

BREAKFAST IN BETHLEHEM

Well....in Buckingham at any rate. In recent years you could walk into Well Street Church on the first Saturday morning in December and encounter our 3 main rooms full of excited children and grateful parents.

Craft activities totally based around Christmas and a breakfast of bacon rolls etc. where parents, grandparents and children can all have fun together: stables made out of shoe boxes, stars made of wire and beads, angels made from cardboard tubes. In a far corner the children can dress up in nativity costume and have their

MINISTERS ON SABBATICAL

During 2012 the Church is giving a three-month Sabbatical to two of our ministers: during February, March and April to Paul Howes (Bicester) and from late May until late August to Steve Fisher (Buckingham). We wish them both a refreshing and profitable time.

During Paul's time of absence Colin Jackson will be acting Superintendent.

photos taken in a nativity scene. Hard work but great fun and numbers have increased over the years.

CIRCUIT DIARY *more at www.bbbcircuit.org.uk*

Dec	3 Sat	10.00am	Breakfast at Bethlehem	Christmas Fayre at Well Street
	7 Wed	7.30pm	Local Preachers meet at Thornborough	
	9 Fri - 10 Sat		Christmas Tree Festival at Towcester (9am-4pm)	
	16 Fri	10.00am	Coffee and Carols at Brackley	
Feb	5 Sun	6.00pm	Circuit Celebration at Brackley (Education Sunday)	
Mar	1 Thu	7.30pm	Circuit Finance Committee meets at Greens Norton	
	8 Thu	7.30pm	Circuit Local Preachers meet at Silverstone	
	29 Thu	7.30pm	Circuit Meeting at Steeple Claydon	

To get your church's information into the next "Bulletin" write, by Monday 5 March 2012, 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

B U L L E T I N

ARE YOU 1 OF THE 211?

If we believe that every person has a value and dignity which comes from their creation in God's own image and if we want to demonstrate that everybody reaches their potential by God's re-creation of us in Christ, then we have a duty to protect all from harm. The Creating Safer Space training module seeks to equip all those who work with children and vulnerable adults to be aware of all that we need to do to ensure that our premises and our practices are safe for all who are to attend. To learn how we should respond if abuses they may experience in other places are reported to us when they trust our care. To ensure that they are protected, but also to ensure that we are protected from any claims, including fictional ones, suggesting that we have in any way been negligent or inappropriate.

The Methodist Church has prepared a Creating Safer Space Foundation module with the

request that this will be undertaken by all church employees, pastoral visitors, church stewards, local preachers as well as all those working with young people and vulnerable adults. By my calculation this means that 211 people in our circuit are invited to attend a session lasting about 2 hours. It is suggested that a session should be for no more than 30 people, so we will need a number of sessions in different locations across the circuit.

We also need people to lead the sessions. The following have volunteered to be trained to share with me in this task. Michael Brookes, Nick Francis, Rev Colin Jackson, Joy Lewis, Trevor Mutton, Malcolm Wainwright, and Leisa Wood. Please pray for them as they prepare for this task. If you think you may be amongst the 211, look out for the training dates that will be advertised in the new year.

Please do your best to attend, you will get a super certificate but of more importance, you will be aware of all we must do to stay safe.

Paul Howes

The second of nine articles about the churches of our Circuit.

GREENS NORTON

The Chapel

Greens Norton village is quite close to Towcester and has roughly 600 houses and a population of 1500. Building work is due to take place in the near future and will result in about 60 more houses.



There have been three Methodist Chapels in Greens Norton: the first was built in 1802 at the top of Chapel Yard, now the garden of 6 High Street and the second was built in 1837 and is now used as part of the Post Office premises. This became too small for the congregation and in 1866 the current

Chapel in Bradden Road was built. However, some members of the congregation continued to worship in the second Chapel until its closure – how brilliant to have so many people in the village who wanted to worship as Methodists!

By the early 1990's the building was in such a dreadful condition that the decision had to be made whether we closed altogether or re-modernised the whole place – and we decided to re-modernise. With the leadership of Rev John Newbury and his wife Bridget and the help of so many people from the village, the Chapel became what you see today and our service of re-dedication was held in June 1993.

People

At present we have only eight members but we do have the faithful few who join us each Sunday and we always have more at the special services.

Services

We decided that we would like to change the format of our services and, as we no longer have a Sunday School, we have made the first

service of the month an Open Doors one. This is quite informal and we sit around tables and have coffee – sometimes with an appointed preacher and sometimes organising the service ourselves. Also, on the third Sunday we take the service to Norton Court, the elderly persons complex not far from Chapel. We have special services at Easter, Harvest, Anniversary and Christmas, most of them accompanied by food – for which we are quite well-known! The Christmas service this year will also include a Christingle.



Ecumenical

In the last few years we have had several meetings with the people from the local Anglican Church, St Bartholomew's, and these have resulted in united services, either at Chapel or at the Church. One of these is the Women's World Day of Prayer service, at which we have a really good attendance and is always very much enjoyed. The committee is made up of members from the Chapel, St Bart's and Litchborough church.

On the first Tuesday afternoon of each month we take it in turns with

St Barts to lead a service at Norton Court and this is usually followed by a cup of tea and a chat with the residents.

This year we are also going to have a joint carol sing around the village so hopefully we will be blessed with a fine night!

