

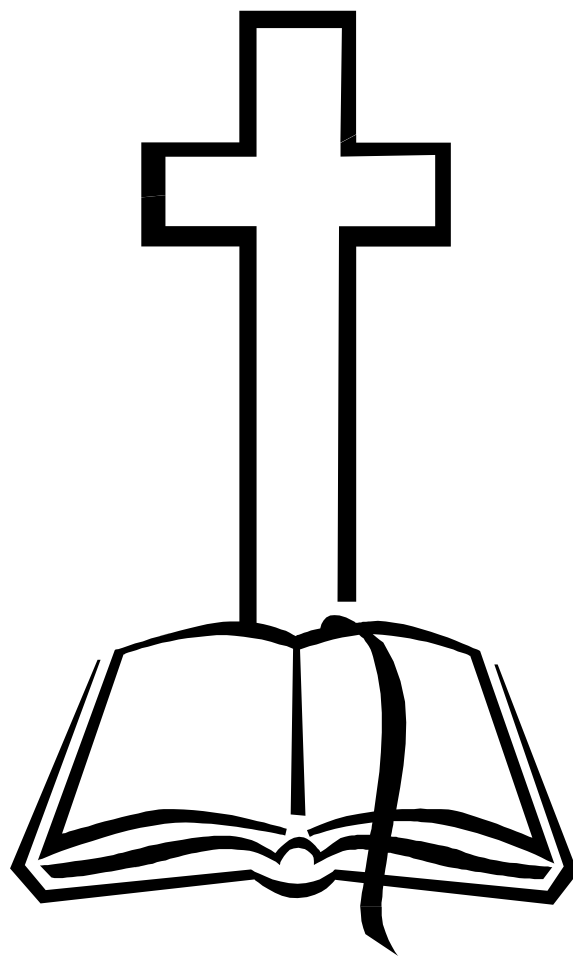


North East Somerset & Bath

Methodist Circuit

PREACHING PLAN

March to May 2016



'CHRIST HAS DIED...CHRIST IS RISEN'

SUPER'S SOAP BOX



Dear Friends,

You will note later in this Plan that on 11th April I am going on sabbatical..... a time to refresh, reflect and live at a slower pace of life than everyday ministry demands. Amongst other things, I hope to refresh my musical interests and gifts which I don't normally get that much time to use and enjoy.

Before I go on my sabbatical there is the richness of Lent and Easter Day to experience and this is where I get on my soapbox. Given that Lent and Easter give us the central events and beliefs of our Christian faith, how is that reflected in our church and individual lives?

I continue to be staggered at those individuals and churches that go from Palm Sunday to Easter Day with nothing in between. I was astounded last year when on the Walk of Witness in Midsomer Norton I saw an adherent of our church go into the Betting Shop! Many church doors are closed on Good Friday, as if we have nothing to say to the world, whilst many shops have their doors wide open with plenty to say to the world.

Jesus' challenge of discipleship is quite clear: (Matthew 16 v24-26)

"Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it. What good will it be for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul?"

This challenge is for every day, but how much more during Lent and Easter? Lent reminds us that Christian faith is about 'giving up' (denying ourselves), about 'taking up' (the cross) and then moving on (follow me).

So for local churches, look at your events and worship opportunities during Lent; look to see if you can have the church open more as a place when people can simply drop in and have some peace and space; look to see what the outside of your building is saying (especially noticeboards!) about Lent and Easter. Many of our churches will have walks of witness on Good Friday....what do people see we are witnessing to? (in a previous appointment we overheard two observers of the walk of witness say 'what are these people protesting about?' We changed the whole event the following year and attracted a crowd of 500 people !

For each of us, each day is an opportunity to look at the cross and let it speak to us of God's supreme gift of love through Jesus' death and resurrection...and then take up that cross of follow Him with renewed love and worship.

