

**6 sides with 23 items**

## Prayers

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

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

| When                                     |  | Where   |
|--|--|---|
| Every Monday in Lent<br>12 noon - 1.30pm | Lent Lunch                             | Quedgeley Methodist Church                      |
| Every Friday in Lent<br>from 12noon      | Lent Lunch                             | Winchcombe Methodist Church                     |
| Saturday 6 April<br>10am – 12.30pm       | Storytelling with Revd Phil Summers    | Churchdown Methodist Church                     |
| Friday 12 Apr<br>7.30pm                  | Film for Easter – ‘Mary Magdalene’     | Wesley Room, Stroud St Alban’s Methodist Church |
| Saturday 13 Apr<br>10am to 12 noon       | Coffee Morning and big book give away  | Bishop’s Cleeve Methodist Church                |
| Saturday 13 Apr<br>10am – 1pm            | Creating Safer Space FOUNDATION Course | Cinderford Methodist Church                     |
| Sunday 14 Apr<br>6pm                     | Jerusalem Joy                          | Christchurch Abbeydale                          |
| Wednesday 17 Apr<br>7.30pm               | ‘Jesus My Boy’                         | Tewkesbury Methodist Church                     |
| Wednesday 24th Apr<br>7pm                | Eco-church event                       | Bishop’s Cleeve Methodist Church                |
| Monday 6 May<br>11am - 1.30pm            | Bring and Buy Plant Sale               | Hucclecote Methodist Church                     |
| Saturday 11 May<br>9am – 9pm             | Pinpongathon 2019 for Christian Aid    | Sawyer Hall, Christ Church Nailsworth           |
| Saturday 11 May<br>9.30am – 12.30pm      | Creating Safer Space REFRESHER Course  | Christchurch Abbeydale                          |
| Saturday 11 May<br>10am – 12.30pm        | Storytelling with Revd Phil Summers    | Bethesda Methodist Church, Cheltenham           |
| Saturday 18 May                          | Annual Plant Sale                      | Stroud Methodist Church                         |
| Saturday 18 May<br>10am – 3.30pm         | District MWiB Quiet Day                | Churchdown Methodist Church                     |
| Saturday 18 May<br>10am – 12.30pm        | Storytelling with Revd Phil Summers    | Drybrook Methodist Church                       |
| 10 Jun – 12 Aug<br>7 – 8.30pm (Mondays)  | Holy Habits Study Group                | Stroud St Alban’s Methodist Church              |

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## The Superintendent’s Lunch Club

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

|                         |  |
|-------------------------|--|
| Thursday 4 April        | The Belfry, Broad Street, Littledean, Cinderford, GL14 3JS   |
| Thursday 11 April       | The Moon Under Water, Cheltenham                             |
| <b>Wednesday 5 June</b> | Cirencester Ashcroft Lunch Club, Cirencester Ashcroft Church |
| Thursday 20 June        | The Whitminster Inn, Whitminster                             |

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## News....

### Message from the PISR Team

After an extended gestation period, the Circuit's Public Issues and Social Responsibility Team encouraged the Circuit Assembly to agree to the following resolution:

#### **Resolution**

The Gloucestershire Methodist Circuit, as part of its Vision and Strategy for Mission, is committed to working for an end to homelessness and for decent housing for all in Gloucestershire. To this end, the Circuit commits to enabling the following actions:

1. When undertaking a review of any of our surplus property, consistent with our mission, consideration will be given to converting it to provide emergency accommodation, long term affordable housing and/or used for services that support people at risk of homelessness or who lack decent affordable housing, working with specialist providers where appropriate. In seeking to review church sites for development the Methodist Church should be willing to balance social community value of new homes in place of commercial return in order to facilitate developments that would otherwise favour schemes which deliver the highest possible monies;
2. To campaign at local and national government level and amongst other influential agencies, to ensure that there is sufficient emergency accommodation locally for all that need it, in place within 12 months, so that there are no rough sleepers and that everyone is re-housed within their local community; to ensure that there is sufficient decent, sustainable, affordable housing across the county for all local people in need of housing, within 5 years. This may include campaigning for an end to Right to Buy, against "nimbyism" and for easier planning requirements for new social housing;
3. Churches to be a publicised signpost for anyone at risk of homelessness, for them to be appropriately referred onwards. (This might include an appropriate public notice outside each church, plus a willingness to welcome anyone at risk of homelessness should they enter church premises seeking help);
4. To support churches and church members wanting to engage more deeply with local people facing poverty, insecure housing and homelessness, and/or mental health issues, by compiling information sheets/packs for churches, offering training/discussion forums for church members on these issues, and/or signposting to funding opportunities for relevant church projects;
5. To seek to work with all other churches across the county, and all other agencies keen to address homelessness and the lack of sufficient affordable housing, to achieve any or all of the above.

The resolution has been very carefully worded so that only those churches and individuals that wish to work on this will do so; for those churches and members who need to focus their time and resources elsewhere, nothing is required of them. Item 1, "surplus property", only applies if the Circuit does not have urgent need of the money, which currently it does as the Circuit struggles to balance a difficult budget.

