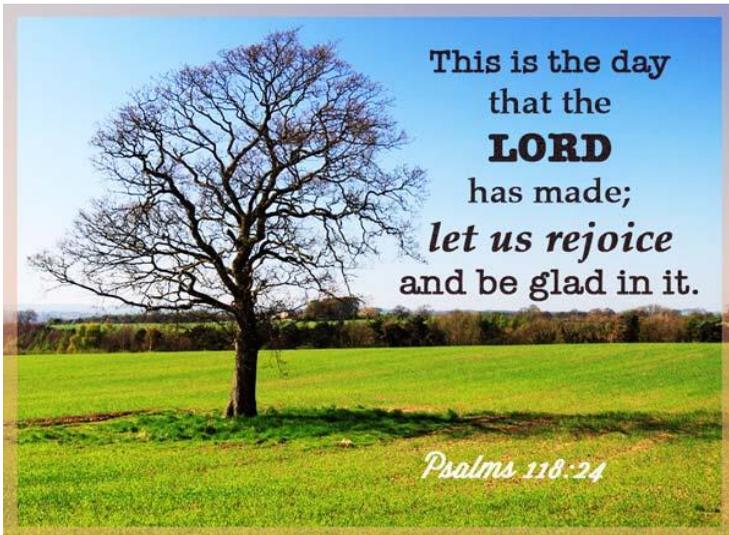


*Newsletter*  
*June 2018*



# *Welcome to the June Newsletter*

## *Contents*

A Message from our Minister	3
Church Family News	4
Church Flowers in June	4
Dates for your diary	4
Coffee Morning – 2nd June	4
June Bible Month	5
Prayer Morning	5
Wesley Guild	6
1st Flitwick Boys' Brigade	7
Testimony Service	8
Retirement of Rev. Graham Miles	8
Prayer Leaflet for June	9-12
The Upper Room	13
Clophill News	13
Circuit Prayer Meetings	13
Flitwick Market 'Tea' Charities	13
Inspire Women	14
Services at St Albans Cathedral	14
News from Paraguay	15
The Newsletter	18



## *A Message from our Minister*

"Sirs, what must I do to be saved?"

They answered, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved—  
you and your family."

(Acts 16.30-31 Good News Bible)

What does it mean to be "saved"? Why should I want to know?

When I was a teenager, I started reading the New Testament, in the Good News version. I think it was a rather tatty paperback I borrowed from the library. I remember struggling with lots of it. But I loved the book of Acts! So much happening, and easier to follow than other books. Exciting! I was reading because I was jealous of my churchgoing friends at sixth form. They seemed to have something, faith, that I definitely didn't have. How, I wondered, did one get faith? It took me a couple of years, and the relative freedom of going away to university, before I could actually ask the question seriously that the jailer in Acts chapter 16 asked: what must I do to be saved? Then, for the first time, I realised that believing meant commitment, it meant an open-ended promise to God. But on giving that commitment I soon knew what it meant to be saved. I was changed. I didn't stop smiling for ages.

Everyone has a different experience of God. What it means to be "saved" is confusing to many, and to me too, on occasions. Salvation isn't a formula, and not something I completely understand or fully explain. But I do know it's real, and I aim to share this experience with others.

Whatever our experience, may we all know the reality, and unspeakable joy, of being saved, in Jesus name. Amen.

Graham

## *Church Family News*

I have received no news for this section of the newsletter this month. Please continue to remember members of our church family in your prayers, especially those who you know have specific need of God's love and care.

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## *Church Flowers in June*

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

3rd June	Rosemary Gregory
10th June	Carole and Lance Mason
17th June	Jill Dix
24th June	Sue and John Bunker

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## *Dates for your Diary*

Circuit Farewell Service – Sunday 8th July 2018 at 3 pm at Ampthill.

Circuit Welcome Service – Sunday 2nd September at 6pm at Putnoe Heights. Refreshments will be served before the service.

