

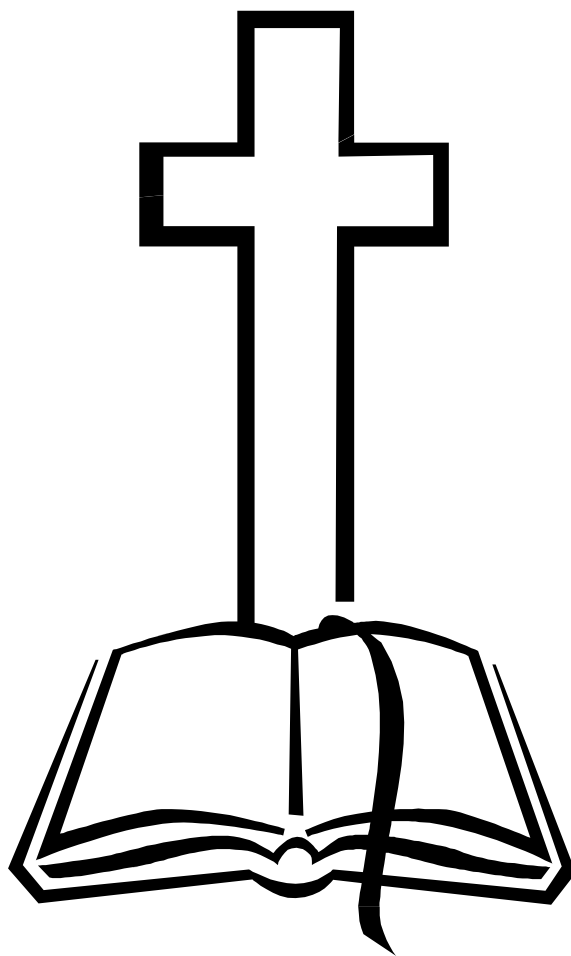


North East Somerset & Bath

Methodist Circuit

PREACHING PLAN

June to August 2016



'COME HOLY SPIRIT'

SUPER'S SOAP BOX



Dear Friends,

It seems strange writing to you in relation to a Quarter that I am on sabbatical for half of the time. However, this Plan is made in March so here are my pre-sabbatical thoughts standing on my Soap box.

One of the questions I continue to find myself reflecting on about the Methodist Church and especially in this Circuit, as the Super, is 'why are we a declining church when the Christian gospel is about growth?' When we read the Gospels and also Acts it almost seems that all that Jesus and the disciples/apostles had to do was 'turn up' and many people believed in the message. They didn't need to go on courses about church growth; they didn't need committees to decide what the outreach and mission was to be.

Some would argue that our decline is as a result of being shackled with a church institution with all the energy and resources that takes away from mission and outreach. There is certainly some truth in this but we remember that those first disciples had almost the opposite problem.... no structure or pattern to follow which took extra energy and resources to decide how on earth they were going to nurture these thousands of people who had come to faith in Jesus. We might think that was a nice problem to have.....but for them it raised all kinds of problems...and all of them were volunteers too!

To respond to my question, I then look at churches that are growing outside Methodism to see what clues they might give us. Many of them have common factors: a clear vision of what they are there for, which runs throughout their church life.(rather than just a piece of paper with the church vision statement written on it!); every member having a commitment not just to Sunday worship but to housegroups,outreach and service.... and none of those things have to be done within the hour; leadership which is clearly defined and Spirit led....they don't have time for all sorts of committees, they just trust that God has appointed and anointed the leadership to lead. In addition we find that in many of these churches, as in Acts, 'the Lord added to their number, those who were saved'

Now I'm not suggesting that we should become copies of such churches but I do believe we have much to learn from them which comes with a humility, if we are to move from decline to growth again.

Chiefly I see such growing churches being open to the Holy Spirit for guidance and life. As someone once said 'Mission is about finding out where God is at work...and joining in' (rather than the Church 'doing' mission).

