

# *Newsletter*

## *August 2017*



*Sing for God's glory that colours the dawn of creation,  
racing across the sky, trailing bright clouds of elation;  
sun of delight  
succeeds the velvet of night,  
warming the earth's exultation.*

*Kathy Galloway Singing the Faith 116 verse 1*



## *A Message from our Minister*

"For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven" Ecclesiastes 3v1 NRSV



"How do people connect with God?" I was struck by the feedback on this question from children at our Café Church in July. Their answer was "time". A child's life in the UK today can become very full of activities and responsibilities. It's harder today, I think, to find time for imagination, for reflection, for prayer.

During long summer school holidays of my childhood, it was a real problem for me to fill the days. My mother would often be frustrated by my repeated cries "What can I do? I'm bored!" I had a lot of time (this is before I discovered the joys of building electronic circuits). I am pretty sure I must have been a particularly annoying child.

The writer of the book of Ecclesiastes (in the Bible, just after the Psalms and the Proverbs) argued that **all** times are in God's hands, good and bad, happy and sad. More than that, the writer believes that "time" is all God's idea:

"I have seen the business that God has given to everyone to be busy with. He has made everything suitable for its time; moreover, he has put a sense of past and future into their minds" Ecclesiastes 3v10-11a.

The summer can be difficult for many, as activities reduce while people are away. People have time, sometimes more than they really want! Yet time is God's gift.

If your August gives you more time than usual, then may God give his grace to make good use of it. And I don't mean using it to be busy! Instead may God give each of us time to get close to him, to imagine, reflect and pray.

Graham

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*Church Family News*

We send our love and good wishes to Iris Layton following her knee replacement operation, and pray that she will have a good recovery.

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Thank you for remembering us in your prayers at our recent family bereavement. *Ann and Michael Sharp*

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*Church Flowers in August*

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

- 6th August    Barbara and John Washington
- 13th August    Amy Kay
- 20th August    Frances Impey
- 27th August    Sabina Ofori-Quaah

As we worship they help us to remember the amazing colours and variety of God's creation. Let us thank God for his goodness.

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## Action for Children Ploughman's Lunch



On Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> August our annual Ploughman's Lunch, supporting Action for Children, will be held at Ampthill Methodist Church from 12.00pm – 2.30pm.

The cost of each meal will be £7.00 payable in advance or at the door on the day. There will also be a Bring and Buy stall which we hope you will be able to support in both ways! For those who have been before, you will know it is a happy, sociable time together – with good food and an easy way to support this worthwhile organisation which was founded nearly 150 years ago...

In order to help with catering, please let Linda know your name and numbers in your group by Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> August.

Thank you

Linda (01525 714060)

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## Harvest Festival

Our Harvest Festival services will be held on 17th September, led by Chris Izzard at 10 30 am and Brian Addington at 6.00 pm. We will again be supporting the Prebend Day Centre with our gifts and All We Can (Methodist Relief and Development) with our gifts of money.

## *Guild Barbecue*

On Monday 17th July the Guild Barbecue was hosted by Maryan and Dave Pateman. We thank them very much for their hospitality.

Thank you to Maryan and her team of helpers. The food was delicious, and there was a relaxed atmosphere in a beautiful garden on a lovely summer's afternoon.



Thank you very much to Carole Mason for the photos.





## Messy Breakfast

Saludos a todos y los mejores deseos de todos en nuestra reunión de la Iglesia Sucia el 22 de julio.

(Greetings to all and best wishes from all at our Messy Church meeting on July 22<sup>nd</sup>).

30 children and adults met together to share in our last Messy Church meeting of this year. Our theme was ‘summer holidays’ and we went to Spain once we had shared breakfast together. In the back room was a variety of activities – for children and parents to share – amongst them was - ponle la cola al burro (pin the



tail on the donkey), make a Spanish flag and create a beautiful seaside sand picture.

Yet the best was still to come! All were invited back into church to create a Spanish church, made from food – the results of which were shown in the Sunday morning service the next day. Each group brought



something specific to the design – all ornate churches/cathedrals – a chocolate cross at the top of the church, stained glass windows, people walking along the path to church and a churchyard.

