

Circuit Newsletter....One

February 2019

Welcome to the first edition of the Circuit Newsletter for the South Warwickshire Circuit. This new circuit will be 'born' on 1st September 2019 when three existing circuits (Mid-Warwickshire, Stratford & Evesham and South West Worcestershire) become two new ones, subject to approval from the Birmingham District Synod in May and the Methodist Conference in June.

This newsletter is one way to help us get to know each other and will be bi-monthly until September. We plan to include updates on progress, introduce the churches and congregations (Tysoe and Bidford on Avon feature in this edition), and provide other circuit news. We hope it will be useful and informative.

Introducing Rev. Audrey Simpson & Rev. Peter Powers. Audrey and Peter are the current Superintendent Ministers in the areas coming together as South Warwickshire Circuit.



Peter is to be appointed Superintendent of the new circuit, while Audrey will continue to be in pastoral charge at

Henley in Arden and Stratford upon Avon. Audrey and Peter are



looking forward to working together with the Leadership Team and members of all the churches.

Dates for your diary.

We plan to mark the endings and new beginnings of the circuits, so services of celebration will be held on

- **Sunday 14th July 2019 3pm** at Warwick (Mid-Warwickshire closing),

- **Sunday 21st July** (Stratford & Evesham closing)

- **Sunday 8th September 3pm** at Stratford (South Warwickshire opening). We are delighted Rev Ian Howarth, Chair of the Birmingham District will be joining us for this opening service.

Church services will continue as usual during July and August.

Introducing Tysoe Chapel.



The Methodist Chapel in the village of Tysoe is unusual, as

our building is relatively new for a rural chapel. Built in 1970 next to the site of the original Wesleyan Chapel, a converted barn occupied since 1821.

Methodism in the village began in the lifetime of John Wesley with a 'Cottage Meeting' similar to many across the rural communities. The impact of primitive Methodism brought a new worshipping community and chapel to the village in 1826.

Our present membership (around 20) is mostly elderly, so our Sunday morning service averages about 6.

Our mission for the future is 'The Ark' - a new Messy Church type congregation working ecumenically in the village, beginning soon. We are building a story ark on the site of the old chapel.

More news on this in the coming months.

We are looking forward to being part of the new circuit.

Introducing Bidford on Avon Methodist Church.



The village of Bidford on Avon can be traced back to Roman

times when Iknield Street forded the River Avon. Nowadays, the river is crossed by a narrow medieval bridge. The village is currently seeing considerable growth in population.

The Church is located in the centre of the village, just off the High Street, in Chapel Close. It was built in 1984 to replace a large, much older Methodist Church which was demolished to make way for a relief road.

As well as Sunday worship we run regular Saturday coffee mornings, and monthly ecumenical lunches.

Bidford is a Traidcraft Church, and our Fairtrade and Traidcraft goods are available to other churches in the circuit.

We are an older congregation of 10 members and have a regular attendance of 11.

The editors welcome any contributions—thoughts on its contents; news; views and photos from your local congregation. Please send them to mwc.katetennyson@gmail.com or call and leave a message for Kate at the circuit office on 07578 640013. If you would prefer to receive future editions by email please let Kate know.