

Kitbag!

Volume 10, Issue 1

September 2009

Being creative in Tackley



Moments

Bustling butterflies, hovering, flitting, settling; silently, gently, unfolding fragile wings, stretching in the warmth of the sun.

Absorbing heat, drawing nectar.

Taking off, restless once more. A myriad of flashing colours, browns, oranges, reds, yellows among the white.

Whispering wheat, a moving carpet of plump golden ears as far as the eye can see. Crackling, swaying in a warm, gentle breeze.

Fattening, drying, almost ready for harvesting; harbouring insects, shielding tiny creatures, protecting from predators.

God given beauty,
God given moments,
to treasure, to hold within us,
to draw on, to feed on.
God of beauty,
for these precious moments,
thank you.

Jan Grimwood



A few weeks ago an article in the Methodist Recorder alerted us to the need in Sri Lanka. Medical supplies were in very short supply and in the longer term, housing and prosthetic limbs would be required. It was felt that we should try to help in some small way and the idea of Strawberry Cream Teas was suggested. Fortunately, we had one of the few sunny Saturday afternoons, and the event was a great success. We served bowls of strawberries and cream, home made scones with jam (again home-made strawberry) and cream and several varieties of home-made cake. The customers travelling the furthest came from New Zealand to see what it was all about. With some very generous



donations the afternoon raised £414 which was sent through the Methodist Fund for World Mission.

Earlier in the summer, on a very hot Saturday at the end of June, members of the congregation met at Horspath for an away day. We did a lot of thinking and talking, enjoyed a meal together, and walked in Shotover Country Park. A video provided us with much to discuss, and the day concluded with a short celebration of Holy Communion.

Much of our thinking revolved around examining our core calling as Methodists in Tackley and what it might mean to be "church". The result was a renewed passion to provide the appropriate space in which to enable people of all ages and backgrounds to



connect with God and discover something of what God's love means for them.

Various ways forward were looked at but we hope the first fruits of our reflections will be something we are calling "Creative Church", which we hope to launch in January. This will be a monthly Saturday afternoon event aimed at families and will include music, a chance to be creative in many different ways (varying from month to month), a short time of accessible worship, and finish with tea and cake.

If you spend time examining the fresh expressions of church which are appearing all over the country (some of which you will find explored on various DVDs), you will find they have two things in common. People describe them as fun; and they all involve food. We hope and pray that our expression will be both of those things, and in so doing provide a new opportunity for people to meet with God.

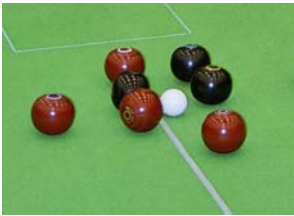
*Vi Banbury
Jonathan Todd*



Holiday@Home

Holiday@Home was held at Kidlington Methodist Church for five days during the first week in August. Organised by Malcolm Bromhall, ably assisted by a dedicated team of helpers, it was a holiday club for older people and was a great success with up to twenty people there each day.

Every day started with tea or coffee, with time to get to know each other, and then followed various activities:



carpet bowls, curling, croquet, tai chi (done sitting down!), crafts, Nintendo Wii games, quizzes, films (including a showing of *Mamma Mia!*), a rousing singalong led by the Oxfordshire Touring Musicians, table games, or simply

time to read the papers. Lunch was served each day and we ended in the afternoon with tea and cake. On the Wednesday we enjoyed a coach trip to Evesham Country Park, a chance to enjoy the grounds, garden centre and steam train, as well as then spending some time in Evesham itself.

Everyone who came, whether to one session or the



whole week, had a thoroughly enjoyable experience and we are all very grateful to Malcolm for making it happen.

Patricia and Frank Williams

Former heroin addict's message of hope



Barry Woodward, a former heroin addict and drug dealer who became a passionate evangelist, is bringing his message of hope to Kidlington. Barry will be joined by singer and author Shell Perris as part of "The Restored Tour", an evening of entertainment hosted by Kidlington Methodist Church on Sunday, September 27th at 7.30pm.

The event is part of a 26-night tour which sees Barry and Shell visiting venues

throughout the UK and Ireland.

Barry says: "I used to think I had wasted my life, but

when God got hold of it, he turned the mess into a message."

Shell has also recently written a book entitled "Made to be Me" which details her battle with the eating disorder anorexia. A former member of the all-girl band TBC, Shell is determined to use her music and writing to bring hope to others.

Tickets and further information are available from Malcolm Bromhall either by phoning 01865 373958 or via email: malcolm.bromhall@oxfordmethodists.org.uk.



Malcolm Bromhall

Village Methodists look to the future

Members of Combe Methodist Church have decided to seek permission from the church authorities to cease regular Sunday morning worship from the beginning of November, and to ask the circuit to take over responsibility for the day-to-day running and maintenance of the church building.

Meanwhile, the church's minister, the Revd Jonathan Todd, and Pastoral Worker, Malcolm Bromhall, are continuing to explore new opportunities for contributing to the spiritual life of the village and maintaining the Methodist tradition of Christian witness and pastoral care.

Elsewhere in the circuit, Horspath, too, will be asking this month's Circuit Meeting for permission to cease regular worship. In both cases, there will be services of celebration to mark the marvellous witness both worshipping communities have given to their respective villages.