... The session ended with the singing of This is the day (in Spanish).



Thank you to all who have helped with Messy Church this year and to all the families who have attended. See you in September.  
Gracias.



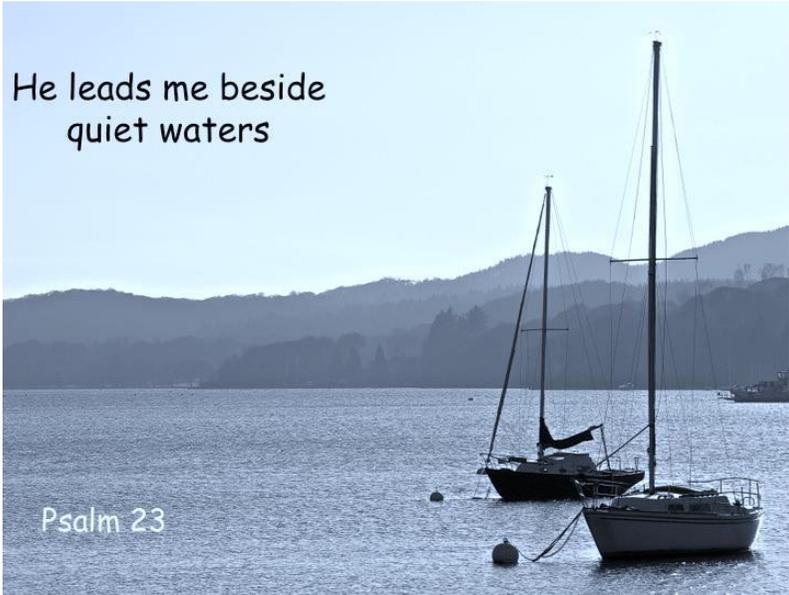
(With thanks to Graham for the photos and to Linda for the words for this report.)

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*Prayer Leaflet*  
*August 2017*

He leads me beside  
quiet waters



*In quietness and trust  
is your strength.  
Isaiah 30 v.15 (NIV)*

## Prayer Suggestions for August

*Let us approach the throne of grace with confidence,  
so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us  
in our time of need.*

*Hebrews 4 verse 16 (NIV)*

### 5 days beginning 1st August - Adoration and Praise

*"Sing to him, sing praise to him; tell of his wonderful acts."*

*Psalms 105 verses 2-3*

Praise God for

Tuesday	..... his greatness
Wednesday	..... his faithfulness
Thursday	..... his creation
Friday	..... his power
Saturday	..... his promises

### Week beginning 6th August – Confession

*"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins  
and purify us from all unrighteousness." 1 John 1 verse 9*

We confess to God

Sunday	..... that we have not always spoken out for him
Monday	..... that we sometimes doubt his word
Tuesday	..... that we sometimes speak hastily and hurt others
Wednesday	..... times when we fail to give God the glory
Thursday	..... times when we don't obey what God has asked us to do
Friday	..... times when we pay lip service to our faith
Saturday	..... our secret sins that only God knows about

### Week beginning 13th August - Thanksgiving

*"Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in  
Christ Jesus." 1 Thessalonians 5 verse 18*

Thank God

- Sunday ..... for his love for us
- Monday ..... for his care for us
- Tuesday ..... for his presence with us and that he will never  
leave us on our own
- Wednesday ..... that he hears our prayers
- Thursday ..... that Jesus intercedes for us
- Friday ..... that he has promised us eternal life if we trust  
in him
- Saturday ..... for the gift for the Holy Spirit

Week beginning 20th August - Intercession

*“I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, **intercession** and thanksgiving be made for everyone.” 1 Timothy 2 verse 1*

Pray for others

- Sunday ..... those who are persecuted for their faith
- Monday ..... people suffering through lack of food and water
- Tuesday ..... people without adequate access to medical help
- Wednesday ..... homeless people
- Thursday ..... people suffering through war and terrorist attacks
- Friday ..... people suffering from natural disasters
- Saturday ..... people we know personally in need of help

5 days beginning 27th August - Petition

*“Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.”*

*Philippians 4 verse 6*

Bring our own requests to God

- Sunday ..... that God will help us to trust him in all  
circumstances
- Monday ..... that God will help us to stay close to him
- Tuesday ..... for our family and friends
- Wednesday ..... for our church family
- Thursday ..... for the things in our lives we are most concerned  
about



## Services in August

Please remember in your prayers those leading our worship this month, especially during the week prior to the service.

