

Building at Gawcott

The decision is made, plans are drawn and three local builders have been contacted for tenders. More news in the next *Bulletin*.

A generous offer

John Bennett has offered help to any church in the circuit wishing to design its own website (similar to the one John has designed for Towcester).

The Towcester Church website can be found at www.towcester-methodist.org.uk John can be contacted on 01327 351689 or at john@john-pennybennet.myzen.co.uk

A new Superintendent



a young Paul

Rev Paul Howes has agreed (subject of course, as always, to the wishes of Conference) to come to Bicester and be our new Superintendent Minister from September 2008.

Paul has been a Methodist Minister for 28 years and is currently serving in the Clacton Circuit in Essex. He is married to Melanie.

Note: If all goes well, the new minister for the Brackley section will be known by early December.

CIRCUIT DIARY

Dec	5 Wed	7.30pm	Local Preachers meet at Bicester
Feb	27 Wed	7.30pm	Circuit Finance Committee meets at Towcester
Mar	6 Thu	7.30pm	Circuit Local Preachers meet at Buckingham
	8 Sat	10.00am	Circuit Quiet Day at Bicester
		6.30pm	Missions Supper <i>Prison Chaplaincy</i> with Keith Salter at Brackley
	12 Wed	7.30pm	Circuit Meeting meets at Brackley
	15 Sat	10.00am	Circuit Stewards Resourcing Day
Apr	19 Sat	10.00am	District Synod meets at Wendover
	27 Sun	6.00pm	Network Easter Offering Service at Brackley (tea at 4.30pm)

To get your church's information into the next "Bulletin" write, by Saturday 15 March 2008, to Malcolm Wainwright at 35 Cartwright Crescent, Brackley, NN13 6HA or to malcolm-w@talktalk.net

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The Methodist Church

Buckingham, Bicester & Brackley Circuit

www.bbbcircuit.org.uk

BULLETIN

A greeting from Steve...

Hello! As the new minister at Well Street I want to write and thank everyone from the Methodist side of things who has ensured that I've had a good welcome and begun to settle in.

I have been an ordained URC minister for 29 years and served in pastorates in North Manchester, Frampton Cotterell (Bristol) and most recently in Tonbridge and Five Oak Green and Tudeley (Kent). In Bristol I was 'Recognised and Regarded' as a Methodist in a church which had been united as a URC/Methodist for some twenty years, and in Kent I was part of an LEP with the Church of England at Five Oak Green and Tudeley. So, as you can see, I enjoy working in partnership across denominations.

I am married to Debbie who is a nurse and working in the community in Milton Keynes. I have three 'children' (all adults now): Carolyn is working in Karlsruhe in Germany; Anthony married to Claire and working as

a civil engineer living in Pontefract; and Victoria, a student in London. We are about to become grandparents for the first time as Claire's baby is due just before Christmas.

At this point I'm not sure how much involvement in the Circuit I will manage, but I'm committed not just to Well Street, but also to the mission of the village chapels in the Buckingham section as they seek to serve God in their communities. With Hope 08 just around the corner, there are exciting opportunities for us all to strengthen our links with the local community and share the gospel in word and action.

I value your prayers as I start in ministry here and look to discern what God is doing amongst us all. I hope to meet many of you in the months ahead and hope we can be partners in the Kingdom. I have a soft '2B' pencil as part of a drawing kit. A '3B' circuit I hope is soft hearted, but strong in laying foundations as part of the whole picture of God's work in this area!

With love,

Steve Fisher

Connect at Bicester

After much prayer and planning a new venture in worship has started at Bicester.

It takes the form of a café church and is going to be held on the first Sunday of the month in the church hall, starting at 10.30am with refreshments and gathering. The name CONNECT comes from the idea that we can connect with each other, connect with the Bible, connect with yourself, and connect with God.

The first one was held on the 7 October. About 50 people came, mostly families with children, but there were people of all ages there. The hall was buzzing with activity and we felt that God had really guided us to that place in the life of our church. Each month has a theme and the first one was connecting with each other and with God. There are puzzle sheets for the children and prayer boxes with prompts to help with intercessory prayers. Written prayers are taken to a prayer wall, with the theme somehow displayed. For our second meeting on 4 November we had 80 people. The theme was God's Fire Works. Joy talked about the power of the Holy Spirit, and there was a definite hush at one point, which was quite moving. Prayers were written on 'hands' and taken to the prayer wall to make a bonfire display.

There are families who have moved to the fringe of the church making a return. Mothers who come to the baby

café on a Monday came to CONNECT. For the last one on 4 November there were two quite elderly ladies who went straight to the front and really enjoyed it saying they would be back next month.

We give thanks for this working of the Spirit in our church and community, and we continue to pray for those families who are coming to worship with us. We give thanks for the dedicated team of helpers and the youth music group. Come along to the next one if you can. It's on 2 December and the theme will be Advent. See you there.

A Circuit Calendar

A Circuit calendar is now available.

It is hoped that it will not only keep everyone informed of future events but also enable churches and circuit groups to check that nothing else has been arranged which might conflict with an event they are themselves planning to organise. (Perhaps someone from each church or circuit group might be given the task of consulting the calendar prior to any meeting that might arrange a future event.)

It is easy to access the new calendar: just go to the circuit website (www.bbbcircuit.org.uk) and click on the link. If you wish to add any events to the calendar please contact Malcolm Wainwright (01280 703997; malcolm-w@talktalk.net).

Circuit Away Weekend



There will be another Circuit Weekend in the Spring of 2009 at the Lindors Country House Hotel in the beautiful Wye Valley for March 6, 7 & 8th 2009. It may seem a long way off but the venues are rapidly booked up.

It is a great opportunity for a relaxed weekend with friends from the circuit and a time to meet and have fellowship together. By then we trust there will be new ministers in place and so it would be a good chance to get to know them more closely. There is a lovely swimming pool and games room with a very pleasant garden and the surrounding areas are good for walking.

Since an initial deposit is required by the Hotel from the circuit in order to confirm the booking, I would require a response from anyone wishing to take part as soon as possible. Application forms will be sent out before the end of the year. More detail will then be sent to you regarding the cost which as yet has not been agreed but would be in the region of £120 for full board from Friday evening until after lunch on Sunday.

The circuit organiser is Mike Barlow (01280 702719; mjcvb@tiscali.co.uk).

Circuit Quiet Day

This will be held on Saturday March 8 at Bicester. 10am – 4pm. It will be led by Revd Roger Lee. Lunch will be provided.

More details will be sent to your church stewards in the New Year.

Building at Steeple Claydon

Building work on the Extension began on 1st October, and good progress has been made, due in part to favourable weather conditions.

At the time of writing, the roof timbers are being added, and work has been done on knocking-through to the existing Schoolroom.

It is hoped that all will be complete by Christmas, or soon after. All Grants have been secured, and local fundraising is on-going and still very successful.

Building at Thornborough

Building work has also begun at Thornborough. The existing toilet block has been dismantled and ground works completed.

A delivery of bricks is expected any day and then the walls and roof can be added within the next few weeks.

It is hoped to complete the work in January or February 2008.