Your Superintendent,

Stephen

March 2016

		6 th	13 th	20 th	27 th
Liturgical Year		Lent 4	Passion	Palm	Easter
Special Sundays		<i>Mothering</i>			
Please pray for		Bathampton	Box	Carlingcott Chew Stoke	Farrington Gurney High Littleton
Bathampton	11.00	Borgars	R Fletcher	Honey	Hull HC
	9.30	Souter HC	-----	-----	-----
Beechen Cliff	10.30	Parker P	Cross	Withers	Souter HC
	2.00	Park K	Park K	Park K	Park K
Box	11.00	White	Borgars	Biddulph	Borgars HC
Carlingcott	3.00	-----	-----	MC	-----
	5.00	Moxham	Moody	Ireland HC	Ireland
Chew Stoke	10.30	Parsons	Hull A	Ireland HC	Parsons
	4:00	Ireland	-----	-----	-----
Farrington Gurney	11.00	Slocombe	at H Littleton U	LA	Cramb HC U
High Littleton	11.00	at PC E	Slocombe U	Tate	at F Gurney U
Horizon	10.30	Cramb	Souter HC	Dymond	Auty
	6.30	Souter	Slocombe	Borgars	Souter HC
Keynsham	8.30	-----	-----	-----	Simpkins A
Queens Road	10.00	Simpkins	Hewett HC	Simpkins/Judge E	at Victoria U
	6.30	Tate HC	-----	Simpkins	-----
Keynsham	10.00	Cross	Cramb	at Baptist E	Simpkins HC U
Victoria	5.00	-----	Simpkins A	-----	-----
	6.30	-----	-----	-----	Tate
Midsomer Norton	10.30	Robinson IP	Withers	Robinson IP	Robinson HC
	6.00	Simpkins	Souter	Robinson HC	Robinson E
Nexus	10.30	Haynes TP	Saunders TP	Mills/Borgars TP	Pye HC
	8.30	-----	-----	-----	Slocombe HC
Paulton	10.30	Evans	Thompson	Slocombe HC	Blackmore
	4.00	-----	MC	-----	-----
	6.00	Slocombe E	-----	-----	-----
Peasedown St John	10.30	Ireland A	Robinson	Rowe	Ireland HC
Stratton House	3.30	Chaplain	Tate	Chaplain	Borgars HC
Timsbury	10.30	Newbold	D Robinson	at St Marys E	Slocombe HC
Trinity at	10.30	Bell	Tate U IP	Knebel	Tate HC
Radstock	4.00	-----	-----	-----	MC
	6.00	Robinson HC	-----	Tate	-----
Trinity at Westfield	10.30	Tate HC	at Radstock U	Lowe	Bell
Trinity at					
Writhlington	11.00	-----	at Radstock U	-----	Beck
Weston	10.30	Souter	at Moravians E	LA	Lansley HC

April 2016

		3 rd	10 th	17 th	24 th
Liturgical Year		Easter 2	Easter 3	Easter 4	Easter 5
Special Sundays					
Please pray for		<i>Horizon Southdown</i>	<i>Keynsham Kingswood School</i>	<i>Midsomer Norton</i>	<i>Nexus Uni Chaplaincy</i>
Bathampton	11.00	Thompson	Biddulph	Saunders	Borgars HC
Beechen Cliff	9.30	Souter HC	-----	-----	-----
	10.30	LA IP	Mills	Souter HC	Biddulph Tr
	2.00	Park K	Park K	Park K	Park K
Box	11.00	Haynes	Cross	Borgars B HC	Dymond
Carlingcott	3.00	-----	-----	-----	MC
	5.00	Graham	Rubie	Summers	Ireland HC
Chew Stoke	10.30	Dymond	Ireland A	Beck	Lansley HC
	4:00	Ireland	-----	-----	-----
Farrington Gurney	11.00	Jakins	Withers	Slocombe U HC	at H Littleton U
High Littleton	11.00	at PC E	Parker	at F Gurney U	Stiddard U
Horizon	10.30	LA	M Fletcher	Blackmore	Souter HC
	6.30	Souter	Ireland	Souter HC	Simpkins
Keynsham Queens Road	8.30	-----	-----	-----	Simpkins A
	10.00	Simpkins A	Lowe	Simpkins	at Victoria U
	6.30	Haynes	-----	Borgars	-----
Keynsham Victoria	10.00	Hewett	Evans	LA	Simpkins U
	5.00	-----	Simpkins A	-----	-----
	6.30	-----	-----	-----	Souter HC
Midsomer Norton	10.30	Cross	Robinson IP	Ireland HC	LA IP
	6.00	Borgars	Robinson HC	Slocombe	Tate
Nexus	10.30	Borgars	Cramb HC	R Fletcher A	Chester
Paulton	8.30	-----	-----	-----	-----
	10.30	Slocombe B	Bell	LA	Slocombe HC
	4.00	-----	MC	-----	-----
	6.00	at PC E	-----	-----	-----
Peasedown St John	10.30	Ireland A	Lansley HC	Thompson	Ireland
Stratton House	3.30	Simpkins	Chaplain	Tate HC	Chaplain
Timsbury	10.30	Knebel	Parsons	Cramb HC	Gilson
Trinity at Radstock	10.30	Parker	Auty IP	at Westfield U	LA
	4.00	-----	-----	-----	MC
	6.00	Tate HC	-----	Ireland	-----
Trinity at Westfield	10.30	at PC E	LA	Tate U	Beck
Trinity at Writhlington	11.00	-----	-----	at Westfield U	Tate HC
Weston	10.30	Souter	Hewett U	Hull HC	Cross