6th August	10.30 am	Liz Little
	6.00 pm	Janet Watts
13th August	10.30 am	Local Worship
	6.00 pm	Rev. Charlie Connor
20th August	10.30 am	United Service at Ampthill Holy Communion led by Rev. Graham Claydon-Knights
	6.00 pm	Peter Fletcher
27th August	10.30 am	Amos Salisbury
	6.00 pm	Rev. Graham Claydon-Knights

If you need transport to the United Service at Ampthill please speak to the stewards.

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The next Messy Church will be on

**Monday 18th September**

3.30 pm to 5.30 pm

Refreshments, craft, stories, fun, singing and more,  
including a cooked tea.

Please call Graham on 01525 713468 for more information.

Donations welcome to cover costs.

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## *Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Historic Churches Trust*



On Saturday September 9<sup>th</sup> 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 of properties.

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. 9<sup>th</sup> to welcome the visitors, please fill in the sheet on the notice board in the foyer or speak to Janet or Linda. 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 notice board – last year we managed to send approximately £40.00 to the organisation.

So we can all be involved in some way!

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



End of June saw the Battalion end of session competitions at Woodland School here in Flitwick.

Anchor Boys had finished 5<sup>th</sup> in their Sports Day and 5<sup>th</sup> overall for the year. Juniors had 2 teams in the triathlon finishing 6<sup>th</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>. Overall for the year they finished =2<sup>nd</sup> with 1<sup>st</sup> Wootton. Company Section didn't enter the archery but overall for the year they finished 5<sup>th</sup>.

Now Seniors, (technically we don't have any) However we had one Company Section lad who chose to enter the Senior tennis and finished 5<sup>th</sup>. Which put us 8<sup>th</sup> overall for the year! A good effort by all involved.

Then the final few weeks of our BB session saw pond dipping and a visit to the Parish Church for the Anchor Boys. Junior Section had a Scavenger Hunt on Flitwick Moor, Company Section went swimming at Centre Parcs and then Juniors and Company had a joint evening of Ultimate Frisbee as not enough wind for kiting.

The final evening of the session was our now traditional BBQ which this year included myself "Braving the Shave" for Macmillan Cancer Support. Thanks to a number of BB Parents, Church Members, Colleagues and Friends sponsoring me the total raised is now in excess of £800. Thank you everyone.

We now break for the summer but whilst BB is not meeting the staff will still be planning and preparing for the new session which starts on 14<sup>th</sup> September. Our numbers are continuing to grow which brings new challenges – which with God's help we will come through.

Thank you for your continued support for BB over the past session. Long may it continue.

God Bless.

*Angela Brydon*  
*Company Captain*

*News from Rev. John Millard*

Our big news is that following his ordination as a deacon a year ago Paul has completed his training and was ordained a priest last month. So we were back at York Minster for another wonderful service. The funny part was that Paul is the second tallest priest in the C of E and the archbishop must be about the shortest - seeing them together made everybody smile. Only sad thing about the occasion was that we had armed police outside the Minster and several security guards inside but such are the times in which we live.

(Rev John Millard was our minister from 1993 to 2001.)

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*Bible Month Feedback*

Last month I asked for your feedback on the Bible Month services that were held in June. Very few people gave any feedback. How do we interpret this silence? If you have any views please let myself or the stewards know so that your views can be taken into account when planning next year's Bible Month.

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*Circuit Prayer Meetings*

You will be welcome at the Circuit Prayer Meetings on  
Monday 14th August at 4.15 pm at Putnoe Heights  
and Monday 28th August at 10.30 am at Willington.

