



# District Prayer Diary

The **Methodist** Church  
Northampton District



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**2024/2025**



# Day 1 Oxford

The Oxford Circuit consists of 11 Methodist churches and two ecumenical congregations across the city of Oxford and parts of Oxfordshire. Our churches are located both in urban and rural contexts. We rejoice in the diversity of our congregations and face the challenges ahead in a spirit of hope.

## Give Thanks For

- The commitment of our congregations to continue to witness to the love of Christ in their local communities.
- Our staff team (lay and ordained), our Circuit Stewards, Supernumerary Ministers, Local Preachers and Worship Leaders.
- Emerging opportunities in student ministry in the city.
- The continuing commitment to work for inclusion, diversity, and social justice in our communities.

## Please pray For

- Our ordained and lay staff in their ministries.
- Our new lay Methodist Chaplain at Oxford Brookes University and new PA to Circuit Staff.
- For a renewed sense of Circuit identity and mission.
- For courage and compassion as we make brave decisions about our future as a Circuit.
- For the work of the Eco Circuit and Eco Church groups.
- For those churches continuing to strive for the full inclusion and participation of all people. For those seeking to provide safe spaces for all people to know and experience the love of God.



**Holy God, you call us together as siblings in Christ. We thank you for the blessings of serving you together.**  
**Guide us that we might be bold and brave in our call to 'serve the present age'.**  
**We ask for confidence, courage, and hope in proclaiming your all-embracing love.**  
**Amen.**

**Superintendent**  
 Rev'd Miriam Moul

**Ministers**  
 Rev'd Paul Carter  
 Rev'd Stephen Spain  
 Rev'd Brian Brown (Writer and Producer)  
 Rev'd Dr Ralph Waller (Farmington Institute and University of Oxford)

**Supernumeraries**  
 Rev'd David Bull  
 Rev'd Geoffrey Hunter  
 Rev'd Jean King  
 Rev'd Leslie Marsh  
 Rev'd Heather Noel-Smith  
 Rev'd John Rowland  
 Rev'd Michael Sawyer

**Lay Staff Circuit Administrator**  
 Jo Godfrey

**Children, Families and Outreach Worker**  
 Mel McCulloch

**Community Chaplain, Cowley Road**  
 Libby Hawkness-Smith

**Community Chaplain, Rose Hill**  
 Liz Spain

**Circuit Stewards**  
 Chris Butler  
 Malcolm Dodds  
 Margaret Sawyer (Senior Steward)  
 Paul Spray  
 Ruth Taylor  
 John Winterbottom



# Day 2 Wantage & Abingdon

Our circuit covers a large part of South Oxfordshire. We have nine churches (including two LEPs). Our Circuit is home to many scientific establishments and hi-tech industries. We are also an area in which a considerable amount of new housing is being built.

## Give Thanks For

- Those who are exploring their call to preach and who are on note.
- Our Circuit Leadership Team and all those who give so freely of their time and energy.
- For all who have engaged with our Sustainable Circuit process.
- For new people who are coming along to our churches that they might find a welcome and a home amongst us.
- The work of Trinity Learning in Abingdon.
- For the ministry, worship and faithful witness of Childrey Methodist Chapel which will cease to meet for worship this autumn.
- Our community Chaplains.

## Please Pray For

- Wisdom and discernment as we prepare to reduce to two Presbyters from September 2025 with all that entails.
- The Methodist presence in Childrey, as we look at new and different ways of using the chapel and how it can be a resource for the local community and wider afield.
- For the ongoing initiative to make Abingdon a “sanctuary town” where victims of domestic abuse will be heard and properly signposted to receive support.
- For Rev’d Georgina Bondzi-Simpson (and her family) as she joins the Circuit in September.
- For the courage to be brave and bold as we step into the future.



**Great God, in Christ you set us free  
Your life to live, your joy to share;  
give us your Spirit’s liberty  
to turn from guilt and dull despair  
and offer all that faith can do,  
while love is making all things new -  
Brian Wren (b.1936)**

### Superintendent

Rev’d Keith Underhill

### Ministers

Rev’d Georgina

Bondzi-Simpson

Deacon Selina Nisbett

Rev’d Bruce Thompson

### Supernumeraries

Rev’d John Anderson

Rev’d Eileen Appleyard

Rev’d Michael Appleyard

Rev’d Kenneth Blake

Deacon Maggie Blake

Rev’d Frances Blood

Rev’d Irena Byron

Rev’d Alan Grist

Rev’d Pauline Main

(Associate Presbyter URC)

Rev’d Nigel Ogley

Rev’d John Stanfield

### Community Chaplains

Libby Hawkness-Smith

Wendy Moorin

### Circuit Stewards

Mary Hancock

Anne Matthews

Carolyn Roche

Gordon Skidmore



# Day 3 West Oxfordshire

West Oxfordshire covers an area of the Cotswolds from Chipping Norton in the north to Faringdon in the south. We have churches in Chipping Norton with Churchill, Charlbury, Stonesfield, Carterton, Faringdon, Long Hanborough with Sutton, Minster Lovell and Bampton. Also two churches in Witney – High Street with Newland and Davenport Road. It is a beautiful rural area with villages and market towns where honey coloured Cotswold Stone is prominent and tourists are prevalent.

## Give Thanks For

- The continuing faithful witness of village and town churches.
- The commitment of Local Preachers and Worship Leaders in leading worship week by week.
- Town Chaplains in Witney and our Town Chaplain lead Sonia Duraturo.
- Faithful and committed Circuit and Local church office holders.
- New worshippers and church members.
- The beauty of the Cotswold countryside in which we live and work.

## Please Pray For

- Pioneering ministry and new building at Carterton.
- New energy and inspiration for churches who are weary.
- Churches struggling with buildings and finance.
- New candidates to fill vacancies filled with enthusiasm and energy.



**We give thanks for rural church communities across West Oxfordshire and pray for your blessing upon them. Lead them to find new ways to share your love with the many visitors and tourists to the area; bring God's love and grace to those who reside amongst them and let your churches be a beacon of hope for many. Amen**

### Superintendent

Rev'd Andrew Biggs

### Ministers

Rev'd Jason Cooke

Rev'd Ian Worrall

Rev'd Sue Jacobs

### Supernumeraries

Rev'd Nicola Blois

Rev'd David Buckley

Rev'd Stephen Bywater

Rev'd Elgin Crewe

Rev'd Roger Faulkner

Rev'd James Skinner

Rev'd Brenda Woods

Rev'd Alan Wright

Rev'd Andrew Wigley

### Lay Chaplain Lead

Sonia Duraturo

### Children and Families'

#### Worker

Anna Pile

### Circuit Stewards

Ian Cotton (Senior Steward)

Rosemary Britton -

Safeguarding

Eddie Fowler – Treasurer

Martin Hannant

Val Donoghue



# Day 4 The Learning Network

“A disciple is a follower or learner. ... At the heart of being called to follow Christ is the call to learn.” Carolyn Godfrey, Vice-Presidential address. The Learning Network is here to serve you in your learning and we rejoice in the opportunities to walk with you and learn with you.

