



# Extraordinary Times

## Derby Methodists Newsletter

Spring 2019



*Welcome* to the Spring edition of the Circuit Newsletter which is all about new beginnings for people and churches who have been challenged to go to a new place or try something new. A cause for celebration as they move forward in the precious name of Jesus.

Some new Circuit Stewards joined the team last September, well some of them have clocked up a fair few miles in the role in the past actually, but here they are again.....

### **Name: Hilary Jones - aka small mountain (Hils)**



Special Skills - mean with the old knitting Needles and crochet hook and yarn! After 16 years in the political field have learnt a lot from Machiavelli, reporters, and ordinary folk!

Special Mission achievements - Good at hiding in the hills usually sunning herself or sometimes found on a two wheeled contraption with two seats and two sets of peddles with another shouting peddle now faster!

Sometimes in UK sometimes in Europe. Last year was to be found in Germany tracking down a family First World War grave in Berlin and researching German history.

Postings - Helping families in crisis as a volunteer with Safe Families for Children. Travelling to Eastern Europe - last summer Romania to help a Christian organisation run a summer camp for 18 - 30 year olds in the Transylvanian Carpathian Mountains.

### Why I agreed to be a Circuit Steward

I was seated next to Revd Gareth Higgs at a wedding it took a few hours to soften me up and once captured he was very persuasive. Telling me past assignments that he knew about would prove invaluable to the Circuit. I was then handed over to Revd Jenny Dyer who completed the persuasion!

*To this end we always pray for you, asking that our God will make you worthy of his call and will fulfil by his power every good resolve and work of faith*

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**Name: John George McCartney - aka Reformation Fan**

Special skills - Quality and Process Excellence, Purchasing, History etc

Special Mission achievements - Involved in restoration of Frauenkirche Germany (biggest Lutheran Church in Germany), once audited Peter Nelson and he has not forgotten!

Postings - Born northerner before moving down south to Derby post university. Still looking for sea and working out Viking road system



Why you agreed to be a Circuit Steward  
Asked to do so and reminded of Covenant prayer

**Name: Peter Gordon Nelson aka 'Nellie' at school and at work**



Special skills - Out spoken, born a Methodist, but not a Christian, that came when I was seventeen. A love of wood work, like my Master. May be sometimes Preaching.

Special Mission achievements - (don't know until we meet in Glory!) I am an Evangelical, if you must put a label on me, seeking to see the Methodist Church maintain it's heritage of Wesley's doctrine. Local Preacher for 55 years ( mentored 8 ). Conducted the Derby Crusade Choir for twenty years with many performances of Roger

Jones's musicals in the Assembly Rooms, also in the Circuit and around the country.

Postings - Preached up and down the country when I was secretary of the then LPMA. Many year's youth work at Darley Abbey and Newmount see many make a commitment to Christ. Member of the Circuit Mission Team.

Why you agreed to be a Circuit Steward

My first stint as Circuit Steward was in the 1980/90s over seeing the closing of Greenhill and Rosehill churches, not one of the high points just a fact.

Why you agreed to be a Circuit for a second time

The Revd Greg asked me to consider it, and my answer was going to be 'No thanks,' but the reading from the Lectionary for that Sunday was Isaiah 6:1- 8. 'Whom shall I send and who will go for us?' you can't preach on that text and say NO! So became the Senior (oldest) Circuit Steward, but only in Years lived!!

Yours in His service, Peter Nelson

**Name: Philip Andrew Royle aka Phil the Heretic**



Special Skills - Being able to complete a service within 37 minutes - incl. 5 minutes of introduction and notices. During meetings I have the ability to sleep with my eyes open. Having taught sex education in sign language for over thirty years, I am totally unshockable.

Special Mission Achievements - Being able to talk - and preach- off the cuff and give a good impression that I know what I am talking about. After forty years accredited I have still not been excommunicated - although many have tried to facilitate this.

Postings - Initially the Saddleworth moors watching my flocks by night then in deepest Liverpool and finally thirty-seven years trying to bring civilization to Derby - but, sadly, have not yet succeeded.

Why you agreed to be a Circuit Steward

You would think that having done this before I would have known better but the Revd Dyer, although looking fairly slight in build, has perfected the use of the arm-lock and does not let go until the victim finally gives the answer she requires.