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## *Coffee Morning*

The next Coffee Morning will be held on Saturday 2nd June to help find outreach ventures such as the regular Tea and Chat on Wednesday afternoons.

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## *Bible Month*

The month of June has again been designated as Bible Month by the Methodist Church. This year's book is the book of Jonah, and each week a chapter of Jonah will be the focus of the service.

The services will be united services, alternating between Ampt Hill and Flitwick as detailed below:

June 3rd Flitwick Chapter 1 led by Janet Watts

June 10th Ampt Hill Chapter 2 led by Anne Foley

June 17th Flitwick Chapter 3 led by Graham Claydon-Knights

June 24th Ampt Hill Chapter 4 led by Angie Woodcraft

We would encourage you to read the book of Jonah (it is very short!) before the first service and revisit the relevant chapter before each week's service.

We hope that you will find this series of services helpful.

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## *Prayer Morning*

Make a note of the date of the next prayer morning – Saturday 7th July. The church will be open from 9.30 am to 12 noon.

This is another opportunity to spend some time with God in the quietness of the church. There will be prayer stations which you are welcome to use to give your prayers a focus, or you can just spend some time in prayer as God leads you.

Coffee will be served between 10.15 am and 10.45 am. You can drop in at any time during the morning and stay for as long as you wish.

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# Wesley Guild

## Guild Summer Activities

**Tuesday 12th June** – Visit Marston Vale Forest Centre. Meet in the Car Park at **2.30 pm**.

**Monday 16th July** – Barbecue at Maryan’s home, at **4.30 pm**. Please let Maryan know if you are coming.

All are welcome to join us on either or both these occasions.

## Guild Session 2018 – 2019

We are now planning the next Guild programme running from the end of September to April on Monday evenings. There will be an additional planning meeting on **Monday 18th June** at 7.30 pm. Please come and join us.

In recent years we have visited Ferndale Residential home in Flitwick at the beginning of October to sing Harvest hymns and in December we have visited the Cheshire Home in Ampthill to share Christmas Carols. We would like to do this again this year, but we **need help**. We need some more people to come and help us with the singing. (You do not have to consider yourself to be a ‘good’ singer.) The proposed dates are October 8th at Ferndale and December 10th at the Cheshire Home These visits are in the afternoon. If you are able to help us please let Janet Watts or Maryan Pateman know **as soon as possible** to give us an idea of whether the visits are possible this year. Thank you.

Look out for a programme in September so you know what is planned for the 2018-2019 session. Remember everyone is welcome to come to any of these meetings.

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



End of April saw the Anchor Boys and Juniors get together with other BB members from across Bedfordshire and Milton Keynes for Battalion 10 Pin Bowling. Over 60 boys descended on Go Bowling at Dunstable for the annual competition that had been postponed from earlier in the year due to snow. Anchor Boys Finished 5<sup>th</sup> and the Juniors 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Back in Flitwick, Junior Section have been litter picking and had a transport evening with activities including planes and cars! They have also been busy with Lego for the Battalion Art Competition!

Across the Company then preparation are in place for the Carnival on June 9<sup>th</sup> where we will have a float and stall. Come along and say hello on the day. (And if you can help out at all even better)

Then preparations are also coming together for the Annual Presentations and Display on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> June at 6.30pm. Rev Graham Claydon –Knights will be our guest of honour on this occasion as it will be one of his last engagements as Company Chaplain before he moves on in the Summer. On this evening in addition to the usual badges and awards there will be the Annual Awards in each Age Group, and every boy will receive a certificate to mark his past year in BB. Each Section will also present something to show what they have been up to in the past year so an excellent opportunity for members of the wider church to come along and support BB.

Our final church Parade of the year will be on Father's Day – part of our new thinking about church parades this year to invite the BB Families along to special services, and having paraded on Mothering Sunday it seems only right to balance things out!

Then we have our summer Programme to look forward which includes the Family BBQ which is now the traditional end to our BB year. Summer Programme also includes the end of session Battalion competitions and Presentations at Woodland Middle School on 30<sup>th</sup> June, if you wish to come along and support the boys on this occasion from 2pm.

