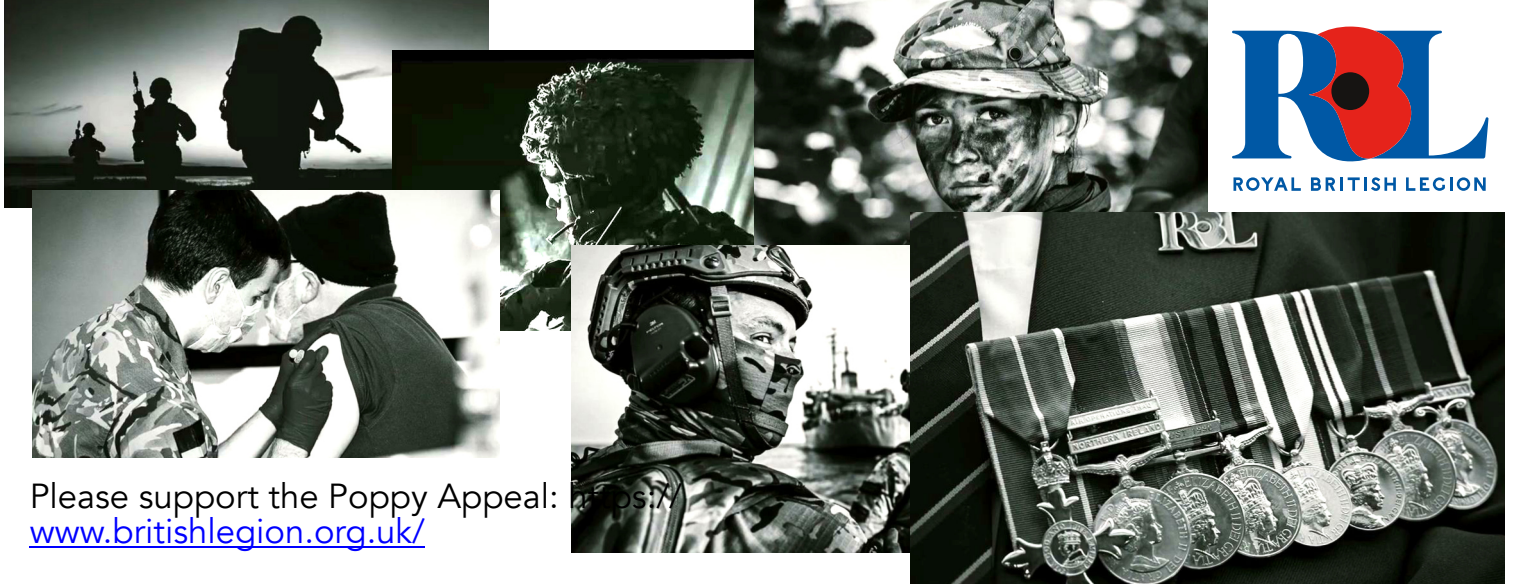


Methodist reporter

NOVEMBER 2022

*E-News from the St Albans and
Welwyn Methodist circuit*

ISSUE 180



Please support the Poppy Appeal:
www.britishlegion.org.uk/

The Methodist Diaconal Order.

A mission-focused, pioneering religious community committed to enabling outreach, evangelism and service in God's world.

Did you know that within Methodism, we are all ministers? In fact all Christians are called through their baptism and hearing the word of God, to ministry and service to the whole people of God and the communities in which they live. It could be in helping at a food bank, sharing our faith with others, preaching, worship leading, helping someone in need, the list is actually endless. We are all ministers!

There is however, the ministry of the "Ordained", those who are called by God to a lifetime commitment to serve God. Within our tradition we have two forms of Ordained Ministers. The Presbyterian and the Deacon, both known as ministers. For many, the role of Presbyterian is more widely understood as every church will usually have a Presbyterian whose primary calling is in the pastoral care and charge of a particular church.

In this short article I want to focus on the distinct ministry of the Deacon within the Methodist Church. Though Deacons undertake the same theological training as their Presbyterian colleagues, Deacons have a very distinct calling. Though Deacons often officiate at weddings, funerals and baptisms, and will preach on Sundays, their role is one of witness and service within the communities where a church may be based. Deacons are members of a religious order and live as a dispersed community under a rule of life. So what does this role look like for me, here in St Albans and Welwyn circuit? What does witness and service look like to those who may not attend church?