So my prayer for myself and for all of us is 'Come Holy Spirit. Fill us afresh with your power that we might be part of a growing church again'

Your Superintendent,

Stephen

June 2016

		5 th	12 th	19 th	26 th
Liturgical Year		Ordinary 10	Ordinary 11	Ordinary 12	Ordinary 13
Special Sundays			<i>Methodist Homes</i>		
Please pray for		Bathampton Beechen Cliff	Box	Carlingcott Chew Stoke	Farrington Gurney High Littleton
Bathampton	11.00	Cross	LA	M Fletcher	Borgars HC
	9.30	Souter HC	----	----	----
Beechen Cliff	10.30	R Fletcher	LA IP/JCA	Parsons	Hewett HC
	2.00	Park K	Park K	Park K	Park K
Box	11.00	Gilson	Borgars HC	LA	Biddulph Tr
	3.00	----	MC	----	----
Carlingcott	5.00	Graham	Ireland HC	Summers	Moxham
	10.30	Haynes HC	Ireland A	Stiddard	Gilson
Chew Stoke	4:00	Ireland	----	----	----
Farrington Gurney	11.00	Slocombe HC	Bell	LA	at H Littleton U
High Littleton	11.00	at PC E	Parsons	Withers	Slocombe U HC
	10.30	Souter	R Fletcher	LA	Souter HC
Horizon	6.30	3 Souter OA	Tate	Souter HC	3.30 Jones
	8.30	----	----	----	Simpkins A
Keynsham Queens Road	10.00	Hewett	Simpkins U	Souter	at Victoria U
	6.30	Simpkins	----	Tate HC	----
	10.00	Simpkins HC	at Queens Rd U	Cramb	Simpkins U
Keynsham Victoria	5.00	----	----	----	----
	6.30	----	----	----	W Leaders
	10.30	Ireland HC	LA IP	Cross	LA IP
Midsomer Norton	6.00	Haynes	Borgars	at St Johns E	Simpkins HC
Nexus	10.30	Tate HC	LA	Borgars A B	Simpson
	8.30	----	----	----	Slocombe HC
	10.30	Low	LA	Slocombe B	Evans
Paulton	4.00	----	MC	----	----
	6.00	at PC E	----	----	----
Peasedown St John	10.30	LA A	Hull HC	Auty	Cross
Stratton House	3.30	-----	-----	Slocombe HC	-----
Timsbury	10.30	Mills	Slocombe HC	Dymond	Withers
	10.30	Evans	Tate IP	at Westfield U	Honey
Trinity at Radstock	4.00	----	----	----	MC
	6.00	Tate HC	----	Borgars	----
Trinity at Westfield	10.30	Knebel	Beck	Tate U HC	LA
Weston	10.30	Smith	Souter U	Lansley HC	Stiddard

ALL PREACHERS ARE REMINDED THAT IF THEY CANNOT FULFIL AN APPOINTMENT THEY MUST FIND AN ACCREDITED SUBSTITUTE AND INFORM THE SUPERINTENDENT MINISTER AND THE RELEVANT LOCAL CHURCH STEWARD.

