



Newsletter
May 2018



*Let every Christian pray,
this day and every day,
Come, Holy Spirit, come!
Was not the church we love
commissioned from above?
Come, Holy Spirit, come!*

Fred Pratt Green Singing the Faith 388

Welcome to the May Newsletter

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Church Family News

Congratulations and best wishes:

- ❖ to Claire and Ben Peet for their 20th Wedding Anniversary on 9th May.
- ❖ to Barbara Washington for her 80th birthday on 19th May.

We remember Roger Cooper in our prayers and send our good wishes following his time in hospital. We pray that God will strengthen and sustain him as he recovers.

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Church Flowers in May

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

6th May	Sabina Ofori-Quaah
13th May	Maurice Sherwood
20th May	Beryl and Roger Cooper
27th May	Linda Pitts

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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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May Christian Aid News

As you now know, the theme for this year's Christian Aid Week is *Together we're stronger than the storms*. We are asked to stand together with the thousands of people of Haiti who lost everything when Hurricane Matthew tore through the island in 2016. So many people are living in appalling conditions, refugees in their own country. Our donations will help Christian Aid to continue to build disaster proof homes for vulnerable people so that they are more prepared when the next storms come.

Please support any of the events that are happening during this month.

Wednesday May 2nd Soup Lunch in the Chapter House, St Peter and St Paul

Saturday May 12th 8.30 – 12 noon Second Big Brekkie at Flitwick Methodist Church – Our chefs, David, John and Linda are all booked as are some of our waiting staff!

For catering purposes, if you are coming to the Big Brekkie, please would you let me know. Thank you.

Sunday May 13th 6.30 pm Christian Aid Week service at Ampthill Methodist Church.

Thursday May 17th Christian Aid lunch at The Upper Room at Ampthill Methodist Church

If anyone would like to go to any of these events but needs transport, please let me know and we will try to find you a driver.

Sunday May 13th Each church is going to ask its members to take a small number of Christian Aid envelopes at the morning service and ask family, friends, work colleagues and known neighbours to make a donation. You will be asked to return these on the following Sunday. I hope that you all feel willing to take part in this activity.

Thank you in anticipation of your support.

Ann B

Easter Offering

Thank you to those who gave a gift in the Easter Offering envelopes.
£232.20 was raised for the World Mission Fund.



Coffee, Cake, Croissants and Cards Morning

Saturday 5th May

10 am onwards

*To raise funds to help pay for sending
shoe boxes overseas*



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.

You can drop in at any time during the morning and stay for as long as you wish.

Coffee will be served between 10.15 am and 10.45 am.



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, 5 Beaumont Road. 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. Look out for a programme in September so you know what is planned. Remember everyone is welcome to come to any of these meetings.

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 on October 8th at Ferndale and December 10th at the Cheshire Home in the afternoons.

Before we can arrange this with the Homes we need to know that there will be enough people to sing, so if you are able to help us please let Janet Watts or Maryan Pateman know as soon as possible. Thank you.

1st Flitwick Boys' Brigade



The Easter Break gave staff a chance to meet up and look ahead. So this month a summary of what we have to look forward to over the few months.

Friday 18th May we are at the Village Hall providing refreshments so if you are available do pop down between 9.30am and midday to enjoy tea coffee and some cake as well as helping raise funds for BB.

Then in June we will be at the Carnival on Saturday 9th with both a float and a stall. Our main aim is to raise our profile and to try and recruit some more boys across all sections.

Our Annual Awards Evening will take place on Thursday 14th June and all are invited to come along and support the boys on this evening from 6.30pm.

Our formal BB year will come to a close with Church Parade on Father's Day 17th June.

We then will have 4 weeks of Summer Programme Activities before a Family BBQ to finish the session on 19th July.