Cornerstone House in Hatfield is a great example of how Diaconal Ministry can work. As you may know, Cornerstone is based in the Salisbury Village estate in Hatfield. There is no church building and community facilities are few and far between. In the difficult times we find ourselves today, many are finding everyday life difficult. My role involves getting to know the local community and finding ways in which the church can



be a light in the darkness. As I live alongside the community I am in a position to hear and see where there may be a need. As I, and my wife Jane, walk the streets we meet the people where they are at. We make friends and get to know them. It is in these forming relationships that we can find ways, not only to act, but to offer hope. Jesus said, "I have come so that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly" I cannot solve all the problems of the world, but when somebody who is elderly, is feeling isolated, I can offer a listening ear and a place of comfort to chat. When a family is struggling with their children we can give them a break by looking after the children for an hour after school. With the cost of heating rising, we can offer somewhere to come and be warm for a few hours. As these relationships grow stronger, new ways can be found to be witnesses of God's love and help them to live that abundant life. Telling people about Jesus over a cup of coffee can be very refreshing! I am often asked by people who don't profess a faith, "Why do you do, what you do?" It is in those conversations that I am given the opportunity to be a witness of God's love. It may not look like church, but at the heart, it is exactly that, it is building the kingdom of God from ground up.

Two points from our calling of the Methodist Church remind us that the church exists to be a good neighbour to people in need, and also to make more followers of Jesus Christ. So alongside the other points of Worship, and caring, the work of Deacons alongside the whole church is a vital part of all our ministries.

So for me, as your Deacon, you will most likely find me serving in ways that allow me to be a witness. In St Albans, that may be chatting with someone over coffee, serving the homeless a hot meal, or helping out with an activity at one of our churches.

In short, the kingdom of God is available to all: along the way, it feeds the hungry, clothes the poor, heals the sick, binds up the broken hearted, and builds a true community.

You may be interested to know that I am speaking at the next Thinking Lunch at Marlborough Road on the 1st of December. I will be talking about how the Diaconal Order came into being and give some more insight into the role of Deacons across our connexion. Cornerstone House is also holding an open day on Saturday 10th December between 10am and 3pm and I hope this will give an opportunity to see for yourself what Diaconal Ministry looks like in our area.

Deacon Nigel Perrott

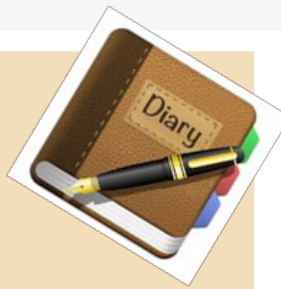
Daily Prayer
November 12th, 19th, 26th.
Page 4

Birchwood Xmas Fair
26th November. 10am.
Page 3

Big Quiz Night
St Johns Potters Bar
Saturday 19th November 6pm.
Page 8

Thinking Lunch
Deacon Nigel Perrott. 1st Dec.
Page 3

Advent Study
30th Nov, 7th, 14th, 21st Dec.
Page 5



NEWS, ARTICLES AND ADVERTISEMENTS FOR THE METHODIST REPORTER should be sent via email to: news@methodistreporter.org.uk and must be received by the 20th of the month, for the following month's issue.

Copy is only acceptable in the following file formats:

Documents containing text: Microsoft Word (.doc/docx). Pictures: Jpeg (Documents sent as Jpeg or other graphic files will not be included).

Please ensure you have permission from people (or young people's parents) for their picture to be published in Reporter.

Please do not send PDF files as we are not able to edit them and therefore may reject as unusable. No scans of documents are acceptable, only the originals, please.

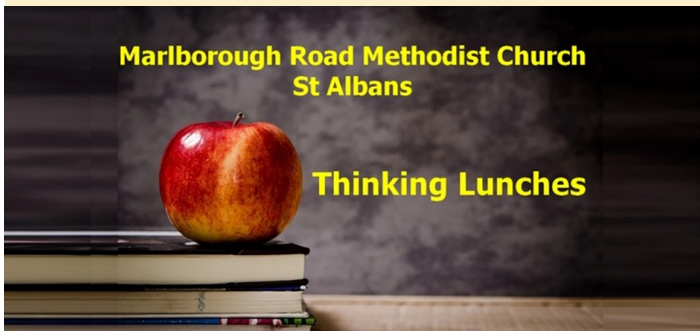
Please keep article to a half page maximum. (Max 350 words)

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news@methodistreporter.org.uk Printed versions of Reporter can be supplied to Churches: email Chris at: admin@midhertsmethodists.org.uk

Marlborough Road MC



It was pleasing to see all who attended the Monthly Thinking Lunch in October. David Jonathan spoke about his work with 'Grassroots Luton' and their ongoing mission in respect of building and promoting community and trust in an interfaith context. The sum of £54 was raised for the work of the 'Grassroots' programme.

