



Dear Circuit Contact

Here is the Circuit News for May 2024

Please send any news or events happening in your church Circuit Office office@covnunmethodist.org.uk

Additional Services in the Circuit

Thursday 9th May 2024 Ascension Day Service at 7pm Woodside Avenue Methodist Church, Woodside Avenue South, Coventry, CV3 6BE

All the circuit is invited to the Ascension Day service at Woodside Avenue Methodist Church at 7pm, led by Rev Doreen Koffie-Williams.

Equality, Diversity & Inclusion Training ... for those who are still required to do this or who are committed to equality

For those of you who are still to complete the EDI training there are 2 opportunities in May to attend an in-person Equality Diversity and Inclusion session to be led by Jill Marsh.

1) Saturday 18th May at Warwick Methodist Church, Barrack Street Warwick, CV34 4TH.

The session will start at 10am and it is anticipated that it will finish mid-afternoon. Drinks will be provided by the church but you will need to provide your own lunch.

Parking available in the multi-storey carpark next to the Church, payment using the RingGO app. https://www.warwickdc.gov.uk/info/20547/warwick_car_parks/630/barrack_street_car_park

The church is a 10-15 minute walk from Warwick Railway station. Those wishing to attend this event should contact the South Warwickshire Circuit Office at swc.crc3@gmail.com.

The deadline for bookings is 11th May 2024.

2) Saturday 25th May at Woodside Avenue Methodist Church, Woodside Avenue South, Coventry, CV3 6BE.

The session will start at 9.30am – 4pm (Please bring your own lunch, drinks will be provided)

To book on to this session contact office@covnunmethodist.org.uk, by Wednesday 15th May 2024.

Saturday 15th June 2024 Circuit Service at 3pm, Bedworth Methodist Church, Mill Street, Bedworth, CV12 8JZ

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 Circuit Senior Steward. Andy has acted for an extra year as Senior Steward for which we are thankful. Please bring cake or fruit to share.

District Update - Synod votes on District Merger Proposal

On Saturday, 20th April, the Synods of both the Wolverhampton & Shrewsbury and the Birmingham Districts confirmed their support for the formation of a new combined West Midlands District from 1st September 2025. The voting figures were 81% and 94% in favour respectively.

These results, together with the voting figures from the Circuits, will go forward in a process which will result in a recommendation to be voted upon by the Methodist Conference in June. However, given the amount of work needing to be done to prepare a good foundation for the new District, the Joint Districts' Task Group will now work on the basis that the Conference will also agree to a merger.

As the prayer shared by both Synods on Saturday acknowledged, these votes are not the end of the story. However, we voted, or would have voted, we pray that the Spirit will bind us one to another so that we may travel the road ahead together and in love.

News from around the Circuit

David Kershaw recipient of Maundy Money on Thursday 28th March 2024



On Maundy Thursday, this year David and Viv Keshaw attended the Royal Maundy Service at Worcester Cathedral. David was a recipient of Maundy money, having been proposed by both the Coventry and Nuneaton Methodist circuit and the Coventry Diocese. It was an impressive and moving ceremony.

The Royal Maundy is an ancient ceremony, inspired by the Bible. On the day before Good Friday Jesus washed the feet of his disciples and commanded them to 'Love one another'. By the 13th Century the Royal Family was taking part in similar ceremonies. By washing the feet of the poor and giving money and gifts they were showing humility and compassion. When Henry the Fourth became king he introduced a new tradition, deciding to give the same number of gifts as his age and the event became known as the Royal Maundy.

Today's recipients of Royal Maundy are elderly men and women chosen because of Christian service they have given to the church and community. Each recipient receives two purses – a white one contains the silver Maundy coins and a red one with ordinary coins.

In the absence of the King this year the purses were distributed by the Queen.

Bedworth Methodist Church

Easter Cross outside Bedworth Methodist Church on Good Friday.



Bedworth Methodist Church are holding a Craft Fair on Saturday 18th May, stalls are available to hire at £12. Please contact Kath Allton for further details on 07843250467 or pkallton@virginmedia.com

Taizé Pilgrimage

Taizé Pilgrimage from 4th to 11th August 2024 organized by Birmingham Methodist District Coventry Central Hall, German Speaking Church B'ham & Coventry

We are inviting young people (age 16 to 35) to join us on a week's pilgrimage to the Taizé Community in Burgundy/France.