## Give Thanks For

- The diverse ways in which we each learn and grow.
- Those who model different ways of being.
- Those who are courageous in sharing their experiences.
- Those who stand up for justice.
- Those who make space for the marginalised voice to be heard.
- We give thanks to God for you, and we give thanks to you for being your authentic self.

## Please Pray For

- The appointment of a new Learning and Development Officer aligned to Northampton District, and for that person as they build relationships across the District.
- Please pray for wisdom in the Learning team that we may understand what the District needs most at this time and play our part in responding so that all may flourish.



**Loving Lord, Jesus,  
As I seek to follow you,  
may I be courageous in learning;  
forgiving of myself when I fail;  
patient with those who learn  
differently;  
compassionate with those who  
struggle; and eager to contribute to  
your kingdom coming here on earth as  
it is in heaven.  
Amen**

**Learning & Development  
Officer aligned to  
Northampton**

Vacant as we go to press

**Learning & Development  
Manager for area group**

Tricia Mitchell



# Day 5 Banbury

Banbury has a number of outlying rural and town churches spread across Oxfordshire, Warwickshire and Northamptonshire. The circuit is served by two Presbyters, Ecumenical Presbyter and a Family and Children outreach worker.

## Give Thanks For

- The ordination of Rev'd Phil Robinson in Bradford Cathedral.
- The growing interest in understanding the bible and context.
- The partnership with the Town Council, Warm Spaces, and Banbury Larder at Marlborough Rd Church.
- "Turn the Page" & "Prayer Spaces" in local schools.
- Our growing community who attend our Circuit mid-week Holy Communion service.

## Please Pray For

- Our exploration through NPNP (New places for new people) in West Adderbury housing estates.
- Those who are seeking baptism and membership.
- The continued dedication of our Local Preachers, Worship Leaders and Stewards who remain faithful to their calling.



### Loving God

**We thank you for the faithfulness of those whom you call to serve you. From those who make the tea, lead worship, steward, to flower arrangers. Those who go into schools, Messy Church helpers, and engage with children and young people. May your blessing be upon them and us all. Amen.**

### Superintendent

Rev'd David Alderman

### Ministers

Rev'd Philip Robinson

### Ecumenical Colleagues

Rev'd Chris Gaynor (CofE)

Rev'd Lynda Spokes (URC)

### Supernumeraries

Rev'd Chris Eddy

Rev'd Jean Flecher

Rev'd Mark Goodhand

Dcn Margaret Hale

Rev'd Robert Jones

Rev'd Mary Pheasey

Rev'd Jeff Smith

Rev'd John Warren

### Circuit Stewards

David Miles

Mary Tanner (Finance)

### Circuit Meeting Secretary

Janet Jones

### Children & Families Worker

Cate Vokes

### Pioneering: Health Walks

Mrs Wendy Humphris

### Circuit Administrator

Clare Taylor

# Day 6 Buckingham, Bicester and Brackley

The Bicester, Buckingham and Brackley Circuit includes areas of the counties of Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Northamptonshire, with three town churches and smaller churches in Gawcott, Thornborough, Steeple Claydon, Silverstone and Towcester. We are presently navigating a period of transition both in circuit staffing and ways of doing things.

## Give Thanks For

- The ongoing development of the Circuit Leadership Team through involvement with the Transformational Leadership Learning Community programme.
- Increased use of our church buildings by community groups and programmes that support those in need within our local communities.
- Mission opportunities within our circuit churches such as the Vaccination Centre in Brackley; Thornborough's Lyrics and Lunch community; drop-in community cafés at Gawcott and Silverstone; Bicester's food surplus café and Well Street's Renew 182 café.

## Please Pray For

- Pray for all the new people, new places mission opportunities alongside committed faithful, prayerful communities of fellowship, grace and peace.
- Pray for Thornborough as Lyrics and Lunch continues to offer a safe place for those with Dementia, singing together, sharing food and fellowship.
- Gawcott and Steeple Claydon, Brackley regularly offering food and fellowship, through lunches and coffee mornings.
- For the Towcester Fridge, a sharing of fresh food surplus three times weekly.
- Brackley Covid Vaccination Centre, where large numbers have encountered friendship and warm hospitality whilst receiving their jab.
- Silverstone Missional Community, a District and Connexional group supporting a fledgling mission community of faithful disciples stepping into the unknown sharing God's love and grace across the F1 weekend.
- Well St LEP Baptist, Methodist and URC members, worshipping and serving together, leading the Circuit Band. Bicester a large central site with many opportunities for social justice and outreach.
- Pray for the Circuit Leadership Team who are committed to pray together, meeting to share food and fellowship and discern God's call on this Circuit.

**Loving Lord,  
Your light is the only light I need, as I  
travel through life's mystery. Your  
word the only voice I hear, that still  
small voice that leads me to the place  
where I should be. Your presence is  
the company I need, as I walk this  
narrow road. Your fellowship the  
warmth, to help me on my way.**



**Circuit Superintendent and  
Pioneer Minister**

Rev'd Sara Cliff

**Ministers**

Rev'd Jocelyn Bennett

Rev'd Tim Edworthy

**Community Mission Enabler**

Mrs Katy Morris





# Day 7 Leicester Trinity

Leicester Trinity Circuit is made up of eighteen churches in city, suburban and village locations, each seeking to serve their communities and make new disciples. We celebrate the diversity to be found in Leicester and Leicestershire.

## Give Thanks For

- The commitment and involvement of our congregations day by day, week by week.
- The work being done to build healthy relationships with those of other faiths in the city and county.
- New people, new relationships, new opportunities.

## Please Pray For

- Our new Superintendent and ministerial staff as they settle into their new roles.
- Our congregations as they seek to share their faith and reach out to their communities.
- The staff and the chaplain of Aigburth, MHA home in Oadby, working to provide practical and spiritual care to the residents.
- Those who lead worship and those in training to be Local Preachers and Worship Leaders.
- Those who support students at the University of Leicester and De Montfort University.



**“Call us to witness your kingdom,  
give us the presence of Christ;  
may your holy light  
keep us shining bright,  
ever shine with the presence of  
Christ”  
(Singing the Faith 413 Marty  
Haugen)**

**Note: The motto of the city of  
Leicester is Semper Eadem ("Always  
the Same")**

### Superintendent

Rev'd Andrew Farrington

### Ministers

Rev'd Kim Alexander

Rev'd Christopher Andam

Rev'd Ivan Bennett -

Authorised Minister

(Anglican)

Rev'd Liam Dacre-Davis

Deacon Sharon Dilley

Rev'd Derek McLean

### Supernumeraries

Rev'd Kate Cook

Rev'd Dr. Albert Mosley

Rev'd Tony Pick

Rev'd Vincent J. Price

Rev'd Gordon Webb

### Circuit Stewards

Peter Holdridge

(Finance)

Pedzisai

Katsande

Julie Manning

Howard Smith





# Day 8 Ecumenical Work

District Ecumenical Officers (DEOs) work alongside local partner denominations and others towards unity in mission. DEOs also work closely with the connexional Ecumenical Officers and County/Intermediate Body ecumenical officers (where these exist). We are available for consultation and conversation on a wide variety of ecumenical matters.