On Thursday 3rd November Doral Hayes spoke on 'What's Unity got to do with me? The role and potential of ecumenical work in the church today'. A report will be published later. From September 2022 Doral has been in the role of Principal Officer for Ecumenical Development and Relations at Churches Together in England. Doral was previously Ecumenical Facilitator for Churches Together in Hertfordshire and for over nine years, was Executive Development Officer for the Association of Interchurch Families. Formerly both a Trustee of Churches Together in England and the Chair of CTBI/CTE Bodies in Association, Doral is currently a member of the English and Welsh Anglican Roman Catholic Committee and the CTBI Writers Group for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. Doral is also undertaking a Doctorate in Theology at Roehampton University with a focus on ecumenical theology.

On Thursday 1st December we look forward to hearing from Deacon Nigel Perrott who will speak on the subject of 'Who and What is a Deacon in the Methodist Church'.

Rev Andrew Prout Marlborough Road Methodist Church, St. Albans. Tel: 01727 851834

Birchwood MC

Birchwood celebrated their Harvest Festival together with Communion under the leadership of Rev Rosemary Mupoto. All the gifts go to the Hatfield Food bank with whom they have a close connection courtesy one of their members.

The week before, the Monday Club produced a poster reminding us all of grandparents in the life of every family. If you've never been to Birchwood, do join us at our next Coffee Morning on Saturday 22nd October 10 - 12.00 and ask to be shown around.



BIRCHWOOD METHODIST CHURCH
(Corner Birchwood Ave/Heathcote Ave, Hatfield)

Christmas Fair

SATURDAY 26th NOVEMBER 10.00 – 12.00

**Home Made Baking,
Crafts,
Games**



CIRCUIT MEETING REPORT

Here is a short overview of the Circuit Meeting held on the 15th September 2022. We were warmly welcomed at Digswell Village Church where we had time to meet our new ministers in the Circuit before we welcomed them to their first Circuit Meeting here in the St Albans and Welwyn Circuit. Apart from the standard reports and discussions, our new Superintendent, Revd David Jebb, brought to attention of the meeting the latest Methodist funding mission. As a circuit we are being encouraged to begin a pioneering or church planting project. We are being encouraged to do something new and reach new people. You can read about this on the Methodist website by searching **New Places for New People**. I am sure we will be discussing this as a circuit with our new Deacon – Nigel Perrott. However if anyone feels a calling then please discuss this with your minister.

Then we had a bit of a discussion regarding the many vacancies within the Circuit and our own Churches. We are all being encouraged to consider the roles we can play and to even consider changing the role we do if we have one, as the role we give up might be more suitable for someone else, so we will have filled a role in doing so. The list is quite extensive, but we are currently seeking people to fill in the following roles:-

Circuit Treasurer
Circuit Safeguarding Office (see page 6)
Circuit Property Coordinator
Circuit Manse Steward
Circuit Steward
Circuit Archivist
Circuit Mission in Britain Coordinator
MHA Representative

Guy Fenner. Circuit Steward

Saturday
Morning
Prayer Time

12th, 19th and 26th November
2022 from 9 am to 9:45 am

Via Zoom.

Email djebb2003@gmail.com

for a Zoom link, please!

let's
PRAY

SATURDAY MORNING PRAYER TIME TOGETHER: 'LET'S PRAY!'

"Pray in the Spirit at all times and on every occasion. Stay alert and be persistent in your prayers for all believers everywhere." Ephesians 6:18 NLT

Throughout Scripture, we are reminded of God's direction over our lives. He is our good Shepherd who leads us and He desires that we follow the path that leads to joy and contentment. When we pray for God's guidance and for

discernment through the Holy Spirit, we can rest assured that God will provide wisdom! Do not rush your day without going before God to seek guidance!

Instead of back-building worry and anxiety as we attempt to forecast an unknown future, Paul begs us to "Pray about everything in every way you know how!" (Ephesians 6:18). Stop to consider what the situations of our daily lives might look like if we paused to pray into them and about them more feverishly.

Prayer can change our situation. It can move the heart of God. And we believe sometimes prayer allows us to understand our situations, rather than affect the outcome. Our hearts change as we seek God's wisdom and Truth.

You are welcome to join us for 45 minutes on the 12th, 19th and 26th of November from 9 am to 9:45 am via zoom. Email djebb2003@gmail.com for a link.

