

SEPTEMBER 2017



SOUTHDOWN



www.southdownchurch.org.uk

Harpenden Ministry Team

The Rev Mmasape Zihle

33 Thornbury,
Harpenden AL5 5SN
T: 01582 768347
E: mmasape.zihle@methodist.org.uk

The Rev Rachael Hawkins

32 Finch Road, Berkhamsted HP4 3LQ
T: 01442 866324
E: rachael.hawkins@methodist.org.uk

Outreach Lay Worker (P/T)

Mrs Jenny Cope

Alzey Gardens
Harpenden AL5 5SY
T: 01582 768087
E: jenny.cope68@hotmail.co.uk

Church Office 01582 769871

Wednesdays 10am –4pm
E: southdownchurch@btconnect.com

Newsletter

Please provide copy by
E-mail by 10th of previous month

Editor: Vivienne Kendall

114 Lower Luton Road
Wheathampstead AL4 8HH
T: 01582 629930
E: vivandray@ntlworld.com

Mission Statement

The aim of Southdown Newsletter is to help develop the Christian faith through reporting about worship, people and activities of Southdown Methodist Church.

Weekday Activities

Pre-school	
Weekdays (except Wednesday) 9.10am – 12.10pm in halls	
Wednesday Group	
Vivienne Kendall 629930 Alternate Wednesdays lounge 8pm	
Brownies and Guides	
Tuesday	
17 th Rainbows	5pm
14 th Brownies	6.15pm
Wednesday	
9 th Brownies	6.15pm
3 rd Guides	7.30pm
Thursday	
17 th Brownies	6.15pm
17 th Guides	7.30pm
Hall Bookings	
01582 769871	



Your intercessions are asked this season for our friends on p.11 of the church directory

Embarking on the adventure of God's call

Dear Friends,

In Genesis 12 God calls on Abraham to take his household and everything he has and go...not to a named destination...but to a place where God will show him.

Amazingly the bible does not tell us of a debate or argument between God and Abraham nor between Abraham and his household. In the scriptures everything seems so easy...God says and people obey. I wish it had been that easy with me.



The Rev Mmasape Zihle

When God called I feigned ignorance and became deaf until the call was an unavoidable constant shout. I finally relented and spent three years in initial training all the while fielding the question, "Why mum?" The children were not impressed because they know what it has been like to move on God's say so.

They relented and saw that this was happening and they found excuses how it was not going to affect them, until the Methodist Conference decided we would move out of London, a place they had come to call home. The fear of loss due to past experience, the loss of friends and familiar space saw new arguments ensue.

The choice to obey God's call to go where he will lead hasn't been as straightforward as Abraham made it. At the end of August we saw our adventure lead us here to the WHAB Circuit, to live and minister especially within the Southdown, Redbourn and Studham churches. We are happy as a family to be here with you and to join with you on the adventure you are on with God.

I recognise the loss you too, may be going through - of Gill leaving and of making new beginnings - and I pray that together we will be able to move on, cherishing the gifts that all who have come by our way have given us, but looking forward to discovering what God has in store for us. I hope as we journey with Christ, and whatever challenges we face, we will be able to call on him as the disciples did in the time of the storm (Luke 4:35-41) and he who is heard by winds and seas will be able to calm our storms. May we not be timid but bravely walk on knowing that we do not walk alone but the God who has called us is with us.

Through worship, I trust we will grow in love for God and one another so to serve God's people and world. I hope that together we will be a beacon of Christ's love to the community and we will embark on this adventure fully trusting God and sharing the gifts we each have and we hold – the belief that the God who has begun this good work in us will see it through. Finally it is through our belief that others will believe in Jesus as Lord and Saviour.

Yours in Christ

Mmasape

Time to adventure ahead!

As we move on as a Circuit we welcome the Revs Mmasape Zilhe and Ruth Reynolds-Tyson on 3 September at High Street at 6.30pm. (Refreshments at 5pm)

Mmasape will have oversight of Southdown, Redbourn and Studham, and Ruth will be based on the northern side of the circuit at Berry Lane and the LEP of Trinity & North Watford.

