



District Prayer Diary

The **Methodist** Church
Northampton District



2023/2024

Day 1 Oxford

The Oxford Circuit consists of 11 Methodist churches and two ecumenical congregations across the city of Oxford and parts of Oxfordshire. Our churches are located both in urban and rural contexts. We rejoice in the diversity of our congregations and face the challenges ahead in a spirit of hope.

Give Thanks For

- The commitment of our congregations to continue to witness to the love of Christ in their local communities.
- Our staff team (lay and ordained), our Circuit Stewards, and Supernumerary Ministers.
- For the ordination of our colleague, the Rev'd Stephen Spain at the 2023 Conference.
- For those who lead worship and our Local Preachers and Worship Leaders in training.
- Emerging opportunities in student ministry in Oxford.
- Our Eco Circuit and Church team.
- The commitment to work for inclusion, diversity, and social justice in our communities.

Please Pray For

- Our new Superintendent, Rev Miriam Moul, and all our ordained staff taking on new responsibilities.
- For a renewed sense of Circuit identity.
- For courage and compassion as we make brave decisions about our future prompted by changing patterns of ministry in the Circuit.
- For our emerging Community Chaplaincy work in Rose Hill and on the Cowley Road.

**Holy One of love and light,
weaving together the fabric of the
earth
and the tangled strands of our lives.
Guide us that we might be bold and
brave
in our call to 'serve the present age'.
We ask for confidence, courage, and
hope
in proclaiming your love. Amen.**



Superintendent
Rev'd Miriam Moul

Ministers

Rev'd Paul Carter
Rev'd Stephen Spain
Rev'd Brian Brown (Writer and Producer)
Rev'd Dr Ralph Waller (Farmington Institute and University of Oxford)

Supernumeraries

Rev'd David Bull
Rev'd Geoffrey Hunter
Rev'd Jean King
Rev'd Leslie Marsh
Rev'd John Rowland
Rev'd Michael Sawyer

Lay Staff

Circuit Administrator - Jo Godfrey
Children, Families and Outreach Worker - Mel McCulloch
Community Chaplain, Cowley Road - Libby Hawkness-Smith
Community Chaplain, Rose Hill - Liz Spain

Circuit Stewards

Chris Butler
Malcolm Dodds
Margaret Sawyer (Senior Steward)
Paul Spray
Ruth Taylor
John Winterbottom



Day 2 Wantage and Abingdon

Our circuit covers a large part of South Oxfordshire. We have nine churches (including two LEPs). Our Circuit is home to a number of scientific establishments and hi-tech industries. We are also an area in which a considerable amount of new housing is being built.

Give Thanks For

- The positive response to our “Circuit Meeting Plus” event as we seek to discern our priorities for the coming years; our direction of travel and sustainable ways of mission; ministry and service for this present age with all its challenges and opportunities.
- Our Community Chaplains.
- New people coming along to our church services and finding a home.
- All those who continue to give so freely and generously of their time.

Please Pray For

- All those involved in the stationing process for 2024.
- Our Local Preachers in training.
- The various church initiatives across the Circuit that seek to engage further with their communities.



**Best of all is God is with us,
Hearts are challenged, strangely
warmed,
Faith is deepened, courage
strengthened,
Grace received and hope
reformed.
(Andrew Pratt)**

Superintendent

Rev'd Keith Underhill



Ministers

Rev'd Ian Griffiths

Deacon Selina Nisbett

Rev'd Bruce Thompson

Supernumeraries

Rev'd John Anderson

Rev'd Eileen Appleyard

Rev'd Michael Appleyard

Rev'd Kenneth Blake

Deacon Maggie Blake

Rev'd Frances Blood

Rev'd Irena Byron

Rev'd Alan Grist

Rev'd Pauline Main

(Associate Presbyterian URC)

Rev'd Nigel Ogley

Rev'd John Stanfield

Community Chaplains

Libby Hawkness-Smith

Wendy Moorin

Circuit Stewards

Mary Hancock

Geoffrey Maunder

Anne Matthews

Carolyn Roche (Senior)

Gordon Skidmore

Day 3 West Oxfordshire

West Oxfordshire was newly formed from the amalgamation of two former circuits in 2020. We now cover the area from Chipping Norton in the north to Faringdon in the south. We have churches in Chipping Norton, Charlbury, Stonesfield, Witney, Carterton, Faringdon, Long Hanborough, Minster Lovell, Bampton and Westcote, with 'Classes' in Churchill, Newland and Sutton.

Give Thanks For

- The faithful witness and worship of our town and rural churches.
- Mission and service across the Circuit including Winter Warmth initiatives.
- Preachers and Ministers who faithfully lead us in worship week by week.
- The work of local chaplaincy led by our Chaplain Lead in Witney.
- The work of Circuit Officers and those willing to put themselves forward to hold office, without which the Circuit could not function.

Please Pray For

- Churches struggling to find the resources to continue to meet.
- The work of pioneering ministry at Carterton.
- Fresh energy and enthusiasm for mission and sharing the gospel.
- Candidates with needed gifts and skills to take up paid and voluntary posts within the Circuit.



Gracious God we praise you for beauty of your creation revealed in the landscape of the Cotswolds. We pray for your blessing upon all who live and work in the West Oxfordshire area, and pray that all may know your love and grace in their lives and be drawn into the reality of really knowing you. Amen

Superintendent
Rev'd Andrew Biggs



Ministers
Rev'd Jason Cooke
Rev'd Fred Ireland
Rev'd Ian Worrall
Revd. Charles Harris –
Supernumerary Associate
Minister with Pastoral
responsibility

Supernumeraries
Rev'd Nicola Blois
Rev'd David Buckley
Rev'd Stephen Bywater
Rev'd Elgin Crewe
Rev'd Roger Faulkner
Rev'd James Skinner
Rev'd Brenda Woods
Rev'd Alan Wright
Rev'd Andrew Wigley

Lay Chaplain Lead
Sonia Duraturo

**Children and Families'
Worker**
Anna Pile

Circuit Stewards
Ian Cotton (Senior Steward)
Rosemary Britton - Circuit
Steward / Safeguarding
Eddie Fowler – Circuit
Steward / Treasurer
Martin Hannant



Day 4

The Learning Network

Being the church can be challenging. The Learning Network comes alongside individuals and groups, supporting and equipping them through conversation and sharing wisdom, to help them realise their calling and flourish in their discipleship.

Learning & Development Officer aligned to Northampton
Michael Wadsworth

Learning & Development Manager for area group
Tricia Mitchell

Give Thanks For

- The many wonderful individuals and groups all across the Connexion, faithfully responding to the gospel of God's love and living out their discipleship in worship and mission!
- A clear sense of the new shape and direction of the Learning Network moving forwards.