Thank you for your support of Flitwick BB over the past year and long it may continue as we work together to “Advance Christ’s Kingdom”.

*Angela Brydon*  
*Company Captain*



### *Testimony Service*

On Tuesday 19th June at 7.00 pm at Kempston East the Testimony Service for Revs. Lorna Valentine and Charlie Connor will be held. The service will be led by Rev. David Chapman, Chair of the District.

Please remember Lorna and Charlie in your prayers as they go on to be ordained at the Methodist Conference on 1st July. The service will be held at Barnby Gate Methodist Church, Newark at 4.00 pm.



### *Retirement of Rev. Graham Miles*

Rev. Graham Miles (superintendent of the Bedford South and Ampthill Circuit 2005-2011) will be retiring this year, His retirement service will be held and Deptford Methodist Mission at 10.30 am followed by lunch. All are welcome.



## Prayer Suggestions for June

### 2 days beginning 1st June - Bible Month

- Friday Pray that we will be open to God's leading during this Bible Month.
- Saturday As we study the book of Jonah pray that we will learn what God wants to teach us.

### Week beginning 3rd June - The Bible

- Sunday Thank God for the many opportunities we have to read and learn from the Bible.
- Monday Pray that we will always value our Bibles and read them regularly.
- Tuesday Pray for people who own a Bible but do not read it. May they be inspired to learn more about the treasures the Bible has to offer.
- Wednesday Pray for those who work to translate the Bible to enable people to read it in their own language.
- Thursday Pray for those who have a Bible of their own for the first time, and those still waiting to receive one.
- Friday Pray for people involved with the publication and the distribution of Bibles.
- Saturday Thank God for those who interpret the Bible for us through commentaries and preaching.

### Week beginning 10th June - Methodist Homes

- Sunday On this Methodist Homes Sunday we give thanks that the work of Methodist Homes began seventy-five years ago.
- Monday Pray for the staff of MHA nationally and locally.

- Tuesday Pray for the residents of local homes, Anjulita Court in Bedford and the new home in Shefford, Oak Manor.
- Wednesday Pray for chaplains and volunteers working in the homes.
- Thursday Pray for Live at Home Schemes, giving support to older people in their own homes.
- Friday Pray for those living in MHA Retirement Villages and Retirement Apartments.
- Saturday Give thanks for the work of MHA and all it does to help older people.

*Week beginning 17th June - Fathers*

- Sunday On Father's Day we give thanks for our Heavenly Father.
- Monday Pray for fathers who, due to work, have to spend long periods away from their families.
- Tuesday Pray for new fathers learning to share the responsibility of looking after their children.
- Wednesday Pray for single fathers.
- Thursday Pray for fathers who find the task of fatherhood difficult or who have difficult decisions to make.
- Friday Pray that fathers will set a good example for their children to follow.
- Saturday Pray that fathers will find time whenever they can to spend time with their children.

*5 days beginning 24th June - Refugees*

- Sunday Today is the last day of Refugee Week. Pray for refugees.
- Monday Thank God for the contribution of refugees to their adopted country.
- Tuesday Pray for those seeking refugee status as they face an uncertain future.
- Wednesday Pray for those who have to make decisions about the future of asylum seekers.

- Thursday Pray for those who work to help refugees as they seek to settle in a new country.
- Friday Pray that all refugees and asylum seekers will be treated with respect and compassion.
- Saturday Pray for people who are displaced within their own country.

*Services in June*

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

3rd June	10.30am 6.00 pm	Janet Watts – United Service Rev. Gill Baalham
10th June Amphill	10.30 am 6.00 pm	Anne Foley – United at Rev. Graham Claydon-Knights Holy Communion
17th June	10.30 am 6.00 pm	Rev. Graham Claydon-Knights United Service /Parade Richard Crane
24th June	10.30 am 6.00 pm	Angie Woodcraft – United at Amphill Paul Cooper

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**Monday 18th June 3.30 pm – 5.30 pm  
in the Millennium Park**

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

Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Please contact Graham on 01525 713468 for more information.

