

Useful Contacts

Acting Superintendent Minister and District Chair:

Rev'd Dan Haylett
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Circuit Leadership Team:



Stuart Mackay



Roger Rottenbury



Paul Warren

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Youth Worker (Copplesstone): Mark Williams
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Youth Worker (Emmanuel, Hele Lane, Witheridge): Sherrin Neenan
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Circuit Safeguarding Officer: Vacancy

Circuit Administrator: Mrs Megan Heath
Working day Thursday (*flexible*)
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**If the trumpet does not sound a clear call,
who will get ready for battle?
(1 Corinthians 14:8)**



**Ringsash Preaching Plan
June to August 2023**

Message from Rev'd Paul Smith

My Dear Friends,

I welcome the invitation to write for the Clarion because it gives me the opportunity to introduce myself to the whole Circuit. When it became clear that Ken Gowland would be leaving our District Chair, Rev Dan Haylett, rang me and asked if I could help. I gladly agreed to do so. Ringsash is a circuit which I have held in high regard for a long time. I have known the joy of leading a few weekends away for your circuit as well as preaching in some of your churches from time to time, so some already know me a little. My hope is that those who know me already will know me a bit better when you've read this and those who have yet to meet me will either anticipate or dread the potential encounter!



A Yorkshire man by birth, I grew up in a North Country industrial town and like many others knew several lost years when I was a teenager. I was drawn back into the life of the church through the witness and invitation of a Christian schoolteacher. To everyone's surprise I found my place in a vibrant central hall where the evening congregations exceeded 1500. It was through this witness that I gave my life to Christ and began to know the transforming power of His love.

In 1968 I went as a student to Cliff College and then after a one year course moved on to London Bible College to improve my theological education. Whilst I was studying there I lived in student accommodation in the east end of London and quickly became involved in the work of the Methodist Missions at Bow and Whitechapel, working mostly amongst the poor and marginalized. Once again I saw in down to earth practical ways the transforming love of God, and it was through that ministry that I felt called to offer my life as a Methodist Minister. To my surprise and delight I was accepted and embarked upon a training programme at Wesley

Circuit Diary Dates

Date and Time	Event
Wednesday 31st May - Friday 2nd June 10:00am - 3:00pm	Lighthouse Holiday Club For all primary aged children at Morchard Bishop Playing Fields. Contact youth team for further details.
Friday 9th June,	Prime Youth Club Youth club for primary school year 3 and up at Emmanuel Church.
Friday 16th June	Edge Youth Club Youth club for secondary age children at Emmanuel Church.
Friday 23rd June - Sunday 25th June	Spree SW Youth event at Westpoint.
Sunday 9th July	Circuit Service At Upcott Farm, Wembworthy. Further details to follow through your churches.
Friday 14th July	Prime and Edge Barbeque For all children that attend Prime and Edge at Morchard Bishop Playing Fields.
Sunday 16th July	Connect Celebration Service At Emmanuel Church. Details TBC.

For more activities and dates across our circuit please visit our Ringsash Circuit Website: www.ringsashcircuit.org.uk

Bacon Butty Morning

Regular Saturday mornings at Witheridge Church

Café Emmanuel

Every Tuesday, 10:00 - 11:30, at Emmanuel Church

Church Café

Every Thursday, 09:00 - 12:00, at Copplestone Church

Fourth Friday Feast

4th Friday of each month Hele Lane Church



Sudoku

	3			2	4			
	7	1	8	5	6	9	2	3
	6	9				8		4
		6					3	
3	9		4	6	2	5		8
	8				9		7	
	5						4	1
							8	
		2	7	1	8			

Dingbats

1.
BABEL
BABEL
BABEL
BABEL
BABEL
BABEL
BABEL

2.
NOAH NOAH NOAH

3.
SMTWTFSS
BREAD

4.
SPIRIT

College, Bristol. I began circuit ministry in 1974.

I was one of the first students to be given permission to marry whilst in college and by the time we began our first appointment in County Durham there were three on us. Durham was followed by five years in the West Midlands, eight years at Linacre Methodist Mission, Liverpool, ten years in Altrincham, Cheshire and full time circuit ministry drew to a close after thirteen years at the Plymouth Central Hall. I have also had the privilege of preaching at Easter People, Spring Harvest, ECG and a whole variety of different situations in the States, Ireland and throughout Great Britain. When eventually full time ministry ceased I knew that I had been given the greatest privilege anyone could desire and I would not have traded it for the world.

Margaret, my wife, and I live in Bere Alston in a little bungalow which almost overlooks the Tamar valley. Our three boys are married and we have six grandchildren. I preach every Sunday in the Tavistock circuit and beyond, and am still invited from time to time to lead study days and church weekends throughout the country.

So now the Lord has opened a door for me to serve amongst you. You will be aware that Bere Alston is a long way from Ringsash, 40 miles in fact, so it is impossible for me to have the close ministry which we would all prefer. But I am willing to do what I can to help your circuit through challenging times. I will be preaching in your various chapels with some regularity, seeking to guide those in leadership and offering whatever help and support I can to all who need it.