If you are interested please get in touch before 1st June via: stephen.willey@centralhall.info
germanchurchbristol@gmail.com

Street Pastors

"Many Methodists around the country, of all adult ages, offer to be Street Pastors. Our own Deacon Sheila Dawson has been part of the team featured in this video" [Coventry street pastors - YouTube](#)
Remember please there are issues with copyright, but you can put it out to churches.

Please be in touch with her to find out more if you think God may be calling you to this ministry. It is rewarding and makes a huge difference in the places where people work.

Advanced Safeguarding Training

This will be taking place at Coventry Central Hall on 25th May, 2024. Registration from 09.45am and beginning at 10am. (It is anticipated that it will finish at around 1.30pm.) Bookings need to be made through Stephanie Bradley Assistant District Safeguarding Officer at [<StephanieBradley@birminghammethodist.org.uk>](mailto:StephanieBradley@birminghammethodist.org.uk)

If anyone needs to attend the Advanced training on a different date, the following Advanced courses have been arranged in other Circuits which you may be able to attend instead. Applications to attend any of these should be made to Stephanie, [<StephanieBradley@birminghammethodist.org.uk>](mailto:StephanieBradley@birminghammethodist.org.uk)

11th May - Sutton Park - Erdington

21st May - Droitwich

1st June - Solihull

8th June - Wednesbury Black Country

19th June - Birmingham West & Oldbury

22nd June - Telford

13th July - Bromsgrove & Redditch

5th October - Vale of Stour

Information received from The District Office

- **The Heart of England Pilgrimage - Worcester-Coventry-Peterborough 10th-25th August 2024**

Greetings from the "RC Diocese of Arundel and Brighton Ecumenical Walking Pilgrimages" group. We organise a two-week walking pilgrimage in a different part of the UK every August and this year our route is from Worcester to Peterborough via Coventry. We are keen to engage with the churches that are around and about our route and indeed to attract participants to come and walk with us for anything from an afternoon to the whole 2 weeks!

All are welcome to join the Heart of England Walking Pilgrimage from Worcester to Peterborough, 10th to 25th August 2024. The route takes in Worcester, Coventry and Peterborough cathedrals, Rutland Water and much splendid countryside. There are rest days in Warwick and Market Harborough. The organisers are the Diocese of Arundel and Brighton ecumenical walking group who have run an annual pilgrimage since 1975 in different parts of England and Wales. Come with us and experience walking as part of our travelling Christian community, whether for a fortnight or just an afternoon! The cost is £350 to walk with us all the way, or £33 per night to book a shorter spell (£31 per night for 7 days or more, 25% discount for under 21s). At this stage we have booked all our accommodation, and our volunteers are out there planning the detailed walking routes. One of your churches is already aware of our pilgrimage, as our accommodation in Coventry will be the Methodist Central Hall!

To find out more and book your place, visit www.thepilgrims.org.uk/book

- **Christian Leader in the Public or Private Sectors?**

Forward Partnership and St Peter's Saltley Trust would love to hear from Christians leadership roles (emerging, middle or senior) in the public, private or voluntary sectors (but NOT local church leaders), who see their role as contributing to the renewal and transformation of society. We want to understand more about how your sense of calling relates to your work role, and how the local church might better support you in your vocation. You can do this by...

Taking part in a short (3 minute) online survey [here: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSf3texnY-KI8nmULaBdu_jH2ontvMKxl_ZXr5iUE-mnxGk1g/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSf3texnY-KI8nmULaBdu_jH2ontvMKxl_ZXr5iUE-mnxGk1g/viewform) and/or

Joining a one-off, 90 minute focus group with other Christians in leadership, at a mutually convenient time, to share your perspectives. To sign up, please contact Ian Jones (director@saltleytrust.org.uk).

For more information about the project, click [here](#).

- **Sunday 12 May 2024 is Further Education Sunday!** It's a great opportunity for you to pray for your local Further Education or Sixth Form College and consider how your church or church project could partner with your local college to bless and support young people and the staff who work with them.

You can find videos, prayer and Bible resources for FE Sunday on the website www.fe-sunday.uk, where you can also get in touch to find out more about partnering with a local college. Share your prayers and actions on social media using the hashtag #FESunday24.

