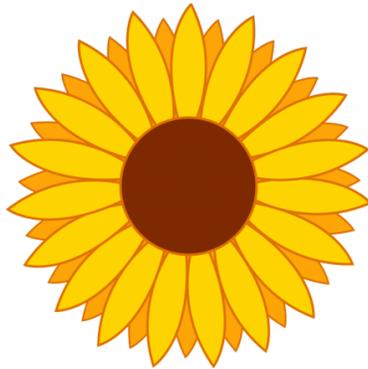


*Newsletter*  
*August 2016*



*In the wonder of creation,  
when all nature shares one song,  
showing God's imagination,  
all may see his love goes on.*

*Andrew T Murphy*  
*Singing the Faith 110 verse 1*

# *Welcome to the August Newsletter*

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## *A Message from our Minister*



I am getting ready to cheer on Team GB as they compete in Rio at the 2016 Olympic Games, or the "Games of the XXXI Olympiad". St Paul was familiar with the Greek games. He even wrote about the Christian life being like a race, and ourselves as the competitors, looking for the prizes, the crown in heaven. Writing of the need for self-discipline he says "Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize" (1 Corinthians 9.24, NIV). Christian people are not in competition with each other, but are competing against the things that drag us away from God.

We don't all run in the same way. We are each unique. I have been inspired by an article in the last month's edition of Methodist Buzz. You will excuse me for quoting so much:

Earlier this year, Maghull Methodist Church Ladies' Fellowship decided to join the fun of Sports Relief and do a sponsored stagger from the church to local shopping square, about  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile.

"With dodgy tickers, hip replacements and a myriad of other age related inconveniences,  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a mile can actually feel like a marathon," said Glynis James. "However, we were undaunted and enticed by the promise of free tea and coffee generously supplied by our local Costa Coffee! I have a theory that no one thought we would actually do it so they wouldn't have to pay up! How wrong they were!"



By last week the ladies had already raised an amazing sum of £1,000.

I am not suggesting that a sponsored stagger is for every Ladies Fellowship but these Merseyside Christians express something of hope that is essential in Church life, and indeed inspirational in all human society. We have to "run with perseverance the race marked out for us" (Hebrews 12.1, NIV). Everyone's race is different. But we do not run alone. We run with others, with our brothers and sisters locally, and with the church worldwide. We must help each other along the track.

So let's cheer on Team GB in Rio. And let's also cheer on each other!

Graham

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

## *Church Family News*

### **Encircled in Prayer**

I am writing this only a couple of days after I was able to leave hospital following 11 days during much of which time I was seriously ill.

I am not out of the woods yet and there may be further news on my health before this Newsletter goes to press but I want to convey my love and thanks for all the concern that everyone has expressed.

It is wonderful to experience the prayerful concern of everyone and to feel oneself encircled with prayer.

You may not be the sort of person who has a regular prayer pattern. You may not even think of yourself as praying but you too are part of that prayer circle.

My thanks go out not just to the members and friends of our church but to the friends from Clophill, Ampthill and around the circuit and beyond.

To feel such love especially at a time when life seems dark is a fitting reminder of why and what we believe.

Thank you all and God bless.

Peter Fletcher

## *Church Flowers in August*

We thank those who have agreed to donate flowers to enhance our worship this month.

7th August Janet Watts  
14th August Frances Impey  
21st August Jill Dix  
28th August Carole and Lance Mason

It is also good to remember the amazing variety of God's creation as we view the flowers displayed in church each week.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

## *Luncheon Club*

At the July Luncheon Club a bouquet and thank you card were presented to Rosemary and Mick Gregory as they step down from helping to prepare the meals each month. They have been involved with the Luncheon Club for fifteen years, since it started in 2001 and so we hope they will be now able to enjoy attending the luncheon without the added responsibility of preparing it.

Thank you Rosemary and Mick for all you have done for the Luncheon Club over the past fifteen years.

Those of us who are privileged to attend the luncheon club appreciate the work of the whole team that goes into making the lunches possible. A lot of work goes into the organisation and preparation of the lunches and in order to lessen the workload the team have decided that from now on the luncheon club will be held bi-monthly. The remaining two dates for this year will be Friday 14th October and Friday 9th December.