Please Pray For

- All those we seek to support and equip; that they find energy, insight and vision for all they do, and that they would flourish in their discipleship, worship and mission.
- The Learning Network Team; that they continue to find many, varied and creative avenues and opportunities through which to support individuals and groups.
- Individual Learning Network Officers as they adapt to new ways of working.



**Loving God,
Help us be people of
flourishing.
That Listen carefully,
Love faithfully,
Learn eagerly
And live joyously,
Amen**

Day 5 Banbury

Banbury is a growing town with a number of outlying rural and town churches spread across Oxfordshire, Warwickshire and Northamptonshire. The 12 current churches together with St Francis LEP in the circuit are served by two Methodist Presbyters, an Ecumenical Presbyter and a Family and Children Outreach Worker.

Give Thanks For

- The continuing outreach into the community through our weekly on-line service.
- Grimsbury Methodist Church as it prepares to close, and the circuit considers how best to use its resources for a 21st century church.
- The exciting refurbishment of Hinton Church and the opportunities this creates.
- The potential that the new housing estate gives as we start to explore New Places for New People.
- Our monthly Circuit Celebration services.
- The growth in our Children and Young people groups, messy church and schools work.

Please Pray For

- Our Young people attending 3 Generate for the first time.
- Our Probationer Presbyter Rev'd Phil Robinson as he prepares for ordination.
- A new team of Circuit Stewards to help focus and deliver our vision and mission in being an inclusive church where all are welcome.

**God of mission
Who alone brings growth to your
Church,
Send your Holy Spirit to give
Vision to our planning
Wisdom to our actions,
And power to our witness.
Help our churches to grow I numbers,
In a spiritual commitment to you
and in service to our local
communities.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord,
Amen.**



Superintendent

Rev'd David Alderman



Ministers

Rev'd Philip Robinson

Ecumenical Colleagues

Rev'd Chris Gaynor (CofE)

Rev'd Lynda Spokes (URC)

Supernumeraries

Rev'd Chris Eddy

Rev'd Mark Goodhand

Dcn Margaret Hale

Rev'd Robert Jones

Rev'd Mary Pheasey

Rev'd Jeff Smith

Rev'd John Warren

Circuit Steward/Treasurer

Mary Tanner (Finance)

Children & Families Worker

Cate Vokes

Circuit Administrator

Clare Taylor

Day 6

Buckingham, Bicester and Brackley

The Bicester, Buckingham and Brackley Circuit includes areas of the counties of Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Northamptonshire, with three town churches and smaller churches in Gawcott, Thornborough, Steeple Claydon, Silverstone and Towcester. We are presently navigating a period of transition both in circuit staffing and ways of doing things.

Give Thanks For

- The ongoing development of the Circuit Leadership Team through involvement with the Transformational Leadership Learning Community programme.
- Increased use of our church buildings by community groups and programmes that support those in need within our local communities.
- Mission opportunities within our circuit churches such as the Vaccination Centre in Brackley; Thornborough's Lyrics and Lunch community; drop-in community cafés at Gawcott and Silverstone; Bicester's food surplus café and Well Street's Renew 182 café.

Please Pray For

- Jocelyn Bennett as she joins the Circuit Staff team and Sara Cliff who, after two years within the circuit, becomes Superintendent.
- Continuing growth in mission and discipleship as we look to transition to new ways of working.
- Wisdom in making key lay appointments that support and develop administration and mission within the circuit.
- Future possibilities particularly those that involve closer working with ecumenical or community partners.



**God of love and grace and unity,
Who leads us towards an ever-changing
future;
As we seek to live as your disciples ...
May all that you are be honoured among us;
May your will be done in us;
And may your kingdom come through us;
Now and always,
Amen**



**Circuit Superintendent and
Pioneer Minister**

Rev'd Sara Cliff

Ministers

Rev'd Jocelyn Bennett

Rev'd Tim Edworthy (LEP Lead)

Community Mission Enabler

Mrs Katy Morris



Day 7 Leicester Trinity

We are a diverse circuit, spreading north, east and south of the city centre to encompass the suburbs and nearby villages. We rejoice in our diversity, even as we face the challenges that such variety brings.

Give Thanks And Pray For

- The faithfulness in worship and witness, begun over two centuries ago and continuing now in ways that meet the needs of the present.
- The exploration of new opportunities for service, mission and outreach, including the Warm Space initiatives, Food Banks, Lunch Clubs, Dementia Cafes, Drop In services etc.
- Our partnerships with various local organisations and churches of different denominations - particularly the relationships within the LEPs.
- The work of the St Philip's Centre in building and strengthening interfaith relationships.



Ever-living God, we rejoice that your love is unchanging and your Spirit is always present to guide us. May our lives give a steady witness to your constant faithfulness in ever-changing days. Amen.

Note: The motto of the city of Leicester is Semper Eadem ("Always the Same")



Superintendent
Rev'd Paula Hunt

Ministers

Rev Frances Ballantyne
Rev Ivan Bennett -
Authorised Minister
(Anglican)
Rev Liam Dacre-Davis
Deacon Sharon Dilley
Rev Derek McLean
Rev Israel Selvanayagam
Rev Helen White (Without
Appointment)

Student Deacon

James Blackhall

Circuit Stewards

Charles Hilton
Peter Holdridge
Pedzi Katsande
Julie Manning
Joy Pick



Day 8 Ecumenical Work

District Ecumenical Officers (DEOs) work alongside local partner denominations and others towards unity in mission. DEOs also work closely with the connexional Ecumenical Officers and County/Intermediate Body ecumenical officers (where these exist). We are available for consultation and conversation on a wide variety of ecumenical matters.

Give Thanks For

- The rich and increased diversity of denominations and expressions of Christian faith, plus the opportunities and challenges for learning and growth which this presents.
- The distinctive gifts, graces and insights of the Methodist tradition which enhance the mission, worship and ministry of the whole body of Christ.
- Opportunities to share in service and evangelism with brothers and sisters in Christ.
- Local churches working in formal Local Ecumenical Partnerships and more informal agreements, and ways in which these may be nurtured elsewhere
- The Methodist Church's commitment to ecumenical learning, training and development, especially through The Queen's Foundation, the Learning Network and Cliff College.
- New ecumenical work being resourced from the proceeds of Christian work and witness which has reached its natural end in God's purposes
- The Methodist Connexional Ecumenical Officer (Rev'd Michaela Youngson) and the officers of Churches Together in England

Please Pray For

- Patience and commitment in obedience to Christ's call for unity which is missional: '...that they may all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me...' (John 17:21a)
- Wisdom in responding to strained or ineffective ecumenical relationships.
- Discernment for fresh ecumenical opportunities, and also for when formal ecumenical working needs to change direction or cease.
- Our recently appointed Lead District Ecumenical Officer, Rev'd Andrew Hollins, and the other DEOs as they represent the Methodist Church.
- Christians involved in social care and community initiatives, including in areas of social deprivation and economic challenge to help refugees, homeless people and others.
- The ecumenical Joint Public Issues Team (JPIT) as it presents the radical challenge of the gospel, e.g. for climate change. (The Methodist Church is a partner in JPIT).
- Rev'd Canon Helen Cameron (Moderator of the Free Churches Group / one of the six Presidents of Churches Together in England).