***PS Phil is to be presented with a long service certificate for 40 years of preaching at the Circuit Welcome Service, 7pm Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> August at Mickleover***

Two members of the Circuit Stewarding team are due to step down this summer, namely Hazel Ellison and Derek Turton. Thank you so much to them for their willingness to serve in this way over the past 6 years. If you might be hearing a call to take on this responsibility please do get in touch with someone, either your Minister or one of the Circuit Stewarding team.

## New Pioneer Missioners at Susanna Wesley House....

Hi, we are Darren and Jo Howie and we have 3 lively children, Annie who is 7, and twins Angus and Hugo who have recently turned 1. After Annie was born, we moved to Nottingham to study Theology together at St John's and during our time there, Darren was called to Ordination. We moved to Derby 3 years ago and Darren has undertaken a Curacy at St Peters in the City. Prior to having our boys, Jo was a Project Manager for a homeless charity whilst training as a Lay Pioneer with CMS.



We have always felt called to minister together and as we approached the end of Darren's curacy, knew God wanted us to stay in Derby and so we are thrilled to be able to partner in God's plans for Susanna Wesley House, the Castleward Development, and the whole of Derby. Both of us are passionate about community and hospitality, and we are interested in new and creative ways of doing and being church. We love doing life alongside people and believe Susanna Wesley House offers the perfect opportunity to do this. Having been on the fringes of mainstream worship ourselves at various points in our respective lives, we always want to help others who find it difficult to connect with a traditional church model to encounter God.

*Darren and Jo's official start date is 14 April, but Jo is already getting to know the leadership team and volunteers at SWH and will be at midday prayers on a Thursday and would be very pleased to see you there.*



During advent Susanna Wesley House and the manse next door were turned into an enormous Advent Calendar by putting artwork in the windows. The leadership team decided to use the windows to tell the Christmas story. Pictures told the story of the angel Gabriel appearing to Mary, Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem, angels appearing to shepherds in the fields, and the wise men following a star to worship the baby Jesus. One picture was unveiled each day through December. The artwork was put together by a team from different churches

across Derby as a reminder to everyone that the birth of Jesus is the reason why we celebrate Christmas.

## The Church on Oakwood

We have had a very busy Christmas with schools and nurseries using the church to host their Christmas performances along with learning about Harvest and making a Christingle. Rev'd Neil started something new for 2018 in bringing the story of Christmas outside the church walls and into the community, called 'Christmas on the Streets.' This, we are hoping will develop and grow as a community event in Oakwood in 2019, as it did in 2018 in Chaddesden.

Our Christmas Messy Church was very well attended, along with our Advent Reflections and Carol Service with our Catholic partners (and the Deanery Adult Choir). For the first time in a long time, we held a Christmas Eve family service, which was very well attended by families who are connected through Walkers & Talkers (our toddler group), Messy Church and or holiday club along with others connected to the Sunday morning congregation.

Revd Neil has created a course for the church based on the book 'Five Practices for Fruitful Congregations' by Robert Schnase. The course has been very popular in attendance and has allowed for discussion along with challenging our mindsets, attitude and behaviour. Already this year we have had a Vision Sunday as Revd

Neil shares his thoughts as to where he feels God is leading The Church on Oakwood.

We are already approaching Easter at a great speed. Again, we are offering a Lent Course from 7pm every Tuesday evening in the Church starting 12th March. The last session will be Tuesday 9th April. As always – everyone is welcome.

Our Messy Church continues to grow, as we welcome new families into this fresh expression way of being Church. We meet 3rd Saturday of each month 11am-1pm. (All welcome!) A great number of our Wednesday afternoon toddler group families are continuing to attend Messy Church. We have a lot to look forward to with the Good Friday Family Activity Morning (10am-12noon) for families; the Good Friday Walk of Witness starting at 9:30am at Oakwood; also the Good Friday service led jointly with our Catholic Partners. We have OakFest (Oakwood Festival) in June that we are hoping to be a presence at again along with holiday club and events on the park over the summer.

Please continue to pray for The Church on Oakwood as we follow God's guidance in making necessary changes for growing His Kingdom.



With the author's permission, the following excerpt is reproduced from Revd Greg Obong-Oshotse's book entitled 'If the Angelic Postman Never Knocks on My Door'. Please read and enjoy the freebie, if you would like more you can go to Greg's website - <https://www.gregobongshotse.com/> to order a copy

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# 1 Chasing the Dream



Does it really matter  
if I never find the life of my dreams?