July 2016

		3rd	10th	17th	24th	31st
Liturgical Year		Ordinary 14	Ordinary 15	Ordinary 16	Ordinary 17	Ordinary 18
Special Sundays		<i>Conference</i>	<i>Action for Children</i>			
Please pray for		Horizon Southdown	Keynsham Kingswood School	Midsomer Norton	Nexus Uni Chaplaincy	Paulton
Bathampton	11.00	Blackmore	Tate HC	Saunders	R Fletcher	LA
Beechen Cliff	9.30 10.30 2.00	8.30 Souter HC Souter A CA Park K	----- LA Park K	----- Lowe Park K	----- Haynes HC Park K	----- Bell Park K
Box	11.00	Cross	Borgars HC	Parker	at Ditteridge E	Dymond
Carlingcott	3.00 5.00	----- Summers	MC Ireland	----- at Walcot Cir	----- Moxham	----- Ireland HC
Chew Stoke	10.30 4:00	LA Ireland	Ireland A -----	Ireland HC -----	White -----	Tate -----
Farrington Gurney	11.00	LA	Slocombe HC	Parsons	at H Littleton U	White
High Littleton	11.00	at PC	Hewett E	Beck	Slocombe U	Auty
Horizon	10.30 6.30	Knebel Simpkins	M Fletcher Tate	Jakins at Walcot Cir	Honey Souter HC	Souter HC Souter
Keynsham Queens Road	8.30 10.00 6.30	----- Lowe White	----- Lansley HC -----	----- LA at Walcot Cir	Sawyer A at Victoria U Haynes HC	----- Knebel at St Johns E
Keynsham Victoria	10.00 5.00 6.30	Hull ----- -----	LA Simpkins A -----	Simpkins B at Walcott Cir	Cramb U ----- -----	Lowe ----- at St Johns E
Midsomer Norton	10.30 6.00	Dymond Ireland	LA IP Slocombe	Robinson HC at Walcot Cir	Robinson IP Robinson HC	Mills Tate
Nexus	10.30 6.30	Simpkins -----	Withers -----	Borgars A HC CIRCUIT Cir	Biddulph Tr -----	Richardson -----
Paulton	8.30 10.30 4.00 6.00	----- Beck ----- Slocombe E	----- LA MC -----	----- Slocombe CA ----- -----	----- at H Littleton U ----- -----	----- Cramb HC ----- -----
Peasedown St John	10.30	Ireland A	LA	Rowe	Ireland HC	Ireland
Stratton House	3.30	-----	-----	-----	Ireland HC	-----
Timsbury	10.30	Slocombe HC	LA	at Tabor E	at H Littleton U	Cross
Trinity at Radstock	10.30 4.00 6.00	Jakins ----- Tate HC	Parsons IP ----- -----	Auty ----- at Walcot Cir	Tate U MC -----	at Westfield U ----- -----
Trinity at Westfield	10.30	Tate HC	Honey	Tate E	at Radstock U	Robinson U
Weston	10.30	LA	Cramb	Evans	Souter HC	D Robinson

August 2016

		7 th	14 th	21 st	28 th
Liturgical Year		Ordinary 19	Ordinary 20	Ordinary 21	Ordinary 22
Special Sundays					
<i>Please pray for</i>		Peasedown St John	Stratton House Timsbury	Trinity	Weston
Bathampton	11.00	Lansley HC	Mills	Biddulph	Parsons
Beechen Cliff	9.30	Souter HC	----	----	----
	10.30	Souter	Auty	Withers	Souter HC
	2.00	Park K	Park K	Park K	Park K
Box	11.00	LA	Parsons	Cramb HC	Evans
Carlingcott	3.00	----	----	----	----
	5.00	LA	Ireland HC	----	----
Chew Stoke	10.30	Parker	Ireland A	Ireland HC	LA
	4:00	Ireland	----	----	----
Farrington Gurney	11.00	Dymond	Slocombe HC U	Cross	LA
High Littleton	11.00	at PC E	at F Gurney U	Blackmore	3.00 Slocombe
Horizon	10.30	LA	Saunders	Souter HC	Bell
	6.30	Souter	LA	Souter	Ireland
Keynsham Queens Road	8.30	----	----	----	----
	10.00	Simpkins	W Leaders	Simpkins HC	at Victoria U
	6.30	----	Slocombe	----	Souter
Keynsham Victoria	10.00	Hewett HC	LA	Cramb	Simpkins U
	5.00	----	----	----	----
	6.30	Ireland	----	Simpkins	----
Midsomer Norton	10.30	Parsons	Evans	Robinson HC	Beck
	6.00	Simpkins	Souter	Ireland	Robinson HC
Nexus	10.30	LA	Haynes HC	Mills	Robinson
Paulton	8.30	----	----	----	----
	10.30	Blackmore	LA	Slocombe HC	Auty
	4.00	----	----	----	----
	6.00	at PC E	----	----	----
Peasedown St John	10.30	Ireland A	LA	Lansley HC	Ireland
Stratton House	3.30	----	----	Robinson HC	----
Timsbury	10.30	LA	Parker	White	Slocombe HC
Trinity at Radstock	10.30	Tate U	LA IP	Gilson	at Westfield U
	4.00	----	----	----	MC
	6.00	Tate HC	----	Slocombe	----
Trinity at Westfield	10.30	at Radstock U	Bell	D Robinson	Tate U HC
Weston	10.30	Cross	Souter U	Hewett HC	LA