(Adapted from resources for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2023)

**Gracious and loving God, teach us to go inward,
to be grounded in your loving spirit,
so that we can go outward in wisdom and courage
to always choose the path of love and justice.
Expand our vision, that it may be wide enough
to recognise the beautiful complexity
of the tapestry you chose to weave
with each and every one of us.
Gather our frayed edges and our loose ends
and bind us together for your glory. Amen.**

District Ecumenical Officers

Lead DEO

Rev'd Andrew Hollins –
Leicestershire

Rev'd Andrew Farrington
Northamptonshire,
Peterborough & Rutland

Rev'd Edson Dube
Buckinghamshire & Milton
Keynes

Rev'd John Anderson
Oxfordshire

Ecumenical Development Officers

Canon Vic Allsop
Leicestershire

Caroline Hutchings
Peterborough and Rutland

Melanie Carroll (Mission
Enabler)
Lincolnshire

Allison Shepherd -
Northamptonshire





Day 9

Leicester West

The Leicester West Circuit is comprised of 10 churches both within the city boundaries and in the villages surrounding it. Our team includes three Presbyters, a part-time Mission Enabler and Administrator and many gifted Lay Officers.

Give Thanks For

The blessings God has given us in a new colleague and administrator. The realisation of the 20-20 Vision Project at Glenfield and the building up of the Men's Shed at New Parks. Opportunities across the Circuit for further mission in the various communities we serve. New people now attending many of our churches.

Please Pray For

Those in the church who feel weary and over-whelmed. That people might feel able to step into the various vacancies we have for Lay Office Holders. Our new team members as we get to know each other and work together effectively. Those churches facing property and financial challenges.



Gracious God, thank you for your many blessings to us in Leicester West. Please give us the courage and enthusiasm needed to take up the many mission opportunities you place before and the grace to work only in your will and way. Amen

Superintendent

Rev'd Helen Bell

Ministers

Rev'd Jimione Kaci

Rev'd Joy Langford

(Authorised Presbyter)

Supernumeraries

Rev'd Douglas Brewer

Dcn Judith Wray

Rev'd Peter Sowler

Circuit Mission Enabler

Justin Moulder

Circuit Administrator

Sandra Pugh



Day 10

Loughborough

The circuit serves the towns of Loughborough and Shepshed, and the surrounding villages. Geographically we are in the centre of the nation, and seek to be at the heart of the communities we serve. Not hidden away but willing to go where God leads us, to live out our faith, graciously offering hope by being a good neighbour to everyone.

Give Thanks For

- The establishment of an ecumenical Justice and Peace group in Loughborough.
- The chaplaincy at Loughborough University as Dcn. Jan Sutton retires and the centre for faith and spirituality looks for a new coordinating chaplain.
- Those coming forward for training as Local preachers.
- Provision made available to employ lay workers across the circuit.

Please Pray For

- Community engagement, through the witness of lay workers building bridges into the areas around our churches.
- Stability for the rapidly growing Chinese Congregation, as British passport holders continue to come from Hong Kong.
- Rev Karen Beecham as she takes on the superintendency.
- Confidence of faith despite the uncertain times we live in.



Never failing God, your love for us is constant, help us in these uncertain times to hold on and trust in your faithfulness. May we, be a source of hope for those struggling to make sense of our world today. Be glorified as we serve you in the needs of our neighbours.

Amen

Superintendent

Rev'd Karen Beecham

Ministers

Rev'd Calvin Cheung
Rev'd Sandra Marshall
Rev'd Martin Swan

Supernumeraries

Rev'd David Blatherwick
Rev'd Hugh Cade
Rev'd Hedley Cousin
Rev'd Donald Wilkes

Local Pastor

Chris Watkins

Community Lay Worker

Rob Newton
Vanessa Li
Eleri Bristow
Kay Brooks-Duncan

Digital lay worker

John Pipet

Circuit administrator

Josephine Wills

Circuit stewards

Trevor Ranson
Karen Ette
Bryan Harrison

Circuit Treasurer

Rachel Thorpe



Day 11 Hinckley

The Hinckley Circuit currently comprises of nine societies in towns and villages half-way between Coventry and Leicester. In our rolling circuit review process, The Way Ahead, we are helping our congregations to face the challenge of changing patterns of ministry and of serving the present age with our worship, mission and evangelism. There is a particular emphasis on the development of lay leadership in each of our chapels to compliment the gifts and graces of ministerial staff.

Superintendent

Revd Andrew Lomax

Ministers

Rev'd Patricia Mukorombindo

(Other Appointment)

Rev'd Vivienne Atter

Supernumeraries

Rev'd Stephen Hoggar

Rev'd Graham Miles

Lay Local Pastors

Judith Cooke

Sheila Grice

Anne Haddon

Colin Haddon

Youth and Communities Team

Work Leader

Chris Newlyn

Children and Families

Community Worker

Claire Sutcliffe

CAMEO Café Manager Deborah Watts -

CAMEO Assistant Cafe Manager

Marie Mason

Circuit Stewards

Adrian Stone (Senior)

Colin Haddon - Plan Secretary

Michael Holt - Manse Secretary

Arthur Bennett - Circuit Steward

Rachel Cobb - Circuit Steward

Neville Spark - Circuit Steward

Rosemary Bradburn - Circuit Steward

Circuit Administrator

Christine Bacon

Give Thanks For

- The opening of the CAMEO café at Stoke Golding and the renewed vitality of that congregation.
- The puppet ministry led by our Family and Children's Community Worker Claire, having a significant impact at young people's events in the circuit.
- The continued expansion of the work of Baby Basics, a circuit project meeting the needs of new parents.
- The conversations about life and faith occurring in the Warm Spaces provided by a number of our churches.

Please Pray For

- Our new circuit Superintendent Andrew Lomax and his family, that they will settle quickly in the area and flourish.
- A renewed desire amongst our churches to share their faith in words as well as deeds.
- Our Family and Children's Community Worker Claire as she continues her training for presbyteral ministry at the Queens Foundation in September.
- God's calling on more Local Lay Pastors to join our expanding team in the circuit.



**Tis Jesus, the first and the last,
Whose Spirit shall guide us safe
home;
We'll praise him for all that is
past,
And trust him for all that's to
come.
'This, This is the God we Adore -
Joseph Hart (1712-1767) StF 67.**



Day 12 Melton Mowbray

Melton Mowbray Circuit consists of five societies two town and three rural, all of whom are actively worshipping and missioning. The Circuit is served by a superintendent minister and a minister without appointment. There is a strong Circuit connection between the villages and the 2 town churches.