Church Directory

The new directory is available in the church foyer





We send a warm welcome to our new minister the Rev Mmasape Zihle and her husband the Rev Jongi Zihle and their family. We do hope they will soon feel settled in the manse in Thornbury.

At services on Sunday 3 September at 10.30am at Southdown and at 6.30pm at High Street we welcomed them to our church and circuit. Mmasape will be looking after the churches at Redbourn and Studham as well as Southdown, so she will need our help as she gets to know everyone. The circuit also welcomed the Rev Ruth Reynolds-Tyson who will have pastoral charge of some of the churches in Watford.

Over the summer we have been holding our Tuesday teas and have been supported both by the folk from Southdown and community and Batford. Thank you to **Jean Keen** and the team for providing teas each week. The teas continued through August until on September 5 Tuesday @ 3 started up again – check the back page for our September programme.

We said goodbye to **Julia Prince** from Southdown Pre-School at the end of last term. Julia has been working at the Pre-school for 22 years and we wish her much happiness in the future. We send our best wishes to **Jo Trussler**, who is well-known to the Pre-school already, as she takes over the role of leader.

We send our love to **Ronya, Don, Wendy, Matthew** and all the family on the sad loss of baby Harry. We also pray for Ronya's daughter **Fay**. I know that both Ronya and Don value everyone's prayers at this time and in the weeks ahead.

We also think about others undergoing treatments or with ongoing illnesses, particularly thinking and praying for **Ken** and **Gill Holmes** at this time.

Jenny Kilvert married **Crispin** at the end of July and we send them our congratulations and best wishes for their future happiness. Hopefully **Anne** will remember to bring the wedding photos to show us soon!

We send congratulations to **Emily Rodgers** on gaining her degree.

At the beginning of September we will be thinking of all the children starting school for the first time and others changing classes and schools or going to universities or colleges. It is always an anxious time for both children and parents and a time when they need our prayers.

My role has changed too, and as well as spending ten hours at Southdown doing outreach and pastoral work I will also be spending ten hours in the villages of Flamstead, Gaddesden Row and Markyate. Hopefully you will all have patience with me as I settle into my new role.

*Through all the changing scenes of life, in trouble and in joy,
The praises of my God shall still my heart and tongue employ.*

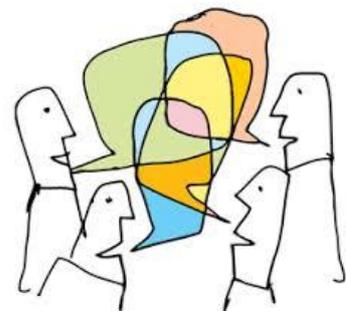
(Nahum Tate (1652-1715) based on Psalm 34)

Jenny Cope

Wednesday Group

Join us on 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month – especially if you are interested in further exploration of the Christian faith.

We meet from 8pm until 9.15pm to think about various aspects of our faith – maybe for bible study or another book study, maybe to watch a video or to discuss relevant topical issues.



**think
about it**

Do not wish to be anything but what you are, and try to be that perfectly.

It's your attitude and not your aptitude that determines your altitude.

A smile is an inexpensive way to change your looks.

If you want your dream to come true, don't over sleep.

Minds are like parachutes-they only function when open.

You can't direct the wind, but you can adjust the sail.

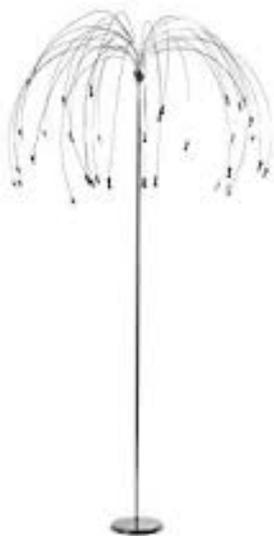
Humans are like tea bags. They never realize their strength until they are put in hot water.

The last Goodbye!

The WHAB Circuit said ‘Goodbye’ to Gill in July – and I think we gave her (and Graham) a good send off! The Farewell Concert at Southdown on 22 July, performed by The Luton Male Voice Choir, was well-supported and raised proceeds of £300 for Methodist Homes.