## District Ecumenical Officers

Lead DEO - Rev'd Ian Suttie  
Northamptonshire,  
Peterborough & Rutland

Rev'd Andrew Farrington  
Leicestershire

Rev'd Edson Dube  
Buckinghamshire & Milton  
Keynes

Rev'd John Anderson  
Oxfordshire

## Ecumenical Development Officers

Canon Vic Allsop  
Leicestershire

David Hare  
Oxfordshire

Caroline Hutchings  
Peterborough and Rutland

Melanie Carroll (Mission  
Enabler)  
Lincolnshire

Allison Shepherd -  
Northamptonshire

## Give Thanks For

- The rich and increased diversity of denominations and expressions of Christian faith, and the opportunities and challenges for learning and growth which this presents.
- The distinctive gifts, graces and insights of the Methodist tradition which contribute to the mission, worship and ministry of the whole body of Christ.
- Opportunities to share in service and evangelism with brothers and sisters in Christ.
- Local churches working in established Local Ecumenical Partnerships, those engaged in creating new Partnerships, churches offering Ecumenical Welcomes and those working in more informal agreements.
- The Methodist Church's commitment to ecumenical learning, training and development, especially through The Queen's Foundation, the Regional Learning Networks and Cliff College.
- New ecumenical work being resourced from the proceeds of Christian work and witness which has reached its natural end in God's purposes.
- The Methodist Connexional Ecumenical Officer (Rev'd Steven Cooper) and the officers of Churches Together in England.

## Please Pray For

- Patience and commitment in obedience to Christ's call for unity which is missional: '...that they may all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me...' (John 17:21a)
- Wisdom in responding to strained or ineffective ecumenical relationships.
- Discernment for fresh ecumenical opportunities, and also for when formal ecumenical working needs to change direction or cease.
- Our recently appointed Lead District Ecumenical Officer, Rev'd Ian Suttie, and the other DEOs as they represent the Methodist Church.
- Christians involved in social care and community initiatives, including in areas of social deprivation and economic challenge to help refugees, homeless people and others.
- The ecumenical Joint Public Issues Team (JPIT) as it presents the radical challenge of the gospel, e.g. for climate change. (The Methodist Church is a partner in JPIT).



**We pray, gracious God, for your Church throughout the world:  
may it share to the full in the work of Jesus Christ,  
revealing, reconciling and renewing;  
that Christians may learn to love one another,  
as you have loved us;  
that your Church may exhibit the unity  
which is your will and gift.  
(adapted from Contemporary Prayers for Public Worship)**



# Day 9 Leicester West

Leicester West is a Circuit of 10 churches including 4 within the city boundaries and the remaining 6 in the villages surrounding Leicester. We have one LEP and one church on two sites. Our prime missional purpose is to share the love of God and serve our distinctive communities.

## Give Thanks For

- New members and friends joining serial churches.
- The growth in opportunities for offering hospitality and safe spaces in which to grow friendships.
- The work in Memory and Music cafes to help retired people, those with Dementia and their carers.
- Our engagement with children and young people in several of the churches.
- The further development of the Circuit's Men's Shed project at New Parks.
- The recent impact of our Circuit Lent Reflections Handbook.

## Please Pray For

- Our new Superintendent Minister Rev'd. Sydney-Samuel Lake as he and his family settle into life in Leicester.
- New people to take on some of the roles in church and Circuit life that are currently vacant.
- Courage and strength where people are feeling tired and fearful for the future.
- The growth in places where new shoots of mission are emerging.



**Loving God, bless the mission of the Leicester West Circuit and all its people. In this time of change be our constant guide and build us up with the fire of your Holy Spirit to truly serve you and share your love and grace with all we meet. In Jesus' name. Amen**

### Superintendent

Rev'd Sydney-Samuel Lake

### Ministers

Rev'd Jimione Kaci

Rev'd Joy Langford

(Authorised Presbyter)

### Circuit Mission Enabler

Justin Moulder

### Circuit Administrator

Sandra Pugh



# Day 10 Loughborough

The circuit serves the towns of Loughborough and Shepshed, and the surrounding villages. Geographically we are in the centre of the nation, and seek to be at the heart of the communities we serve. Not hidden away but willing to go where God leads us, to live out our faith, graciously offering hope by being a good neighbour to everyone.

## Give thanks for

- Provision made available to employ lay workers across the circuit.
- The Launch of our Circuit Chaplain.
- The courage to try new ways of doing Mission.

## Please Pray For

- Community engagement, through the witness of lay workers building bridges into the areas around our churches.
- The continued growth of the Chinese Congregation, as they continue their mission to the youth.
- The work of all of our local lay Pastors and the new lay workers we are hoping will join our team this coming year.



**Creator God, we thank you for creating us into a circuit that is passionate about seeing your kingdom come. May we have eyes of faith, hearts of compassion and outrageous love that we may love our neighbours and those in our communities as you love them. In Jesus name, Amen.**

### Superintendent

Rev'd Karen Beecham

### Ministers

Rev'd Calvin Cheung

Rev'd Sandra Marshall

Rev'd Martin Swan

### Supernumeraries

Rev'd David Blatherwick

Rev'd Hugh Cade

Rev'd Hedley Cousin

Rev'd Patricia Olivent-Hayes

### Local Pastor

Chris Watkins

Rob Newton

Eleri Bristow

### Community Lay Worker

Vanessa Li

Kay Brooks-Duncan

### Digital lay worker

John Pipet

### Circuit administrator

Josephine Wills

### Circuit stewards

Karen Ette

Bryan Harrison

David Bristow

### Circuit Treasurer

Rachel Thorpe



# Day 11 Hinckley

The north western out post of the Northampton District, the circuit, centred on Leicestershire's third biggest urban conurbation, is mainly rural. It comprises nine churches. Building on The Way Ahead process, we hope to develop and build community links in order to foster a greater sense of belonging to our churches through the employment of part time lay workers.

## Give Thanks For

- 'Roots' a monthly afternoon service seeking to make connections with young people in Sapcote in a contemporary and relaxed setting.
- The faithful and continued commitment of all who maintain and serve in our churches.
- The wise support offered by the circuit Local Lay Pastors.
- The opportunities to share God's love at 'warm' spaces and lunch clubs for the vulnerable.
- A strengthening sense of circuit identity as the quarterly circuit service grows in popularity.
- CAMEO community cafe serving both Stoke Golding and the circuit.

## Please Pray For

- That we might find suitable candidates for the new lay worker roles.
- Greater cooperation with charity groups in the community as we seek to work together.
- Good endings for those chapels where the work of mission and ministry is complete.
- Clarity of vision for where the circuit might start an NPNP as we seek to meet people where they are.
- On going conversations about working more closely with neighbouring circuits.



**Source of all life, at large in our world,  
help us to recognise you in those we serve,  
that we might be encouraged and blessed,  
emboldened and strengthened,  
helping others to see the way of life in you.  
Amen.**

### Superintendent

Rev'd Andrew Lomax

### Ministers

Rev'd Patricia Mukorombindo

### Supernumeraries

Rev'd Stephen Hoggar

Rev'd Graham Miles

Rev'd Vivienne Atter

### Lay Local Pastors

Judith Cooke

Sheila Grice

Anne Haddon

Colin Haddon

### Children and Families

#### Community Worker

Claire Sutcliffe

### CAMEO Café Manager

Deborah Watts

### CAMEO Assistant Cafe Manager

Marie Mason

### Circuit Stewards

Adrian Stone (Senior)

Arthur Bennett

Rachel Cobb

Rosemary Bradburn

### Circuit Administrator

Christine Bacon

### Circuit Finance Officer

Lucy Lowe



# Day 12 Melton Mowbray

Melton Mowbray Circuit consists of four societies one town and three rural, all of whom are actively worshipping and missioning. The Circuit is served by a part time minister with Superintendent oversight from the Loughborough Circuit. There is a strong Circuit connection between the villages and the town church.