Give Thanks For

- Town Centre outreach to the many new families who have arrived in our community.
- Work with ecumenical partners.
- Fridays Shoppers Service.
- Lunches on us and warm spaces who work alongside those in need.
- Hot potato which provides food and fellowship.
- Little Butterflies.
- Tea and Cakes at Stonesby and The Upper Wreake.
- Sandy Lane Toddlers group.

Please Pray For

- Development of new church leaders.
- Formation of new house groups.
- For the new presbyter arriving in our circuit.
- Our outreach to all who use our premises each week.
- Circuit churches to discover new ways to be God's people in their community.



Loving, heavenly Father, send your Holy Spirit into our churches to make them more fully reflect the hands and feet of your son, as we serve those we meet, in his name and for his sake, even the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen

Superintendent

Rev'd Ruth Simpson

Minister without appointment

Rev'd Nina Johnson

Supernumeraries

Rev'd Douglas Dennis

Rev'd Dr. Eric Lott

Rev'd Jeffrey Ward

Local Lay Pastors

Jenny Oliver

Janet Norburn

Circuit Stewards

Jenny Oliver

Janet Norburn

Mick Thompson

Ron Reed (Property)

Barbara Cresswell

(Finance)



Day 13 Northampton

The Northampton Methodist Circuit serves the town of Northampton and the nearby villages.

In September 2022 Northampton Methodist Church was formed with ten worshipping communities; there is also Emmanuel, an ecumenical partnership. We are committed as a circuit to the aspects of 'Our Calling' and the Discipleship Model.

Give Thanks For

- The many volunteers in the worshipping communities who are working to fulfil their mission in their local community.
- Across the Circuit the Advent, Lent and Bible month studies continue in various locations providing opportunity for discussions, fellowship, and times of prayer.
- Boys' Brigade and Girls' Brigade continue in several of our town locations.

Please Pray For

- The newly formed Church Council as it considers our mission in Northampton and the surrounding villages. Following a district mission enabler report, a vision day was held in February 2023.
- The continuing challenge of the upkeep of the town centre churches and an increasing elderly membership.
- The opportunity to pioneer 'New Places for New People' in new areas of development across Northamptonshire is a challenge.
- We thank God for Revd Samantha Gillard, our new probationer presbyter.



Below is part of a prayer by John Wesley celebrating Aldersgate Day:

We give thanks to God for the love and commitment of pioneers and trail-blazers, which set fresh examples and establish new norms in the life of the churches. Open our eyes to insights of faith which are unfamiliar to us and to ways of witnessing which challenge us, so that the love of Christ may shine in our lives. We give praise to God for the blessing of diversity. Amen

Superintendent

Rev'd David Speirs

Ministers

Revd Ian Forsyth

Revd Samantha Gillard

Revd Rachael Warnock

Supernumeraries

Deacon Richard Beckett

Revd Wendy Evans-Wood

Revd Malcolm Oliver

Revd Anthony Perry

Revd Alan Sharp

Revd John Smith

Revd Ian Suttie

Revd Martin Swan

Circuit Stewards

Keith Brooks

Elizabeth Hale

Hellen Okello

Pam Kirkland

Philip Leeson

Administrator

Sarah Eason

Day 14

East Mercia

The East Mercia Circuit is now in its second year and building on the progress made, bringing together the Methodist churches and communities in the towns of Kettering, Daventry, Market Harborough, Rugby, Corby, Lutterworth, Rothwell and Desborough, and several villages nearby. We are supporting and building up the Methodist people in mission, ministry and service; promoting growth and nurture in our churches and working with ecumenical partners in several places.

Give Thanks For

- Our lay workers engaged in pastoral work, youth and children's work, and helping our churches to grow in faith and number;
- Encouraging signs of growth and increasing diversity in congregations;
- Ecumenical projects and outreach partnerships, including St Giles' Church, Desborough, Long Lawford Lighthouse, the Well in Kibworth, and Making Connexions in Rugby;
- The continued dedication of local preachers, stewards, property stewards, pastoral visitors and treasurers, and the valued ministry of our supernumerary and associate ministers.

Please Pray For

- The Circuit Staff team, welcoming Revd Nathan Falla to work in and around Rugby;
- Circuit stewards as they deal with the many demands of a large circuit;
- Supernumerary ministers dealing with health issues;
- Churches working with local people in need through the cost-of-living crisis;
- Growth in circuit youth work, and the trip to 3Generate in October;
- Development of the 'Good Soil' project for small group Christian nurture.

**Loving God,
You are the Sower;
You have planted your Word in us, and
you nurture us;
You water us with the Spirit and give
us the light of Christ.
Help us to bear fruit;
And as we share the seeds of your
Kingdom,
may our churches be places of good
soil
where all can grow in your love. Amen.**

Superintendent

Rev'd Andrew Farrington



Ministers

Dcn Georgina Brooks
Rev'd Nathan Falla
Rev'd Andrew Murphy
Rev'd Diane Bussey (Authorised
Presbyter)
Rev'd Noel Nhariswa

Supernumeraries

Rev'd Robert Anning
Rev'd Neville Ashton
Rev'd Anthony de Boltz
Dcn Fiona de Boltz
Rev'd David Collinson
Rev'd Christine Dybdahl
Rev'd Jane Gaffney
Rev'd Margaret Hadfield
Rev'd Jean Holyhead
Rev'd Philip Horner
Rev'd Martin Hounsfield
Rev'd Brian Kennard
Rev'd Peter Molcher
Dcn Mary Neal
Rev'd Iain Rennie
Rev'd Trevor Thomas
Rev'd Alison Tomlin
Rev'd David Tomlin

Lay Workers

Caroline Barratt (Community Chaplain)
Lynne Bone (Community Chaplain)
Fiona Farrington (Lay Pastoral Visitor)
Anna Gittings (Assistant to Circuit
Manager)
Ruth Henderson (Community Chaplain)
Kate Hitchcox (Community Chaplain)
Claire Pickering (Growth and Nurture
Support)
Mandie Price (Church Families Worker)
Kate Tennyson (Circuit Manager)
Janet Timperley (Wellbeing Enabler)
Mel Wheeler (Growth and Nurture
Support)

Circuit Stewards

Peter Arnold
Marilyn Calvert
Peter Candlin
John Over
Carolyn Rice

Circuit Treasurer

Richard Huntington





Day 15 Stamford

The predominantly rural Stamford Circuit covers Rutland and a small area of south Lincolnshire. Churches located in Bourne, Deepings, Empingham, Ketton, Oakham, Ryhall, Stamford, Thurlby and Uppingham are supplemented by daily online prayers and Sunday worship. Our mission resonates with the Rutland county motto – ‘Multum in parvo’ (Much in little).