INVITATION

ADVENT STUDY / REFLECTIONS 2022

'Unexpected Jesus'

Come and meet the unexpected Jesus and never be the same again!

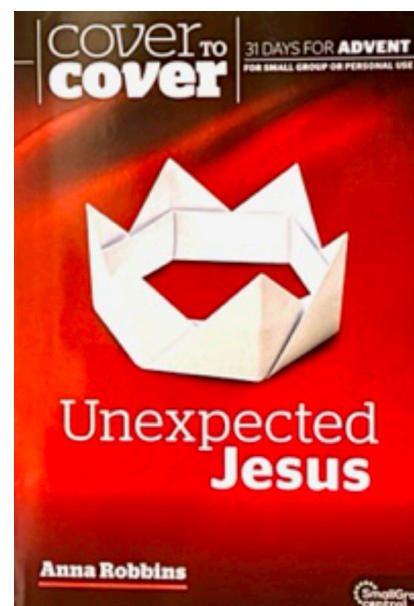
These 4 reflections explore some biblical encounters with Jesus and how different individuals responded to His unexpected presence and love. For many, their encounter with Him meant the opportunity for total transformation.

What would an encounter with Jesus mean for you? This Advent, get closer to Jesus – and expect the unexpected.

Each reflection offers;
A Bible reading and daily focus
Questions to consider
A closing prayer

30th November led by Revd David Jebb
7th December Led by Revd Andrew Prout
14th December Led by Revd Rosemarty Mutopo
21st December Led by Deacon Nigel Perrott

Come and join us on Wednesdays from 7:45 pm to 8:45 pm on Zoom during the season of Advent. All are welcome, please email djebb2003@gmail.com for your zoom link. Or Phone 077869078634



Book available from:
<https://www.eden.co.uk/cover-to-cover-unexpected-jesus/>

Are you planning to provide a 'Warm Spece or Hub' in your building.

There is a souce of funding avialble from Hertfordshire County Coucil:

Warm Spaces will include those open for public drop in, and those for specific members of the community (eg older people with disabilities). They will be an opportunity for people to connect with each other and to access useful information to access help and advice if they wish (Resources will be provided to applicants)

How much can I apply for? Grants of up to £2,000 are available.

When can I apply?

You can apply now. We will consider applications on a rolling basis and will let applicants know the outcome within three weeks. Funding needs to be spent by 31st March 2023.

<https://www.hertscf.org.uk/warmspaces>



JOYCE THOMAS

Last month, Margaret Acton, Enid Stork and Peter and Diana Holt attended the funeral of Joyce Thomas, wife of our former Minister, Trevor Thomas. It was a moving occasion, remembering a very special lady, and lovely to meet up with Trevor once again. The service was in the Market Harborough Methodist Church, Leicestershire.



The Revd Dr Rob Marshall. Honorary Canon of the Cathedral and Abbey Church of St Alban.

The Bishop of St Albans, The Right Revd Dr Alan Smith, asked the churchwardens to announce today in the parish that Fr Rob has accepted the Bishop's Invitation to be a Canon of the Cathedral and Abbey Church of St Alban.

The Bishop said: "It has given me great pleasure to honour him in this way and I know that you will want to be amongst the first to offer him your congratulations.

The Bishop added: "Great importance is put on the role of an Honorary Canon, especially as a way of linking the Abbey with the Diocese and providing a channel for communication." Fr Rob continues of course as Rector of Digswell as this is an Honorary position.

Fr Rob will be installed as Canon at a special service in the Abbey on Saturday 26th November at 4pm and it is hoped that parishioners will join him for this service.

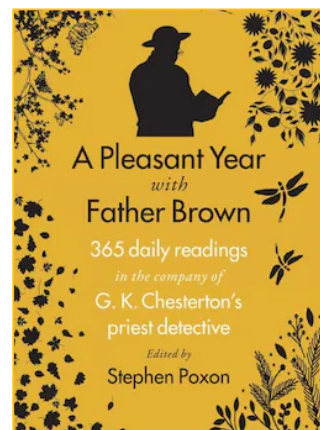
Book News from Stephen Poxon:

'A Pleasant Year with Father Brown'.

365 daily devotional readings from the Father Brown stories, each matched to a Bible verse and a prayer.

Published by Darton, Longman and Todd, ISBN 978-1-915412-06-5. Available in the UK.

Can be ordered online - at Eden.co.uk - or in any bookshop.