That well-laid-out,  
beautifully manicured,  
flowery garden of a life  
that I planted in my heart long ago?

That garden  
I have watered and nurtured ever since in my dreams,  
pruning a twig of desire here  
and a stem of ambition there?

The life that  
I have worked and hoped and waited for?

The life for which  
I burned the midnight oil  
to obtain my many degrees and professional  
qualifications?

The life for which  
I have slaved away at the office all these years?

## Safeguarding within the Derby Circuit

I am Gwen Lovegrove and I have been the Safeguarding Officer for the Derby Circuit for 7 years now and I am lead 'Creating Safer Space' trainer too.

Our Circuit is fortunate that we have been able to deliver the 'Creating Safer Space' foundation training regularly and at present Angela Davies, the Circuit Administrator, is delivering the training alongside me. It would be lovely to have more people trained in this delivery, to create a bigger team and take on some of the responsibility for delivering the sessions. If you would like to know more please get in touch with me or Angela.

Last year I pulled together a 'Core' Safeguarding management group that will support Safeguarding within the Circuit. The Core group includes Revd Neil Draper, one of our Ministers, Hilary Jones as our Circuit steward and me. Our aim is to disseminate information and prompt the Circuit and relevant groups that need it. The Safeguarding trainers are also part of this group.

Each Church should have their own Safeguarding rep who is known and supported by their respective Church and Church Council. They should be able to work with the Church councils to implement anything requested by Connexion and the District. Nearly everything is to do with recommendations about good practice.

I organise support group meetings for the Church Safeguarding reps twice a year so that we can all support each other and I can pass on information, advice and instructions from the District. I also attend study days and informal District meetings that teach and inform us about new ideas and policies that need to be addressed to make our Circuit and Churches safer places to be in.

Safeguarding as a subject can be challenging but it is an important area to be addressed. We as congregations need to enable our Church Safeguarding reps to do their job well. Part of that is keeping our minds alert to possible abuse and to deal with our fears. Remember if issues arise, **DON'T INVESTIGATE OR ASK QUESTIONS YOURSELF** You can contact me

Gwen Lovegrove                      Circuit Safeguarding Officer  
01332 544785  
or go straight to  
Revd Susan McIvor                  District Safeguarding Officer  
07434 284633

**and she will advise you on the best plan of action**

Our next training session is for new people or those who haven't trained for a long time is:

Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> June 10.00am - 12.30pm at The Church on Oakwood  
There are still places available and you can book with Angela  
in the Circuit Office



Temple Studies Group

## **Summer School 13-16 August 2019: The Lady of the Temple**

*Each day, 10.00am – 4.00pm, will be self contained, and study materials will be provided.  
Each day will comprise three one-hour lectures by Margaret Barker  
and one hour for questions at the end of the day.*

*Cost: £20.00 per day or £70.00 for the four days.*

Tea, coffee and juice will be provided. Lunch can be bought locally, or bought in the Church Hall. .

The Summer School will be held in Borrowash Methodist Church, DE72 3HT.

After expenses have been met, all income generated will be given to our host church.

### **Tuesday 13 August**

The Lady of the Sun, based on Revelation 12.

### **Wednesday 14 August**

The Lady as the Mother of the saints and angels, based on Revelation 17.

### **Thursday 15 August**

The Lady as the City, based on Revelation 21.

### **Friday 16 August**

The Lady as the Tree of Life, based on Revelation 22.

**Booking in advance is essential, via [templestudiesgroup@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:templestudiesgroup@hotmail.co.uk)**

**or phone Margaret on 01 332 662 315.**

*You will recall that we shared with you the sad news that Revd Eroni Moce, the Fijian Minister due to be stationed in this Circuit passed away just after Christmas. The Circuit took up a collection and forwarded £1,500 to Eroni's family a short while ago.*

**Grateful thanks** to Christine Cameron who has been editing the Circuit Newsletter for the past few years. She has now passed the baton to Angela in the Circuit Office.

Articles for the next Newsletter should reach Angela by

**1<sup>st</sup> June 2019**

email: [office@derbymethodists.org.uk](mailto:office@derbymethodists.org.uk)

www: [derbymethodists.org.uk](http://derbymethodists.org.uk)



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Believe in  
children  
 Barnardo's