Superintendent

Rev'd Andrew Hollins

Ministers

Rev'd Ruth Charlesworth

Rev'd Bekkie Wright

Lay Workers

Phil Jones (Circuit Mission Enabler)

Julia Husbands (Circuit Children, Family & Youth Enabler)

Ruth Pryke (Children & Families Work Enabler – Stamford)

Jacob McCrone (Operations Manager – Second Helpings)

Supernumeraries

Rev'd Richard Baggott

Rev'd Christopher Bamber

Rev'd Andrew Bell

Rev'd William Booker

Rev'd David Bosworth

Rev'd Paul Cockburn

Rev'd Fred Day

Rev'd Julia Dowding

Rev'd Barry Gent

Rev'd Maureen Jones

Rev'd Peter Lemmon

Rev'd Brian Lewis

Rev'd Dr Christine Pocock

Circuit Administrator

Rowan Scholtz

Circuit Stewards

Moyra Collins

Sarah Atwell-King

Circuit Treasurer

Barry Streets

Give Thanks For

- Encouraging signs of growth in some of our churches.
- Presence of, and work with, children, young people and families in most of our churches.
- The return of Circuit Prayer & Praise.
- Involvement of many church members in local community groups.
- Willing volunteers, especially a new Circuit Meeting Secretary and Independent Examiner.
- The appointment of a part-time paid Operations Manager for Second Helpings.
- The success of our annual Farm Weekend.

Please Pray For

- Wisdom for how to best use our limited resources for God's mission.
- Moving forward with our 'What makes a healthy Circuit?' conversations.
- The process of reshaping the nature and deployment of lay and ordained ministry.
- Development of circuit-wide work with young people.
- Water Aid (our nominated circuit charity for the year).
- Renewal of energy and spirit for those who are weary.

**Gracious God,
empowered by your Holy Spirit,
may our worship be heartfelt,
centred on you,
inspiring and challenging.
Through worship and fellowship,
may we meet the Living Lord, Jesus
Christ –
growing in him;
bringing others to meet him;
and serving him in our neighbour.
Amen.**





Day 16 Northampton District

We pray for God's continued blessing for this District at a time of transition and change.

Give Thanks For

- Our designated Chair of the District for 2024, the Rev'd Sonia Hicks in her shadow year.
- For all our Superintendent and circuit ministers.
- For our District Treasurer Andrew Lewis.
- All of the new ministers joining us in the District, especially our probationer presbyters, the Rev'd Samantha Gillard and the Rev'd Rachael Prince.
- For our Year 2 Probationers the Rev'd Phil Robinson and the Rev'd James Patterson and the work of the District Probationers Secretary, the Rev'd Ruth Simpson.
- The ongoing and developing work of the Justice, Dignity and Solidary Group.
- Our District Lay Stationing Representative Sue Walters.
- Our District Mission Enabler and District Mission Team Leader Matt Forsyth and for Mel Brown and the Rev'd Kim Shorley, members of the DMT.
- For all the faithful, hard-working, and generous people throughout the District continuing to serve and love their communities.

Please Pray For

- The District Executive.
- The District Mission Team.
- Gill Crippen our District Safeguarding Officer, along with all our local Church and Circuit Safeguarding Officers.
- The District Administrators Jenny Phillips, and Claire Handley and the Chair's PA Joanna Ormston.
- Our supernumerary ministers, and the widows and widowers of those ministers who have died.
- Local church and Circuit stewards, lay pastors and lay workers.
- Lay and ordained chaplains across the District serving in a wide variety of settings (prison, hospital, new housing, air cadets, girls and Boys Brigades, University & College).
- Circuit Treasurers and Property stewards who offer us their skill and expertise.



**Be our guide and our companion as
we walk your ways,
Encompass us with your grace and
love.
Hold us now and forever. Amen**

Chair of District

Rev'd Canon Helen D Cameron

Deputy Chairs of District

Rev'd David Alderman

Rev'd Kate Strange

Presbyteral Synod Secretary

Rev'd Alan Bolton

Representative Synod Secretary

Paul Spray

District Mission Enabler

Matt Forsyth

FEAST Enabler

Rev'd Kim Shorley

District Ecumenical Officer

Rev'd Andrew Hollins

District Treasurer

Andrew Lewis

District Methodist Council Representative

Dr Hellen Okello

District Property Secretary

Chris Linford

District Safeguarding Officers

Gill Crippen

Grahame Snelling (Acting)

PA to the District Chair

Joanna Ormston

District Office Manager

Jenny Phillips

District Administrator

Claire Handley

District HR Officer

Leslie Jaeger



Day 17

Justice, Dignity and Solidarity

The Strategy for Justice, Dignity and Solidarity (JDS) is aimed at changing the attitudes, culture and practices of the Methodist Church, in order to end injustice, ensure everyone is treated with dignity, and stand in solidarity with those who face discrimination and exclusion in society.

Give Thanks For

- The work of outgoing Chair Revd Francis M'ltiiri and all he has done within the JDS Group.
- The new volunteers who have joined the group this year, and all of the experience, knowledge and dedication that they bring.
- Everyone across the District who has been rolling out training in Unconscious Bias and Equality, Diversity and Inclusion and sharing this conversation across the Church.

Please Pray For

- The work of the District JDS Group as they discern the priorities for work within the District moving forward and put together a plan to meet these priorities.
- Good communication and teamwork between the JDS Group and local circuits so that we can all work together in harmony in our shared mission.
- All those who have experienced exclusion, injustice and discrimination within the Methodist Church, that they may find a Church willing to stand in solidarity with them and ensure they are treated with dignity and justice.
-



Merciful God, forgive us for moulding a Church in our image, instead of yours. For finding comfort with those who look, talk, think and act like us, rather than finding joy as part of your diverse Body. Help us learn from one another's experience, and so grow closer to you.

District Justice, Dignity and Solidarity Group

Secretary of JDS Group

Regina Owusu

Members of JDS Group

Matt Forsyth

Anna Herriman

Janet Hinds

Vanessa Li

Rev'd Patricia Mukorombindo

Paulette Tedd

Rev'd Bud Tillinghast

Rev'd Bekkie Wright

District Chair

Rev'd Helen Cameron

Learning Network Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Officer

Stuart Watkin



Day 18

New People for New Places

FEAST (Friends Exploring And Sharing Together) is the District's New People for New Places project and seeks to invite those beyond our established buildings or existing fellowships to discover the ways in which life and faith can come together, using shared and common interests to explore theological questions and issues.

Give Thanks For

- All those who helped lead the pilot groups within the Nene Valley Circuit and those who have now begun to explore faith further as a result.
- The encouraging feedback (along with learning) that was shared as part of the April Synod, and the conversations held about rolling out FEAST to the wider district.
- The support offered from within Circuits, District, and Connexion during the discernment phase of 2022/2023.