However this gives those churches and members who want to work with Methodist colleagues and others across Gloucestershire the authority to work together to contribute towards challenging the politicians and tackling the awful injustices facing homeless people and those at risk of homelessness in our community. Further information about more specific ideas to take this campaign forwards should be forthcoming after my team next meets. In the meantime if you have any practical suggestions about what we collectively might do please let me know.

Best wishes

**Andy Rickell, Circuit Steward and Public Issues and Social Responsibility Portfolio Holder**

### Quinquennial Inspection of Properties

Having reviewed the submissions from interested surveying companies and with the approval of the Circuit Assembly, a contract has been placed with Arnold Bartosch Ltd to undertake the Quinquennial Inspections. All overdue inspections and those inspections due this year will be completed and a member of the team from Arnold Bartosch Ltd will make contact to arrange a convenient time for this to be done. Your cooperation with this work is greatly appreciated. The Quinquennial Inspection programme will commence in April.

My thanks for your help

**Bernie Brewster, Churches Property Projects Officer**

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### **Vacancy – District Finance Officer**

The Bristol Methodist District are seeking a part time Finance Officer to provide bookkeeping support for the Bristol District Treasurer. The role is for 6 hours per week and will be primarily home-based flexible working but may also require travelling to various locations for meetings and the occasional evening. Further details are available in the attached advert and from Revd David Alderman or by email to [circuitproperty@bsgc.org.uk](mailto:circuitproperty@bsgc.org.uk)

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### **“Storytelling” with the Revd Phil Summers on Saturday 6 April**

Phil Summers has offered to lead four one-off sessions on Storytelling on Saturday mornings in different venues in our Circuit. The first of these was held at St Alban’s, Stroud last Saturday. The next one is at **Churchdown** on **6 April** from 10 until 12.30. Two more opportunities are planned: 11 May at Bethesda, Cheltenham and 18 May at Drybrook. Local Preachers and Worship Leaders are especially encouraged to attend one of these sessions but knowing that the subject is not exclusively of interest to them, I want to emphasise that anyone who wishes to attend will be very welcome to join us. It would help to be aware of how many intend to come so please let Russell Buley know beforehand by email: [russell.buley@btinternet.com](mailto:russell.buley@btinternet.com) or phone 01242 244036.

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

#### **Lent Lunches**

**Every Monday in Lent, 12 noon - 1.30pm**

**Quedgeley Methodist Church**

Come and enjoy a friendly chat, homemade soup, crusty bread and a cup of coffee or tea, all for a donation.

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#### **Lent Lunch**

**Every Friday in Lent, from 12noon**

**Winchcombe Methodist Church**

Come along to our Lent lunch for charity: 22 March – GW Air Ambulance; 29 March – Winchcombe Abbey Primary School; 5 April – Christian Aid; 12 April – Children’s Society. Homemade soup, cheese, bread, pudding and a hot drink, all for £5, will be served.

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#### **Film for Easter – ‘Mary Magdalene’**

**Friday 12 April, 7.30pm**

**Wesley Room, Stroud St Alban’s Methodist Church**

On the Friday before Holy Week we will be showing the film ‘Mary Magdalene’ in the Wesley Room. This is a film which came out in 2018 and explores the story of Jesus’ journey to Jerusalem and the events of Holy Week from the perspective of Mary Magdalene and stars Rooney Mara, Joaquin Phoenix and Chiwetel Ejiofor. We hope it will be a helpful way of preparing ourselves for the Easter experience. Admission free.

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#### **Coffee Morning and big book give away**

**Saturday 13 April, 10am to 12 noon**

**Bishop’s Cleeve Methodist Church**

Help us clear our overstocked book store by enjoying a coffee and going home with a couple of free books

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## **Creating Safer Space FOUNDATION Course**

**Saturday 13 April, 10am – 1pm**

**Cinderford Methodist Church**

If you work with children or young people, or are a pastoral visitor, church steward, Local Preacher / Worship Leader, then the Methodist Church states that you should attend Foundation Safeguarding Training. If you have not yet attended a foundation course, then this is for you.

The Creating Safer Space Foundation Module 2016 Edition training will help you:

- know that safeguarding is everyone's responsibility and integral to being church
- have a better understanding of good safeguarding practice within the Methodist Church
- know when to have concerns about the safety and welfare of a child or adult
- appreciate your responsibility for sharing concerns about a child or adult
- be aware of who in the church to go to with any concerns
- recognise potential blocks within the church to responding well
- be aware of the impact of the Past Cases Review (PCR) findings on good practice.

To book a place, contact Peter Gardner – email [peter@familygardner.plus.com](mailto:peter@familygardner.plus.com)

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## **Jerusalem Joy**

**Sunday 14 April, 6pm**

**Christchurch Abbeydale**

Performed by Jubilate and starring Devon Brown as Jesus; soloist in the original musical by Christian Music Ministries.

