



*Newsletter
September 2016*



*God, whose farm is all creation,
take the gratitude we give;
take the finest of our harvest,
crops we grow that all may live.*

*Leslie Thomas John Arlott
Singing the Faith 122 verse 1*

Welcome to the September Newsletter

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A Message from our Minister

September usually includes a Harvest Festival or two. In Harvest we celebrate and thank God for his provision in all things, and collect in order to give to others in need. But there's another side to Harvest: sowing. St Paul wrote "Do not deceive yourselves; no one makes a fool of God. You will reap exactly what you plant" (Galatians 6.7, GNT).

Sowing takes effort. Like many, I have been inspired by the dedication of the Team GB Olympic athletes. Perhaps even more inspiring are the Paralympians.



Their games begins on September 7th in Rio. Their dedication and commitment to their sport is what they hope will allow them to reap a harvest of medals.

So it is with Christian people. As St Paul continues "So let us not become tired of doing good; for if we do not give up, the time will come when we will reap the harvest" (Galatians 6.9, GNT). I see a lot of dedication and commitment at Flitwick Methodist Church and across the circuit. So as we move towards important decisions at our church anniversary weekend in November, may we together ask for God's strength to seek first his Kingdom, dedicating ourselves to training for God's harvest, in prayer, in Bible study, in worship and in mission.

Graham

Church Family News

Congratulations and best wishes to Rachel and Alun King on the birth of Abrah Grace on 2nd August. We ask God's blessing on all the family.

We send our best wishes to Tilly Curren (Mollie's granddaughter) starting at Royal Holloway, University of London and Tom Mallams, starting at Nottingham Trent University; also to any others you know who are starting out on a University or College course this month.

We thank God that Barbara Washington's hip operation was successful and pray for her as she recovers.

We pray for Peter Fletcher, as he receives his treatment, that God will be his strength and keep him in his care.

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Church Flowers in September

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

4th September	Maryan Pateman
11th September	Ann and David Blair
18th September	Margaret Olney
25th September	Jill Dix

As we celebrate our Harvest Festival this month we also remember the wonderful variety of all our food and thank God for providing us with so many good things to enjoy.

All good gifts around us are sent from heaven above;
then thank the Lord, O thank the Lord, for all his love.

Singing the Faith 130 (chorus)

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.



The Prebend Day Centre in Bedford helps homeless people and is grateful for gifts of non-perishable foods. They are also pleased to receive men's toiletries and garments such as "boxer shorts (M/L), jeans (32-36), jogging bottoms (32-36), t-shirts, socks, gloves, hats, waterproof jackets." *(From the Prebend Day Centre Website)*

The church will be open on Saturday 17th September from 2 pm to 4 pm to receive your gifts so that we can begin arranging the display. If you are unable to bring them to the church on Saturday, please bring them with you when you come to the service on the Sunday morning.



Methodist relief and development

All We Can (Methodist Relief and Development Fund) works in partnership with local groups in some of the world's poorest countries. They seek to reduce poverty, inequality and injustice. All We

Can's particular harvest focus for this year is "Make a Splash" to provide clean water for people in Uganda.

Gift Aid envelopes will be available. If you are able to gift aid your gift please do so, as this adds an extra 25% to your gift.



Wesley Guild



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 on Mondays at 7.30 pm. The first meeting is a social evening on Monday 26th September. The following week we will be singing Harvest hymns at Ferndale. This will be in the afternoon starting at 3 pm.



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.



Women's Pleasant Hour

The Women's Pleasant Hour meetings will be twice monthly, on the first and third Wednesday of the month, at 2.30 pm, when the meetings resume in September. The first Wednesday of the month will be a Sharing afternoon when the ladies bring a piece of music or a reading to share. There is also a Bring and Buy Stall. On the third Wednesday of the month there will be a speaker. Any ladies are welcome to attend.



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

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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.

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1st Flitwick Boys' Brigade



Well nothing really to report back on since last month.