Please Pray For

- The continuing conversations with Superintendents and Leadership Teams in listening to where God is calling FEAST groups to be and grow.
- Safe journeys for the Missions team as they travel across the district.
- The building of a network to support the long-term vision of FEAST in helping New People explore the presence of God within New Places, so that faith can be shared and lived out together within the realities of everyday sights, sounds, and social spaces that we all spend our time in.



God of friendship and love, we pray for your guiding, adventurous Spirit to be with us as we journey alongside new people into new places. Reveal to us the hidden treasures you have in store, both through the gift of the unknown and our own known stories of faith. Amen

District New People for New Places Group

Chair

Rev'd Helen Cameron

Mission Team members:

Overstone Community

Chaplain - Mel Brown

District Mission Enabler

Matt Forsyth

FEAST Enabler

Rev'd Kim Shorley -

Connexional Evangelism and Growth Officer

Nigel Pimlott



Day 19

Vocations

Vocation and discernment providing opportunities for people to explore their sense of calling and how their gifts may be offered and used.

District Vocations Officer

Rev'd Ruth Charlesworth

Give Thanks For

- The new Connexional Explore programme, offering the opportunity for individuals to explore God's call to both lay and ordained roles. May we each use it well.
- All of those within churches, circuits, district and connexion who have discerned and responded to the call to specific roles within the church, both lay and ordained.
- Each one of us as we faithfully live our lives of discipleship. God give us the courage to step out into new roles and responsibilities as we discern where our skills can best be used in our Church.

Please Pray For

- Those who are candidating for ministry this year and those who have candidated in past years.
- Our Local Preachers and Worship Leaders who remain faithful to their call despite the growing demands on their services.
- The Holy Spirit to be felt across the district, inspiring us to become all that God has created us to be.



You called the Methodist Church into being with a purpose, to spread scriptural holiness through the land as we proclaim our faith. Send down your Spirit, Lord, so that we are filled with your passion for your church and world; that we hear your call and dare to respond. Amen



Day 20 Safeguarding

The DST is undergoing changes to its staffing. Gill Crippen Team Leader, will be leaving at Christmas after long service with the District, Grahame Snelling is here for 6 months. We will also have a new Safeguarding Training Coordinator.

Give Thanks For

- Sue Ioannou and Pauline Jackson who were members of our District Safeguarding Team.
- All those who work in safeguarding whether paid or as volunteers in the life of our churches. We are grateful for the profound service and efforts that so many give to ensuring that safeguarding is core to the mission of the Church.

Please Pray For

- Our missional communities, that they may be safe places for all.
- That safeguarding will be core to our missional engagement.
- Our safeguarding team as they oversee the safeguarding training, the casework, those who pose a risk, the churches who need help to ensure our communities are safe spaces.
- Our Circuit Superintendents and Safeguarding Officers as they bring about a change of culture where we can celebrate the flourishing of all God's people.

Our gracious and almighty God, Lord of all hope. We thank you for those you have called to this work in safeguarding and enabling the flourishing of all your people. We give thanks for the service of so many who have given of their time, their expertise and their resources to enable this District to be a safer place. We pray for the new safeguarding team that will emerge this year, that they will thrive as they establish new patterns of work and practice, enabling this District to have safeguarding as core to its missional communities. Amen



Team Leader Safeguarding

(until 31.12.23)

Gill Crippen

District Safeguarding Officer (DSO)

Grahame Snelling (acting)

District Safeguarding Training Coordinator (DSOT)

Vacant

Safeguarding Administration

District Office

Chair of District (oversees all safeguarding in the District)

Connexional Safeguarding

Casework Supervisor

Donald Urquhart



Day 21 Peterborough

Encompassing the heart of Peterborough, we minister from the suburbs, villages, and towns, and reach into the city. We have a heart for nurturing and shaping disciples. We are deeply committed to evangelism and social outreach. We have seen great things by working in partnership with other denominations.

Give Thanks For

- The growth in numbers seen in a number of churches in the Circuit, that those that have come to Christ find deeper meaning in their lives and seek to serve in roles within their church.
- For new Lay Employees in the Circuit that they may find fulfilment in their roles and bring Christ to the people among who they serve.

Please Pray For

- Churches that find it hard to fulfil the requirements of being church and filling critical roles. May they find solutions that mean they can continue to be church serving in their community.
- People to offer themselves in Circuit roles and for churches to recognise the importance of these roles for the Circuit to function.



Father, we thank you for what you have given the Peterborough Circuit and ask that you make effective use of our resources, human and practical, to further your Word among our worshippers and the communities in which they serve. Amen

Superintendent

Rev'd Dr Langley Mackrell-Hey

Ministers

Rev'd Janet Titterton

Rev'd Sarah Gower (Authorised Minister)

Circuit Administrator

Mrs Sue Moore

Supernumerary Ministers

Rev'd Ray Garfoot

Rev'd David Parkes

Rev'd Dale Sherriff

Rev'd Doug Stevens (Anglican)

Rev'd Graham Tooth

Circuit Stewards

Mrs Sue Holmes

Mrs Sue Keeney

Mr Giles Armstrong - Treasurer

Mr David Whiting - Circuit

Safeguarding Officer

Mrs Suzanne Delegate - Lay

Pastoral Assistant

Mrs Suzanne Delegate - Back

of Beyond Project Worker

Mr Tim Wong - Whittlesey

Children Family and Community Worker

Synod Reps

Mr Mick Goodman

Mrs Sue Keeney

Mr Nigel Lightfoot - Synod Rep

Ms Nicky Ward - Synod Rep

Day 22 ECO District



**District Advocate for
Carbon Reduction**

Howard Warrener

Since 2013 Howard has volunteered as our District Advocate for Carbon Reduction. Green Champions employed on the Young Leaders Scheme encouraged him to register our Eco District aspiration, helped to develop the District Environmental Policy, and built a network of Green Links – people around the District sharing this interest.

Give Thanks For

- Eco Church awards in our District: 16 Bronze and 8 Silver.
- 2023 Spring Synod where Dr Ruth Valerio spoke on, “Creation, Climate and the Church: From Our Emissions to God's Co-Mission”.
- All who help us to connect with our world and understand our place it in.
- All progress, from local to the Connexional Action for Hope resources, towards our 2030 net zero carbon target.

Please Pray For

- Further Eco Church awards in our District: 7 churches have registered; 3 more are applying.
- Joy from making small changes, and for larger scale momentum to follow.
- Improved communication of what’s happening, what’s planned, where to get help, advice on meeting targets, etc.
- Accelerated action to minimise and postpone the effects of climate change, felt now most by the poor, and to be felt more by future generations.