## Give Thanks For

- Outreach to the many new families who have arrived in our community.
- The successful coming together of the two town churches now worshipping at Sandy Lane.
- Work with ecumenical partners.
- Hot potato which provides food and fellowship. Little Butterflies. Tea and Cakes at Stonesby and The Upper Wreake.
- Sandy Lane Toddlers group.

## Please Pray For

- Development of new church leaders.
- Formation of new house groups.
- For the new presbyter arriving in our circuit.
- Our outreach to all who use our premises each week.
- Circuit churches to discover new ways to be God's people in their community.
- The ongoing conversations of the formation of a new circuit of which we will be a part in 2025.



**Loving, heavenly Father, send your Holy Spirit into our churches to make them more fully reflect the hands and feet of your Son, as we serve those we meet, in his name and for his sake, even the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.**

### Superintendent

Rev'd Karen Beecham

### Presbyter Minister

Rev'd Nina Johnson

### Supernumeraries

Rev'd Dr. Eric Lott

Rev'd Jeffrey Ward

Rev'd Ruth Simpson

### Local Lay Pastors

Jenny Oliver

Janet Norburn

### Circuit Stewards

Jenny Oliver

Janet Norburn

Mick Thompson

Su Palmer

Barbara Cresswell (Finance)



# Day 13 Northampton

The Northampton Methodist Circuit includes the town of Northampton and the surrounding villages. It is made up of two churches: The multi-site Northampton Methodist Church and the Emmanuel Group of Churches (LEP). We are also in the process of forming a new LEP Church called Kingsthorpe Community Church.

## Give Thanks For

- Signs of growth within our churches as people deepen their discipleship and engage in mission and evangelism for Christ's Kingdom.
- A greater sense of unity, in Christ and through the Holy Spirit, as we forge new partnerships.
- Our church volunteers who are committed to sharing the love of God in Jesus through word and action.
- Scones of Praise Services, Dine and Divine, Community Litter Picks, Bible Studies, Parent & Toddler Groups, Boys & Girls Brigades.

## Please Pray For

- Northampton Methodist Church, as we bring our central churches together on one site to form a new worshipping community, and the formation of Kingsthorpe Community Church; a new Baptist-Methodist LEP.
- The recruitment of a new Mission Enabler who will develop our work with children, young people, and families, helping new people to know Jesus.
- Wisdom and discernment around a new project for New Places for New People and Church at the Margins.
- Our Probationer Presbyter, Rev'd Dr Samantha Gillard, as she enters her 2nd year in our Circuit and works towards her ordination.



**Holy God, we thank you for your continuing presence amongst us and your call on our lives to follow your Son Jesus. Through the enabling power of your Holy Spirit help us to build new relationships so that your Kingdom might spread amongst us and our communities might come to know your great love for the whole of the creation. In Jesus name we pray. Amen.**

**Superintendent**  
Rev'd David Speirs

### Ministers

Rev'd Ian Forsyth  
Rev'd Dr Samantha Gillard  
Rev'd Rachael Warnock

### Supernumeraries

Deacon Richard Beckett  
Rev'd Wendy Evans-Wood  
Rev'd Malcolm Oliver  
Rev'd Anthony Perry  
Rev'd Alan Sharp  
Rev'd Ian Suttie  
Rev'd Martin Swan

### Circuit Stewards

Keith Brooks  
Pam Kirkland  
Philip Leeson  
Hellen Okello  
Charmaine Wareham-Voyce

### Administrator

Sarah Eason



# Day 14 East Mercia

East Mercia Circuit covers the towns and villages from Corby in the east to Rugby in the west along the A14 corridor with divergence north and south to take in Daventry and Market Harborough / Kibworth.

We have recently adopted an exciting Mission Action Plan focussed on evangelism and justice.

## Give Thanks For

- The work of the projects in several of our Local churches, and the dedication of the staff and volunteers engaged in the work of bringing the Gospel to others – particularly those on the margins.
- The leadership of the Circuit – both lay and ordained – who work tirelessly to bring to fruition, the vision discerned for the Circuit.
- The faithfulness of preachers engaged in developing the spiritual life of the Circuit.

## Please Pray For

- Those who are leaving the Circuit – especially Rev'd Andrew Farrington and his family as he moves to a new station.
- Those who are taking up new responsibilities in the Circuit – especially Rev'd Nathan Falla as he takes up the superintendency.
- Those who are joining the Circuit, especially Rev'd Brian Hutton and his family.
- Those members of congregations who are post-holders in their Local Church and the backbone of the Circuit.



**Journeying God, remind us by your Spirit that you are with us in all the changes and challenges that we may face. Give us wisdom to discern your will, boldness and courage to face what is new, and comfort and healing when we are weary or wounded. In the name of Christ. Amen.**

### Superintendent

Rev'd Nathan S Falla

### Ministers

Dcn Georgina M Brooks  
Rev'd Brian Hutton  
Rev'd Andrew T Murphy  
Rev'd Noel Nhariswa

### Resident in Circuit

Rev'd Kim Shorley

### Associate Presbyters

Rev'd Neil Clarke  
Rev'd Hannah Jeffery

### Supernumeraries

Rev'd Robert Anning  
Rev'd Neville Ashton  
Rev'd Anthony W de Boltz  
Dcn Fiona de Boltz  
Rev'd David Collinson  
Rev'd Christine Dybdahl  
Rev'd Jane Gaffney  
Rev'd Margaret Hadfield  
Rev'd Jean Holyhead  
Rev'd Philip J Horner  
Rev'd Martin P Hounsfield  
Rev'd Brian J Kennard  
Rev'd Peter Molcher  
Dcn Mary Neal  
Rev'd Iain Rennie  
Rev'd Trevor J R Thomas  
Rev'd Alison F Tomlin  
Rev'd David R Tomlin  
Dcn Judith Wray

### Circuit Safeguarding Officer

Susan Walters

### Circuit Treasurer

Peter Candlin

### Lay Workers (Missional)

Caroline Barratt – Community Chaplain, Corby & Kettering  
Clare Pickering – tbc  
Mandie Price – Church Families Worker, Daventry  
Janet Timperley – Wellbeing Enabler, The Chapel, Newbold  
Vacancy – Children & Families Worker, Hillmorton Paddock  
Vacancy – tbc, RMCC

### Lay Workers (admin)

Kate Tennyson – Circuit Manager  
Anna Gittings – Assistant

### Circuit Stewards

Peter Arnold	John Over
Marilyn Calvert	Adrian Price
Peter Candlin	Carolyn Rice
Helen Cross	

### Synod Reps

Peter Arnold	Regina Owusu
Caroline Barratt	Jackie Parkes
Peter Candlin	Ann Window
Wendy Curtis	



# Day 15 Stamford

The predominantly rural Stamford Circuit covers Rutland and a small area of south Lincolnshire. Churches located in Bourne, Deepings, Empingham, Ketton, Oakham, Ryhall, Stamford, Thurlby and Uppingham are supplemented by weekday and Sunday online prayers. Our mission resonates with the Rutland county motto – ‘Multum in parvo’ (Much in little).