At the morning service on 23 July at Southdown Gill was given a beautiful preaching stole. This was a gift from Redbourn, Studham and Southdown, and we were pleased that Angela from Redbourn and Lynda and.... from Studham were able to join us, as well as Doug and Effie from Markyate. Southdown also received a parting gift from Gill and Graham, which is a ‘photo tree’ – an attractive way of presenting prayers, cards or other paper items. Look out for it in the near future.



Then the last ‘Last Goodbye’ was made at the joint farewell service for Gill and Geoffrey Farrar at North Watford in the evening and was a most enjoyable event.

Thanks to Jo Parsons for the photos.

A farewell card for Southdown from Gill, Graham and Kanye is available in the church foyer. It is produced by *Contemplative Camera*, and I think you may be interested in the website.

Contemplative Camera was started in 2006 by Susan Blagden, a priest working as a tutor in St Padarn's Institute Church, Wales. She delights in the disciplines of photography and prayer, finding that they are mutually enriching. The daily practice of both contributes to ongoing learning and day-to-day well-being.

Susan is an experienced retreat leader, spiritual director and oblate of St Mary the Virgin. On her 'Daily Delight' webpage she posts a photograph which can be accessed at <http://365project.org/dailydelight/365>

Beware the 'suspicious salmon'!

Are you a law-abiding citizen?

We all like to think we are – but are we?

Recent reports indicate that we Brits break the law in many ways unbeknown to us. For instance have you vacuumed your house after 8pm? Or picked fruit from a neighbour's overhanging tree? Or bounced on a trampoline!?

Doing any one of those seemingly innocuous acts could land you on the wrong side of the law, ranging from an infringement of a byelaw, theft or an invasion of a neighbour's privacy (in that order).

Apparently there are several more laws we may inadvertently break as follows:

It's illegal to sing Happy Birthday in a restaurant - performing it in public is technically a violation of copyright.

It is illegal to carry a plank of wood along a pavement - carrying building materials in London was outlawed under a Metropolitan Police Act 1839. You cannot handle a salmon in 'suspicious circumstances' - Salmon Act of 1986.

You can't scribble on banknotes - not even if you're a magician.

Flying a kite in a public place is definitely a No, no - another law banned under the Metropolitan Police Act 1839.



Sponsored Bike 'n Hike 9 September
BEDS AND HERTS HISTORIC CHURCHES TRUST





Sunday 10 September

Education Sunday has been celebrated by churches for well over 100 years. For many years it has been observed on the ninth Sunday before Easter, a date which has had no particular links with the academic year. After extensive consultation with member churches, the decision was made to adopt a new date for Education Sunday from 2016. The new date will be the second Sunday in September. This will offer new opportunities to mark the beginning of the academic year and will encourage participation by more churches and schools.

The text for Education Sunday is from Matthew 18:20

‘For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them.’

Gathering prayer

Loving God,

Gather us in from north, south, east and west.

Gather us together, in your name, as your church,
to praise your Holy name.

Gather us and let your kingdom come.

Let us rejoice in your glory and grace.

Let us know we are always rooted deep in your love.

Gather us, as we draw close to Christ, listening to Jesus’ words.

Let us be sustained by his ministry and saving love.

Gather us around the glow of the Holy Spirit;

the Spirit that gives us fire in our hearts to yearn for and work for justice.

Let us be inspired and transformed

to embody the change we want to see in the world.

Gather us, like threads, from all walks of life,

from schools, colleges and universities; from homes and workplaces;

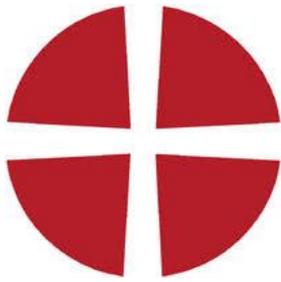
Gather us and empower us, living God,

to share the Good News of your grace and mercy.

In the name of Jesus, our friend and teacher.

Amen.

(A prayer by Revd Sara Iles, Congregational Federation in Wales)



Methodist Conference News

24 - 29 June 2017

The new President of the Methodist Conference is the Rev Loraine Mellor, with Jill Baker as Vice President.

While Conference matters pass over the heads of most of us (*Ed: maybe I should just be speaking for myself here?*), it may interest you to know some of the issues which were raised during this year's assembly.