However lots to look forward to as our new session starts on Thursday 8th September, when we expect to welcome back 6 Anchor Boys, 9 Juniors and 4 Company Section lads. We would very much like reach a membership of 25 boys and being so close then hope to report on that in

the coming months.

Staffing numbers as mentioned previously are also growing, and the paperwork side of things is slowly coming together. Please pray for this essential if a little tedious task.

Staff have met and started to discuss plans for the new session and a lot of inspiration has been taken from the success of Team GB in the Olympics. And we hope to try some different sports over the first half term. Looking ahead to October and the Competitions restart with the defence of the 10-Pin Bowling Alley Trophy.

Prompted by a comment by Graham in a recent service about people who literally pass the church by we have acquired a banner to attach to the railings at the front of the church to publicise the fact we are at the church when we meet and the age groups we cover. So please watch out for that – although hopefully you won't miss it and neither will the passers by!

That's all for now, so as ever thank you for your continued support for our boys, young men and the leaders; it is very much appreciated.

God Bless.

Angela Brydon
Company Captain

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## 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!



## Coffee & Croissants Morning



Plus Bring & Buy and Cakes  
Please come along and support our  
Coffee Morning

### Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> September 10.30 am onwards

To raise funds to help pay for  
sending shoe boxes overseas



Knitting Group &



Wesley Guild



### Prayer Morning

The next Prayer Morning will take place on Saturday 5th November from 9.30 am to 12 noon. Make a note of the date so that you are able to come and spend some time in prayer in the quietness of the church. Look out for further details in next month's newsletter.

What a friend we have in Jesus,  
all our sins and griefs to bear!  
What a privilege to carry  
everything to God in prayer!  
O what peace we often forfeit,  
O what needless pain we bear,  
all because we do not carry  
everything to God in prayer.

Singing the Faith 531 (verse 1)

# Prayer Leaflet September 2016



*Lord of all bounty, I give you my heart;  
I praise and adore you for all you impart,  
your love to inspire me, your counsel to guide,  
your presence to shield me, whatever betide.*

*Jack Copley Winslow  
Singing the Faith 449 verse 4*

## Prayer Suggestions for September

*The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends  
of the earth.*

*He will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding  
no-one can fathom.*

*He gives strength to the weary and increases the power  
of the weak,*

*Isaiah 40 v. 28-29*

### 3 days beginning 1st September - New Methodist Year

- Thursday Pray for the Worldwide Methodist Church as a new Methodist year begins.
- Friday Pray for the leaders of the Methodist Church in this country and overseas.
- Saturday Pray for Rev. Dr. David Chapman, the new Chair of our Beds, Essex and Herts District.

### Week beginning 4th September – Our Church and Circuit

- Sunday Pray for those leading our worship this month.
- Monday Pray for our Circuit ministers, especially our minister, Graham.
- Tuesday Pray for the Circuit Leadership Team.
- Wednesday Pray for the other churches in the Circuit.
- Thursday Pray for all who form our church family.
- Friday Pray for the groups of our church as they start up again this month after the summer break.
- Saturday Thank God for all those within our church who use their skills for God's work.

### Week beginning 11th September - Education

- Sunday (Education Sunday) Thank God that we are able to learn new things throughout our lives.

Monday Pray for the children who have just returned to school as they settle into new classes.  
 Tuesday Pray for those starting school for the first time.  
 Wednesday Pray for those moving to different schools.  
 Thursday Pray for teachers as they get to know different children, especially those moving to new schools  
 Friday Pray for head teachers and school governors and all who have the responsibility of running the schools.  
 Saturday Pray for all who work in schools in supporting teachers and children.

Week beginning 18th September - Harvest

Sunday Pray for our Harvest Festival services today and for Rev. Donald Finnan who will be leading the services.  
 Monday Thank God that we have such a variety of food items to choose from when we go shopping.  
 Tuesday We pray that we may always appreciate the work of the farmers and food producers.  
 Wednesday Pray for those who don't have enough to eat in this country as well as in poorer countries overseas.  
 Thursday Thank God for the work of the Prebend Day Centre and The Need Project.  
 Friday Thank God that we have clean water to drink.  
 Saturday Pray for the work of All We Can as they work with people in Uganda and other countries to enable them to have clean water.