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# Wesley Guild

Monday 22nd August – Walk round Flitwick Moor at noon, followed by a Bring and Share lunch at 108 Station Road at around 1.00 pm. All welcome.

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The programme for the 2016-17 session of the Guild will be available in early September. Please take a copy.

You will be very welcome to come to any of the meetings.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

We will be filling shoe boxes for Operation Christmas Child on Monday 31st October, and need medium sized shoe boxes and Christmas wrapping paper. Shoeboxes and / or wrapping paper will be gratefully received at any time so we can have the shoe boxes ready.

For a reminder of suitable items for the shoeboxes and items that must not be included please see the next page.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

## **Calling all Knitters**

As I will be on holiday for the next two knitting sessions we will be meeting at Beryl's in Elmwood Crescent, on August 2nd and September 13th. (Please note change of date for September.) Should the venue be any different please watch the notices for these changes.

Thanks also to all who meet each month, it would be great to see some new faces. Thank you also to those who knit at home.

*Sheila Smith*

## *Suitable Shoe Box Items*

### **Toys**

Items that children will immediately embrace such as dolls or stuffed toys (with CE label), toy trucks, harmonica, yo-yo, skipping rope, ball, small puzzles etc.

### **School Supplies**

Pens, pencils & sharpeners, crayons or felt pens, stamps & ink pad sets, writing pads or notebooks & paper, solar calculators, colouring & picture books etc.

### **Hygiene Items**

Toothbrush and toothpaste, bars of wrapped soap, comb or hairbrush, flannel.

### **Other Items**

Hat, cap, gloves or scarf, sunglasses, hair accessories, jewellery set, wind up torch, wrapped sweets (best-before-date must be at least March of the following year).

### **DO NOT INCLUDE**

Used or damaged items, war related items such as toy guns, play soldiers or knives; chocolate or other food items; liquids or lotions of any type including bubbles; medicines; hand-made or knitted stuffed toys; anything of a political, racial or religious nature; sharp objects; glass containers, mirrors or fragile items; playing cards of the 4-suit variety; clothing other than as listed above.

Taken from the Operation Christmas Child Website

~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Please also remember:

If you give toothbrushes please also give toothpaste to go with each brush.

If you give pencils please also include some pencil sharpeners.

Thank you very much.

## *Parish Church Flower Festival*

The Parish Church Flower Festival, held on 25th and 26th June, had the theme of 'Let's Celebrate'. Many local groups provided the thirty-two different arrangements and those of you who went to view the flower festival were no doubt amazed and impressed by the creativity of the arrangers.

We thank Maryan Pateman for her arrangement on behalf of our church, which depicted the celebration of Shakespeare, in the 400th year of his death.