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## **'Jesus My Boy'**

**Wednesday 17 April, 7.30pm**

**Tewkesbury Methodist Church**

This one-man, one-act play has previously been performed by Tom Conti in London's West End. The professional performance at Tewkesbury comes to us from the Worcester Repertory Company, based at the city's Swan Theatre. This funny and moving play tells the story of Jesus as seen through the eyes of Joseph, an ordinary and down-to-earth man. The play will delight both those who hold Christian beliefs and those who do not. There will be an opportunity to meet the actor after the performance. Tickets, £8, including refreshments. Due to limited seating payment required in advance. Cheques made out to Tewkesbury Methodist Church, stating number of tickets required to: Michael Jebson (JMB), Tewkesbury Methodist Church, Church Street, Tewkesbury GL20 5PA. Booked tickets will be at the door on the night. Enquiries: tel 01684 593465, email [michaeljebson@outlook.com](mailto:michaeljebson@outlook.com).

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## **'The Way of the Cross'**

**Friday 19 April, 10am**

**Abbey Terrace, Winchcombe & the Methodist Church**

This is an outdoor drama following Jesus from his sentencing by Pilate to the crucifixion. Written and directed by the curate at St Peter's, Rev Rachel Murray, and involving people from all four churches in Winchcombe. It will be followed by refreshments in the Methodist Church. It has previously been performed in Gloucester.

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## **Eco-church event**

**Wednesday 24 April, 7pm**

**Bishop's Cleeve Methodist Church**

We are celebrating the re-release of the film "The Age of Stupid" on the 10th Anniversary of its Leicester Square solar powered Premier with a showing at the Methodist Church. Free entry but donations welcomed.

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## **Bring and Buy Plant Sale**

### **Hucclecote Methodist Church**

**Bank Holiday Monday 6 May, 11am - 1.30pm**

Entrance 50p, but free if you bring a plant to sell. We welcome your contributions of unwanted and preloved garden equipment. For larger items we may be able to collect. As well as garden tools, garden furniture, large flower pots, seeds, canes we will be selling hundreds of plants and shrubs. For more information please contact Sue or Andy Woodward 01452-615143 or email: [glosearch@hotmail.com](mailto:glosearch@hotmail.com).

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## **Pinpongathon 2019 for Christian Aid**

**Saturday 11 May, 9am – 9pm**

### **Sawyer Hall, Christ Church Nailsworth**

Following last year's success we are holding the same event this year. Groups of at least 2 can book a one-hour slot. Entry fee per person is a donation to Christian Aid. There will also be a coffee morning, light lunch and afternoon tea. So come on all you table tennis players and help raise funds for a worthy cause. To book a slot or more information ring Revd Stuart Radford the 'Ping Pong Priest' on 07889 138311 or email [revstuartradford@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:revstuartradford@yahoo.co.uk).

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## **Creating Safer Space REFRESHER Course**

**Saturday 11 May, 9.30am – 12.30pm**

### **Christchurch Abbeydale Methodist Church**

If you attended the Foundation Safeguarding Training Course in 2011 – 2014 and you have not yet attended a Refresher Course, then this course is **for you**. The Methodist Church stipulates that all volunteers should have safeguarding training every four years. *(Ministers and Church Safeguarding Co-ordinators have a record of those volunteers from each church who have attended Foundation training)*

The Creating Safer Space Foundation Module Refresher 2016 Edition training aims to:

- remind you that safeguarding is everyone's responsibility and integral to being church
- refresh your understanding of good safeguarding practice within the Methodist Church
- learn from the Past Cases Review and note the current national context
- identify how to tackle potential obstacles to responding well within the Church
- reflect on your responsibility for sharing concerns about a child or vulnerable adult
- recognise emerging forms of abuse
- consider the needs of survivors.

To book a place, contact Peter Gardner – email [peter@familygardner.plus.com](mailto:peter@familygardner.plus.com)

*Please note there is another circuit training morning planned with Revd Phil Summers at Bethesda on this day. If you will be attending this, there will be an opportunity to attend another safeguarding refresher course in the Cheltenham area at a future date.*

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## **Annual Plant Sale**

**Saturday 18 May**

### **Stroud St Alban's Methodist Church**

This year's plant sale for all the avid gardeners amongst you who wish to make plans for planting etc.

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## **District MWiB Quiet Day**

**Saturday 18 May, 10am – 3.30pm**

### **Churchdown Methodist Church**

Boots, Bible, Bread – experiencing Emmaus. Led by Anne Browse, former MWiB President, the day is 'gender-friendly' and everyone is welcome! There is no charge for the day, but donations would be welcomed. Please email [mj.winterbourne@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:mj.winterbourne@hotmail.co.uk) if you would like to attend.

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## **Holy Habits Study Group**

**Meeting every Monday from 10 June – 12 August, 7 – 8.30pm**

### **Stroud St Alban's Methodist Church**

Holy Habits is an initiative to nurture Christian discipleship. It explores Luke's model of church found in Acts 2:42-47, identifies ten habits and encourages a way of life forms by them. The study course has been developed to help churches explore the habits in a range of contexts and live them out in whole-life, missional discipleship.

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**End**