open to everyone. Taking place at Balsall Common Methodist Church, 228 Station Road, Balsall Common, Coventry, CV7 7EE.

Breakfast of croissants and tea/coffee at 8.40am. Speaker begins at 9am followed by discussion. The meeting finishes at 9.45am.

Small charge of £2 for costs, with surplus going to charity.

Maundy Thursday 28th March

Horeston Grange - 7pm Passover Supper Rev'd Allan Smith

Meriden - 7pm Rev'd Ian Coates

Nuneaton - 7pm Rev'd Jill Marsh

Radford & Holbrooks with Earlsdon joining - 7pm Rev'd Doreen Koffie-Williams

Good Friday 29th March

Arley - 7pm Deacon Sue Fry

Atherstone - 12 Noon Tony Cashmore

Balsall Common – 7pm Rev'd Jane Braund

Bedworth - 12 Noon In town centre

Earlsdon - 10am-11am Crafts, 11am AAW Bill Holdforth, 6.30pm Reflections

Nuneaton - 12 Noon Rev'd Jill Marsh

Ryton - 7pm Rev'd Ian Coates

Ascension Day Thursday 9th May 2024

Woodside - 7pm Rev'd Koffie-Williams ALL CIRCUIT INVITED

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI)

We are running some in person EDI Training in our circuit and sharing with Tamworth & Lichfield Circuit.

The Methodist Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) module includes faith and missional reasons for this work as well as reminding us of how the law applies to church life. It aims to prevent discrimination in the church and to help us live out our commitment to a God who is 'for all'.

The module is required training for: ministers, preachers, worship leaders, circuit, and church stewards.

If you are in one of the roles where the training is required, please let the office know when you have completed the course at office@covnunmethodist.org.uk.

Thank you to all those who have completed already.

The training will also be of interest to all Methodists and, as we are all experts in being human, we can learn from each other!

You are all invited to join us for this training in person, or to do the online module, which you can find at the link below:

<https://mcb.theologyx.com/course/equality-diversity-and-inclusion-foundation-module/>

Thank you, Jill Marsh

You will need to attend 2 afternoon sessions, or 2 evening sessions or the whole day on Saturday.

Available dates:

Tuesday 9th April 2024 - 1.30pm - 3.45pm – Bedworth Methodist Church, Mill Street, Bedworth CV12 8JZ

Thursday 11th April 2024 – 7pm – 9.15pm - St Andrew's Methodist Church, Thackeray Drive, Tamworth B79 8HY

Tuesday 23rd April 2024 - 1.30pm - 3.45pm – Bedworth Methodist Church, Mill Street, Bedworth CV12 8JZ

Thursday 25th April 2024 – 7pm – 9.15 pm - St Andrew's Methodist Church, Thackeray Drive, Tamworth B79 8HY

Saturday 25th May 2024 - 9.30am - 4pm – Woodside Avenue Methodist Church, Woodside Avenue South, Coventry, CV3 6BE (Please bring your own lunch)

To register for this in person training please complete the attached booking form and return to the circuit office office@covnunmethodist.org.uk

Information received from The District Office

- **Easter Pilgrimage 2024; 1st to 6th April.**

Members of both the Wolverhampton & Shrewsbury and Birmingham Districts are invited to join a “pilgrim community” of up to 12 people this Easter week on a route largely based in the Telford Circuit. During this six-day experience, we will walk, pray and eat together and share sleeping space in a number of Methodist Churches. Luggage (including your airbed / camp-bed and bedding) will be transferred each day. Mileage will be between around 8 to 10 miles, taken at a gentle pace on rural routes that may include stiles. We share cooking within the group.

This is now a “tried and tested” formula which has been greatly appreciated by previous pilgrims. Being willing to be part of a short-term community is far more important than being super-fit, providing you can manage a modest amount of walking over a number of consecutive days, followed by nights on a church floor! The pilgrimage will be led by a small team of previous pilgrims, including Rachel Parkinson, Chair of Wolverhampton & Shrewsbury District.

If means allow, we suggest a contribution of £140 to the kitty to cover food, accommodation, and luggage transfer. Unfortunately, the living arrangements mean we cannot include children and young people, though they will be welcome to join us as accompanied day walkers (details later). The gathering point will be close to Wellington Station on the early evening of Monday 1st April. The departure point will be Shrewsbury Station on the late afternoon of Saturday 6th April.

If you are interested in joining the group this year, please don't delay - contact Richard Lockley in the W&S District Office: admin@wsmethodist.org.uk

There will be a briefing for pilgrims on Zoom on Thursday 14th March at 7pm

- In addition, Peter Le Brocq from the Birmingham (Sutton Park) Circuit, is hoping to do just one day of walking (no over-night) and is willing to lead a group from Birmingham. If you are interested his contact details are peter.lebrocq@gmail.com

- **United Reform Church are recruiting for a home-based, part-time Communications Officer.**

SYNOD COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER

Part-time, home-based

10 hours/week, starting salary £15/hour (£27,300 pro rata)

Apply using our application form below

Are you a great communicator with excellent English, experience and knowledge of website design and social media platforms? We are seeking someone who can identify a good news story to promote digitally. You will manage our social media feeds, help to replace the current Synod website with an **iChurch** website (based on WordPress). We need someone with initiative to gather news from various church sources and colleagues and who will take responsibility for a monthly Synod e-newsletter. You will liaise with Synod Officers, local church contacts and the United Reformed Church Communications team.

Application deadline: Thursday 21 March 2024

Shortlisting: Tuesday 26 March 2024

Interviews: Tuesday 16 April 2024

If you have any questions, or would like the information to be emailed to you, please contact Lindsay Peniston at the Synod Office on 0121 783 1177 or by email to moderators@urcwestmidlands.org.uk (Mon-Thurs, 9am-4pm).

Terms and conditions

The hours may be worked flexibly but will necessarily include some evening and weekend working. The post will be home based, but some attendance at the Synod Office will be necessary. The successful postholder will have the right to live and work in the UK.

Suitable IT hardware and software will be provided by the Synod.
Administrative and secretarial support is provided at the Synod Office.

[Download the job description and person specification](#)

[Download the application form](#)

[Download this advert \(A4 Word doc\)](#)

West Midlands Synod Office, Digbeth-in-the-Field URC, Moat Lane, Yardley, Birmingham B25 1TW
Tel: 0121 783 1177. **<https://www.urcwestmidlands.org.uk>**

The Vine at Home

Please click on this link to view the Vine at Home on the Circuit website. This resource is being provided by Twelvebaskets and is provided as a resource for home worship.

<https://www.covnunmethodist.org.uk/news/vine-at-home-4th-june-2023.html>