Workshops were held to consider making the ministries of the Methodist Church and the Church of England interchangeable – a revisiting of the 2003 Anglican /Methodist Covenant.

Safeguarding remains an important aspect of the Church's ministry, especially towards young people and vulnerable adults. Also youth work will produce resources for churches to help young people to engage with issues of social justice. Conference reaffirmed the importance of connexionalism and ways to help Methodists to understand their identity within their faith.

Statistics (*always a challenge!*): The number of Methodists is 188,000. Various activities within the churches reach about 500,000 people each week. Churches are asked to address their plans for growth in an increasingly secular society, as well as looking towards a more inclusive approach to diversity and equality. Churches are called to build relationships with people of all faiths with a view to creating a more open and tolerant society. There was also some concern raised in connection with Brexit and the anxieties among people in the UK and Europe for their futures.

The Presidential address focussed on the current state in the Church today and the need to 'take risks' to change its culture. Jill Baker commented on the need for laughter and lament in the Church's life.

(Both speeches can be found at <http://Lets-change> and <http://laughter-and-lament>)

The Cashless Society is on its way!

The Service Action Team (SAT) would like to thank all who have made 'Cakes for Fatima' and those who have donated towards her sponsorship. If you'd be willing to make cakes on a rota basis, please see Margaret North.

In July we held a 'Cake and coffee morning' to raise funds for the Red Cross London Appeal – for the victims of attacks in London and the Grenfell Tower disaster. Thanks to Mary Hoare £207 was raised. (Mary Berry beware!)

Gill and I 'set up stall' outside our premises at the car park side of the building. We did well, but several potential customers said they were sorry but they did not have small change. Jokingly I commented that it was a pity we didn't take card payments!



Now, as it happens, I have just read that the C of E is trialling tap-and-pay contactless payments, beginning in St Nicholas Cathedral in Newcastle – the system capable of processing payments up to £30. Other churches will trial this in the coming weeks, either by having static terminals or hand-held machines which can be passed round the

congregation during the offering. As the saying goes – there's many a true word spoken in jest! (*Ed*)

SAT will be meeting this month to consider which charities to adopt for the coming year Sept 2017/18. If you would like to nominate one please contact the editor.

Daily we see reports about disaster areas around the world – from unrest, famine, migration and disease. We trust that all we can give is used wisely to bring some relief to the suffering millions - and it is indeed millions who are in need of help. The Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC) co-ordinates the work of many charities dealing with humanitarian crises both abroad and in the UK.

September		
3	Holy Communion Rev Mmasape Zihle Welcome Service (High Street)	10.30am 6.30pm
10	Len Fowler	10.30am
17	Parade Service Rev Mmasape Zihle	10.30am
23	Roy Swanston	10.30am
Messy Church Jenny Cope 01582 768087		
September Friday 15 in the halls 3.30pm – 5.30pm		
Tuesday at Three Jenny Cope		
Meeting in the church 3 – 4pm		
Diary for September		
5	tba	
12	The Compassion Project	
19	AGM	
26	Rev Richard Lowson	
Discussion Group		
Wednesdays in the lounge 8pm 2 nd and 4 th Wednesday God's promises to you		

September Trivia Quiz

- 1) The English physician Richard Bright, who discovered 'Bright's disease' was born September 1789. What part of the body is affected?
- 2) Born September 1888 the English novelist Herman Cyril McNeile, who created Bulldog Drummond, his pen name is the army word for engineer, what is it?
- 3) Died September 1964 Arthur Marx, the mute member of the Marx brothers, what was his nickname?
- 4) Which deposed president of the Philippines died September 1989?
- 5) What was sung for the first time at a London theatre in September 1745, in response to a threat from Bonnie Prince Charlie?
- 6) Which partnership opened their first shop in Manchester in September 1894?
- 7) Which weekly publication, still being sold today, first went on sale in September 1923?

8) In September 1978 which Pope was found dead after only 33 day in office?

September Trivia Answers:

- | | | | |
|----------------------|----------------------|----------|---------------------|
| 1) Kidney | 2) Sapper | 3) Harpo | 4) Ferdinand Marcos |
| 5) God save the King | 6) Marks and Spencer | | |
| 7) The radio Times | 8) Pope John Paul I | | |