## Superintendent

Rev'd Andrew Hollins

## Ministers

Rev'd Bekkie Wright

## Lay Workers

Phil Jones (Circuit Mission Enabler)  
Julia Husbands (Circuit Children, Youth & Families Work Enabler)  
Lindsey Adams (Operations Manager – Second Helpings)

## Supernumeraries

Rev'd Richard Baggott  
Rev'd Christopher Bamber  
Rev'd William Booker  
Rev'd Paul Cockburn  
Rev'd Fred Day  
Rev'd Julia Dowding  
Rev'd Barry Gent  
Rev'd Maureen Jones  
Rev'd Peter Lemmon  
Rev'd Brian Lewis  
Rev'd Dr Christine Pocock

## Circuit Administrator

Rowan Scholtz

## Circuit Safeguarding Officer

Charlotte Davis

## Circuit Stewards

Moyra Collins  
Sarah Atwell-King

## Circuit Treasurer

Barry Streets

## Give Thanks For

- Continued signs of growth in some of our churches.
- The commitment of our Circuit Leadership Team.
- A stimulating CLT Away Day focussed on growth.
- The contributions made by Supernumerary Ministers.
- Committed Local Preachers and Worship Leaders.
- Churches embracing the opportunities presented by ‘Local Worship’.
- Another inspirational Circuit Farm Weekend.
- Churches with children and families involved.

## Please Pray For

- Engagement with the circuit’s intentional focus on growth.
- Reorganisation of the circuit with two stationed presbyters.
- Churches adapting to working in new pastoral oversight groups.
- Reshaping of the lay roles in the circuit ministry team.
- Development of circuit operational and administrative support.
- Unity through our quarterly Circuit Worship.
- Missional engagement with church premises users.
- Renewal of energy and spirit for those who are weary.



**God of growth,  
we pray for seed planters, waterers  
and feeders,  
those who tend the growth,  
and those who reap the harvest.  
Bless the soil in which we plant.  
As we labour with and for you,  
may we be fruitful for your  
kingdom, in Jesus’ name. Amen.**





# Day 16 Northampton District

We pray for the Holy Spirit's presence in this District as we travel together.

## Give Thanks For

- For all our Superintendent and circuit ministers.
- For our Synod Secretary, Paul Spray.
- All of the new ministers joining us in the District, especially our new probationer presbyter the Rev'd Susan Jacobs.
- For our Year 2 Probationers the Rev'd Samantha Gillard and the Rev'd Rachael Prince and the work of the District Probationers Secretary, the Rev'd Karen Beecham.
- The ongoing commitment to welcoming inclusion as we see one another as siblings in Christ.
- Our District Lay Stationing Representative Sue Walters.
- For faithful disciples throughout the District continuing to serve and love their communities.

## Please Pray For

- The District Executive.
- The District Mission Team, Naomi Ensor our Digital Enabler, Rev'd Kim Shorley the District FEAST Enabler, Mel Brown the Overstone Community Chaplain and especially for the Mission Team Leader Matt Forsyth as he prepares to become Vice President of the Conference.
- For our District Safeguarding Team, Sally Wan and Neil Hutchinson, along with all our local Church and Circuit Safeguarding Officers.
- The District Treasurer Andrew Lewis and the HR Officer Leslie Jaeger.
- The Senior District Administrator, Claire Handley, the Chair's PA Joanna Ormston and Hilary MacCallum, District Administrator.
- Our supernumerary ministers, and the widows and widowers of those ministers who have died.
- Local church and Circuit stewards, lay pastors and lay workers.
- Lay and ordained chaplains across the District serving in a wide variety of settings (prison, hospital, new housing, air cadets, girls and Boys Brigades, University & College).
- Circuit Treasurers and Property stewards who offer us their skill and expertise.



**Loving God, may we walk with you  
into known and unknown places.  
Saviour Jesus, may we see you in  
the faces of those we meet.  
Holy Spirit, may we sense your  
guidance each, and every, day.  
AMEN**

**Chair of District**  
Rev'd Sonia Hicks

**Deputy Chairs of District**  
Rev'd David Alderman

**Presbyteral Synod Secretary**  
Rev'd Alan Bolton

**Representative Synod Secretary**  
Paul Spray

**District Mission Team Leader**  
Matt Forsyth

**FEAST Enabler (Mission Team)**  
Rev'd Kim Shorley

**Digital Enabler (Mission Team)**  
Naomi Ensor

**Overstone Community Chaplain  
(Mission Team)**  
Mel Brown

**District Ecumenical Officer**  
Rev'd Ian Suttie

**District Treasurer**  
Andrew Lewis

**District Methodist Council  
Representative**  
Dr Hellen Okello

**District Property Secretary**  
Chris Linfood

**District Safeguarding Officers**  
Sally Wan - Safeguarding Officer  
Neil Hutchinson - Learning &  
Development Officer (safeguarding)

**PA to the District Chair**  
Joanna Ormston

**Senior District Administrator**  
Claire Handley

**District Administrator**  
Hilary MacCallum

**District HR Officer**  
Leslie Jaeger



# Day 17

## Justice, Dignity and Solidarity

The Strategy for Justice, Dignity and Solidarity (JDS) is aimed at changing the attitudes, culture and practices of the Methodist Church, in order to end injustice, ensure everyone is treated with dignity, and stand in solidarity with those who face discrimination and exclusion in society.

### Give Thanks For

- We give thanks for the 405 people who have completed the Equality Diversity and Inclusion training and 734 for Unconscious Bias training (Accurate as of April 2024).
- The new volunteers who have joined the group this year and the experience, knowledge, and dedication they bring.
- We give thanks for the resources creatively made to raise awareness and challenge attitude and cultural practices within the Methodist Church.

### Please Pray For

- The work of the District JDS Group as they discern the priorities for work within the District moving forward and put together a plan to meet these priorities.
- Good communication and teamwork between the JDS Group and local circuits so that we can all work together in harmony in our shared mission.
- All those who have experienced exclusion, injustice and discrimination within the Methodist Church, that they may find a Church willing to stand in solidarity with them and ensure they are treated with dignity and justice.



**Merciful God, forgive us for moulding a Church in our image, instead of yours. For finding comfort with those who look, talk, think and act like us, rather than finding joy as part of your diverse Body. Help us learn from one another's experience, and so grow closer to you. Amen.**

**Secretary of JDS Group**  
Regina Owusu

#### Members of JDS Group

Matt Forsyth  
Anna Herriman  
Janet Hinds  
Vanessa Li  
Rev'd Patricia Mukorombindo  
Paulette Tedd  
Rev'd Bekkie Wright  
Naomi Ensor

#### District Chair

Rev'd Dr Sonia Hicks

#### Learning Network Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Officer

Stuart Watkin



**FEAST Enabler**  
Rev'd Kim Shorley

# Day 18

## FEAST (Friends Exploring And Sharing Together)

Inspired by our Methodist heritage, FEAST (Friends Exploring And Sharing Together) invites those who are curious about faith to join with others.