Donations welcome to cover costs.  
**Next month: Saturday 21st July**  
(Messy Breakfast 9.00 am – 10.30 am)



*The Upper Room*

At Ampthill Methodist Church on alternate Thursdays  
Dates in June – 7th and 21st  
Coffee or tea and cakes from 10.00am  
Light Lunches from 11.30 am – 1.00 pm  
Proceeds after expenses for local charities.  
All are welcome



*Clophill News*

Tea and Chat  
Every Wednesday 10.00 am to 12 noon  
Messy Church  
Saturday 16th June 4 pm – 6 pm



*Circuit Prayer Meetings*

You will be welcome at the Circuit Prayer Meetings.  
Monday 11th June at 4.15 pm  
at the Putnoe Manse, 12 Hartop Close Bedford MK41 8HE  
Monday 25th June at 10.30 am at Willington.



*Friday Market 'Tea' Charities*

Teas and coffees are available on Fridays in the Village Hall from 9 am to 12 noon, supporting the following charities:

- 8th June Flitwick Flowers
- 15th June Cheshire Home, Ampthill
- 22nd June Flitwick Lower School PTA
- 29th June Carers in Bedfordshire

*Inspire Women*

July 14th - 10.00 till 12.00 at Ampthill Baptist Church, with the speaker at 10.30 am.

Jeremy Dann from Flitwick will talk on “Barnardo’s – As Relevant Today As Ever”. We will hear how that organisation are helping our children today. Men are welcome to this meeting as well as women.



**You are invited to attend a  
Free Church Service in the  
Lady Chapel  
on the following Wednesdays at  
11.00am**



THE CATHEDRAL AND  
ABBEY CHURCH OF  
SAINT ALBAN

**4th July 2018  
The Reverend Nick Young,  
Methodist Minister, St Albans and Welwyn Circuit**

**1st August 2018  
The Very Reverend Dr Jeffrey John  
Dean, St Albans Cathedral.**

**All services are followed by a fellowship lunch in the Abbots  
Kitchen and all are welcome**

Free Church Ecumenical Chaplain: Reverend Simon Carver,  
Email:simoncarver@btinternet.com



*News from Paraguay*

25th April 2018

Monday afternoon I took Evangelina and her Nan down to Paraguari. They were going to visit some relative for a few days but Evangelina had no shoes - not that she likes to wear shoes! When I went round there to collect them Evangelina was all excited bouncing up and down looking forward to an afternoon of playing on the swings and slides. We firstly went to the supermarket and I found her a nice little pair, which she proudly carried around the shop and then she did get her afternoon playing in the playground and it was almost dark by the time we got home.

Yesterday I went with Colin into Piribebuy. He wanted a list of things from the hardware store, which was handy because I also wanted a couple of things from there as well. We then headed to the restaurant for a nice lunch out before heading back home. In the afternoon I did a little bit of gardening.

Today I was off out again. I had been speaking, via facebook, with an American missionary couple who were heading back to the USA and I went to see if they had any books I fancied. They lived outside a town the other side of Caacupe, somewhere I've only ever been to a couple of times, but I found it alright. I had a pleasant hour or so with them and I did find half a dozen books that looked interesting so I have added them to my collection.

28th April 2018

I went to see Evangelina this afternoon. The main reason she had needed shoes was that her Nan was going to visit relatives for a few days and taking her with her. So they went on Tuesday and came

back yesterday. I knew she had missed me, as soon as she heard my voice she came running to the front door and threw herself off the top step - so I had to make sure I caught her!

Then, of course, she was not very keen on me going home so I was there well into the evening and stayed for some tea. I suspect that as soon as I left she went to bed and straight to sleep.

