

## Forthcoming Events



### Effective Listening Practice

Monday 24<sup>th</sup> April, 2017; 10.00am - 4.30pm

A day training course at  
Chipping Norton Methodist Church for  
anyone offering a caring ear to the needs of others.  
Only limited place available, please book in advance.

For more details please contact the Superintendent Minister



### Wigginton

Annual Plant Sale  
Saturday May 06<sup>th</sup>, 2017  
10.30am - 3.00pm

Tea, Coffee, Refreshments, Bric a brac and cake stalls!

All are welcome!



.....supporting Churches  
on their journey with  
Jesus.

## News... from the Circuit

Spring 2017

### From our Superintendent Minister....

Dear friends,

Warm greetings to you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ!

This new quarter ushers us into the season of Lent. This year, Spring begins on the same day as Lent: 1<sup>st</sup> of March. The lengthening days and signs of new life that spring around, evoke in us a sense of newness and freshness. The special touch of this season of spring and the significance of the holy period of Lent give us ample opportunities to reflect on our spiritual life in the backdrop of the life, death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

As spring progresses, shorter and darker days slowly turn into that which is longer and brighter. And the season of Lent takes us through a time that culminates in Christ Jesus overcoming the dark forces of death and rising triumphantly into glorious life. As we pause and ponder at our journey, we feel what a privilege it is for us to have our faith in God through our Lord Jesus Christ - faith that serves as an anchor in our lives that face darkness but sustained and supported by the brightness of hope. As a pilgrim people, we move on in our journey with hope and confidence in God.

As a circuit we start Lent with worship on Ash Wednesday. During the season, most churches will have their own individual and ecumenical activities. During Holy Week, we will have prayers at different churches. Please refer to the following pages for details.

Last year, as a circuit, we were able to focus on our *Community involvement* - one of the four aspects of our new circuit policy. All our churches are already involved with our communities, may it be in the form of coffee mornings or book swaps or annual plant sales or the many other things that we do. But two of our churches in particular, have embarked on the local *Good Neighbour* scheme.

This year our focus will be on *Evangelism*. Having been inspired by the Circuit Study Day conducted by Rev Gill Marsh a few weeks ago, we will have a series of events and programmes planned throughout this year. There is a general feeling of fear and apprehension among people when the word *evangelism* is mentioned. But it is nothing to be afraid of. It is simply finding a way to express what our Christian faith means to us.

We want to encourage churches to respond to the Methodist Church's call to have prayer events between the days of Ascension and Pentecost - May 25<sup>th</sup> - June 4<sup>th</sup>. What is now grown into a global Christian movement, Thy Kingdom Come, simply invites all Christians to pray specially during this period for more people to come to know Jesus Christ. We will send details about that to all churches soon, but we would like to see all churches in the circuit opening their church for at least one day for prayers, so together as a circuit we will have continuous prayers during this period.

There are some new initiatives and events planned in the circuit. Last October, we inaugurated our Men's Fellowship. The second meeting will have taken place by the end of February. Can I encourage all men across the circuit to attend this informal and congenial gathering? We aim to meet once a quarter.

In April, we have a day long training session on listening practice. This is conducted by professionals from Acorn Christian Ministries. Pastoral visitors and those who lend a loving and caring ear to others will find it truly beneficial. Please see separate notice on the following pages.

May the remainder of lent be a meaningful time filled with spiritual richness; Holy Week and Easter offering us opportunities to reflect on the cross of Christ and the new life the risen Christ offers to all believers.

Every blessing,  
**Soba Sinnathamby-**

**Chapel Anniversary Service**

Shipston Methodist Church  
 17.05.2017, at 6.30pm  
 Preacher: Rev James Skinner  
 Tea at 5.30pm  
 All are warmly welcome!!



Service at  
**Chadlington Methodist Church**  
 01.03.2017  
 at 7.00pm

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**Maundy Thursday Service**



13.04.2017, at 7.00pm  
 at

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**Good Friday**  
 14<sup>th</sup> April, 2017



Service at  
**Churchill Methodist Church**  
 at 7.30pm  
 with Circuit Choir

**Good Friday Services at other Churches**

Chadlington	10.00am	Ada Cooper
Chipping Norton	9.30am	Rev Stephen Bywater
Shipston	10.00am	Ecumenical
Westote	11.30am	United Walk of Witness <small>Nether Westcote Green</small>