We also have Battalion Competitions and events coming up. Anchor Boys have Art Competition and a trip to the Shuttleworth Collection before Sports Day on the final day of competition on 30th June at Woodland. Juniors have water games, Art and then Triathlon as their final competition. Company and Seniors have Ultimate Frisbee with the Seniors defending the title won last year. Then their competitions finish with Archery and Tennis at Woodland on the 30th.

So a lot to look forward to, please pray for your BB Company, the boys and the leaders and all that we have planned in the coming weeks.

God Bless.

Angela Brydon

Prayer Leaflet

May 2018



*Holy Spirit, gift bestower,
breathe into our hearts today.
Flowing water, dove that hovers,
Holy Spirit, guide our way.
Love inspirer, joy releaser,
Spirit, take our fears away.
Reconciler, peace restorer,
move among us while we pray.*

Singing the Faith 383 verse 1

Prayer Suggestions for May

5 days beginning 1st May - Thank God for our senses

As we thank God for our senses this week let us remember each day those whose senses are impaired.

- Tuesday For our sense of taste and for all the meals we enjoy
Wednesday For the sense of smell, and for the scent of flowers
and all that we enjoy.
Thursday For the sense of touch, for different textures and materials.
Friday For sight – for the joy of reading and all we see.
Saturday For hearing – for all we are able to listen to.

Week beginning 6th May - Mission Aviation Fellowship

- Sunday Pray for the Mission Aviation Fellowship as they fly to give help in the remote parts of the world.
Monday For medical teams flown to difficult to access areas in Bangladesh.
Tuesday For the work in Papua New Guinea, transporting essential supplies to schools and medical supplies where they are needed.
Wednesday For opportunities to share the Gospel as well as transporting supplies in Madagascar.
Thursday For the work in South Sudan where there is a shortage of food.
Friday For the work of the teams in Haiti, supporting the rebuilding of homes following disasters.
Saturday Pray for the plans to open new airstrips in Tanzania.

Week beginning 13th May - Christian Aid Week

- Sunday Pray for the Christian Aid Week service this evening.
Monday Pray for the events taking place locally to raise money for Christian Aid.
Tuesday Pray for Christian Aid workers
Wednesday Pray that the Christian Aid aim to end poverty will be furthered through this Christian Aid Week.

- Thursday Pray for people still living in poverty.
- Friday Pray for Christian Aid’s campaign to alleviate the effects of Climate Change.
- Saturday Pray that Christian Aid will continue to be able to respond to emergencies as they arise.

Week beginning 20th May - Pentecost

- Sunday Today we celebrate the birthday of the Church with all Christians who make up the Church today.
- Monday Pray for a new outpouring of the Holy Spirit in this country.
- Tuesday Pray that God will help you to use the gift of the Spirit that he has given you.
- Wednesday Give thanks that the Holy Spirit is with us to help us.
- Thursday (Aldersgate Day) As John Wesley received a fresh outpouring of the Spirit in 1738 we give thanks for his life and work.
- Friday Pray that the Holy Spirit will refresh us.
- Saturday Pray that the Holy Spirit will fire us to fresh endeavours.

5 days beginning 27th May

- Sunday (Trinity Sunday) Thank God for God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.
- Monday Thank God that he is our Father and that we are his children.
- Tuesday Thank God that Jesus came to save us and give us new life.
- Wednesday Thank God that God sent the Holy Spirit when Jesus was no longer there in person.
- Thursday “May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.” 2 Corinthians 13 verse 14



Services in May

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

6th May	10.30am	Local Worship led by the Wednesday Bible Study Group
	6.00 pm	Rev. Lorna Valentine (Holy Communion)
13th May	10.30 am	Rev. Gill Baalham – All Age (Holy Communion)
	6.30 pm	Christian Aid Service at Amphill Methodist Church
20th May	10.30 am	Angie Woodcraft
	2.30 pm	Churches Together Pentecost Celebration at Millennium Park
27th May	10.30 am	United Service at Amphill Rev. Graham Claydon-Knights (Holy Communion)
	6.00 pm	Rev. Caroline Weaver

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**Monday 21st May 3.30 pm – 5.30 pm**

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.