Bladon Junior Church



The Junior Church has been on a break over the summer holidays. Before we broke up we had several new members join and our Sunday morning attendance was averaging between 30 and 40 children so we hope the enthusiasm will continue when we meet again in September! Over the summer we've enjoyed open-air swimming as well as leading a service at Spencer Court. Our thoughts now turn to transforming the church into a pirate ship for our autumn production.

The Pirates of Penzance

A fearsome band of Pirates has landed in Bladon and will be appearing in the Methodist Church from 27th to 31st October at 7.30pm! Join us for swashbuckling adventure and fun with *The Pirates of Penzance*. Bumbling bobbies, a bevy of beautiful maidens and a comical modern major general complete the cast in this delightful musical comedy

featuring the much loved songs "I am the Very Model of a Modern Major General", "A Policeman's Lot is not a Happy One"



and "I Am the Pirate King". With loads of action and heaps of fun this is a show that all the family will enjoy – tickets cost £8 for adults, £5 for children and can be purchased by telephone on 01869 337881 or online at juniorchurch.co.uk/pirates.

Beauty and the Beast

We are also thrilled to announce that we have secured the rights to perform Disney's *Beauty and the Beast* in October 2010. Following the West End production, this show has been on national tour for the last few years. However, it has just been released for amateur performance for a limited period only during 2010 and we have managed to obtain a license to perform the show from Monday 25th to Saturday 30th October. We plan to stage six performances to offset the expected high costs of this production. *Beauty and the Beast* is based on the Academy award-winning animated feature film and has been seen by over 35 million people worldwide. This classic musical love story is filled with unforgettable characters, lavish costumes and dazzling production numbers including "Be Our Guest". We hope it will be a really fun show for us to rehearse and perform!

Phil Rumsby



The Pirates of Penzance in Bladon in 1999

Champions Challenge Holiday Club



During the third week in August, Gemma and Rob Winn planned and organised an excellent Holiday Club, the first of its kind at Cowley Road. The children took part in crafts, games, songs and drama, bible stories—all based on a sporting theme. Rob and Gemma were helped by members from Cowley Road and Wesley Memorial. The numbers were small but that did not deter them from having a fantastic time and the children ended the week with special cakes and drinks, party bags and medals.

Our grateful thanks to Gemma and Rob for all the time and energy they put into organising such a successful event.

Katherine Raju



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KEEPING
IN TOUCH

Please send contributions to the
guest editor, Rob Winn, either
via the circuit office or by email.

Deadline for next issue
18th November 2009

Rob has kindly agreed to
produce Kitbag while I am
on sabbatical. Please pro-
vide him with plenty of
material!

Jonathan

Dates for your Diary

Sep 15th—7.30pm

Circuit Meeting at Kidlington

Oct 4th—5.30pm

Spirituality on Screen— *The Golden Compass*

Venue: **Woodstock Methodist Church Hall**

Oct 17th—4pm

Centenary Celebration at Horspath

Oct 18th—Stand Up And Take Action Against Poverty

See www.standagainstopoverty.org and get your church involved!

Oct 27th—31st—7.30pm

Bladon Junior Church present *The Pirates of Penzance* at Bladon

Nov 1st—3pm

Celebration at Combe

Nov 1st—5.30pm

Spirituality on Screen— *Atonement*

Venue: **Woodstock Methodist Church Hall**

Nov 22nd—6.30pm

Circuit Service at Kennington. Preacher: The Revd Dr Neil Richardson

Dec 6th—5.30pm

Spirituality on Screen

Venue: **Woodstock Methodist Church Hall**

Dec 11th & 12th—7.30pm

Gilbert & Sullivan's *Ruddigore*—Kennington. In aid of Penhurst.

Dec 14th—7.45pm

Local Preachers' Meeting at Kidlington

Dec 17th—7.30pm

Carols at Murcott Church followed by mince pies at Murcott House

*The Circuit Diary is now available online.
Click the "Circuit Diary" tab on the circuit website.*

Come and join us for a

Family Fun Day

at

Kidlington Methodist Church

Oxford Road – opposite Exeter Hall

on

Saturday 26th September

11.00am to 4.00pm

Bouncy castle

Craft activities

Face painting

Skittles

Refreshments

Live music

Sideshow

Free admission, many games and sideshows free

Family Fun Day

Forget about the credit crunch...there's a whole lot of fun for free at Kidlington Methodist Church on Saturday, September 26th when the church holds its Family Fun Day.

Now in its third year, the day has become a popular fixture on the Kidlington calendar with lots of activities for all the family including bouncy castle, crafts, skittles, live music and sideshows...and most of it won't cost you a penny!

Call in at any time between 11am and 4pm.

Pinafore Pirate!

Lime Walk Players' next big musical offering is in March 2010 - "Pinafore Pirate" by Malcolm Sircom who wrote "Olivia" which we performed to great acclaim earlier this year. This promises to be as much fun as the last show, with original music in the style of Gilbert and Sullivan, a similar silly G&S-type story and a fun script.

We are particularly looking for a young leading man (early twenties or able to pass for it!) but would also be delighted to welcome any new members, male and female. Anyone interested can contact me either by email (mary.ross@tesco.net) or by phone (01865 241148).

Mary Ross, Director