



November Newsletter

Bury St Edmunds Methodist Circuit



‘Writing the Journey’

In 2019, As part of my Sabbatical, I took an online course with Wesley House, Cambridge titled ‘Writing the Journey’. Jaz, Yvette, Jack the Labrador and I lived – and I studied - at Wesley House from 2006 – 2010 (included in this, as Student President, I participated in the Trustees’ meetings to begin short, mid, and long-term planning – vision, strategy, dreams, refurbishment, sustainability, legacy).

The founder of Wesley House, Michael Gutteridge (1842-1935), promised the Wesleyan Conference that he would endow a college in Cambridge – his conviction being that the Wesleyan Church needed an educated ministry to match rising standards of education. He wanted Methodism to keep pace with developments in philosophy and science and ensure the kind of theological thinking that would be able to engage with increasingly complex social and ethical questions and help to shape society for the better. His vision was that Cambridge was the place for this – a secular university where cutting edge scientific and philosophical developments were taking place and students would understand the world in which they were to minister and develop effective ways of speaking the gospel to that developing culture.

We needed then, and need now, to keep pace so that in our Methodist context of seeking social holiness, we can respond to social and faith issues and do this as a Local Church, Circuit, District and Connexion. In his own vision and words from the original Trust Deed, ‘to make possible... enable... to maintain in the Church Universal those doctrines of experiential religion and especially spiritual holiness upon which John Wesley laid emphasis’ (Wesley House Trust Deed, 1919).’

I will always remain thankful that I lived, worked, and trained at Wesley House. The Wesley House trustees, working with the vision of the founder, have, since

2012, redeveloped the site and it remains open: 'A Methodist Theological House within Cambridge'. Its extension to being a centre for 'Global Wesleyan Theology' is to be celebrated. This includes a residential community of prayer and formation; delivering training across the Connexion – Synod, Circuit, Local Church. It now links with partners in Africa and America. Its international community studies contemporary belief, ethics and spirituality. It holds short courses for Local Preachers and Worship Leaders and, as I have done, online courses. These are available to all of us.

On a bench to the entrance of the refurbished College, John Wesley's words stand out: 'I look unto the whole World as my Parish'. If this holds true, how does this impact on our day-to-day encounters and relationships with all people – no matter their religion, politics, sexuality, nationality, denomination? In these, tumultuous times, let us hold together in love. Let us continue our *practise* of good conferring. Let us claim & own the love of Christ that holds us together. Paraphrasing John Wesley, 'We may not all think alike, but we can all love alike.'

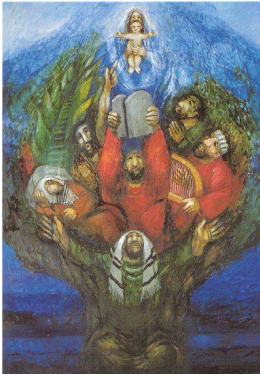
'Michael Gutteridge was not opposed to cultural change nor to science and technology but he knew that a church that fails to engage with new ideas and ways of thinking will not be able to hold its young people in a credible faith nor have the credibility to sit at the tables where public social and ethical decisions are made, nor offer a Christian witness that is intelligible to contemporary minds and lives.' (Methodist Recorder Jan 2019)

This must include our own ongoing and daily education and reflection. May we, the people named Methodist, enable one another to speak in love, always growing in grace, re-emerging and generating in the knowledge and love of the God who made us all.

This is the season of All Saints', of All Souls', of Remembrance – let us cherish the legacy we have been handed, receive the wisdom, dream, and plan, and be excited, and in so doing, hand on legacy to future generations.

In love and with love - for we are all on a journey.

Rev J C Vinyard



Advent Zoom Services

Circuit Zoom Services will move to **6pm** from **December**. Rev Jason will lead a series of Contemplative Advent Services in the lead up to Christmas. Zoom links will follow. **The Promise – A Journey of Faith,**

Reflections based on the images of Sieger Köder, Celtic prayers from the Northumberland Community and meditative music.



