

THE GREEN SOCK



NEWS FROM THE SHROPSHIRE AND MARCHES METHODIST CIRCUIT

AUGUST 2018



UPDATE FROM DISTRICT MINISTRY AND MISSION COORDINATOR JO YAIR

My role involves working alongside Circuits that have a significant minister shortage and helping them to continue to be church whether that be by encouraging and equipping the church body or by arranging members of a District team to be brought alongside churches, to hold and extend God's work. The hope is that churches will continue to worship, grow and connect with their community, telling others about Jesus and doing all things that, as followers of Christ we are called to do.

Since March I have been working in the Central section of the Circuit. Everyone has been most welcoming and I have had the pleasure of getting to know many of the members of the congregations. Rev. Hazel Ratcliffe's local knowledge has been invaluable and I have been working alongside Rev. Richard Hall and Rev. Rachel Parkinson to secure ministerial support for the next two years. After many visits to the churches, lots of talking, listening and cups of tea, I'm pleased to say that we have a plan that we are able to now share widely.

Supernumerary ministers Rev. David Lavender and Rev. Don Pickard have very kindly offered to have pastoral oversight of Church Stretton and Clun Methodist Churches. Lay worker Deborah Wills will be offering a more intentional pastoral support role across the section with an emphasis on connecting with families that attend Messy Church particularly in Bishop's Castle, Clun and Craven Arms. The media side to Deborah's role will continue as before.

Partnering with the Bishop of Ludlow and presently undergoing consultation with the church communities in Craven Arms, we are looking to employ a Pioneer Minister for the town. Although still in its early stage of conception, we are hoping that the retired clergy from the CofE church will take pastoral charge of both the Anglican and Methodist congregations whilst plans are developed.

After hearing about the wonderful children's work that has been carried out across the section for many years and listening to the concerns of the children's leaders, I'm pleased to report that we are seeking to employ a Youth Pastor as part of the District team to continue to journey with the young people as they enter High school and nurture them in their Christian faith. Planning for this new appointment is still continuing but it is hoped that the Youth Pastor will be in place within the next few months.

The current ministerial team will have pastoral charge of Bishop's Castle with Rev. Richard Hall designating a member of staff to the cluster. Please continue to hold the Circuit in your prayers. We face difficult and challenging times but know that our God is a God of miracles and blessings.

Jesus told the disciples..." I tell you the truth, if you have faith even as small as a mustard seed you could say to this mountain, move from here to there, and it would move. Nothing would be impossible." Matthew 17v20
Peace and Blessings.



Ministry and Mission Coordinator Jo Yair

EXCHANGE PASTOR'S GRANDSON RELEASES HISTORICAL JOURNAL



David Spring, the grandson of Arthur G J Cambridge, who in 1952 served as an exchange pastor in the then Shropshire and Marches District, is transcribing the journal his grandfather wrote during his exchange with pastor O. Lawson, which contains details about the Circuit. He is keen to contact those interested in the Circuit's history.

Of his grandfather David says, "Arthur Cambridge was born in Rodsborough, England in 1902, went to Cliff College in 1926, and pastored around England as a 'lay agent' during the 1920's. In 1930 he came to New York State and began a thirty year career as a Methodist clergy (member of the Troy Conference). He married Emily Poppleton of Pontefract and raised three kids in rural New York State and Vermont. Emily also served parishes as a supply speaker even though she was not 'a member of the conference'". To contact David Spring or access a copy of the journal online, please email the Circuit Media Office: media.smcircuit@gmail.com .

STATIONING 2019

'The aim is to discern what the Holy Spirit is saying to the presbyters and deacons and to the Circuits about how the Church's resources, in terms of its ordained ministers, are best used.' *Code of Practice 2019.*

On May 30th and June 15th, the Circuit Invitation Committee and the Circuit Stewards met at Bayston Hill to gather a common understanding of the process of Stationing Ministers in our Circuit for 2019. We did this over two mornings. There are ten people from across the Circuit who were invited by the March 2018 Circuit Meeting to act on their behalf, with a view to meeting the Methodist Church requirements in Standing Orders, the Code of Practice for all involved in the Invitation and Stationing process and other relevant Guidance documents. During this time, we may be looking at Ministerial extensions or applications for new Ministers, under the guidance of the District Chair the District Lay Stationing Representative, our Superintendent with the Circuit Executive and Ministerial team. Local churches will be invaluable in helping the process along, by assisting church stewards, on request, to gather information and local understanding at appropriate junctures along the way.

This process changes from year to year as more information and advice is given as to how it might be improved. It is not possible to assume that because we were involved in Stationing one year that this way of working holds true for all years. It may be of interest to you to know that one of the areas of improvement this year, is that we have more detail on the giving and receiving of feedback.

This includes feedback that may, in appropriate circumstances, be given to the Ministers from the Invitations Committee, as well as feedback between churches and Church Stewards to the Circuit Stewards and onwards to the Circuit Invitation Committee.

As the work continues, follow up and reporting of where we are in the process will happen in due course through Circuit Meetings. As many of our churches will be involved this year, it will be challenging as we discern together where God is leading us. We look forward to a successful outcome as we prepare and hold in prayer our Ministers, their families and the Circuit.



Some of the Circuit Invitation Committee

Andrea Sheppick

Shhh - GREEN LANE QUIET ROOM IN PROGRESS



Giving the Quiet Room a test run



Following a lot of hard work from Property Secretary, Jenny Scott and her team, Green Lane Methodist Church in Leominster has a place to be known as the *Quiet Room* where people can go to be quiet, pray and reflect as well as hold small meetings. Once the new carpet has been laid, it will be fully operational.



LUDLOW TO HOLYHEAD BY BIKE FOR CHRISTIAN AID

Rev. Kim Stilwell, wife Stella and friends Roger Rolton and Mark Thompson headed for the coast the hard way on a sponsored bike ride for Christian Aid.

The ride which was fuelled by copious quantities of cake and Jelly Babies en route, took place on 11th and 12th July and included a stopover in Barmouth - a well-deserved break after crossing the pass at Dinas Mawddly near Dolgellau.

Blessed with good weather and the enjoyment of God's beautiful creation, on the second day after crossing the Menai bridge, the trio were relieved to arrive in Holyhead with 20 minutes to spare to catch the train back to Ludlow, arriving close to midnight. Thanks to generous sponsors, the fantastic sum of around £1500 was raised.

