



**5 sides with 24 items**

**Prayers**

We ask you to remember in your prayers this week the worship, work and witness of the congregation at **Drybrook**.

**Circuit Dates, Event & Place: In Brief** (further details on each below)

When	Event	Where
Saturday 9 Sept 7pm	Old Time Music Hall Spectacular	Aylburton Methodist Church
Saturday 9 Sept 7.30pm	A Musical Evening	Hucclecote Methodist Church
Thursday 14 Sept 6.30 – 9.30pm	‘Creating Safer Space’ refresher course	Churchdown Methodist Church
Saturday 16 Sept 12.30-2.00pm	Brimscombe intentional community follow-up meeting	Brimscombe Methodist Church
Friday 29 Sept 10:30	Macmillan coffee morning	Clements End
Friday 29 Sept 7pm Friday 6 Oct 7pm	Gloucestershire Hospitals Baby Remembrance Service	Gloucestershire Royal Hospital & St Luke’s Church, Cheltenham
Saturday 7 Oct 5pm	Concert by The Blackheath Piano Quartet	Dursley Methodist Church
Tuesday 10 Oct 10.30 - 12 noon	Spectrum	Christchurch, Abbeydale
Wednesday 18 Oct 7.30pm	Tax Justice - A Path to a Fairer World	Hucclecote Methodist Church

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**The Superintendent’s Lunch Club**

**12.30 on a Thursday. All welcome to sit alongside, eat and chat**

*Future dates for the Superintendents Lunch Club will be notified shortly*

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**News....**

**Circuit Directory – 2017/18 edition**

Work on the next edition of the Circuit Directory, covering the 2017/18 Connexional Year will commence shortly. This is an appeal to everyone to please check your individual and church entries and notify any changes to the Circuit Office by no later than Wednesday 20 September. It is our intention to produce a new Circuit Directory at the end of September. If you would like to receive an electronic or hard copy of the Directory, please contact the Circuit Office and we will add you to our distribution list.

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## **'Thank you' from Revds Chris Cory and Heather Upton**

Following their recent retirements, Revds Chris Cory and Heather Upton have sent the following messages to the Circuit:

Please convey to the Circuit our thanks and appreciation for the rose bush and all the good wishes and prayers we have received on our retirement.

With love, Revd Chris and Babs Cory

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Dear Members and Friends of the Gloucestershire Methodist Circuit

I am writing to thank you all so much for your fellowship and friendship during the last 7 years. It has been a privilege and pleasure to meet so many dedicated, caring, and supportive folks. Thank you for welcoming me into your churches and homes and for the opportunity to lead worship in so many different settings.

Thank you too for the lovely rose presented at the farewell service at Newent. It was lovely to see so many people there and I hope to continue to see you in the future. Thank you too for everyone who has helped out leading worship for me during the last months while I've been off work.

May God bless you and guide you individually and as churches as we seek to find God's calling for us as we seek to serve the present age.

With all good wishes and many thanks

Revd Heather Upton

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## **Ekklesia**

In this edition of the Public Issues and Social Responsibility Bulletin we want to draw your attention to the work of Ekklesia.

Ekklesia is a Christian think tank which focuses upon social, political and economic justice from a faith (and occasionally non-faith) perspective. The organisation has taken a particular interest in studying the impact of welfare reforms and reflecting upon the ethics of those reforms from a faith perspective. For example, this week, Ekklesia has produced a briefing on the impact of "holiday hunger" upon children from poor families during the summer holidays. It refers to the letter written by church leaders and campaigners and recently published in the Daily Telegraph which argues that the Government should safeguard children's nutrition for the full 52 weeks a year, rather than only the 39 weeks in which they are at school ([www.ekkleisia.co.uk/node/24295](http://www.ekkleisia.co.uk/node/24295)).

Ekklesia is a useful resource for anyone wanting to learn more about the background to a whole range of public issues and social justice concerns - and can help to provide solid research and background data for any individual or church that is seeking to campaign on a social justice issue. Sadly, their material is only really accessible via the internet - at [www.ekkleisia.co.uk](http://www.ekkleisia.co.uk).

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## **Postcards for Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF)**

In the last 7 years we have sent 55,000 new and used postcards from this Circuit so well done and many thanks on behalf of MAF. Some time ago just one postcard raised £150. As I am still in the Circuit I am happy to continue collecting. Every church has a special box but if you require a new notice then please let me know. Looking forward to receiving more postcards.