**God, you remind us every sunrise
that the world is ours on lease:
for the sake of life tomorrow may
our love for it increase;
may all races live together, share
its riches, be at peace;
in Jesus’ name we pray.
Amen**

**(adapted from StF 705, Fred Pratt Green,
1903-2000)**



Day 23

Nene Valley

The Nene Valley Circuit comprises 7 Churches. Situated in East Northamptonshire, approximately 6 miles north of Northampton, our circuit covers both urban and rural areas in towns and small villages. We come from many different walks of life and are passionate about serving God in our communities.

Superintendent
Rev'd Lesley Dinham

Church and Community Enablers

Mr Andrew Creamer
Mrs Angela Bridge

Supernumeraries

Rev'd Gordon Chisnall
Rev'd Martin Dawes
Deacon Sylvia Kempson
Rev'd Michael Langstaff

Give Thanks For

- The many diverse groups of disciples who meet around our circuit, both inside and outside our buildings seeking to: Plant Faith, Nurture Disciples and Grow God's Kingdom.
- Answered prayer for the newly appointed Church and Community Enablers.
- The completion of Phase 1 of Hope Methodist Church's Project and their Car Park.

Please Pray For

- The Staff and Circuit Stewards as we seek God's guidance in looking to the future as God's people in the Nene Valley Circuit.
- The Circuit as we seek God's guidance in becoming One Trusteeship.
- Our newly appointed Church and Community Enablers as they seek to bring our Churches and Communities closer together.
- Rev'd Kim as she leaves our Circuit to work full-time for District with NPNP.
- The ongoing development plans for the 'Rise up and Build' project at Raunds.

Audacious God, we give you all praise and thanks for the many ways we see you, by your Spirit, at work in our lives and communities. Help us to continue developing our Methodist Way of Life, so that in every place and time we may live out our calling in worship, learning and caring, service and evangelism. Amen



Day 24 Prison



The prison population continues to grow from year to year. Currently there are 84,000 people in the 141 UK Prisons and the Ministry of Justice estimates it will exceed 106,000 by 2027. Every establishment has a multi-faith Chaplaincy team who seek to offer spiritual and pastoral support to people of all faiths and none.

Give Thanks For

- The ecumenical and multi-faith partnerships supporting prisoners and their families along with staff, both operational (prison Officers) and non-operational employees.
- The volunteers who serve alongside employed Chaplains running study groups and offering pastoral support.
- The Prison Fellowship whose volunteers run a victim awareness/empathy course called Sycamore.
- The Welcome Directory, a charity that is working to link prisoners who are coming to the end of their sentence with appropriately supported faith communities.

Please Pray For

- Prison officers who face very challenging situations daily.
- For convicted prisoners and those on remand coming to terms with the consequences of their offending on them, their loved ones and their victims.
- For those who struggle with mental health issues including those who self-harm.



Lord, we thank you for those who share the Good news of the Gospel in prison. Grant them your strength in an often challenging environment. We pray for those who come to faith whilst in prison and pray that upon release they may find a welcoming faith community where they may be nurtured in their new found faith. Amen.



Day 25 Mission

As a District we are committed to the flourishing of Gods mission in each local context. In partnership we believe that together we can become a growing, evangelistic, inclusive and justice seeking church.

Give Thanks For

- The way the Missional Start-Up Grants are helping to inspire new projects to try something that hasn't been done before
- Love Is_ and the way it continues to inspire acts of love and generosity in local contexts around the District.
- The District Mission Development plan and the way it sets out to support and enable the local church to prayerfully consider its next step.

Please Pray For

- New Places For New People project FEAST and its roll out across the Circuits and Churches across the District.
- The District Mission team as it seeks to support the Circuits and Churches in their next steps.
- Churches that are engaging and dreaming of what their next steps are.
- The new support groups for lay workers and circuit missionary roles. May these groups develop fruit in solidarity and community.



Almighty God. Draw near to us as we draw near to you Help us to discern together all that you are calling us to be And all that you are calling us to do. Assist us, by your Spirit, to become a more contemplative, more compassionate and more courageous Church For the building of your kingdom and in the service of Our Calling Amen.

Mission Support Group Members

District Mission Enabler

Matt Forsyth

Members

Rev'd Sara Cliff

Phil Jones

Rev'd David Speirs

Rev'd Adam Wells

Rev'd Liam Dacre Davis



Day 26 Milton Keynes

Milton Keynes Circuit comprises of villages, market towns and city; vibrant places sit alongside deprived areas. The churches are independent, united or within LEPs. As Methodist people we long to be a community that grows and flourishes; shares God's love; challenges injustices, and offers warmth and hospitality to those in need.

Give Thanks For

- All who have responded to God's call on their lives.
- The new Circuit Mission Development Plan.
- Strong links between circuit churches and LEPs, and with their local communities.

Please Pray For

- Edson Dube assuming his new responsibilities as Superintendent Minister.
- Dave and Sarah Haseldine as they move into the Circuit and Dave takes up his new appointment.
- Jane, Carol, Don and Bola, their mentors and tutor as they continue their LP and Worship Leader studies and seek to discern God's call on their lives.
- Mission opportunities to reach new communities in Milton Keynes.



Holy God, we praise you that you are forever doing new things amongst us. As the Circuit team changes we pray for your guidance and direction in the coming year as together we discover new opportunities for service and mission here in Milton Keynes. Amen.

Superintendent

Rev'd Edson Dube

Ministers

Rev'd Dave Haseldine

Rev'd Barry Lotz

Rev'd Liz Morris –

Administrator

Rev'd George Mwaura - AP

Rev'd Nicola Vidamour

Supernumeraries

Rev'd Chris Batten

Rev'd Peter Dudeney

Rev'd Dr Margaret Goodall

Rev'd Stephanie Hibberd

Rev'd David Marshall

Rev'd David Moore

Deacon Stephen Peck

Rev'd Beatrice Quaye

Rev'd Peter Sharrocks

Rev'd Barbara Winner

Circuit family worker

Mrs Jane Brough

Circuit Administrator

Ann Harris

Circuit Stewards

Derek Beaumont

Jacqueline Commey

Katy Gillam

Carol Long

Tendayi Pearce

Circuit Secretary

Chris Linford

Circuit Treasurer

David Harbey



Day 27 High Wycombe

The Circuit is welcoming Rachael Prince as a probationer minister. As individuals and congregations we are using The Way of Life to explore the rich legacy of Methodism and to deepen our discipleship and fellowship.

Give Thanks For

- The life and work of Marlow Bottom Chapel.
- Our preachers and worship leaders.
- Our leadership team as they consider the ongoing mission and ministry of the circuit.

Please Pray For

- The continuing work with and for children and young people in our chapels and the green shoots that are emerging.
- The congregations of The Avenue and Flackwell Heath as they discuss how to be missionaries and ministers to their communities.