Lynne Hayes-James, Administrator and Clerk to Trustees, St. Peter's Saltley Trust, Gray's Court, 3 Nursery Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham, B15 3JX

- **District Ordinand's Testimony Service**



- **Earlswood Methodist Church**

Corner of Wood Lane and Rumbush Lane, Solihull, B94 5JR

Grand Fete, Saturday 6th July 2.00pm - 4.30pm. Free car parking, Admission £1

Music, Vintage engines, homemade cakes & refreshments, games & stalls for all, Mad Dom the clown

Supporting Wythall Friendship Café & church funds

Information forwarded to the office from one of our Supernumerary Ministers, Rev Clive Fowle

Summer Training Courses - Introduction to Workplace Chaplaincy Training Course

Do you have a few hours to spare each week? Are you looking for a way to volunteer in the community? Are you, or your church, looking for a way to share the love of Jesus beyond its walls?

CIGB Workplace Chaplaincy is an ecumenical charity which trains, places and supports voluntary workplace chaplains throughout Birmingham and Solihull, often in partnership with local church outreach programmes. Workplace chaplains, visit and befriend people of all faiths and none in their places of work offering support and a confidential 'listening ear'. Whilst chaplains will respond positively to enquiries about their personal faith, they do not pro-actively proselytise, or set-out to convert people. They do, however, seek opportunities to come alongside people in their work, as Jesus did. Chaplains follow in a long tradition of faithful love with people outside the usual boundaries of the church community. They also enrich church life by feeding their experiences of God's ongoing gospel back into

their congregations. We don't expect all our chaplains to be ordained ministers or priests – simply to be adult Christians, of any age, and of good standing in their churches.

Currently we have vacancies for chaplains in Birmingham and Solihull in places such as shopping centres, fire stations, retirement villages, FE colleges, bus garages, and Birmingham Airport. Also, maybe your church is looking to have a more visible presence in its local shops, FE colleges, entertainment or hospitality venues, factories, businesses, or care homes. If so, we would love to begin working with local churches to make this a reality, by training their volunteers in chaplaincy.

CIGB Workplace Chaplaincy runs **Introduction to Workplace Chaplaincy** training courses for those seeking to discern and learn more about the role. The next seven-week course begins on Monday 3rd June 2024 in Birmingham City Centre, 5pm – 7pm. Places are limited and applications need to be received by **Tuesday 21st May 2024**.

For more information about the course please contact teamadmin@cigb.org.uk or download the course description from our website www.cigb.org.uk or Facebook page.

Touch of Hope

Please find attached the April newsletter from Touch of Hope. Clive Fowle is available to speak at your church or organisation – please contact via clivefowle1@gmail.com or 07817 057963.

Pathways to Peace

Do you want to know more about Gaza, Palestine and Israel? Are you disheartened by the endless scenes of death and destruction? Now is your chance to talk directly to people making a real difference in Gaza and the UK.

Pathways to Peace is a new series of events from Justice for Palestinians (Leamington Spa). We have attracted outstanding speakers on Gaza, Palestine, the Middle East and Israel who will share their analysis of the issues and their vision for a sustainable peace in Palestine /Israel.

In this inaugural session you will hear from two eminent speakers from the worlds of medicine and the law - united by a passion for dignity and justice for the Palestinian people:

Michael Mansfield KC is our Moderator. He's a well-known, long standing Human Rights lawyer with a great reputation. It's as a supporter of peace and justice in Palestine for as long as we can remember that he is most welcome to Pathways to Peace.

Professor Nick Maynard is a surgeon and medical tutor in Oxford and Gaza. Through Medical Aid for Palestinians (MAP), he was in Gaza over Christmas 2023 before he was evicted by the IDF, but has since returned. He says Gaza is, "...much worse than we could possibly have imagined. I couldn't compare it to anything, it was just like nothing I've seen on earth,"

Tayab Ali is an internationally renowned lawyer, and Director of the International Centre of Justice for Palestinians (ICJP). Tayab, and the ICJP have, among many other initiatives, lodged a criminal complaint alleging UK Government Ministers' complicity in war crimes at Scotland Yard. The ICJP has also launched a legal challenge against the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office decision to defund UNRWA, and is active in campaigns to stop arms sales to Israel.

They will speak about their experience, how they see the situation unfolding, and what is necessary to bring about an equitable and lasting peace in Israel/Palestine and the Middle East. You will have plenty of opportunities to interact with our speakers, to ask questions and to share your take on the situation.

We hope you will attend live, but the event will also be live-streamed on

Zoom. Register here: <https://www.tickettailor.com/events/justiceforpalestiniansleamingtonspa/1241670>

Mr. Gian Clare
Chairman, Warwick District,
United Nations Association



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>