Revd Heather Upton

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## **A Discipling Presence**

Are you part of a rural church? Do you want to focus on mission and making disciples? If so, *A Discipling Presence* is for you and contains stories to inspire, exercises and Bible passages to help you reflect and practical suggestions to get you started or move you forward. This book supports those living and serving God in the countryside. The book is priced at £3.49 (plus p+p) and is available from Methodist Publishing on 0845 017 8220 or on the website at [www.mph.org.uk](http://www.mph.org.uk).

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## **Encounter Worldwide**

Encounter Worldwide offers Christians in Britain and Ireland aged 18 and over the opportunity to spend three to twelve months sharing the Methodist Church's mission, life and culture in another part of the world. Self-funded volunteers are church based and serve in the local church community, sharing their faith with others. The experience is grounded in building relationships and friendships and allows you to take the time to 'encounter'. Volunteers are sought who are committed to faith; willing to learn and share as equals; open to others' perspectives, ideas and culture; resourceful and able to cope with new and unfamiliar situations with limited support, and committed on their return to continuing to enrich mission by sharing their experience with others. If you would like to find out more, contact Rachel Gooden at World Church Relationships Office on 020 7467 5166, by email at [encounterworldwide@methodistchurch.org.uk](mailto:encounterworldwide@methodistchurch.org.uk) or on the website at [www.methodist.org.uk/encounterworldwide](http://www.methodist.org.uk/encounterworldwide).

## **Dates for the Diary....**

### **Old Time Music Hall Spectacular**

**Saturday 9 September, 7pm**

**Aylburton Methodist Church**

Come along and enjoy singing, comedy and a sing-a-long. Entry is free with a suggested donation of £5.

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### **A Musical Evening**

**Saturday 9 September, 7.30pm**

**Hucclecote Methodist Church**

Including the Last Night of the Proms, performed by The Glebe Symphonic Winds. Tickets are £10 (£5 under 18's) with all proceeds going to the 5<sup>th</sup> Gloucester Boys' Brigade Minibus fund. For further information and tickets call 01452 411464 or 01452 615072.

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### **'Creating Safer Space' refresher course**

**Thursday 14 September, 6.30 – 9.30pm**

**Churchdown Methodist Church**

The Methodist Church has developed refresher safeguarding training for those undertaking various roles and responsibilities in the Methodist Church and who have previously completed the Foundation Module. Government guidelines stipulate that volunteers should have safeguarding training every 3/4 years. This Refresher Course is for those church volunteers who attended the Foundation Course in 2011/2012 (Ministers and Church Safeguarding Co-ordinators have lists for each Church). To book a place, contact Peter Gardner at [peter@familygardner.plus.com](mailto:peter@familygardner.plus.com)

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### **Brimscombe intentional community follow-up meeting**

**Saturday 16 September, 12.30-2.00pm**

**Brimscombe Methodist Church**

There will be another meeting to explore the development of an intentional community at Brimscombe Methodist Church. This meeting will start to think and pray about the formation of a community itself - its core purpose, the development of a community rule, and who might be interested in getting involved. The meeting will take the form of an informal discussion and prayer time around a simple meal. All are welcome to attend. For more information, contact Simon Topping.

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### **Macmillan coffee morning**

**Friday 29 September, 10:30 am**

**Clements End**

Come and join in the big coffee morning and support Macmillan and the work they do.

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## **Gloucestershire Hospitals Baby Remembrance Service**

**Friday 29 September, 7pm & Friday 6 October, 7pm**

**Gloucestershire Royal Hospital & St Luke's Church, Cheltenham**

Gloucestershire Hospitals are holding their annual Baby Remembrance Service for those who have been affected by baby-loss, and for whom this service can be part of a process of finding hope, meaning and healing. The service is simple, music, bible passages and other readings along with the opportunity to light a memorial candle. Everyone is welcome to attend, regardless of religious commitment.