Maryan used as her inspiration four quotations from Shakespeare which mention flowers, with the quotations on the cards below the arrangement.

~~~~~

## *Open the Book: Bringing the Bible to life for every child in every primary school.*

Children love stories – especially Bible stories when they're interactive, engaging and fun.

Open the Book began in 1999 and since then thousands of school children have discovered Bible stories, during assembly and collective worship.



Today, so many children could miss out on the great classic stories from the Bible – Noah, Daniel and the life of Jesus could be closed chapters if youngsters don't get an opportunity to engage with the Bible.

That's why Open the Book is so important. It's a three-year rolling programme of themed and dramatised storytelling at no charge to primary schools. Teams of volunteers throughout the country use drama, mime, props, costume – and even the children and staff themselves – to present the Bible stories in lively and informative ways.

Amphill Baptist Church have teams in several schools including a lower school in Flitwick. However, the other schools would like a team. We are trying to arrange a Flitwick team willing to commit to one assembly a week initially, and arrange training, working with the other churches. I have seen the amazing effect of Open the Book in schools, and the confidence that it's given to volunteers also. Please let me know if you are interested.

*Rev Graham Claydon-Knights (01525 713468)*

## 1<sup>st</sup> Flitwick Boys' Brigade



Another BB session has come to a close.

Battalion Sports at Woodland were a little disrupted by the weather but all events were completed with Anchor Boys finishing 4<sup>th</sup> in their sports day and 5<sup>th</sup> overall for the year which was pretty good going considering our Anchor Boys only relaunched in January. Junior Section finished =3<sup>rd</sup> in the triathlon on the day and also 3<sup>rd</sup> overall for the year, another good result given we have a very young Junior Section. The Company Section had an archery Competition and finished 3<sup>rd</sup> on the day and 5<sup>th</sup> for the year – another good result as we missed a few competitions. Well Done Lads, no silverware but a great effort.

The final few weeks of the session were spent on the Flitwick Lower School Field with a rocket evening, then Lads and Dads Mini Olympics where about 9 dads came along and joined in the fun. The Final week was our Annual Family Barbecue and about 40 boys and family members came together for a fantastic evening, that included the medal presentations for the Mini Olympics.

Looking ahead to the new session then our prayers for additional leaders have been answered, and I am currently sorting out paperwork for up to 5 new helpers plus my own re registration. Then there are the activities to plan for, so whilst it is holiday time things are still happening BB wise – just not quite as busy as term time.

So as ever your continued support for our boys and young men, and the leaders is very much appreciated – Thank you all.

God Bless .

*Angela Brydon  
Company Captain*

*Prayer Leaflet*  
*August 2016*



*Bring the hopes of every nation;  
bring the art of every race.  
Weave a song of peace and justice;  
let it sound through time and space.*

*Delores Duffner  
Singing the Faith 689 verse 4*

## Prayer Suggestions for August

### 6 days beginning 1st August - Thankfulness

|           |                                                                         |
|-----------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Monday    | Thank God for all His love and care.                                    |
| Tuesday   | Thank God for His forgiveness when we repent.                           |
| Wednesday | Thank God for our families and friends.                                 |
| Thursday  | Thank God for the summer time and opportunities for outdoor activities. |
| Friday    | Thank God for the ways He reveals Himself to us.                        |
| Saturday  | Thank God that we can come to Him in prayer at any time.                |

### Week beginning 7th August - Olympic Games

|           |                                                                                                            |
|-----------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Sunday    | Pray for the people of Brazil as they host the Olympic Games.                                              |
| Monday    | Pray for the safety of the athletes, officials and all involved in the organisation of the games.          |
| Tuesday   | Pray that the games will be known for fair play and integrity.                                             |
| Wednesday | Pray that competitors will compete in the spirit of the games, recognising the achievements of others.     |
| Thursday  | Pray that the games will encourage and challenge everyone to give of their best.                           |
| Friday    | Pray that the spectators will be fair and encourage all competitors.                                       |
| Saturday  | Thank God for events such as the Olympic Games that bring together people from all countries of the world. |

### Week beginning 14th August - Ministers on the move

|           |                                                                                                                     |
|-----------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Sunday    | Pray for Glayne Worgan, Dave Haseldine, Matt Fugill and their families as they move to other appointments.          |
| Monday    | Pray for all ministers moving to different circuits.                                                                |
| Tuesday   | Pray that all these ministers will settle well in their new environments.                                           |
| Wednesday | Pray for new probationer ministers moving into this circuit, Lorna Valentine and Charlie Connor and their families. |

- Thursday Pray for our Superintendent Minister, Andrew Hollins, as he moves into the Bedford manse.
- Friday Pray for the person recently appointed to join the ministerial team to minister to the Biggleswade, Beeston and Sandy churches.
- Saturday Pray for the circuit churches with a change of minister and the ministers serving these churches.

*Week beginning 21st August - World Mission*

*Prayer points from the World Church Relationships News Bulletin*

- Sunday Pray for Sierra Leone and as it continues to recover from the Ebola outbreak.
- Monday Pray for those working for peace and reconciliation in Korea.
- Tuesday Pray for the Methodist Church in Nicaragua including the work with children.
- Wednesday Pray for the work of the nutrition centre being set up at the Ankaase Methodist Hospital in Ghana.
- Thursday Pray for the youth work being undertaken by the Methodist Church in Italy.
- Friday Pray for the Methodist Church in Benin and Ivory Coast seeking to equip more people for ministry with the help of a grant from the World Mission Fund.