News from St John's Sudbury: On **Saturday 27 November** we are having an '**Advent Activities Day**' from 10:00a.m. - 3:00p.m. at St John's. There will be stalls, refreshments, activities and games. Our friends from the Circuit are very welcome to join us at this event.



News from Old Newton: Old Newton Methodist church have re-started their monthly coffee mornings and the one held in September attracted folk from across the circuit as well as the local village. It was good to see so many people

back in our chapel for a social occasion after so long. Everyone who came enjoyed the fellowship, coffee and chocolate biscuits. The next **coffee mornings** are **Tuesday 16th November** and **Tuesday 21 December 10:45am**. Everyone is welcome to attend.

**WE ARE
MACMILLAN.
CANCER SUPPORT**



News from Stowmarket: Stowmarket Methodist Church held a very successful Macmillan Coffee Morning on Friday 24th September on the forecourt of the church. we welcomed lots of visitors who enjoyed the home made cakes. We can report that we raised a wonderful £331 was

raised for the Macmillan charity. We would like to say a huge thank you to all who came and supported coffee morning.



News from Trinity, Bury St Edmunds:

At Trinity we had a lovely Harvest Festival Service and a very grateful thank you letter from Gatehouse Foodbank. They do such worthwhile work in the local area.

As many of you know we raised enough money to start the roof repairs. These have begun but are subject to weather conditions as to how long they will take.

Enough money was raised through grants to proceed with the Lift renewal but there might be a delay in starting work due to a slight electrical problem and delivery of supplies. We live in hope.

Meanwhile we thank God that we are still able to meet to Worship in the Hall downstairs.



Circuit Zoom Services

Sunday Zoom Services will be continuing throughout November at 1030am. Please see zoom links and passcodes below.

7.11.21 10.30am Francis Carr

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85852814435?pwd=MFINMG1oMGhNWTViUmMzZkNScCtQQT09>

Meeting ID: 858 5281 4435 Passcode: 004216

Dial by your location 0208 080 6591 0208 080 6592

14.11.21 No zoom service. Televised Service of Remembrance from the Cenotaph London

21.11.21 10.30am Francis Carr

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85852814435?pwd=MFINMG1oMGhNWTViUmMzZkNScCtQQT09>

Meeting ID: 858 5281 4435 Passcode: 004216

Dial by your location 0208 080 6591 or 0208 080 6592

28.11.21 10.30am Rev Val Spencer

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8411347306?pwd=bkxNZEp4SmhITG9sZDdHWjFJUjVBZz09>

Meeting ID: 841 134 7306 Passcode: 240250

Dial by your location 0208 080 6591 or 0208 080 6592



News from Local Preachers and Worship Leaders:

We wish Nigel Scarff well as he prepares for his final Trial Service and Circuit Interview. Nigel has submitted his second (final) portfolio for assessment and is awaiting results. We are hoping that he can be accredited soon into the new year. Also waiting in the wings is Francis Carr who completed his studies during lockdown and kindly decided

to wait for accreditation with Nigel.

At the other end of the Methodist preaching career are Ian Day who has completed 40 years as a Local Preacher this year, and Dr Barbara Chipperfield who has done 30 years.

They will each be presented with their long service certificates at **Morning Worship in Stowmarket on 21st November**, which is being marked as Local Preachers Sunday throughout the circuit.

Please continue to pray for all of our staff, worship leaders, local preachers, supernumeraries and retired preachers as they work together and encourage each other to lead fruitful and meaningful worship.



Your church caring for God's Earth

News from Stella Davis



I'm finding the fields absolutely beautiful at the moment. They are quiet and still, resting, recovering. Some are fallow, having a complete rest, and some have just been sown with next year's crops. The seeds are lying still, waiting for

time, rain then light and warmth of spring to do their work of sparking growth into life. Thank God, that the earth knows what to do, how to heal itself when we stop our assault upon it and give it recovery space.