May 2016

		1 st	8 th	15 th	22 nd	29 th
Liturgical Year		Easter 6	1 st after Ascension	Pentecost	Trinity	Ordinary 9
Special Sundays					<i>Aldersgate</i>	
Please pray for		Paulton	Peasedown St John	Stratton House Timsbury	Trinity	Weston
Bathampton 11.00	LA	Lansley	Borgars HC	White	M Fletcher	
Beechen Cliff 9.30	Souter HC	-----	-----	-----	-----	
10.30	Souter A	Lowe	Gilson	LA	Souter HC	
2.00	Park K	Park K	Park K	Park K	Park K	
Box 11.00	Honey	Borgars HC	R Fletcher	Saunders	LA	
Carlingcott 3.00	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	
5.00	Moxham	Tate	Moody	Beazer	Ireland HC	
Chew Stoke 10.30	Withers	Jones CA	Evans	LA	Ireland	
4:00	Ireland	6 Jones CA	-----	-----	-----	
Farrington Gurney 11.00	Bell	Auty CA	at H Littleton U	at Timsbury U	Parsons U	
High Littleton 11.00	at PC E	Slocombe HC E	Dymond UCA	at Timsbury U	at F Gurney U	
Horizon 10.30	Evans	Souter HC	Cross	Bell	Tate	
6.30	Souter	Slocombe	Souter HC	LA	at Nexus	
Keynsham 8.30	-----	-----	-----	Simpkins A	-----	
10.00	Cramb	Simpkins HC	Mills	at Victoria U	LA	
6.30	Simpkins	-----	at St John's E	-----	at St John's E	
Keynsham 10.00	Simpkins HC	Ireland	Parsons	Cross U	Lowe	
5.00	-----	Simpkins A	-----	-----	-----	
6.30	-----	-----	at St John's E	LA	at St John's E	
Midsomer Norton 10.30	LA IP	Hull HC	LA IP	Auty	Thompson	
6.00	Ireland	Souter	Ireland HC	Tate	Slocombe	
Nexus 10.30	Borgars HC	LA	Biddulph Tr	Borgars	Wild/Borgars CA	
6.30	-----	-----	-----	-----	Borgars SP	
Paulton 8.30	-----	Slocombe HC	-----	-----	-----	
10.30	Jakins	Haynes	Honey	at Timsbury U	Slocombe HC A	
4.00	-----	MC	-----	-----	-----	
6.00	Slocombe E	-----	-----	-----	-----	
Peasedown St John 10.30	Ireland A	LA	Ireland HC	Rowe	LA Y	
Stratton House 3.30	Chaplain	Chaplain	Borgars HC	Music Group	Chaplain	
Timsbury 10.30	Slocombe HC	Moxham CA	Blackmore	Withers U	LA	
Trinity at 10.30	Cross	Tate HC IP	Stiddard	at Writhlington U	Beck	
4.00	-----	MC	-----	
6.00	Borgars HC	-----	Tate	-----	-----	
Trinity at Westfield 10.30	Mills	Thompson	Tate HC	at Writhlington U	Gilson	
Trinity at Writhlington 11.00	-----	-----	-----	Tate U	-----	
Weston 10.30	Parsons	at Moravians E	Souter HC	LA	Withers	

ABBREVIATIONS

A	All Age Worship	K	Korean Worship	SP	Songs of Praise
B	Baptism	LA	Local Arrangement	TP	Theme Preach
CA	Church Anniversary	MC	Messy Church	Tr	Transport required
E	Ecumenical Service	P	Parade Service	U	United Service (Methodist)
HC	Holy Communion	PC	Parish Church	Y	Young People
IP	Informal Praise				

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.

DEADLINES FOR PLAN: June- Aug 2016

Thursday 3rd March 2016: Presbyters (and churches via Presbyters)

**Thursday 10th March 2016: Supernumeraries and Preachers
(*Local Preachers' Meeting date*)**

CIRCUIT DATES FOR THE DIARY

March

Thursday 10th 7.30pm Circuit Preachers Meeting Midsomer Norton

April

Saturday 23rd District Synod

May

Thursday 5th 7.30pm ASCENSION DAY
Circuit Mission Event Paulton

Preachers News

Over the last Quarter we have sadly received the retirement of Eileen Stuckey and Deacon Joy Newbold from preaching. Both people have given tremendous service over many years as Local Preachers and we want to record our thanks in this Plan for all their time, hard work and dedication.

Garry Abrams who was 'on trial' as a local preacher has moved to Scotland.

The Preachers' Meeting was pleased to agree that Ms Pat Heynes be given a note to preach.

Please do remember all these people in your prayers.

Stationing News

We are delighted to share the news that through the Methodist Stationing System: Rev Rachel Borgars has also been stationed and will move in August to the Kennet and Test Valley Circuit as Superintendent Minister.

Rev Elizabeth Kirova has accepted an appointment to serve as presbyter at Bathampton, Box and Nexus from September 1st

Deacon Annie Trembling has accepted an appointment to serve at Southdown/Horizon as from September 1st

The Welcome service will be on Thursday 1st September at 7.30pm at Nexus.

Please remember them, and their families, in prayer as they prepare to move.

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.

200th Anniversaries

As a Circuit we want to celebrate with Nexus and Chew Stoke as they mark 200 years of witness, worship and service in their communities. Anniversary services will take place:

At Chew Stoke: Sunday 8th May

10.30am and 6pm Preacher: Rev A Ward Jones, past Chairman of Bristol District

At Nexus: Sunday 29th May

10.30am Preacher: Rev Steve Wild. President of the Methodist Conference

6.30pm Songs of Praise

A warm welcome is extended to any who wish to come along.