- Saturday Thank God for the work of Methodists all round the world.

*4 days beginning 28th August - Time*

- Sunday Thank God for times of worship which are so precious to us.
- Monday Thank God that He gives us many opportunities to learn more of His love in our daily lives.
- Tuesday Pray that God will help us to make the best use of our time each day.
- Wednesday Thank God for the rhythm of busy times followed by rest and sleep.



## Lectionary Readings for August

Last year we asked preachers during the summer quarter to preach from the lectionary and, as many people said they found it helpful to be able to look at the readings beforehand, we have again asked the preachers to do this during July and August this year.

Here are the lectionary readings for the month of August. Most preachers would not use all four readings and there are alternative Old Testament readings not listed here. It is likely that the Gospel reading will be used as one of the readings.

|             |                                                                           |                                          |
|-------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| 7th August  | Genesis 15: 1-6<br><b>Luke 12: 32-40</b>                                  | Psalm 33: 12-22<br>Hebrews 11: 1-3, 8-16 |
| 14th August | Jeremiah 23: 23-29<br><b>Luke 12: 49-56</b>                               | Psalm 82<br>Hebrews 11: 29 - 12: 2       |
| 21st August | Isaiah 58: 9b-14<br><b>Luke 13: 10-17</b>                                 | Psalm 103: 1-8<br>Hebrews 12: 18-29      |
| 28th August | Ecclesiasticus 10:12-18<br>or Proverbs 25:6-7<br><b>Luke: 14: 1, 7-14</b> | Psalm 112<br>Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16       |

We hope you will find it helpful to be able to study the readings before and/or after the service.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

## Circuit Prayer Meeting

The next Circuit prayer meeting will be held on Monday 22nd August at Willington at 10.30am. All will be very welcome.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

# Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Historic Churches Trust



On Saturday September 10th many cyclists and walkers from Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire will be cycling or walking their way around the area, visiting as many churches as possible in order to raise funds for the Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Historic Churches Trust, which supports the financial need of churches of all denominations to help with the upkeep, including Clophill Methodist Church with their present roof problems. This is the Silver Jubilee year, twenty-five years of cycling, walking, riding and church sitting and twenty-five years of being able to grant aid churches and chapels for the repair of their building. The B & H H C T hope to make it a special fund raising year and total.



Flitwick Methodist Church is one of the many churches on the 'bike 'n hike' tour. This year, as last year, we hope to offer a refreshment break for all who visit the premises. If you are able to offer half an hour or more between 10am and 6pm on Sept. 10th to welcome the visitors, please contact Janet Watts or Linda Pitts who will gladly add your name to the list and give more information. Also, a croissant and coffee morning is booked on the same morning to raise money to finance the annual 'shoebox' collection. We do not tend to have ready-made cyclists from our congregation supporting the bike 'n hike but as last year, we will have a sponsor form where people can donate a certain amount or donate so much for every cyclist/walker who calls during the day. Information and details will be on the sponsor form on the day – last year as a very last minute idea, we managed to send nearly £40.00 to the organisation. So we can ALL be involved in a different way!

## *From the Methodist Conference*

The 2016 Annual Conference of the Methodist Church passed a resolution containing the following text:

The United Kingdom, as a result of the referendum on 23 June 2016, has voted to leave the European Union. In this time of very significant change and uncertainty there is a need for leadership which seeks the common good and encourages people to work together, to respect one another and to uphold the dignity of all.

The Methodist Conference believes that the British Isles are enriched by diversity and celebrates the contribution made by those who have come from other parts of the world.

The Christian tradition calls for respect, tolerance, love of neighbour and hospitality to the stranger. All bear the responsibility of speaking and acting for healing, reconciliation, and mutual respect.

The Methodist Conference abhors and deeply regrets those actions and words which incite hatred and lead to the victimisation of groups within society and notes with concern that such actions and words have been normalised in recent public discourse. Believing that racism is a denial of the gospel and that to stay silent when others are abused is to collude with those who seek to promote hatred and division, the Methodist Conference calls:

- on the Methodist people to challenge racism and discrimination;
- for a political debate which neither demonises any nor leaves the vulnerable (the foreigner, the immigrant and refugee) in danger of victimisation;
- on political leaders to work together for the good of the whole community putting the needs of the nation before party politics;
- on all those in positions of power and authority to hear the voices of those who have been marginalised and alienated and to respond to them in ways which offer real hope for the future.

The Upper Room

at **Amphill Methodist Church** on **alternate Thursdays**

**Date in August – 4th**

Coffee or tea and cakes from 10.00 am.

Light lunches from 11.30 am to 1.00 pm.

Proceeds after expenses for local charities.

All are welcome.

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Action for Children Ploughman's Lunch



On Thursday 18th August our annual ploughman's lunch will be held in the Upper Room at Amphill Methodist Church between 12.00 noon and 2.00 pm.

This supports the work of Action for Children and will again be co-ordinated by Corrine Thomas. If you have been before, you will know it is a good meal!

The cost of the meal will be £7.00, payable in advance or at the door. Numbers are required to help with catering, so if you would like to share in this sociable event please let Linda Pitts (714060) know your name and the number of lunches required by Sunday 14th August. If you would like to go but do not have transport or have spare seats in your car, please tell Linda.

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Harvest Festival

Our Harvest Festival is on 18th September, when we will be welcoming Rev Donald Finnan from Surrey to lead our services. We will again be supporting the Prebend Day Centre with our gifts and All We Can with our gifts of money.