Gracious God - be with us as we express our love for your Son, Jesus Christ, through worship and prayer and, encouraged by your Holy Spirit, seek to share that love with our communities. Amen



Superintendent
Rev'd Kate Strange

Ministers
Rev'd Georgina Bondzi-Simpson
Rev'd Rachael Prince

Supernumeraries
Rev'd Alan Bolton
Rev'd Mike Hill
Rev'd Angela Singleton

Circuit Stewards
Neil Manthorpe
Carolyn Luscombe

Circuit Treasurer
David Sparks

Circuit Meeting Secretary
Alison Simpson

Circuit Administrator
Neil Manthorpe

Circuit Property Adviser
Richard Drew

Day 28 Amersham

The Circuit is situated at the southernmost part of the Northampton District, sweeping north and west from Gerrards Cross to Prestwood. Our Churches comprise one Methodist/URC and five Methodist Churches. The Circuit seeks to use its resources in new and creative ways for the glory of God.

Give Thanks For

- The ministry of Church and Circuit Stewards
- For the Circuit YouTube channel and weekly worship online
- The continued mission of the C2C project
- The growth in numbers at Gerrards Cross Movers & Shakers
- The work of the Circuit Administrator
- Pastoral care and nurture across the Circuit
- Being connected to each other and to God

Please Pray For

- The Circuit Leadership Team as we continue to seek to move forward in faith.
- The Circuit Vision Day in November 2023.
- Rev James Patterson as he moves into his second year of ministry.
- The completion of the sale of 3 churches so that the proceeds may be used for mission.
- Small groups that meet to pray, study the Bible and fellowship together.
- Wisdom as the Circuit strives to move forward in mission.
- The ministry of the Amersham Circuit YouTube channel.



Loving God, you call us to be good stewards of your creation and to love all that you have made. You call us to continue to be authentic disciples of Jesus Christ in the Church and in the World and to be Christ to others. You call us to be guided by the Holy Spirit that we may be the people you have called us to be. We pray in the name of the Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

Superintendent
Rev'd E Adam Wells



Minister
Rev'd James Patterson

Circuit Administrator/Bookkeeper
Lu Gigg

Circuit Meeting Secretary
Ann Cloke

Circuit Stewards
Gill McAllister
Pam Sitford



Day 29 Vale of Aylesbury

Ours is a group of 16 churches 2 in East Oxfordshire and rest in Buckinghamshire. We have a mix of town centre churches and village chapels. The south of the circuit has much new housing and parts are living with construction of HS2, the north is more rural. The large town of Aylesbury is the major centre with our other churches being found in small towns and villages.

Give Thanks For

- The ministry of the Rev Keith Edwards as he moves to a new appointment in mid-Wales.
- For the dedicated and hardworking members who serve in our context, devoting their time, energy, intellect, and resources in your service.
- For rural churches that make a significant difference to their communities.
- For ecumenical partnerships and effective Christian presence in the countryside.
- For Christians who volunteer in their communities and make a significant contribution to the flourishing of those communities.

Please Pray For

- Rev Hee-gon Moon and his wife Deborah as they come to share with us.
- For new initiatives in discipleship that help to develop our faith.
- For the movement of the Spirit in the midst of Circuit life.



Gracious God in the midst of the challenges of our world help us to be compassionate and faithful, may your Spirit bring peace and joy into our midst so that we might yet more ably live your way of love. For the sake of the prince of love, Amen

Superintendent

Rev'd Richard Atkinson,
Aylesbury, North Marston
(Methodist/CofE) and Weedon
(Methodist/CofE)

Ministers

Rev'd Noreen Daley-Lee,
Cheddington, Stewkley,
Swanbourn, Waddesdon,
Whitchurch and Wingrave

Rev'd Hee-gon Moon,
Chinnor, Cuddington, Haddenham,
Princess Risborough, Stone and
Christchurch, Thame,
(Methodist/URC)

Voluntary Lay Workers

Jennie Marriner-Kyle
Arthur Sara



Day 30

The Overstone Project

**Overstone Pioneer
Community Chaplain**

Mel Brown

A missional outreach on a new housing development. Our vision is to build friendships and to help in building a cohesive community, where people want to live; sharing God's love and light, with a hope that we can build a tangible expression of faith within the community.

Give Thanks For

- Invaluable ongoing support from the Steering Group.
- A successful ecumenical partnership with the Anglican Church.
- The strong relationships we have built with the new families, developers and sales teams.
- The amazing residents who work closely with us.
- For our festive activities and community events; they know that the church is present in their community, and they have welcomed us in.

Please Pray For

- Families of all shapes and sizes living in the community – that Overstone will be a place where they enjoy living.
- Our weekly Walking Group, which offers the opportunity of friendship, support and conversations of faith.
- The new Care Home, where we conduct services and hold one-to-ones with the residents. Also, for the staff who are amazing, creating a wonderful environment for the residents.
- For faith to grow and keep on growing in this new community!



Lord and Father, we praise you and give you thanks for the work in Overstone. You have invited us to come and join in with what you are doing, and we have said Yes! Please show us other communities in our district, where you are inviting us to Come! Amen



Day 31 Methodist Homes - MHA

MHA provides care, accommodation and support to more than 18,500 older people across the UK thanks to the commitment and dedication of its 7,500 employees and 4,000 volunteers. MHA offers residential, nursing and specialist dementia care in the sector in care homes located throughout England, Scotland and Wales, including excellent facilities located in the Northampton District.

Give Thanks For

- The staff and volunteers who go above and beyond to bring happiness, peace and joy to the residents of our homes and schemes.
- The music therapists and chaplaincy teams who are able to bring light and life to those we meet through music, prayer, worship, bible study and pastoral support.
- The residents themselves, that through their lives we are all so deeply enriched by their stories and experiences, that stay with us for ever.

Please Pray For

- The residents, staff and volunteers of our homes and schemes especially in our District – Aigburth, The Homestead, Brookfields, Welland Place, West Court, Westbury Grange, The Limes, The Maples, Rushden Park, Hillside.
- Recent changes within MHA as a whole have meant that 10 homes/schemes have been put on the market (Not in our District). Please pray for the residents, families and staff as these difficult changes are negotiated over the coming months.



Lord, we thank you that through the work of MHA we are able to support the residents in our care and bring quality and purpose to their life. We pray for those who are leaving their own homes and familiar surroundings to start a new home with MHA. We pray for peace and joy for all in our care. Amen

Area Support Chaplain

Marion Mahan

Chaplains

Aigburth, Leics

Emma Hurley

Rushden Pk, Rushden

Karan Harris

West Court, Banbury

Rev'd David Alderman

Westbury Grange, MK

Rev'd Lee Hillyard

The Homestead, Oxfordshire

Jane Biggs

The Limes, MK

Rev'd Peter Laws

Brookfield, Oxford

Rev'd Jane Lees

Hillside, Aylesbury

Colin Retieff

Welland Place,

Market Harborough

Father Thomas Rees

The Maples, Peterborough

Karen Hales