

Freedom in Christ

Freedom in Christ is a 12 week discipleship course, with the option of an away day. It is designed to help Christians take hold of the truth of who they are in Christ, and equip them to live in the freedom that Jesus brings.

Each session includes a simple time of worship, some teaching material, and opportunities to pause for thought as individuals, and in small groups, in a safe, no pressure environment. The course sets out to:

- Explain the amazing truths of what Jesus has done in a way that Christians can “connect” with and integrate into their daily life
- Help believers understand the nature of the spiritual battle they are now in and equip them to overcome the world, and the evil in it.
- Help believers take hold of the authority they now have in Christ to resolve personal and spiritual conflicts
- Equip Christians to take personal responsibility for continuing to live in the freedom gained so that they go on to maturity and bear fruit.

To find out more about how this course may be used in your church or home group come to the promotion evening led by George Pearce and Paul Howes at Bicester Methodist Church, Sunday 22nd September at 7.30pm.

CIRCUIT DIARY

more at www.bbbcircuit.org.uk

Aug 28	Wed	7.30pm	Welcome to Revd Patricia Olivent-Hayes, Brackley
Sep 7	Sat	3.00pm	MWiB Cream Teas at Bicester Manse
11	Wed	3.00pm	MWiB Committee at 8 Cross Keys Court, Brackley
12	Thu	7.30pm	Local Preachers meet at Bicester
25	Wed	7.30pm	Circuit Meeting at Brackley
Nov 16	Sat	9.30am	Christmas Bazaar at Brackley
27	Wed	7.30pm	Circuit Property Committee at Brackley
30	Sat	4.00pm	MWiB Advent Celebration at Brackley

Information for the next “Bulletin” to Malcolm Wainwright by Monday 4 November 2013:
35 Cartwright Crescent, Brackley, NN13 6HA, malcolm-w@talktalk.net

Aug - Oct
2013
No. 54

The Methodist Church 
Buckingham, Bicester & Brackley Circuit

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REVD COLIN JACKSON

At the Circuit Service on 28 July at Silverstone Methodist Church we said farewell to the Revd Colin Jackson and offered thanks for his five years of ministry amongst us.

His ministry within the Buckingham, Bicester and Brackley Circuit has been greatly appreciated by many within the Churches for which he had pastoral responsibility: Brackley, Greens Norton, Silverstone and Towcester. They have found him to be approachable, friendly, with a good sense of humour and a

preaching style that was accessible and easily understood. The smaller Churches particularly valued the time he spent with them and his attendance at and participation in local events.

We pray that God will continue to bless and guide Colin and his wife, Revd Janet Jackson, in the next stage of their ministries within the Methodist Church which for Colin will be in the National Forest East Circuit in the Nottingham and Derby District.

Michael Brookes

THE CHURCH AT GREENS NORTON

The members at Greens Norton but as my husband keeps telling me – ‘The people have moved on and it is just a building’ – albeit a place with many memories. The closure on the Chapel on 30th June and have offered your help and support.

This has not been an easy time and as things progress and the Chapel is sold it will be another source of regret to those of us who live in village and walk past the building each day,

The time has now come when God is leading us on to pastures new and we all know that wherever we choose to worship in the future months and years He will be with us and pointing us in the right direction.

Linda Paice

Well St. Church, Buckingham

Well Street United Church is a local ecumenical partnership (LEP) which was formed in 1985 when the Methodist & United Reformed Churches agreed to unite. In 2003 the Baptist union were welcomed into the LEP.

In the 1990s the church experienced significant growth and realised that the property in Well Street was simply too small to house the congregation. Over the ensuing years, two major attempts have been made to find more suitable premises.

The first proposal was to purchase a former print works in Well Street which would have provided a large meeting area, space for children and youth, living accommodation for the minister and parking space. Unfortunately the valuation of the building was not satisfactory and the project was abandoned.

The second attempt was to employ 1Church100 Uses, a professional group linked to URC, to help us explore possibilities within the town. Again this proved fruitless.

Last year the trustees were advised that the building in Well Street did not meet current fire safety regulations and that if we were to continue using the building we would have to impose strict limits on the number of people in the church at any one time (c60). The alternative was to spend significant monies on alterations to the building. These alterations would have allowed us to increase the capacity to c100 but would have not solved some of the other inherent problems e.g. access, parking, inability to accommodate whole congregation.

Although in the middle of an interregnum, Rev Steve Fisher having



moved in November, the elders were unanimous in believing that we could no longer put off the decision to move from Well Street. One of the main objectives being a desire to re-unite the church. Our 3 service structure, (9.30 family service, 11.15 traditional service, 6.00 contemporary service) had in reality almost developed into 3 different congregations sharing one building.

A church meeting in April approved the move and since the beginning of May we have moved to a single Sunday service at the Royal Latin School.

Over the first 3 months our average congregation has been around 140 which is roughly the same number of people as attended the 3 services. Sadly some have found the change too difficult and have chosen to worship elsewhere, although this has been bal-

anced by new people joining us.

At the outset we stressed that to come back together as one family would require grace and patience particularly as we seek to establish a distinctive pattern of worship. The intention has always been to create a style of worship suitable for the whole family rather than replicating the style of one of the previous 3 services.

Children & Youth work have more space but still have the perennial problem of shortage of helpers.

As we settle into our temporary home, we continue to look for a site for a permanent home and alongside that the recruitment of a Baptist minister to replace Steve Fisher.