~~~~~

Shefford Methodist Church

Raising the Roof

Coffee Morning

**Saturday 6th August**

10.00 am – 12 noon

In aid of the “Raising the Roof” appeal for the Church Hall

You are invited to enjoy coffee, tea, cakes and a chat.

There will also be a raffle, bric a brac, Traidcraft  
and other stalls.

Tea Towels and Calico Bags available at £5 each.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

**You are invited to attend a  
Free Church Service in the  
Lady Chapel on the dates  
mentioned below:**



THE CATHEDRAL AND  
ABBEY CHURCH OF  
SAINT ALBAN

**Wednesday 3rd August 2016 at 11a.m.**

Preacher: The Reverend Fr. Brian Reynolds

Catholic Ecumenical Chaplain, St Albans Cathedral

The Service is followed by a Fellowship Lunch.

**Wednesday 7th September 2016 at 11a.m.**

Preacher: The Revd. Richard Lowson

Methodist Minister, The West Herts and Border Circuit

The Service is followed by a Fellowship Lunch.

**All are Welcome**

Contact: Reverend Peter Hudson. 01727 812076

Email: peter.hudson@uwclub.net

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

## *News from Paraguay*

### 11th June 2016

I know all about temperature drops. Here winter seems to have arrived early. It has been cold every night this week with, I think, a bit of frost, but I didn't get up early enough to check if that was the case! Ramona came over earlier wearing two coats.

I get lots of little birds and every morning when I get up they are waiting in the trees around the bird table for their breakfast and are down as soon as I take a couple of steps away. In an hour the table is clean. They do come back during the day to check if any more food has magically appeared!

### 16th June 2016

It has been slightly warmer over the weekend. However all the grass has been killed off and turned yellow and I expect will stay that way for a couple of months before everything turns green again. So all looking rather wintry outside. There has not been any rain for a while and that turned up today, but it was steady rain rather than a storm - so quite like English rain really.

Ramona came over to visit and she wants to cook for me at the weekend, so I will have to go to town via her house on Saturday and find out what ingredients are needed.

Oh - and your igloo. I did eventually see the photo and it looked a very clever idea - milk cartons I believe.

### 21st June 2016

Ramona cooked for me on Sunday. The chicken turned out to be roasted for a couple of hours with loads of herbs and vegetables and very tasty and a change from the usual fare of either things either barbecued or in tomato sauce! I am sure she enjoyed having the electric cooker to play with.

This week so far I had Monday doing the washing and cleaning around the house. Then today I went to Caacupe with Colin to sort

out a new laptop for Rene and I found them a very nice one and at a very good price. I will go there for a new one if ever this one decides it doesn't want to work any more. Then tomorrow the plan is to go down to Paraguari where with a bit of luck I will find some books waiting for me at the post office.

### 27th June 2016

I have seen all the new things on Adrian's Facebook page to mark his birthday.

I think it is not unlikely that Ramona will be waiting to cook again. There is no electric cooker over at her house. There is a gas oven, when there is gas in the bottle, and other than that it is firewood.