FEAST is led by facilitators across the district, using common issues or interests to develop a small group network of New Places among New People across the Northampton District.

### Give Thanks For

- The ongoing support across our Circuits, District and Connexion for the God for All Strategy, which includes New Places for New People and Church at the Margins.
- The invitations to lead workshops, vision days, preaching appointments and ongoing conversations among churches, communities and circuits, as together we discern the places and people that God is leading us towards, and how they might FEAST in response to the needs of their local contexts.

### Please Pray For

- The FEAST groups that have become more established over the past year.
- Those who are starting pilot groups across the District, so that through the core value of friendship new and lasting relationships will develop through the exploring of faith and sharing in mutual support of one another.
- Those emerging and growing as facilitators, helping to develop the broader vision of the FEAST network and for all involved within the wider Pioneer Network across the Connexion.



**Friend to all, help us to  
Explore your word and work in our lives,  
And in doing so, challenge us to  
Share the call to do what is right, as  
Together we seek your Holy Spirit to be  
at work in ourselves, our community,  
and your world. Amen.**



# Day 19

# Vocations



**District Vocations Officer**  
Rev'd Ruth Charlesworth

Vocation and discernment providing opportunities for people to explore their sense of calling and how their gifts may be offered and used.

## Give Thanks For

- The God who continues to call us to greater service.
- For all those who continue to seek new ways of serving God in the church and in the world.
- For all those engaged in the Explore programme as it offers new opportunities to discern God's call to both lay and ordained roles.

## Please Pray For

- Those who have offered to serve in our churches have felt ignored and pushed aside.
- Those who have embarked on the road of Local Preaching, Worship Leading or ordained ministry.



**Loving God, help us to discern your call.**

**Remind us, through your Holy Spirit, that the gifts we have enable us to better serve your Church.**

**When we feel overwhelmed, refresh and renew us so that your love for the world may shine in and through us. AMEN.**



# Day 20 Safeguarding

The Northampton District Safeguarding Team delivers clarity, compliance and consistency in all areas of the Safeguarding agenda. It serves to support and deliver the Methodist Church's "Creating Safer Space" programme through professional interactions and interventions where challenges are identified, and through the delivery of timely, appropriate, focused and high quality training.

**District Safeguarding Officer**  
Sally Wan

**Learning & Development Officer  
(Training)**  
Neil Hutchinson

## Give Thanks For

- The District Safeguarding Team.
- The wider team of paid staff and volunteers out in the circuits and churches who deliver safeguarding training and who are developing a Safer Space culture in their various settings.
- The Support of the Connexional team and the materials and training resources they provide.

## Please Pray For

- The adoption of good practice across the District and the wider Connexion.
- The ability to discern good practice from bad practice.
- A willingness to accept change where change is needed.
- Increasing good effective partnerships throughout the District, the Quadrant and the Connexion.



**Dear Lord God,  
We entrust our safeguarding team to your safekeeping, as they deal with the difficult, sad and complex situations they encounter daily. Give them the strength to face power with wisdom, and error with truth. Lift them when they are low and hold them when they are weary. Amen.**



# Day 21 Peterborough

Encompassing the heart of Peterborough, we minister from the suburbs, villages, and towns, and reach into the city. We have a heart for nurturing and shaping disciples. We are deeply committed to evangelism and social outreach. We have seen great things by working in partnership with other denominations.

## Give Thanks For

- The new people who have stepped forward to serve in our Circuit Leadership, and within local churches, and their modelling what it means to 'give' themselves to the Lord's work.
- Our livestream, our desire to engage with New Places for New People, and our Lay Employees as they find fulfilment in their roles, especially as they also open up New Spaces for New People.

## Please Pray For

- Our focus as we press home the truth that we are called to help people give their lives to Jesus.
- Our honest conversations within as we discern how God is leading us to reshape our circuit.
- Our willingness to embrace change, which is part of life and our discipleship.
- People to see the potential and have hope for the future.



**Father, we thank you for the Peterborough Circuit. May we honour you by keeping Jesus at the centre as we look to our Father and remain open to the work of your Holy Spirit. Reveal to us the riches you have given us to serve you faithfully. Amen.**

### Superintendent

Rev'd Dr Langley Mackrell-Hey

### Ministers

Rev'd Janet Titterton

Rev'd Sarah Gower (Authorised Minister)

### Circuit Administrator

Mrs Sue Moore

### Lay Pastoral Assistant

Mrs Suzanne Delegate

### Back of Beyond Project Worker

Mrs Suzanne Delegate

### Whittlesey Children Family and Community Worker

Mr Tim Wong



# Day 22 Environmental Work (Action For Hope)

The Northampton Methodist District of the Methodist Church affirms the 2019 Methodist Conference's recognition of a Climate Emergency and its call for the UK to achieve net zero emission well before 2050. The District embraces the aspirational target of the Methodist Church to become a net zero carbon emissions church by 2030.

## Give Thanks For

- We thank and celebrate the many churches that obtained their A-Rocha Eco Church award.
- How church buildings and manses within the District are becoming more environmentally friendly via the introduction of solar panels, insulation and heat pumps.
- The District Eco-Summits, which meet three times a year on Zoom, this gathering will continue in 24-25 to be a place of story sharing, creative best practices, and learning.
- The work of the Action for Hope working group (flourish), they have given their energy and enthusiasm to help support the District.
- The 2024 Methodist Conference decision to allocate the Action for Hope money and the impact this will have in 24-25.

## Please Pray For

- Action for Hope working group and their ability to effect change and help implement the new District environmental policy.
- The work of the District Executive as it seeks to support the aforementioned environmental policy.
- The local churches and Circuits as they engage in their next steps of becoming a net zero community.



**Lord, as we pass through this world, may our impact be positive. May the footprint we make be one that helps the next generation. Challenge us to do what we can to help ensure we make a lasting difference to creation. Amen.**

**District Mission Team Leader**  
Matt Forsyth

## Action for Hope Working Group (Flourish)

- Howard Warrener
- Stuart Kean
- Cate Vokes
- Mary Hancock
- Nicola Bashford
- Cyril Fennell



# Day 23

# Nene Valley

The Nene Valley Circuit comprises 7 Churches situated in East Northamptonshire. Our circuit covers both urban and rural areas in towns and small villages. We are passionate about serving God in our Churches and our communities. Our mission is to Plant Faith, Nurture Disciples and Grow God's Kingdom.

## Give Thanks For

- The many ways our Churches are engaging in mission, endeavouring to build God's Kingdom in our towns and villages.
- The work and passion of our Church and Community Enablers.
- The appointment of Ruth Austen as our new Operations Manager for the Circuit.
- Rev'd Lesley as she leaves the Circuit to 'Sit Down'.
- The appointment of our new Superintendent Rev'd Ruth Charlesworth.

## Please Pray For

- Rev'd Ruth, the Staff and Circuit Stewards as they seek God's guidance in looking to the future as God's people in the Nene Valley Circuit.
- Our ongoing focus to reach people with the Good News of the love of God.
- The Circuit seeking God's guidance to becoming One Trusteeship.



