

CONCERT AT TOWCESTER



The Songsters of the Salvation Army Corps, Northampton, will be giving a concert at

Towcester Methodist Church on Thursday 8 May at 7.30pm. They have been doing this for several years now and their music is inspiring. They have a huge repertoire. Admission is free. There will be a collection to be shared between the Salvation Army and the Church.

NEED AND OPPORTUNITY

If you have the time, the ability and the interest one of the following Circuit needs might be just the opportunity you have been seeking. Please contact Paul or Pat if that's the case.

- Circuit World Development Secretary
- Circuit Education & Youth Secretary

How much are volunteers appreciated !

CIRCUIT DIARY

more at www.bbbcircuit.org.uk

Apr	9	Wed	7.30pm	Circuit Meeting at Well St, Buckingham
May	3	Sat	7.30pm	Barn Dance, Silverstone Church Re-opening
	4	Sun	6.00pm	Songs of Praise, Silverstone Church Re-opening
	8	Thu	7.30pm	Salvation Army Concert at Towcester
	10	Sat	10.15am	Northampton District Synod, Hinckley Circuit
	17	Sat	9.30am	Plant Sale at Brackley
	18	Sun	6.00pm	Circuit Easter Offering Service at Steeple Claydon Bicester Bicentenary Celebrations begin
	23	Fri		<i>Love Bicester</i> Mission begins
Jun	6	Fri	7.30pm	Organ Concert with Philip Davey at Bicester
	10	Tue	7.30pm	Circuit Local Preachers meet at Thornborough
	14	Sat		Circuit Prayer Day: praying for each others' churches
	28	Sat	10.00am	Arts & Craft Exhibition at Bicester
Sep	11	Thu	7.30pm	Circuit Local Preachers meet at Silverstone
	14	Sun	2.30pm	Explore Preaching and Worship Leading, Brackley
	19 - 21	Fri - Sun		Flower Festival at Bicester
	21	Sun	10.45am	Revd Lord Leslie Griffiths at Bicester
	24	Wed	7.30pm	Circuit Meeting

Information for the next "Bulletin" to Malcolm Wainwright by Monday 7 July 2014:
35 Cartwright Crescent, Brackley, NN13 6HA, malcolm-w@talktalk.net

Apr - Aug
2014
No. 56

The Methodist Church



Buckingham, Bicester & Brackley Circuit

BULLETIN

RISE UP WITH BROKEN WINGS!

'Rise up, Church with broken wings,

fill this place with songs again of our God who reigns on high, by His Grace again we'll fly!'

Since 2009, when our main Chapel building was closed due to safety issues with the main beam supporting the roof, the words above from a favourite song have kept us all going and encouraged us on our journey.

To God be the Praise and Glory for leading and guiding us because it is only by His grace that everything has been achieved

Many meetings were held, prayers prayed and discussions taken place about what we should do with the building - demolish, rebuild or restore? The decision was made to restore and reorder the Chapel to make it fit again for worship and as a community space for the village. To raise money for this project we have held fund-raising events and applied for grants, we've also received many monetary gifts.

The pews, pulpit and organ were removed, the floor raised, under-floor heating installed, floor tiles laid, wooden panels made and fitted, a screen, projector and stage lighting installed, walls decorated,

windows repaired and a kitchen fitted in the old vestry, new chairs purchased with a grant from South Northants District Council.

We thank everyone and every organisation for their gifts of money, time and talents. The Chapel now looks bright, warm and welcoming and ready to be used once more. Our prayers now are that this Chapel will be a beacon of light shining in the village, that it will be used in many ways during the week as a source of outreach and that village people and groups will use it too.

Our Re-Opening Celebrations will take place on May 3rd and 4th. Saturday from 10am the Chapel will be open and food will be available. 7.30pm Barn Dance and food.

Sunday services- 9.15am Breakfast, 10am Café Church Worship, speaker Rev Peter Hancock, Chair of the District. Bring & Share lunch at 12noon. The Chapel will be open during the afternoon for tea and cakes.

6pm. Circuit Songs of Praise Service.

Please do come and share in our celebrations, you'll be made very welcome.

And, finally, we end our series on the Circuit churches by a focus on....

Bicester

Our Church and Services We currently have just over 150 members. In the morning we have a fairly standard service, with a mixture of hymns and a few modern songs; on average the congregation is about 80.

Young church meets at the same time; there are about 30 children and young people involved, with about 10-15 attending each week, along with a dedicated team of about 8 leaders.

In the evening we have Absolute Worship, which is open to all, but aimed at older teenagers and young adults. This is a much more informal service, which often includes discussion or (if Rev Paul is leading!) art activities. We generally have a congregation of 15-20, made up fairly equally of adults and young people.

On the first Sunday of the month in the morning we have two simultaneous services – a traditional one in the church, and Connect café church in the main hall. This is aimed at families, who sit together around tables. The service involves crafts and other activities for children (and adults) as well as creative prayer, songs and a message. About 50-60 adults and children come each month.

The Buildings As well as the church building we have four rooms varying in size from the Main Hall which can hold about 80, to the Fellowship Room which has comfortable settees and chairs and can hold about 20. These are in continual use by church groups, other churches in the town, community groups and others – in a typical week the building will be in use for over 80 hours by about 40 different groups. In particular the church itself is used on a Sunday afternoon by the Elim Lighthouse Church.

Youth Work Ute Rossrucker is our part-time youth worker. She is Austrian, and is studying for a degree in Theology and Mission, with an emphasis on youth. As part of her course she is on placement with us, and has got involved in a variety of activities as well as starting new ones. She also coordinates Absolute Worship.

At the heart of the town The recent redesign of the front of the church has made it much more visible and accessible to those passing by on Sheep Street, Bicester's main pedestrianised shopping street. We are

aiming to take advantage of this – at the moment Open Doors on a Saturday makes use of our café-like vestibule area to offer refreshment to those who drop in, and a listening ear if needed; there is a similar drop-in providing drinks and cakes on a Tuesday morning

Fellowship There are plenty of opportunities for people to meet for fellowship and discussion. There are five home groups meeting at different times of the week, as well as Tuesday Fellowship and Wives Club which meet in the church halls. Each of these has its own emphasis – some focussing more on Bible study, others on fellowship and mutual support.

Churches in Bicester There are many activities in the town which are organised by churches working together, including the Foodbank, Healing on the Streets, Youth Forum, Debt Counselling and Street Pastors. Our buildings are a key resource for the Christians of the town.

Love Bicester 2014 At present all the churches of the town are gearing up for a town-wide mission at the end of May. Unlike the previous Love Bicester, which had a visiting team of missionaries helping to put on special events, this is aiming to equip members of the churches to reach out their friends and neighbours, with the aid of small-scale events and activities. At present our home groups, along with those of the other churches, are working through a series of six studies specially prepared to equip people for this.

BMC 200 This year marks the 200th Anniversary of the arrival of Methodism in Bicester. In 1814, a Methodist from Brackley moved to Bicester and started a class meeting in his home on Sheep Street. To mark this, a programme of events has been organised, including special services with preachers who have had a previous connection with our church, a supper and talk about the history of the church, concerts, and a Flower Festival. A time capsule is being prepared by Young Church and will be buried at their anniversary service in June. What will church life be like when it is opened in 2064?