As you read this, COP26 will be taking place. All the parties to the previous climate agreements made in Paris and Kyoto will be gathering to measure their progress and plan the next steps. This link explains things clearly and why it is so vitally important that words now become actions. [What is a COP? - UN Climate Change Conference \(COP26\) at the SEC – Glasgow 2021 \(ukcop26.org\)](https://www.ukcop26.org)

You may feel overwhelmed by all that is happening (or more importantly, not happening) but please be reassured that millions of people around the world are making their voices heard increasingly loudly. Wherever you can please add your voice, as I am sure many of you have already. Writing to your MP (James Cartlidge or Jo Churchill) feels futile sometimes, but the more pressure they have put on them by their electorate, the more inclined they should be to take notice. Send your letter to [House Of Commons, London SW1A 0AA](https://www.parliament.uk). Every voice counts, and please do PRAY for the Conference and delegates too. Methodist Youth are active too – read more here [COP26: Climate Justice for All \(methodist.org.uk\)](https://www.methodist.org.uk)

GREEN THOUGHTS

The organised among you will be preparing for Christmas. How can you adopt the 5 R's in your Christmas planning this year, so that you enjoy festivities that are GOOD for the environment?

REDUCE RE-USE REFUSE RECYCLE REPAIR

Can you avoid plastic in your giving?

Is it possible to have a noticeboard or one big card in church rather than send everyone an individual card?

Can you get creative with the wrapping up, avoid packaging that cannot be recycled? [Top 10 Eco-Friendly Gift Wrap Ideas & Tips - Ecobnb](https://www.ecobnb.com)

ECO CIRCUIT PROGRESS REPORT



We've now received our Certificate of Registration as an Eco Circuit, and we are working towards our Bronze award. At this level we need two churches to have achieved a Bronze award. St John's Sudbury already have a gold award – very well done them. Stowmarket is now working towards their Bronze award.

As we move up to Silver we will need one more church to join up to work towards their eco-church award.



Commission an Individual or group to lead progress:

Stella Davis Stowmarket artwisestella@gmail.com 01449 675092



Manage Circuit investments ethically with due consideration to the environmental implications / opportunities of such investments, taking into account the climate change investment policy of the [Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church](#) and the resources available within the [Ethical Money Churches project](#).



WORK IN PROGRESS

- Agree an Environmental Policy (eg Travel, environmental performance of manses, commitment to reducing carbon emissions) Stella will work with staff team to adapt the district policy to our Circuit.
- Circuit Office needs to achieve a bronze standard by operating based on reduce, reuse, recycle principles.
- Embed environmental issues in presbyter and local preacher education and support. To be addressed through staff and Local Preachers and Worship leaders' meetings.
- Work with other denominations or faith groups promoting Eco Church as a helpful tool. Stella to identify and work with Churches together representatives, and shared worship arrangements.
- Add Eco Church to our website, and make use of other websites e.g. www.methodistic.org
[Environment \(eangliamethodist.org.uk\)](http://Environment(eangliamethodist.org.uk))
- Establish the habit of recording and celebrating individual environmental initiatives. **Action: Please could each church appoint someone to collect and share examples of activities and pass ideas on to Stella. They can be included in this newsletter as encouragement and inspiration.**



December Carols & More

9th December 6pm Carols, Stowmarket

12th December 3pm Carols, Ixworth

12th December 6pm HC, Crib & Carols, Glemsford

16th December 6pm Carols, Stowmarket

19th December 4pm Carols, Trinity, Bury St Edmunds

19th December 4pm Carols, Christchurch, Needham Market

24th December 3pm Christingle, St Johns Sudbury

24th December 9pm Midnight in Bethlehem Communion, St Johns

26th December 10:30am Christchurch, Needham Market

Anyone wishing to submit articles for the December Newsletter please send through to Caroline at the circuit office circuit.admin@hotmail.co.uk by Wednesday 17th November please, we look forward to hearing your news.