**Gracious and loving God, we give you thanks for blessings received by your grace. We ask that you continue to be with us, as we wait for your Spirit's leading; so to bring closer your Kingdom on earth, as it is in Heaven. Guide us as we seek to live out our calling; offering everything to you in our worship, our learning and caring, service and evangelism. Amen.**

### Superintendent

Rev'd Ruth Charlesworth

### Operations Manager

Ruth Austen

### Administrator

Bradley Rignall

### Church and Community Enablers

Mr Andrew Creamer

Mrs Angela Bridge

### Supernumeraries

Rev'd Gordon Chisnall

Rev'd Martin Dawes

Deacon Sylvia Kempson

Rev'd Michael Langstaff





# Day 24 Stationing

Stationing is the process for presbyters moving circuits, usually after five years, or asking for an extension to remain in their current circuit. All actions of stationing are governed by the Code of Practice.

**Chair of District**  
Rev'd Sonia Hicks

**District Lay Stationing  
Representative**  
Sue Walters

## Give Thanks For

- All presbyters and their families who are engaged in the stationing process this year.
- All Circuit Invitation Committees and Circuit Leadership teams who carry out their duties diligently thoughtfully and prayerfully when determining their 'next steps'.
- Rev'd Sonia Hicks and Sue Walters Lay Stationing Rep), as they seek to advise presbyters and circuits in the process.
- The members of SMG1 and SMG2 who will make the decisions regarding stationing.

## Please Pray For

- All presbyters and their families entering into stationing.
- All circuits involved in the stationing process this year.
- Rev'd Sonia Hicks as she guides the presbyters and circuits.
- Sue Walters, who works alongside Rev'd Sonia.



**Loving Father, surround with your love all involved in the stationing process . Thank you for the opportunities this presents, guide us when we have decisions to make and help us to make good, caring decisions working with each other. Decisions that allow presbyters and circuits to thrive. Amen**



# Day 25 Mission



The District Mission team exists to work alongside the Circuits and Churches. Through this supportive partnership, the hope is that we will see a flourishing sustainable network of circuits of worshipping communities that are growing, evangelistic, justice-seeking, and inclusive in their outworking of the mission of God.

## Give Thanks For

- For the engagement in local churches to faithfully witness to their community through initiatives like warm spaces, messy churches, toddler groups, and much, much more!
- For the new FEAST (Friends Exploring and Sharing Together) groups that are emerging in the District.
- The growth in small missional grants given to churches to 'have a go' and believe that God is not finished with them.
- The impact of the LOVE IS... District evangelistic outreach and the hope to come for 2025 plans.
- For the ReNew gatherings for all lay workers and volunteers in the District and beyond. For their impact and sense of belonging and renewal they bring.
- For the growth of new groups meeting in Overstone e.g. the walking group.
- For the Digital witness happening through the District and the training being rolled out across the District to envision new opportunities for mission and ministry online.

## Please Pray For

- Matt as he continues to lead the Mission Team and supports local churches and Circuits in contextual and creative ways.
- Rev'd Kim as she develops the FEAST model and helps release funding into Circuits for new groups.
- Mel Brown as she faithfully listens and empowers a new worshipping communities to form and be supported.
- Naomi Ensor- she delivers training both online and in-person to help many take their next step in being faithful embodiment of our calling.



**Generous and loving God, help us see what could and could be each day, not simply the barriers. Help us take our next step to see your beauty and love personified in the local church. May your will be done here as it is in heaven. Amen.**

**District Mission Team Leader**  
Matt Forsyth

**Overstone Community Pioneer  
Chaplain**  
Mel Brown

**District Digital Enabler**  
Naomi Ensor

**FEAST Enabler**  
Rev'd Kim Shorley



# Day 26 Milton Keynes

Milton Keynes Circuit comprises villages, market towns and city; vibrant places sit alongside deprived areas. The churches are independent, united or within LEPS. As Methodist people we long to be a community that grows and flourishes; shares God's love; challenges injustices, and offers warmth and hospitality to those in need.

## Give Thanks For

- The work of the circuit eco-church group, for their passion for issues of climate justice across denominations.
- Members who have answered the call to join Local Preacher training in the Methodist Church.
- Warm welcome initiative in our churches that has opened its doors for community engagements.
- Circuit safeguarding Training Team for making it possible for church members to access safeguarding training.
- Fellowship Groups in our circuit for bring their vibrancy in our worship and in embracing diversity.

## Please Pray For

- Plans to commission new work for new communities around Milton Keynes.
- Those who are exploring candidating for ordained ministry in the Methodist Church.
- Jane Brough as she embarks on her Diaconal Training and Nicola Vidamour as she takes a new role at Wesley House, Cambridge.
- Families and young people in churches to continue experiencing the love of God.



**God our Father and Mother we thank you for the unity in diversity experienced in all our churches. May this visible unity be a testimony that you are one with the Son Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit our Comforter. May the prayer of Christ Jesus that his disciples should be one be fulfilled in all our lives together.  
Amen**

**Superintendent**  
Rev'd Edson Dube

### Ministers

Rev'd Dave Haseldine  
Rev'd Barry Lotz  
Rev'd George Mwaura - AP  
Revd Ali Facey – Milton Keynes Hospital Chaplain

### Supernumeraries

Rev'd Chris Batten  
Rev'd Peter Dudeney  
Rev'd Dr Margaret Goodall  
Rev'd Stephanie Hibberd  
Rev'd David Marshall  
Rev'd David Moore  
Rev'd Liz Morris  
Rev'd Beatrice Quaye  
Rev'd Peter Sharrocks  
Rev'd Barbara Winner  
Deacon Steve Peck

### Associate Presbyter

Rev'd Wendy Carey

### Circuit Administrator

Ann Harris

### Circuit Stewards

Jackie Commey  
Cathy Hampton  
Tendayi Pearce

### Circuit Secretary

Chris Linford

### Circuit Treasurer

Ben Commey

### Circuit Property Steward

Shepherd Kombo

### Circuit Safeguarding Steward

David Jones



# Day 27 High Wycombe



## **Superintendent**

Rev'd Kate Strange

## **Ministers**

Rev'd Rachael Prince

## **Supernumeraries**

Rev'd Alan Bolton

Rev'd Mike Hill

Rev'd Angela Singleton

## **Circuit Stewards**

Vicky Everitt

Carolyn Luscombe

Mike Wright

Paul Strange

The Circuit continues to support our probationer Minister, Rev'd Rachael Prince, in her second year, as she grows in her ministry to the Churches and to the Circuit.

## **Give Thanks For**

- The life and work of The Avenue and its people.
- The continuing development of our mission following the Vision Day in March 2024.
- Our Superintendent and the Circuit Leadership Team.
- The continuing mission through the Ark Café at Marlow Methodist Church.

## **Please Pray For**

- The work of our Mission Enablers.
- The Alpha Courses across the Circuit.
- Our lay members and all they offer in service and care.
- Rev'd Rachael Prince as she continues to serve and prepares for ordination.