6 days beginning 25th September – Our Natural World

Sunday Thank God for the beauty of His creation.  
 Monday Thank God for His promise symbolised by the rainbow, that the rhythm of the seasons will continue.  
 Tuesday Pray that God will help us to use the earth's resources with care.  
 Wednesday Pray for governments as they seek to implement changes to combat climate change.  
 Thursday Pray for those affected by recent floods.  
 Friday Pray for those affected by earthquakes.

Services in September

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

|                |                  |                              |
|----------------|------------------|------------------------------|
| 4th September  | 10.30 am         | Rev. Chrissie Howe (All Age) |
|                | 6.00 pm          | Jim Ragless                  |
| 11th September | 10.30 am         | Robert Minott                |
|                | <b>6.30 pm</b>   | Circuit Service at Priory    |
| 18th September | Harvest Festival |                              |
|                | 10.30 am         | Rev. Donald Finnan (All Age) |
|                | 6.00 pm          | Rev. Donald Finnan           |
| 25th September | 10.30 am         | Local Worship                |
|                | 6.00 pm          | Rev. Andrew Hollins          |

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**Monday 26th September 3.30 pm – 5.30 pm**

All families welcome.

Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Donations welcome to cover costs.

Contact Rev. Graham Claydon-Knights for further details.

Future Messy Church Dates: 31st October, 28th November

Messy Christmas: 24th December 12noon to 1.30 pm

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Clophill News

We thank God that the work on the roof at Clophill has been successfully completed and that the building is able to be used once again.

Tea and Chat

Every Wednesday 10.30 am to 12 noon

Croissant and Coffee Morning

Saturday 3rd September
10.00 am to 12 noon
£1.50

Harvest Lunch

Wednesday 14th September
12.30 pm to 2 pm
£5

Messy Church

Saturday 17th September
4 pm to 6 pm

All age activities, worship and a meal for all the family.
Children must be accompanied by an adult.
Contact 07920568861

Barn Dance

Saturday 24th September
at Clophill Village Hall
7.30 pm to 11 pm

Tickets £10, includes buffet (bring your own drinks)

Circuit Prayer Meeting

The next Circuit prayer meeting will be held on Monday 26th September at Willington at 10.30am. All will be very welcome.

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*The Upper Room*

**at Amptill Methodist Church on alternate Thursdays**

**Dates in September – 1st, 15th, 29th**

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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Shefford Methodist Church

Raising the Roof

Coffee Morning

Saturday 3rd September
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, and other stalls.

Tea Towels and Calico Bags available at £5 each.

Contact: Reverend Peter Hudson. 01727 812076
Email: peter.hudson@uwclub.net

Sponsored Walk

The Rotary Club and Lions Club have organised a 3-4 mile walk round Flitwick Moor.

The Royal British Legion are joining in this charity event and, as a member of the Legion, I have volunteered to participate, along with other members. The walk begins at 7 pm on Saturday 15th October.

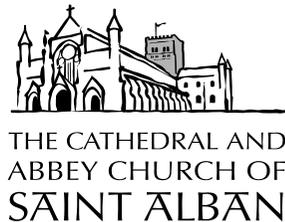
I already have some church members sponsoring me and am asking if anyone else would do so.

For every £1000 the Legion raises we will receive £500 for our coffers from the Rotary and Lions Clubs.

Ann Sharp

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



**There will be no free church service in September.**

**Wednesday 5th. October 2016 at 11a.m.**

Preacher: The Reverend Simon Carver,  
Baptist Minister, Dagnall Street Baptist Church, St Albans.