You mentioned my oranges - I had a look around and found four or five old coffee jars so will probably have a go at making some marmalade as you suggested.

I have planted up my pots with chillies and they have all appeared so I should have a good crop later in the year.

As ever warm and sunny here and due to stay that way for at least another week - so no winter cold. Later this afternoon I will have a bonfire as there are a few piles of grass that I cut last week that need collecting together and burning.

#### 6th May 2018

I have continued with my marmalade. It turned out I had just the right amount of ingredients as it all just fitted into my pot and then after that almost filled all the jars. So now it is all in the fridge setting.

I believe you still have warm sunshine. Here after the big storm early Saturday morning it stayed cloudy but dry for the rest of the day and today it looks like it will be sunshine and showers. Maybe the heat of summer is finally over and I might just get a little bit of autumn.

#### 9th May 2018

There has been no water since Monday lunch time! I spoke to Colin yesterday and he had none either so many people must be without water. Even with going to Caacupe for lunch yesterday and then being given tea while I was round visiting Evangelina there is quite a pile of washing building up. Also it is just the right sort of weather for working in the garden - but no sense in doing that and getting all grubby if there is no water to wash or drink!

My marmalade worked out well again. The problem is not really having a pot big enough to make it but rather having enough jars to put it in. I have filled all the jars I had found and then I found one more coffee jar so I can make more. Then I will have start asking around to see if anyone has any spare jars.

As I mentioned I had a day over in Caacupe yesterday - better than sitting at home waiting for the water to come on. My printer had run out of ink quite a while back and that is the nearest place that I can go to get a new ink cartridge at a sensible price - although even then I had to try a couple of places before I found any. I then had a nice lunch in that big supermarket before going round and picking up some shopping before heading back home.

Later in the afternoon I went to visit Evangelina and entertained her for the rest of the afternoon - it was properly dark before she finally accepted that I needed to go home. Staying there into the evening I also got tea, which saved sorting out something when I got home.

Now today I will spend the morning working on the computer and after lunch carry on with my writing while I wait for the water to come back on.....

### 13th May 2018

This week has really been one of things not being there.....

First of all for the first half of the week the water was off for three days, which was not ideal. Then Thursday night there was a big storm and now it is a little cooler just like autumn should be. Surprisingly the electric did not go off. However the wind carried on blowing all morning on Friday and at lunch time the electric did finally go off. I continued with doing stuff outdoors hoping it would come on. However by the time it started to get dark there was still no electricity. I discovered it was just me and my nearest neighbour which was better than it just being my house as it meant there was nothing wrong with my wires.

By then it was too late to do anything so I just had a night reading by candlelight. On Saturday morning it was still not on and after talking with my neighbour I went into Piribebuy to visit the office of the electric company as it would probably be a while before they noticed that two houses had no power. I told them, came back home and mid morning their car drove past and just before lunch time the electric finally came back on. I think a fuse somewhere had just tripped and needed resetting.

Apart from that and with it being a little cooler I had a busy time pruning trees. Now that I have right tool - the little saw I bought in England - I had the branches off all the eucalyptus trees in one afternoon. Now most of them have been stripped of leaves and turned into firewood length logs - just a few more branches to deal with next week. The eucalyptus makes an ideal tree to use for firewood as it grows very quickly so can be cut every year and grows very straight.

So you see I have been keeping busy.....

Best wishes to everyone.

Simon



## *The Newsletter*

Thank you for reading this newsletter and thank you to our contributors.

It would be lovely to hear from more of you with your items for inclusion in a future newsletter. The more contributors the more varied and interesting the newsletter will be.

The aim is to help us to share with each other and so make the newsletter one that you will enjoy reading and find helpful and interesting. Your comments and suggestions are also very welcome as well as your contributions.

If you are part of one of the Church groups that is not mentioned in the newsletter very often please consider giving us some news of your group.

The last date for items for the July newsletter is **Sunday 24th June**. The newsletter will be available on Sunday 1st July. I look forward to hearing from you.

Janet Watts

