

East Solent and Downs Circuit



CIRCUIT NEWSLETTER

Happy New Year!

January 2018

Circuit Meeting News

The Circuit Meeting was held at Petersfield during December when it was good to share communion together. It was during the communion that we had a brief update on the work of the SOFT team – Sharing Our Faith Together. Has your Church invited the SOFT team to meet with you yet and talk about outreach and evangelism ideas? If not then contact David Muskett or any member of the SOFT team to arrange this! The next meeting arranged by the SOFT team is on Saturday 13th January at Drayton United Church – please check out the details and come along!

News of Ministers, Churches and Preachers

Revd Claire Simpson is due to go on sabbatical for 3 months in April to June 2018. A sabbatical is a gift from the Church to ordained ministers to give them focussed time to spend with God and look at different opportunities in their ministry like doing some studying or exploring different forms of ministry. Please pray for Claire and her family as they prepare for this and for Claire's churches (Fareham, Gosport, Lee, Stubbington,) as they experience time without Claire but being supported by others.

The new **Portsmouth Methodist Church** will come into being later in the year.

The 3 churches on Portsea Island - Copnor, Eastney, and Trinity – have agreed to form one new church but with three mission centres where they will live out their calling to worship, outreach and evangelism. There will be a chance for all of us

to celebrate with the new church after Easter so look out for these details soon.



The church building at Trinity has been surrounded by scaffolding in recent week as urgent work has been completed on the tower and church building.

This has been paid for with money from the Heritage Lottery Fund and was needed because the church was on the Historic England Risk Register as it is a Grade 2 Listed Building!



“The Beacon” is the exciting new church plant in Bordon working alongside St Mark's Church. There has recently been a successful application to the connexion who have agreed a grant of £226,000, which goes alongside the grant of £50,000 from the Southampton District. The Circuit supports this new development through the work of Deacon Janet Heys at The Beacon and Revd Stephen Wright at St Mark's but at a special Circuit Meeting in January will be asked to agree our financial support for the next few

years. Both these churches are run jointly with ecumenical friends from the Anglican and URC churches which reminds us of the great opportunities we have of working with other Christians across our Circuit.

Great news with two people from the Zimbabwean Fellowship at Copnor Methodist Church, Reward Makuzva and Trish Chiwera, being given a Note to Preach. This begins their journey to become accredited Local Preachers. The new training course for Preacher's and Worship Leaders is now up and running – it's available for anyone to do whether or not they feel a call to preach or lead worship! Is this something God might be calling you to be involved in? If so have a word with your Minister!

Methodist Church Council News

Janet Baker, our District Representative at the national Church Council, assured us that we are focussing on those aspects of Church life which the Connexion are looking at like worship and sharing our faith but they are also looking at other aspects of church life: for example the more effective use of property and want to encourage us to be more intentional and deliberate in our decisions and use of resources.

Children and Youth News

Youth and Children The next event for those working with youth and children is planned for **17th March 2018** a resourcing day at Petersfield Methodist Church where it is planned that Mark Tizzard, Intergenerational Enabler for the circuits of the Southampton District, will lead the time together. **Put the date in your new Diary now!!**

Can you help?

Open Church Project - On four Tuesdays from January 30th Eastney Church will be hosting the 10 homeless people recommended by the Society of St James in the month of the Open Church Project.

The project will give food and shelter to those who might otherwise be sleeping rough during the coldest part of the year. A different church in Portsmouth will host on each night of the week. Tuesdays at Eastney are a joint Methodist/Portsmouth Vineyard venture. Volunteers have received some training and are in place but there are a some of things you can do to support the project:

- Firstly, please pray for all those involved, the volunteers and the guests.
- Secondly, at the time of writing we still need single duvets, duvet covers and bed sheets, either donated or loaned for the month.
- Lastly, many people have already made generous contributions to the funding of the project. If you feel able to do so as well that would be gratefully received (please send to Revd John Mills).

Thank you.