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## **Concert by The Blackheath Piano Quartet**

**Saturday 7 October, 5pm**

**Dursley Methodist Church**

Dursley Methodist Church are looking forward to a return visit by The Blackheath Piano Quartet from London. The pianist is one of the team of deputy organists at Dursley Methodist Church, hence we are able to host this event. The musicians all live in the Greenwich area and met through being members of The Blackheath Symphony Orchestra. They will be performing: Piano Quartet in E flat major, opus 16, Beethoven. Piano Quartet in E flat major, opus 87, Dvorak.

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## **Spectrum**

**Tuesday 10 October, 10.30 - 12 noon (coffee from 10am)**

**Christchurch, Abbeydale**

The Circuit group SPECTRUM begins a new monthly study and the theme of the six studies is 'The God We Worship'. This has been prepared by the Revd Dr Neil Richardson and Revd Dr Barbara Glasson based on the talks they gave at the SPECTRUM Conference held earlier this year. If you would like to be part of a challenging and stimulating group on six occasions between October and March, meeting on the second Tuesday, please come along or contact Vernon Godden (01452 535256) who will be pleased to give you further details.

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## **Tax Justice - A Path to a Fairer World**

**Wednesday 18 October, 7.30pm**

**Hucclecote Methodist Church**

This event will explore the links between the global tax system and the extremes of inequality across the world - and what we can do to make the system fairer. The two speakers are Revd David Haslam from the Methodist Tax Justice Network and Revd Noel Sharp from Christian Aid. Admission is free. The event has been organised by The Methodist Circuit of Gloucestershire Public Issues and Social Responsibility Team.

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## **Golf Day**

**Thursday 19 October, 9.30am – 4.30pm**

**Rodway Hill Golf Club, Highnam, GL2 8DR**

Calling golfing lay folk – you are invited to participate in a Golf Day of Friendship, Fun and Competition. Cost is £20 to include a simple lunch and all-day tea/coffee. RSVP Rev Denise Hargreaves on 01594 825662 or email dkah26@icloud.com by 1 October.

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## **Events happening outside the circuit and in other churches....**

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### **'Open Bethlehem'**

**Saturday 16 September, 7.30pm**

**Rodborough Tabernacle Community Hall**

A documentary feature by Leila Sansour; 'Open Bethlehem' is a big film about a small town. Tickets are £8 which includes a light supper.

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**Exhibition of Palestinian History Tapestry Project**

**Tuesday 19 – Friday 22 September, 10am – 4pm**

**Sunday 24 September, 12noon onwards**

**The Hub Gallery, Christ Church, Malvern Road, Cheltenham, GL50 2JH**

The Palestinian History Tapestry Project is a charity supporting Palestinian women embroiderers to stitch the story of their land and people in panels to be linked to form a tapestry. The exhibition displays images of a selection of the panels and samples of the original embroideries.

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**Israel & Palestine – What Next?**

**Saturday 23 September, 10am – 4.30pm**

**Christ Church, Malvern Road, Cheltenham, GL50 2JH**

Come along to this day conference to mark the centenary of the Balfour Declaration. The conference will highlight the rights of the Palestinians and seeks to increase awareness of their plight. The speakers will be Dr Mustafa Barghouti, founder of the Palestinian Medical Relief Society and Robert Cohen, author of Jews for Justice for Palestinians.

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**Induction Service for MWiB District President**

**Saturday 23 September, 2.30pm**

**Southdown Methodist Centre, Bath, BA2 1NJ**

A service for the induction of Jane Parsons as District President for the Methodist Women in Britain is being held. Everyone is welcome to attend. Refreshments will follow the service.

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**Books for Life**

**Tuesday 10 October**

**Trinity Church, Cheltenham**

An unmissable line up of authors, speakers and activists, including the editor of Preach magazine; Jo Swinnerton. Tickets and more information can be found at [www.booksforlife.uk/live](http://www.booksforlife.uk/live).

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**Festival Weekend**

**Friday 20 – Sunday 22 October**

**The Haynes Conference Centre, Swanwick, Derbyshire**

Artserve, the Methodist creativity ion worship organisation, is again running its annual Festival Weekend. This year's theme is Creative Journeys in Prayer. More information can be found at [www.artserve.org.uk](http://www.artserve.org.uk).

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**Handel's Messiah**

**Saturday 18 November, 1pm and 7pm**

**St Sampsons Church, Cricklade**

Come and sing Handel's Messiah in aid of BBC Children in Need. The conductor will be Brian Kay.

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**End**