ABBREVIATIONS

A	All Age Worship	HC	Holy Communion	MC	Messy Church
B	Baptism	IP	Informal Praise	OA	Open Air
CA	Church Anniversary	JCA	Junior Church Anniversary	PC	Parish Church
Cir	Circuit Service	K	Korean Worship	Tr	Transport required
E	Ecumenical Service	LA	Local Arrangement	U	United Service (Methodist)

DEADLINES FOR PLAN: September to November 2016

Monday 27th June 2016: Presbyters (and churches via Presbyters)

**Monday 4th July 2016: Supernumeraries and Preachers
(Local Preachers' Meeting date)**

CIRCUIT WEBSITE: www.nesb-methodists.org.uk

CIRCUIT DATES FOR THE DIARY

June

Tuesday 21 st	7.30pm	Circuit Meeting	Keynsham Victoria
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July

Monday 4 th	7.30pm	Circuit Preachers Meeting	Trinity Radstock
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Sunday 17 th	6.30pm	Circuit Farewell Service for Rev Rachel Borgars	Nexus Walcot
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September

Thursday 1 st	7.30pm	Circuit Welcome Service for Rev Elizabeth Kirova and Deacon Annie Trembling	Nexus Walcot
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CIRCUIT NEWS

Preachers News

We were saddened to learn of the death of one of our longest serving Local Preachers, Christine Bateman, in March. Also in March, Rev Bryan Rippin, a former Supernumerary in this circuit, passed away. We thank God for their ministries.

We send our congratulations to both Anna Auty and Ian Withers, two of our local preachers, who get married to their respective partners in July.

Church News

Earlier this year, Trinity made the decision to close the Writhlington building and part of their society. Their final service will be held in April.

In August, High Littleton church will also close.

We give thanks to God for the faithful witness and ministry of these two societies over many years.

Farewells and Thank You

In May, the Circuit will say thank you to Jane Parsons as she retires from her work at the Southdown and Whiteways project. In August we will say thank you to Pauline Sawyer as she retires from her work at Keynsham. We are grateful to them for many faithful years of service.

In July we will be saying farewell to Rachel Borgars, Martin and Chris. Rachel has ministered in Bath for the last eight years and previous to that at Keynsham in the old circuit. We are grateful to God for Rachel's ministry amongst us.

CIRCUIT FAREWELL SERVICE

Sunday 17th July 2016
6.30pm at Nexus Walcot

Farewell Service for Rev Rachel Borgars

An opportunity for us to come
together as a circuit in worship.

Superintendent Sabbatical arrangements

Every seven years the Methodist Church gives to its Ministers a three-month sabbatical. This is a period of time where they are released from everyday duties to explore other avenues of study, reflection and activity. It is not a three month holiday!

From **April 11th to July 10th** inclusive, I have been given permission to take a sabbatical this year.

During the time I am on sabbatical the following arrangements have been made:

Circuit Superintendency: Rev Rachel Borgars will be covering.

Midsomer Norton Church: Rev Michelle Ireland will be covering.