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*The Upper Room*

**at Amptill Methodist Church on alternate Thursdays**

**Date in August – 31st**

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.

**Action for Children Ploughman’s Lunch on 17th August**

**(See Page 5)**



*Clophill News*

**Tea and Chat**

Every Wednesday 10.30 am to 12 noon



**You are invited to attend a  
Free Church Service in the  
Lady Chapel on following  
dates at 11 am:**



THE CATHEDRAL AND  
ABBEY CHURCH OF  
SAINT ALBAN

**Wednesday 2nd August**

**Preacher: The Reverend Rosemary  
Fletcher**

Superintendent Minister, St Albans & Welwyn Methodist Circuit

**Wednesday 13th September**

**Preacher: The Reverend Stephen Copson,  
Regional Minister, Central Baptist Association**

**Services are followed by a fellowship lunch in the Abbots Kitchen**

**All are Welcome**

**Free Church Ecumenical Chaplain: Reverend Simon Carver**

**Email: [simoncarver@btinternet.com](mailto:simoncarver@btinternet.com)**



## *News from Paraguay*

15th June 2017

It seems that for the moment the cold weather has gone away and it is warm and sunny outside. So much so that as it is a very nice day and the ground has dried a bit and is less muddy I spent the morning clearing away weeds.

With the football soon starting again I saw a chart of all Arsenal games for next season so have downloaded that and just need to get it printed and up on my notice board.

Tuesday I went into Piribebuy for lunch with Colin, which is always good although always a shorter trip out than it should be because as soon as lunch is over he always wants to rush back home - although there is nothing to rush back home for! I always try to find something different on the menu and spotted rabbit which I thought would make a change and was very nice.

On Wednesday I went down to Paraguari and found a coat for Evangelina, there is never much to choose from so I was pleased I found a nice little one for her. When I went round there in the afternoon I found only Jazmin at home who had been left home alone to go to school and then amuse herself for the afternoon whilst everyone else went to butcher a pig. So I kicked a football around for a while to fill in some of her time.

17th June 2017

Everyone was very pleased with Evangelina's coat and when I went round there yesterday Emilica put her into it for me to see, and commented how good I was at choosing clothes, and seeing the lack of things I had to choose from I think I did quite well.

Yes poor Jazmin was very bored when I went round there and I think pleased to have a bit of company for little while. I don't think Evangelina would have been bothered by a pig getting killed as she has not been trained that she should be - so it would just be a perfectly normal thing for her.

Tonight I have a wedding to go to so no doubt Evangelina will be in her smart new coat to show it off to everyone. It is Emilica's younger brother who is getting married. I had heard it mentioned a couple of weeks ago, but it does sound rather sudden. He has got his girlfriend pregnant so I suspect some pressure may have been applied to get them married. I helped Emilica take things and her family round there this morning to prepare for the party which will be at the girl's house and the place is a mile or so along a very rough track off the main track and in many places little more than a footpath so it will not be a lot of fun to go down in the dark! I have been asked to take my camera and act as photographer.

### 19th June 2017

It has been warm and sunny, in fact Saturday night I was out partying in just a short sleeved shirt until nearly midnight. However yesterday clouds appeared and then in the afternoon a very strong wind started blowing and carried on all night. So I went from short sleeves to all wrapped up in a very short space of time.

More on the wedding. Where the party was held was a bit of a trip to get to. A mile up a track off the main track which was the sort of track in England you would not even try to get a vehicle down without all sorts of protective safety clothes on. And there was I in my party shirt!! Just before the party ended it was announced to me that there was not enough transport to get everyone home and so I was taking Emilica on my bike. I explained that I was not taking passengers down that track in the dark, so in the end Emilica agreed to drive and after all her sounds about the track not being that bad when we got to the main track she admitted it was just about the worst track for miles around. However everyone got home safely.

The wedding itself was a very small affair with only families and one or two guests. So I looked after Evangelina all night and she had a good time running about and almost managed to stay awake until the end. She fell asleep just before the food arrived so while Emilica fed her she struggled to keep both mouth and eyes open at the same time.