**Loving and gracious God, be with us as we continue to seek your plan for the future of our Circuit. Encourage and guide each Chapel through the power of your Holy Spirit. With open minds and renewed zeal help us to share your love with our communities to the praise and glory of your name. Amen**

# Day 28 Amersham

The Circuit is situated at the southernmost part of the Northampton District, sweeping north and west from Gerrards Cross to Prestwood. Our Churches comprise one Methodist/URC and five Methodist Churches. The Circuit seeks to use its resources in new and creative ways for the glory of God.

## Give thanks For

- The ministry of Church and Circuit Stewards.
- The marriage of Rev'd James Patterson and Rev'd Angela Sheard.
- The Reception into Full Connexion and Ordination of Rev'd James Patterson.
- The mission of Movers & Shaker and the C2C project.
- The work following the Circuit Vision Day in November 2023.
- The work of the Circuit Administrator.
- Pastoral care and nurture across the Circuit.
- For the successful completion of the sale of St. John's Methodist Church and that Christian mission will continue on the site through the work of Restore Hope Latimer.

## Please Pray For

- The Circuit Leadership Team as we move forward in faith.
- Small groups that meet to pray, study the Bible and fellowship together.
- The ministry of the Amersham Circuit YouTube channel.
- An increase in the number of paid workers in the life of the Circuit as we seek to minister in new ways.



**Loving God, as we move forward in mission,  
help us to be more like the people you want us to be.  
Enable us to be receptive to change  
and willing to take risks for the sake of  
the Gospel.  
In the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.**



**Superintendent**  
Rev'd E Adam Wells

**Minister**  
Rev'd James Patterson

**Circuit  
Administrator/Bookkeeper**  
Lu Gigg

**Circuit Meeting Secretary**  
Ann Cloke

**Circuit Stewards**  
Pam Sitford  
David Hillas  
Rohan Navaratnam



# Day 29 Vale of Aylesbury

The Vale of Aylesbury Circuit consists of 16 churches which covers much of Buckinghamshire and part of South Oxfordshire. The Circuit is approximately 22 miles from north (Stewkley ) to south (Chinnor) and 16.5 miles from east (Cheddington) to west (Thame). It is largely rural, but also has two small towns (Thame and Princes Risborough) and the large town of Aylesbury.

## Give Thanks For

- For our committed ministers, supernumeraries, local preachers and worship leaders who lead our worship services each week.
- Our Circuit Leadership Team for their commitment and expertise.
- New opportunities to grow and develop as servants of God.
- The different outreach initiatives to connect with our communities.
- New initiatives in collaboration with our ecumenical partners.
- A rising concern for those who suffer from Alzheimer's and dementia.
- Our witness in schools sharing the Gospel with love and grace.
- The gifts of our children and young people.
- The remarkable stories of journey of faith.
- The little shoots of new growth.
- The signs of renewal and revival.

## Please Pray For

- A family and children enabler who will help the circuit to invest and revive youth work as an important part of its mission.
- Foodbanks and for those who work in the community to keep us safe and well.
- Those who are faced with difficult news and find it difficult to cope.
- The Church's witness to flourish and materialise in a challenging and changing world.



**Sovereign God, we praise you for your faithfulness and constant love. We pray that you will continue to pour out your Spirit on your Church so that its witness will be effective and contagious. Give us the vision we need to go forward and the discernment to follow the leading and guiding of your Holy Spirit. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

### Superintendent

Rev'd Richard Atkinson,  
Aylesbury, North Marston  
(Methodist/CofE) and Weedon  
(Methodist/CofE)

### Ministers

Rev'd Noreen Daley-Lee,  
Cheddington, Stewkley,  
Swanbounre, Waddesdon,  
Whitchurch and Wingrave

Rev'd Hee-gon Moon,  
Chinnor, Cuddington, Haddenham,  
Princess Risborough, Stone and  
Christchurch, Thame,  
(Methodist/URC)

### Voluntary Lay Workers

Jennie Marriner-Kyle  
Arthur Sara



# Day 30 The Overstone Project

The project is approaching its 4th year. We have watched the transformation from fields to new housing and the forming of a new community. Families have been welcomed by doorstep introductions, with an invitation to build friendship with the hope that we can share with them the love of Jesus.

## Give Thanks For

- The ecumenical partnership formed at the start of the project. We have worked very hard to successfully maintain this relationship and we are thankful for the fruits it has yielded and for the joint friendship and support we have offered the community.
- The amazing volunteer resident leaders who are passionate about bringing this growing community together, building relationships and contributing to the place where they live.
- Our Walking Group has been a place for deep conversations, exploring the beautiful surrounding areas, and for sharing personal testimony of God's grace, love and goodness; and sharing the joy that we find in knowing Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour.

## Please Pray For

- Existing and new families moving into a new place.
- Ongoing engagement and activities which help us to bring residents together, helping them to foster community and neighbourliness.
- Staff and residents of Overstone Care Home House, where we lead services and are regularly present.



**Our Lord and Father,  
Thank you for the growing community in  
Overstone.  
For everyone who has made their home  
there and for all those still arriving.  
May this community be a place where  
they can build fulfilled and enriched  
lives, with opportunities to hear about  
and engage with You.  
Amen**

**Overstone Pioneer  
Community Chaplain**  
Mel Brown

**Vicar of Mears Ashby, Hardwick  
& Sywell with Overstone  
(Ecumenical Partner)**  
Rev'd Katrina Hutchins

**Overstone Resident & Volunteer  
Leader**  
Lizzie Bebe-Mills

**Overstone Resident (Vice Chair  
of Parish Council) Volunteer  
Leader**  
Stephen Williams

**Overstone Resident & Volunteer  
Leader**  
Catherine Williams



# Day 31 Methodist Homes - MHA

For over 80 years, MHA has worked to meet needs and aspirations of people in later life. Throughout the District, older people have been finding assurance and creating friendships through our care homes and retirement living properties, enjoying the warmth, comfort and spirituality that's central to living later life well.

## Give Thanks For

- Staff and volunteers who work to bring happiness, peace and joy to the residents of our schemes.
- The music therapists and chaplaincy teams who bring light and life to those we meet through music, prayer, worship, bible study and pastoral support.
- The residents themselves, that through their lives we are all so deeply enriched by their stories and experiences, that stay with us for ever.

## Please Pray For

- The residents, staff and volunteers of our homes and schemes especially in our District.
- MHA has been severely affected by the cost-of-living crisis and this along with continued recovery from the pandemic has meant that some difficult decisions have had to be made within the organisation to make sure we are a financially secure charity, able to look to the future and continue in our mission to enable older people to live later life well.



**Loving God, as we thank you for the Methodist Church, for MHA and for the connections between them, we ask your continued blessing upon us all, that we may grow together in faith and love. We pray for peace and joy for all in our care. Amen.**

### Area Support Chaplain

Marion Mahan

### Chaplains

Aigburth, Leicester

Emma Hurley

Brookfield, Oxford

Rev'd Jane Lees

Hillside, Aylesbury

Colin Retief

The Homestead, Oxfordshire

Julie Biggs

The Limes, MK

Rev'd Peter Laws

The Maples, Peterborough

Karen Hales

Rushden Park, Rushden

Colin Retief

Welland Place,

Market Harborough

Father Thomas Rees

Westbury Grange, MK

Rev'd Lee Hillyard

West Court, Banbury

Rev'd David Alderman