

East Solent and Downs Circuit



CIRCUIT NEWSLETTER

SAVE THE DATE! – Andy Frost – 2nd JUNE – Portchester Methodist Church 10.30am

The Circuit S.O.F.T. team have arranged for Andy Frost from the Share Jesus International organisation to lead us in considering these and other questions thrown up by the 'Sharing Our Faith Together' Roadshows and 'Sharing Church Festivals' Days held last year as part of the Circuit Initiative on Mission.

Founded by Methodist minister Revd Rob Frost (remember Easter People?) Share Jesus International was set up over 20 years ago to help churches engage creatively in mission and sharing our faith.

How do we start to share our faith?

How do we start a conversation?

How do we do it appropriately?

How do we cope with difficult questions?



This is an opportunity not to be missed!

So ensure June 2nd is in your church diary and do bring a good number from your church – it will be an inspiring day and will help us to communicate our faith in a broad range of contexts.

EVERYONE IS WELCOME

WATCH THIS SPACE for more details.

Meanwhile SAVE THE DATE!

Spring 2018

Circuit Meeting News

Regrettably the circuit meeting scheduled for the 1st March was cancelled due to the heavy snowfall. It was decided at the Circuit Leadership Team meeting that the next Circuit Meeting will be held, as scheduled, at Petersfield Methodist church on the 13th June 2018. At that meeting the final formal approval of the audited accounts will be sought.

Youth work

Another resources day for those working with children and young people was set up for 17th March which Mark Tizzard, the District Intergenerational Enable was leading. If you missed this day then please do have a chat with someone who went and see what you missed! Be ready to sign up for the next Circuit Resources day when you see it advertised!

Conversation on Worship

The Circuit Leadership Team has started to form a Circuit group to begin to help us focus on Worship in the life of our Circuit and local churches. At the next Circuit Meeting this priority will be launched with a similar format to the Outreach and Evangelism Roadshows so please look out for details over the coming weeks. The intention is to help us all think about worship – what we mean by worship; how we share in worship; when during the week might worship take place in our local church; what resources are needed to help churches create and sustain worship in their own community.

News of Ministers and Churches

Revd Stephen Wright has returned to work following an operation on his hand. Deacon Laura Evans is continuing to recover well following her recent operation and hopes to return to work soon. Joan Mason is recovering well from her fall and operation on her hip and is grateful for the prayers and support that have been offered. Revd Claire Simpson is on sabbatical from 9th April for a period of 3 months and cover for her ministry is being arranged through lay and ordained colleagues. Please continue to hold them all in your prayers.

Just two snippets of news but we know there is much going on around all churches:

Petersfield Church has set up a music group, *The Chiming Bells*, with a variety of instruments who regularly play at services.

To celebrate Good Friday Lindford church is providing free donkey rides for children on the village green followed by hot cross buns at the church.



Data Protection and GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation)

This is becoming a major source for discussion and churches will need to ensure that personal data is protected according to the regulation. A short briefing document for churches is being prepared by the circuit. For those interested in finding out more, TMCP has produced several guidance documents. The first one to read is "9 Steps for Methodist Managing Trustees to Take Now to Comply with GDPR" which can be found at:

<https://www.tmcpc.org.uk/about/data-protection/resources/guidenotes/9-steps-gdpr>

Church Scheduled Reports

Frustration was reported by one church concerning the annual schedules and reports required from 'hard pressed churches' by the Connexion especially as they must be submitted 'on line'. This matter is being raised at District level and more news might be forthcoming in the future.

Manses

The manse at Leigh Road has finally been sold and the Circuit is grateful to Mike Toogood and Nigel Cox for their dedication to ensuring this happened.