- The service is followed by a Fellowship Lunch

**All are Welcome**

## News from St Albans Cathedral

Dear Friends,

We have received wonderful news from the Heritage Lottery Fund. They have approved our round 2 application for Alban, Britain's First Saint: Telling the Whole Story with a grant of £4m – and in doing so have given the project the green light to go forward and be realised!

The Fund exists to make more people aware of the riches of our national heritage, and St Albans richly deserves to be far better known as the oldest Christian site in Britain, with a uniquely long and rich history to tell. With this grant, and with the match funding that has so generously been given by trusts and by over a thousand individuals, we shall create a beautiful new welcome centre, a new reception centre for schoolchildren, a new exhibition area, and a new adult study centre and library. We shall also be able to present the Cathedral's treasures in a much more attractive way, which includes illuminating the medieval wall paintings and rebuilding the ruined medieval shrine of St Amphibalus. Working with the City's own Museum project and visitor strategy, we shall make St Albans a first-choice destination for tourists and pilgrims alike.

This is exciting news to share with our closest friends, and I thank you for your part in making it possible. We look forward to sharing more as the project develops, but for now let us enjoy this moment.

With every blessing

Jeffrey

The Very Reverend Dr. Jeffrey John,  
Dean,

St Albans Cathedral.

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News from Paraguay

25th July 2016

Good to hear that your summer has not completely gone away. Here it has been warm and sunny for the past few days, but there is cold and wet forecast for the next few days.

As it has been nice and dry, but soon won't be, I have had many bonfires to get rid of all the grass I had cut before it gets soaked. Also on Saturday I decided to do something about the rotten old roof timbers that were lying in the garden. So I used armfuls of the grass to build a fire under them. It took quite a while to get them to catch, but once they did start burning they burnt well and I spent the night in the garden slowly feeding the timbers into the fire. It took until fairly late to get it all burnt but when I looked out on Sunday morning all that was left was a pile of ash.

Schools here have had their winter holiday and today they all went back... no extra days this year added onto the end because of the cold.

3rd August 2016

Evangelina is now scampering around and yes does say a few words. I will try to get a photo or two on my next disc.

The book is still coming along..... It does not get mentioned very often as all I could say it is still being worked on.....

Here it has been nice and warm but not really hot over the last week or so. I have been into Piribebuy and Paraguari a couple of times. This week I had a cleaning and tidying day yesterday and today went again to Piribebuy. I had Ramona along with me as she wanted to visit her college to find out when classes start again. The answer turned out to be Thursday, so as the exams have only finished the middle of last week it means that there is not really any holiday time off at all for her.

This weekend I think I am going to go to Asuncion. I keep up with all the events and fiestas on Facebook and on Friday the Expats in Asuncion are having their monthly get together. I have wanted to go to one for a while but didn't fancy a weekend in Asuncion just to do that. However this weekend there is also a fiesta on Saturday organised by my friends in Asuncion that will be a night of my sort of music. So if I go in I can make it a worthwhile trip by going to both.....

8th August 2016

I am now back from my weekend away. I did not write over the weekend as I did not take my computer with me so that I had less to carry around.

Whilst I was away I kept putting things on Facebook, so no doubt you have seen a little bit about my holiday already. It is amazing the things I find to stick on there.

As for my holiday, I went on Friday morning to the Chaco Hotel - where we went the last time you were over. As it was hot and sunny on Friday and Saturday I had a couple of swims in the pool on the roof and as the place was not busy I had it all to myself.

On Saturday afternoon, after I had been to a Korean restaurant for lunch, I met up with a DJ friend of mine. He is currently building a record collection and so always likes to show me the new records he has got and play a few of them for me.

There has been a bit of smartening up in the main shopping street in Asuncion and the biggest difference is the appearance of several coffee shops. I remember when you were over it was very hard to find a cup of coffee anywhere.

In the evening after watching half of the Olympics Opening Ceremony on television I went to find the Expats at their gathering. Yes - Paraguay do have a team at the Olympics - 11 of them - but no one is getting excited at the moment as I don't think they are expected to win anything.