Over the weekend I collected a new pile of books. I had been chatting to an older couple (I think they are American) on Facebook who were looking to get rid of their books. I told them that it was big books rather than simple story books I would like and so when I met them on Saturday as they travelled to their country home - which is in the same part of the country as I am - they had a couple of bags full of big thick hardback books for me which contained, amongst other things, the works of Franz Kafka and John Steinbeck so should keep me well supplied with reading material for some time.....

### 6th July 2016

I had been enjoying warm winter sunshine until a storm turned up all flashing and banging last night and although the sun has come back this afternoon it is a bit cooler.

It was very good being able to meet up with those people to get a pile of new books. Handy since they have a country house out this way so pass near there on the way there, so meeting up was not too far out of the way for me or them. I was just finishing reading my book on Krakatoa when I got the books and am now reading one of them, a novel called The Source, which is a history of the land that is called Israel from the Stone Age up to the mid-50s when the book was written. Not a subject I would normally choose to read - but then you don't learn anything by always reading the same stuff!

12th July 2016

It was quite windy today, during the morning anyway, but with it also being nice and warm the washing was done put out and dried before lunch time! Winter never hangs around too many days in a row, but I think there is a bit more coming for the weekend.

Have you collected up some apps on that phone you bought when I was over last year? I have a few on mine and the latest is Google Earth, so I was able to find your house on my phone but it is still the same old picture with the bins outside. I thought someone would have been along to collect them by now..... Whilst you don't get new photos of your house the one of my house is only a couple of months old, so very up to date.

Here the schools have just started their two week winter holiday - although with warm sunshine you could hardly call it winter..... Hope you have a warm summer soon.....

17th July 2016

So your summer has still not arrived. Maybe by August it will have turned up. Here winter is having another couple of days. There was a cold wind blowing yesterday and today it is bright and sunny but rather cool. It should be better in a day or two.

It is always quiet this time of the year with it being the middle of winter. On the nice days as it has not been too hot I have been spending most of the time getting the garden tidied up, clearing away all the long grass to find all the trees. That is now nearly done and should stay done for a little while.

20th July 2016

I have seen that summer has arrived with you. I wonder how long that will last. We have had some chilly nights and actually quite a lot of winter this year.

With it being cooler it has been an ideal time for working out doors. This week I set the goal of clearing all the long grass from behind my big trees and down to the fruit trees and also from around

the wall. With it being such nice weather for working outside, and as it has been a very good way of keeping cool, I have managed a week's work in two and a half days and also the work clothes washed and out on the line! All that is now left is several days of bonfires.

The schools are on the last week of their winter holiday and with the weather looking like it is getting better I doubt they will be able to claim another week of holiday due to cold weather. No holiday for Ramona as she has exams - she does seem to spend a lot of time doing tests and exams. All the nursing things she is quite happy with - it is just the things like statistics that panic her and her friends as none of them are very keen on maths!

Best wishes from Simon

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

*The Newsletter*

Thank you very much to everyone who has contributed to this issue of the newsletter and thank you to you all for reading it. I hope you have found it informative and interesting.

It is always good to have your contributions, and your comments. Please keep them coming. What would you like to see in the newsletter?

Please let me have your items for the September newsletter by **Sunday 21st August.**

Janet Watts telephone: 717492 email: [janetwatts14@btinternet.com](mailto:janetwatts14@btinternet.com)

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

*Church Anniversary Weekend*  
*Saturday 19th and Sunday 20th November*

with

Rev. Tony Pick and  
Rev. Graham Claydon-Knights

*Saturday – A Looking Forward Day*

Morning and afternoon sessions  
including worship and discussion  
and a soup and roll lunch

Creche available.

6.00 pm Meal and Games evening

Look out for more details later.

*Sunday*

10.30 am Worship led by Rev. Tony Pick  
and Rev. Graham Claydon-Knights  
United Service with Amptill and Clophill  
congregations joining us.

6.00 pm Worship led by  
Rev. Graham Claydon-Knights

Please continue to pray for the planning of this weekend  
and pray that, as we look forward,  
the weekend will give us a fresh vision  
of God's will for us as the Methodist people in Flitwick.