There was no wedding dress or anything like that to be seen with both of them getting married in their jeans. Also it was a registry office wedding and would you believe that the registrar came out to the middle of nowhere on a Saturday night with his books to do a wedding in a field!! The ceremony itself it only took about five minutes, followed by some book signing and then everyone got on with taking photos!

It was a very different sort of wedding. As far as I can work out the system is that everyone has to be officially married in the registrar office and then everyone would like to have a church wedding.

### 3rd July 2017

Over the coming months I will collect a few photos together on my stick to give everyone something to look at when I am talking at the Men's Supper Club.

I have been down to visit Evangelina a couple of time and she was not impressed to hear that I am going away for a few days to Asuncion. I was down there on Saturday and after playing all afternoon she kept herself awake as long as she could into the evening.

Yesterday I was down the track for lunch as the chap who has his cow eating my long grass invited me and they piled my plate as high as they could to make sure I was well fed!

### 5th July 2017

I am off tomorrow morning to Asuncion for a few days, so had a bit of time this afternoon to catch up with emails and the like. I plan to visit the shopping centres, find some oriental food, meet up with some friends I have there, and on Friday night there is a party to go to - Gothic! I plan to stay at the Chaco Hotel as they are always very friendly and no doubt won't be full at this time of the year. However it might be a little cool for the roof top pool.

You are right Evangelina will miss me. You should hear how she shouts when she is taken away and off to bath time, which means the

end of playtime and the time I go home. In fact it has been suggested that I put her in my suitcase!

### 7th July 2017

I must tell you my latest Evangelina tale. When I was round there earlier in the week she was busy making cakes in her favourite play place - in the dirt behind the big sty. I think she has claimed that place as her own as well as being almost out of sight no one else goes there so her bits and pieces get left where she leaves them.

After she had a great time paddling in the pig trough - I don't think anyone else lets her get away with that - the water, which looked clean when she climbed in soon turned brown.

Then it was her lucky day as she had an early bath, on the condition she didn't get too dirty again afterwards. After she had been washed down in the sink I saw that the poor little thing had to be dried with her clothes so next time I go down there I will take a towel round for her.

### 11th July 2017

I am now back from my weekend away. I went into Asuncion on Thursday morning and spent the afternoon just looking around the city centre. Before it got dark I headed back to the hotel for a swim in the pool. The water was rather cool but I was still going to have my swim.

On Friday I had a busy day visiting all the shopping centres. The newest one is very smart and mostly expensive foreign brands, so better for looking than shopping! Early evening I met up with a friend of mine and he took me to a little cafe bar where they had beer from one of those micro breweries, something I had heard existed over here but had never seen before. Later in the evening I headed out to a party. This one was a Gothic Night party so I was quite at home. Just my sort of music being played very loud somewhere dark and people the like of which you do not often see in Paraguay. Just like being in an English rock pub!

On Saturday as the weather was lovely I caught the bus down to the botanical gardens and zoo and enjoyed a few hours wondering round there.

On Sunday I headed home. Sunday is always a good day to come home as the roads are empty. However when I got back to Piribebuy I had to sit around for half an hour before a taxi turned up.

Yesterday I went round to see Evangelina. She had missed me and ran out to greet me as always. I got her a toy phone to learn counting. Also apparently over the weekend Emilica's Dad had bought her some yogurt and she wouldn't believe that anyone other than Papa Si could have bought it and that I must have dropped it off and then gone away before she saw me.

13th July 2017

The weather right now is very nice - clear skies every day, 30 during the day and 20 at night. However it is forecast for a cold front to come this way at the weekend changing it from that to the teens by day and frost at night which will be a chilly change from one day to the next.

Evangelina has now got a towel of her own and a phone to play with, mostly it is used for taking photos as that is what she sees people doing with phones.

The book is coming along slowly - it doesn't get mentioned much as it is a work in progress and so not much point is saying anything!

This week after my little holiday has been a quiet one. A morning in Piribebuy and a couple of visits down to Evangelina - apart from general cleaning and tidying around the house. I am leaving the gardening until next week as it is due to be cold and doing gardening will keep me warm.

Best wishes to all - Simon

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