**Future Dates: 18th June, Saturday 21st July (Messy Breakfast)**

## *Circuit Prayer Day*

In connection with the ‘Thy Kingdom Come’ initiative there will be a Circuit Day of Prayer on Ascension Day, Thursday 10th May, at Willington. This will begin at 9 am with Holy Communion followed by tea, coffee and toast. At noon there will be a soup and roll lunch and there will be prayers at 1 pm. During the day there will be prayer stations for you to use, a prayer walk (time to be advised) and the day will end at 8 pm with Café Worship led by the Youth Team. (You are asked to bring a plate of food to share.) You can drop in at any time during the day.

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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 used.

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

|           |          |           |                               |
|-----------|----------|-----------|-------------------------------|
| June 3rd  | Flitwick | Chapter 1 | led by Janet Watts            |
| June 10th | Ampthill | Chapter 2 | led by Anne Foley             |
| June 17th | Flitwick | Chapter 3 | led by Graham Claydon-Knights |
| June 24th | Ampthill | 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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*The Upper Room*

At Ampthill Methodist Church on alternate Thursdays

Dates in May – 10th and 24th

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



*Ampthill Ladies Group*

Meetings on alternate Thursdays at 7.30 pm

3rd May – Speaker: Reona Joly “Tomorrow you die”

17th May – Annual General Meeting

All Ladies Welcome



*Clophill News*

Tea and Chat

Every Wednesday 10.00 am to 12 noon

Messy Church

Saturday 19th May 4 pm – 6 pm



*Circuit Prayer Meetings*

You will be welcome at the Circuit Prayer Meetings.

Monday 14th May at 4.15 pm

at the Putnoe Manse, 12 Hartop Close Bedford MK41 8HE

Monday 28th May at 10.30 am at Willington.



*Flitwick Singers*  
*in Concert*

Saturday 12th May at 2.30 pm  
at Parkside Community Hall, Ampthill  
in support of Tibbs Dementia Foundation



Tickets £5

Contact Linda on 01525 714060

The concert will be followed by refreshments  
and a raffle.



*Friday Market 'Tea' Charities*

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

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|----------|----------------------|
| 4th May  | MIND BLMK            |
| 25th May | HULA (Animal Rescue) |



## *News from Paraguay*

22nd March 2018

Here it has been very hot and humid, but now it is autumn and suddenly after a couple of days everything is much more sensible. I have even spent a couple of days in the garden getting more tidied up. I've been to see Evangelina every day this week, which does please her. A couple of days ago she got hold of Emilica's Mum's phone when no one was looking so I received a few little messages telling me to come round and see her.

The going to school thing has stopped for now. Speaking to Ramona's Mum I found the reason why that might be. Apparently a niece of hers did the same thing last year but stopped going after a few weeks when the teachers got scared a school inspector might turn up and ask why there was a three year old there. So for now she is at playing home.

The cakes did go down very well and I am sure she will be looking for more next time she visits. The only problem was the icing turned out rather runny - but I am sure I will get the hang of it! I always bring her little treats when I go into town and her favourite is currently jellied teeth, which seem to be a sweet and a toy in one so could not really get much better!

25th March 2018

Here last night in addition to the clocks changing so did the weather (hopefully just for a few days). There was a big storm during the night and it has gone from a bright sunny 35 to a cloudy, cool and windy 15! Of course - just for a change - the water and electricity both went off but luckily they are back now.

Evangelina almost came to visit me yesterday. Jazmin had asked earlier in the week if she could come round for help with homework, but at the last minute must have decided it was too far to walk so asked if I could take the laptop round there instead. So I did and learnt all

about the Aztecs! Evangelina must have heard people talking about coming round to my house as she asked a hundred times when I was taking her to my house.

I have a tale to tell you of how rubbish the local hospitals can be!