An appointment to a part-time role as Safeguarding Officer for the two Methodist Circuits of West Herts & Borders and St Albans & Welwyn.

Contract hours: 15 Hours per week

Salary: £13 per hour rising to £15 per hour on satisfactory completion of the probationary period.

This newly created role provides an opportunity to make an important contribution to policy and practice in safeguarding young children and vulnerable adults in the work and witness of 30 churches across two Methodist Circuits in Hertfordshire.

Full details are in the link below:

<https://www.midhertsmethodists.org.uk/335231959819.htm>



Job Vacancy - Children & Families Worker

Looking for an exciting challenge, working with young families in a Christian context?

The two long-established, vibrant and welcoming Methodist Churches in St Albans are keen to grow and develop their reach across the city.

Job Title: Part time Children & Families Worker for the Methodist Churches in St Albans

Location: The role will be based at Hatfield Road Methodist Church but with time spent in both churches.

Employer: Employed by Hatfield Road Methodist Church and under the supervision of the minister in pastoral charge of both Churches

- † *Part time (15 hours per week) fixed term contract for 2 years*
- † *Flexible working hours will be necessary, to include Tuesday and Wednesday mornings during termtime. Remaining hours will include occasional Sunday mornings.*
- † *Salary range £13.00 - £15.00 per hour, depending on experience*
- † *5 weeks leave per annum, in addition to Public Holidays*

Your role will be to engage with children and families within the churches and from the wider community.

Working in partnership with the minister, the deacon and lay volunteers, you will assist in nurturing the churches' relationships with local children and their families. This will include encouraging them to start or continue a journey into faith, leading to them finding ways of expressing that faith.

Appointment will be subject to a medical check and satisfactory clearance from the Disclosure & Barring Service (DBS).

Interviews are planned for Monday 5th or Tuesday 6th December.

To apply, please email a copy of your CV, accompanied by a short note telling us why you would like to be considered for this post, to:

eric.brip@greenisp.co.uk

by noon on Friday 25th November

Alternatively, send/deliver it to:

Eric Bridgstock, Hatfield Road Methodist Church, 133b Hatfield Road, St Albans, AL1 4JX



In aid of

tearfund

at St John's Methodist Church,
Baker Street, Potters Bar
EN6 2DZ

**6pm, Saturday 19th
November**

Soup, roll and dessert will be provided in the interval.
Please bring your own non-alcoholic drinks

Cost: £7 each (pay at door)

Come as a team (6-8) or come as an individual and we will assign
you to a team

Book your place by emailing quiz@stjohnspb.org.uk



Eco Church is a free, online, reward scheme designed to equip churches to work towards environmentally friendly practices. The awards take the form of bronze, silver or gold certificates and a questionnaire can be completed online to see if your church qualifies for one of these certificates. The Methodist Church encourages the Eco church scheme- visit [Take action: become an Eco Church \(methodist.org.uk\)](https://www.methodist.org.uk) for a short video on how to get started.

If your church has already been awarded a certificate, please let us know – with tips for other churches.

The **Methodist Church** has set an aspirational target of becoming a net zero carbon emissions church by 2030. To download a leaflet - 6 steps to net zero carbon emissions, - visit [Action for Hope \(methodist.org.uk\)](https://www.methodist.org.uk).

The Times religious affairs correspondent reported recently that churches are hard pressed to try and achieve the target of being carbon neutral by 2030. 50% of churches polled said they did not have the funds to make the necessary changes and this rose to 62% among anglican churches. This despite the CofE allocating £190m towards the objective and so they are still having to give churches permission to install gas and oil boilers.

Create & Celebrate at HRMC

Since October 2021 HRMC have had a new style of All Age Worship on the first Sunday of each month called "Create & Celebrate". It is based on a successful format which had been run on fifth Sundays and other occasions such as Christingle.

Each month has a theme for the all age service which provides a focus for the activities. In the church hall between 10:00 and 11:00 there is a range of creative things to do including: crafts, card making, art (on large and small



scales), prayer writing and topics for discussion. There are also active play-based opportunities such as small world storytelling and Jenga. (A team meets each month with the preacher to discuss, plan and prepare the ideas.) Tea, coffee, squash and homemade cakes and biscuits are available. Some folk come to the 9:00 Communion service and stay for the fellowship. Others arrive during the

creative time. At 11:00 everyone goes into the church for a 45 minute informal all age service. Things which have been created are taken into the church and included in the service. The format is proving very popular with more and more folk of all ages coming. As the pictures show, it is thoroughly enjoyed by all who attend.

