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### Latest news items added:

- World Church Relationship News Bulletin See page 2
- Circuit Theme for this Church year See page 1
- VAT petition See page 1
- Circuit Meeting Minutes See page 1

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### CIRCUIT THEME FOR THE CHURCH YEAR 2018 – 2019

**Being a family!**

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### CIRCUIT MEETING MINUTES ON THE WEBSITE

With the recent changes in legislation (GDPR) there have been a number of changes made to the website. In particular, instead of the website being entirely “open”, a secure **MEMBERS ONLY** section has been incorporated. This is specifically for Circuit Meeting members, and may include confidential information. Initially, this contains Circuit Meeting Minutes, but it will be expanded as necessary.

The section is password protected. The password is available to *bona fide* members from the Circuit Webmaster.

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### VAT PETITION

An online petition to remove the requirement for churches to pay 20% VAT on building works has been launched by a Methodist member in a circuit where a potential £1 million church extension could incur a VAT bill of around £200,000.

Launched under the Open Government Licence, 10,000 signatures will trigger a government response, and 100,000 signatures usually ensures a debate in Parliament.

To sign the petition, [click this link](#).

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## **WORLD CHURCH RELATIONSHIPS NEWS BULLETIN**

The October edition of The World Church Relationship News Bulletin includes interesting articles about the impact of Methodism and our Mission Partners throughout the world, in particular:

- A lifechanging experience in Rwanda.
- Support for famine-hit residents in a village in Myanmar.
- Methodist relief following hurricane Maria.
- MWiB President's South Pacific visit.
- A growing partnership between Christians in Britain and China.

[Click here to see it.](#)

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### **METHODIST CONFERENCE**

At this year's Methodist Conference the first item of business was to induct the Revd Michaela A Youngson and Bala Gnanapragasam as President and Vice-President for the coming year.



The Methodist website includes reports on the Conference, and you are invited to [click here and find out more!](#)

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## CONNEXIONAL THEME FOR THE YEAR

Each connexional year the Methodist Church has a specific theme chosen by the President and Vice-President of Conference. This year it is “Radical Grace Transforming Hope”, and they have produced a booklet on this theme. Every member of our circuit should have received a copy, and there should be spares available in each church.

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### Action for Children (AfC)

We are delighted to report that, in the last 12 months, the circuit has raised over **£5000** for AfC. This information was given at the AGM of the circuit AfC committee. To this will be added the amount raised by one church – whose representative was unable to attend.

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### Methodist Church Fund, Opportunities for the Disabled

There is a small Methodist connexional charity, **Opportunities for the Disabled**, which provides bursaries to registered disabled people with artistic abilities to use their talents in the service of the Church. Projects such as painting, singing and dramatic productions were cited as being suitable.

If any Methodist church or circuit has any project that may align with these purposes, please contact [Sue Haworth](#) with full details and she will pass the request on.

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### MEDITATION WEBSITE

If you have a few minutes to spare, why not try one of the meditations at “TakeTime”! This is a recently-launched website, [www.taketime.org.uk](http://www.taketime.org.uk).

These meditations are inspired by the tradition of St Ignatius and the stories of Jesus. They are free and are meant to enable you to encounter Jesus in a new way through guided meditation – all you have to do is listen and relax! If you would like further information, go to the website or contact [Connie Jeffery](#).

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### THAMES VALLEY CIRCUIT ANNUAL REPORT

The Circuit’s 2017 Annual Report, for the connexional year September 2016 – August 2017 is available on the website. You can access it from the ABOUT US page of the website or by clicking [this link](#).

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## PICTURES TO SHARE

The Circuit has two sets of illustrated books which are intended for use with people who have problems in communication, such as those suffering with stroke or dementia.

Each Church in the Circuit has at least one book which is available for use when visiting Care Homes, etc. If you wish to take advantage, please check with your church's Senior Steward for details of the procedure for borrowing.

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### NEVILLE WALTON: "HEADS UP" CHARITY APPEAL

Neville Walton is raising money for 'Heads Up' an Oxford based pioneering scientific research charity, aligned to The Head and Neck Cancer Unit, at the Churchill Hospital, Oxford. His treatment for tonsil cancer was recently carried out by this unit.

Such was the excellent skill and care Neville received, he is asking family and friends to consider making a donation to support their clinical, teaching and research work in the field of cancer of the head and neck.



His daughter, her partner, his grandson and friends, The Pink Mohicans, cycled more than 500 miles across France in aid of the Charity.

The family would like to thank you in advance for any gift you feel able to make.

Please send your donation to:

Neville Walton (HN)  
Benwell House  
Cox Green Lane  
Maidenhead Berks SL6 3EY

or via The Just Giving website <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Gillian-Walton>

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