They were pleased to meet me as they have only followed me on Facebook but have never met me before, and I have never had the chance to go to one of their get togethers before. They were mostly Americans and quite a few of them were ex military. They turned out to be a lively bunch and we all sat and joked over our beers well into the night. It was gone 1.00 am when I left to head back to the hotel.

On Saturday, after my morning dip in the pool, I headed to the shopping centre. I did not really have anything to buy but instead I was quite happy to nose around the shops. Although I did, of course, end up with a few more CDs.

On Saturday night I headed out for another party. This was the band of some friends of a friend who were putting on a party. It was about a dozen blocks from the hotel, but in a straight line so easy to find. Rather than a bar or anything like that it was instead a house party with a DJ and a band. Shortly after I got there the singer told me that the place was about as underground as anywhere we could get in Asuncion, but by then I had already seen the bearded transvestites!! As people gradually turned up I saw a lot of familiar faces as with this being a country with a small population the same people turn up to the same type of events. It was a good night of chatting, drinking beer and listening to the DJ until sometime after 1 am when the band stopped playing. I headed back to my hotel after 3 am and the party was still in full swing and I suspect it carried on until dawn.

Sunday as the weather forecast had changed and it was looking cloudy and damp I headed home. Sunday is also a good day for buses as they have less passengers and the roads are emptier so the trip is quicker and more comfortable.

Today the clouds have gone and the sun is shining so all the washing is done and I think tomorrow I will head into Piribebuy.

12th August 2016

The Olympics, you can imagine, are not a very big thing over here. Everyone knows they are going on but nobody is getting

excited about it. Although they did get a bit carried away when a rower got into a quarter final.

Most of this week I have been busy in the garden in the warm sunshine as all the trees start coming back to life.

Today was a full morning in Piribebuy. It is the Day of the Founding of Piribebuy and there is always a big parade. So I went in to watch it as parades are always very good over here. Took a while - a good five hours for everyone to go past. I took a collection of photographs and will shortly put some of them on Facebook for everyone to see.

14th August 2016

I am glad you enjoyed my photographs on Facebook of the sunny parade in Piribebuy. They always have a good parade here, and rather than just a few scouts ambling past on St George's Day everyone spends weeks practicing how to walk and look forward to wearing the special parade clothes. Then the whole town comes out to watch everyone slowly file past. It takes a good five hours!

A tale I should tell you is how someone's clever thinking saved it all needing to be re-arranged. You see, the parade is for the founding of Piribebuy. Every town has their parade on their founding day. However in the war when the Brazilians passed through and there was a battle in Piribebuy all the records were burnt. Afterwards no one knew the exact date so it was decided to use the same date as the battle - 12th August. That all worked very well but earlier this year a copy of the town's charter was found in an Archive in Asuncion that showed that the town was actually founded in March. To save having to move everything around someone had the clever idea to simply rebrand the parade as the Anniversary of the Battle of Piribebuy.

I see in the Olympics that Team GB is doing rather well - right near the top of the list. However not so good for Paraguay. The last time I looked there were about 60 countries who had medals but Paraguay was not one of them.

Best wishes from Simon

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



CHARITY AUCTION

Priority tickets available now! Spaces are limited to 40.

Raising funds for Relate children and young people counselling

Entry ticket costs £15 per person plus optional gift aided donation.

Tuesday 11th October, 6.30pm

The Auction Rooms, The Old Town Hall, Woburn, MK17 9PZ

Last year's auction raised more than £2,000 for counselling of children and young people around Bedfordshire.

The Newsletter

Thank you for reading the newsletter, and thank you to those who have contributed to this issue.

Happy New (Methodist) Year! As we begin another Methodist year we are entering a busier time at church, with meetings starting up again after the summer break. This may be a good time to think about putting something in the newsletter about a group you attend.

Thinking back to the summer, perhaps you could share with us a holiday experience you have had.

Please let me have your items for the October newsletter by **Sunday 18th September.**

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 Amphill 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.

