

Coming soon to a church near you

This Autumn five people were, in Methodist speak, “given a Note to preach”. Their time *On Note* is a time for testing and training as they accompany a Local Preacher in leading worship. They introduce themselves briefly to you here:

Ann Beasley: *I have a background in Methodism although I embrace all denominations of Christian brothers and sisters. My Christian teaching began in Sunday school. and I committed my life to Christ and His service as a teenager.*

John and I have been married 49 years and have lived in eight different locations where we have served the Lord in many roles in our local Methodist Church. We now worship at Well Street United Church, Buckingham. My career was in Primary School teaching. We have two daughters and five granddaughters.

I have been a worship leader for a long time but I have never felt the call to preach - until now. I ask for your prayers as I continue my studies.

Trevor Ray: *I was brought up on a farm in Oxfordshire and after school went to University to train as a scientist. As children, my brother and I always went to church and from an early age it was something very special for me; my increasing scientific knowledge only enhanced this feeling.*

I had been planning to train so that I could ‘do’ more in the church for several years, life however made making the time for it impossible. I then went on a long, arduous charity cycle ride where I spent many hours battling against the elements on my own. It was then that I realised I cannot do things on my own, I need God’s help.

Every time I prayed for help, it came. That trip was the element that made me finally commit.

David Lingwood: *I grew up in Reading attending a Methodist/URC church; I still admire the leaders there. At 14 I gave my life to Christ at Mission Woodley. I went to study Art and Design (when I started doing wedding cakes) and then Book Illustration but I became ill and had to return home. Having been abused by a family friend this period of my life was challenging but God*



used it to increase my faith and I learnt to forgive my abuser. Yvette and I married and we lived in Slough, attending a C of E church and I led the BB Anchor Boys at a Methodist one.

Then managing the Children’s Mobile Library Service in South Oxfordshire, we moved to Brackley, eventually joining the Methodist Church.

I feel God telling me that I am an encourager: an Anglican curate as well as Rev. Pat suggested I had a calling in ministry. I want to serve the Lord so others can know Jesus as Saviour.

Yvette Lingwood: *Ill at birth, I visited Great Ormond St Hospital regularly as a child. My church roots are Anglican and during my teens I felt a call to ordained ministry which led me to studying Theology and Music at Southlands College. My studies, my first encounter there with Methodism and my passion for organ playing were all affected by the onset of progressive rheumatoid arthritis in my final year. A little later David and I started courting.*



After working for USPG in a church in Bradford I recognised that ordained ministry was not any longer an option and found employment in the Berkshire Library Service and the Dept for Work and Pensions.

When we moved to Brackley David and I eventually became members of the Methodist Church. God has been my rock throughout and I seek to share my faith with others as appropriate. I am now pleased to offer for different ministry as a Local Preacher.

Caroline Bowd: *I want to be a Local Preacher because I believe that God loves us and Jesus is our Saviour. Jesus has made a real difference in my life and I would like to share this with other people, sharing also their faith and their witness of the Risen Lord. I have been a Christian for most of my life, and have attended Methodist Churches as a child and an adult, plus Baptist, High Anglican, Charismatic Anglican and United Reform churches. I joined Brackley Methodist Church at the start of 2015, having moved from Cheltenham to be near to my family. I took early medical retirement from my career in the Civil Service in 2014. I hope and trust that Jesus will guide me and use me.*

CIRCUIT DIARY

more at www.bbbcircuit.org.uk

Dec	9	Wed	7.30pm	Local Preachers and Worship Leaders meet at Brackley
Mar	9	Wed	7.30pm	Circuit Finance Committee meets at Silverstone
	16	Wed	7.30pm	Local Preachers and Worship Leaders meet at Thornboro’
Apr	13	Wed	7.30pm	Circuit Meeting at Silverstone

Information for the next “Bulletin” to Malcolm Wainwright by Monday 7 March 2016 :
35 Cartwright Crescent, Brackley, NN13 6HA, malcolm-w@talktalk.net

Dec 2015-
 Mar 2016
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12 months on... *a minister reflects*

It's just over a year since I arrived as minister of Well Street United Church, and a good time to reflect on what I've learnt about serving in a local ecumenical partnership (LEP).

A few years ago, I was with a bunch of fellow clergy and we were discussing our epitaphs and what might they be. After some frivolous thoughts, the most popular suggestion was this: 'Gone to a Meeting!'

That epitaph might be said of any clergy in life, never mind death, but even more so for the minister of an LEP such as Well Street. With Baptist, Methodist and United Reformed denominations represented, I could fill up my life with denominational meetings if I chose. I don't! In practice, I have to choose not to go to some, or I would not have space for the meetings that are specific to Well Street.

What have I learnt through being a minister of an LEP?

- ◇ We are one church and what unites us is far more important than what might divide. Ephesians 4 vv4-6 gives a statement of faith that any Christian church should be able to affirm as it speaks of one body, one Spirit, one hope, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all. I think we can agree with that.
- ◇ We differ over the mode of baptism rather than the need for it! As a Baptist minister, I am not normally permitted to administer anything but the baptism of believers. As a church, however, we can give infant baptism if that is requested and invite a Methodist or URC minister to administer it.
- ◇ Methodists have stewards, URCs have elders and Baptists aren't always sure! At Well Street we have elders and stewards to lead

our church.

- ◇ At regional level, where Baptists have associations, Methodists and URCs have synods. The synods are much more a part of decision-making than association meetings, as in Baptist circles most things are decided by the local church.
- ◇ Methodists are very methodical!
- ◇ In the Methodist Church, ministers are called to the circuit. Among Baptists (and I think, URCs), it is the local church that calls the minister.

Recently, I joined a Facebook group for ministers of LEPs called the 'LEPers'! Well, we are not untouchable in either a bad or a superior sense. Our 3 B's Circuit has made me very welcome and I'm glad to be part of the team. What's important to us at Well Street Church is not which one of the three denominations the individual member may belong to (and many members are from other denominations). Rather, we aim to be united in fulfilling the church's motto: *Putting the King at the Heart of Buckingham*.



Tim has moved to:
22 Catchpin Street, Buckingham, MK18 7RR.
His landline is now 01280 423709

Tim Edworthy