Before Christmas Emilica's cousin, Gloria came off her bike - no doubt she was going far too quickly. By the sounds of it she managed to lock up the brakes and throw herself over the handle bars. She was taken to the hospital in Paraguari and they said she was just bashed and bruised and patched her up and sent her home. After about three days she was in a lot of pain so went over to Caacupe and they took one look and said they could not understand how the hospital in Paraguari had not noticed her leg was broken. However it was not broken across the bone but rather below the knee the bone had split down its length. What she needs is it to be pinned - but all must be paid for here and on top of that the hospital did not have the plates and pins - she would have to find them herself. So for the time being they plastered her leg which is hardly going to pull the bones together. Over the next couple of months various uncles have said they will find the stuff - but nothing has happened so far. At the end of February she had the plaster taken off and just replaced with a bandage. She had been given the x-rays so we looked at them and to no surprise to me the bones had not healed at all. She showed me how that leg looks misshapen now and was surprised when I told her that if she stood and looked at her legs she would find one shorter than the other, something the doctors had failed to mention. Also having left things for three months I suspect that if her leg does get seen it will need to be re-broken before it could be set.

5th April 2018

Yes with the change in the clocks - both your end and mine - the time difference is now five hours for the next few months.

Unfortunately poor Ramona was left at home alone on her birthday with a pile of housework to do. I popped over to see her for a couple of hours in the afternoon but there was no sign of any cake or candles.

In the evening I did have a little party to go to. The day before had been Emilica's parents 25th anniversary and they had a little family do. Evangelina was quite funny as it got dark she was quite insistent that it was time for me to go home. It took a bit of persuading her that this wasn't going to happen, but she was very pleased with the change of plan. It was just the family there and made a very good night out. You would never believe what the special dish was.....Roast Pigs Head!

### 10th April 2018

Did you like my vultures on my facebook page? They were on the fence at the bottom of the garden, so not quite inside the house - and they are rather large!

This morning I went and sorted out a couple of buckets of manure so that this afternoon I can get the chilli seeds I bought back with me planted up in the plant pots ..... I do like chillies with things.

I had my own day of hospitals on Sunday, and all rather unnecessary! I had a phone call in the morning from Emilica's mum saying that Evangelina was really ill and needed to go to the hospital but there was no one to take her - so could I. When I got round there I could see that she no more ill than she had been for days a cold and under the weather a bit, but it had been decided she had dengue and as she had had a nose bleed the night before that is was more than a cold - which clearly it wasn't. But of course only a doctors verdict would be believed so I figured it would be a morning in Paraguari and then back home. It did not turn out quite that way. The hospital was not very busy so we did not have to wait too long to be seen. While we were waiting Evangelina realised I wasn't telling her she was ill so she soon perked up and was running round the waiting room like a not very ill person. She was weighed and her temperature taken then some medicine squirted down her throat for a sore throat - that was not liked. That was all they could do and then referred her over to the private health centre for a blood test. She would not go in there for fear of getting more medicine and I carried her in hands clasped over her mouth. She had the blood taken which as I had her on my lap she

could not complain about, but then we were told the results would be ready later afternoon so obviously I was stuck there for the day. So we went to some family member for some lunch and spent the afternoon playing in the playground. Someone who is supposed to be really ill should not be able to spend three hours playing on swings and slides so by the end of the day she was really tired. Emilica's mum eventually collected the results which were late of course. Once we had the results we had to go back over to the hospital to get a doctor to interpret them, and guess what - they said that all she had was a cold!!

Best wishes to one and all - Simon

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## *The Newsletter*

Thank you for reading this newsletter and thank you to those who have contributed items.

The last date for items for the June newsletter is **Sunday 20th May**. Please do think about what you can contribute. I need your contributions to make the newsletter interesting and useful to you. I look forward to hearing from you.

Janet Watts                      telephone: 717492                      email:  
janetwatts14@btinternet.com

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