We've all been through challenging time or one kind or another. Yet the hand of Providence still rests on us. He has not brought us this far to let us go now. So we do the best we can to walk in step with the Master, to travel close enough to hear to whisper of His voice, and to prove His power day by day as we serve Him to the best of our ability.

So I hope now you know a bit more about me. I am looking forward to discovering a little more about you!

Every blessing,

Rev'd Paul Smith

Message from the CLT

I suppose that over the last few weeks it has been a time of reflection and conversation with the Lord as we move into pastures new.

As a CLT we haven't had the time just to sit and stare but are dealing with issues such as the circuit vision, another circuit service, manse, finance and everything else that will continue to bring us together a circuit under the authority of and in obedience to God. One of our members enjoyed Synod on 22nd April and more information will be shared later and we are looking forward to meeting again in the first week of May.

Again, we would ask for your continuing prayers, love and support. Prayer is what catalyses all of our spiritual fervency and ministerial impact on the circuit and is the power house of who we are in Him, please keep it as the most important item on our daily agenda.

Circuit Leadership Team

Good News from Witheridge

The small congregation at Witheridge are continuing with their outreach work in the best way they can- offering food and drink.

We've now been holding our monthly coffee mornings since June 2021 and also our community lunches; each attracting between 20-30 people.

As part of Christians in Witheridge a number of us helped out at an afternoon Café Church, on the 12th March, on a Mother's Day Theme. It was good to see people there from both our church, the Parish Church, and a family who were not linked to either church.

Following a successful Café Church Breakfast, in January, we've decided that instead of a 5th Sunday being a joint service with St John's we're now going to hold Breakfast Café Church in the Parish Hall. These will be open to anyone, be free of charge and include a short act of worship. We served over 30 breakfasts at the January breakfast so are expecting more people for our next ones in April and then in July.

After discussions about how to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles III we are holding a Picnic Party, at the Parish Hall on Saturday 6th May. We have volunteers from the Parish Church, and other friends, helping us to prepare Cream Teas and also organise



with Chris. The youth band led the songs and the young people led us in prayer as well as sharing testimonies of what God is doing in their lives. One of the young people also helped Chris by sharing some thoughts about the parable of the sower. In all, it was a really positive, uplifting and yet challenging time together and it was great to see the young people stepping out of their comfort zones in faith.

Mark Williams, Youth Worker (Coppleshope)

Ringsash Community Noticeboard

SOMETHING TO SHARE?

This noticeboard is for you to share ANYTHING that may be of interest to members of the Ringsash Circuit. Please send anything you may wish to share to Megan

GDPR

Don't forget to notify your church if your contact information changes. This information then needs passing onto the circuit administrator.

!!VACANCY!!

We are **STILL** looking for a new **Circuit Safeguarding Officer**. This voluntary role ensures that the churches, members and employees within our circuit are fulfilling their safeguarding responsibilities.

Without a full time minister it is more important than ever that we fill this vacancy. If you would like any further information about his role then please contact Megan who will arrange a conversation with either Rev Paul or Rev Dan.

Good News from the Youth Team *(continued...)*

Youth Club

At the end of March, our monthly youth club held an Easter-themed break-out room. We split the church into 3 areas, each with a puzzle or challenge to solve in order reveal a section of code. Along the way, groups also uncovered keys that would eventually decode the hidden message which was, "It is finished".

We then spoke to the group about those words that Jesus said right before he died on the cross and what it all means for us. Youth club continues to grow and we're seeing new faces each time we meet.



Egg Hunt

On Easter Sunday morning, we ran an egg hunt for primary school aged children in the park in the middle of the village. Small numbered eggs attached to sticks we placed in the ground all over the park and children raced to find 10 eggs, numbered 1-10. As they searched the park, the children also collected a small plastic egg and searched for one of two golden eggs that were hidden around the park. Lastly, the children were then given a sheet of paper with a code to crack, which they were able to do by collected letters hidden on pictures that had been placed around the park.

Following the activities in the park, families then headed to the church for refreshments and to give out all the prizes and gifts for taking part. In all, 14 children took part in the egg hunt and we had 4 non-church families, 3 of which joined us for refreshments before the family service. Thank you to all the youth (and their parents) and John & Suzanne for all their help setting up and clearing up the egg hunt as well as clearing all the litter in the park.

Youth at Witheridge

Towards the end of April, 10 members of our youth group (called the Grid) headed to Witheridge and led the morning service there along

some outdoor games. A number of us have been involved in knitting small crowns, making Coronation rag wreaths and sewing over 50 metres of bunting ready for the event. We've also started a monthly Craft n Chat afternoon, on the 2nd Thursday of the month from 1-3pm, where we're offering a simple lunch and hot drinks.

We were delighted to have Chris Down and a group of young people, from Copplestone Church, lead worship for us on Sunday 23rd April. They'd prepared a service based on the Parable of the Sower, with lots of involvement both musically and in what they had to say. Extra chairs had to be brought in, from the school room, for all the people who came to support them and hear them. It was an excellent service and provided a good opportunity for our 'older' congregation to learn something from these young people.

Dates for your diary:

Community lunches:
12.30pm Wednesday
7th June, 5th July, 2nd
August

Coffee mornings, with
bacon rolls and Jigsaw
library:
10-1pm Saturday 3rd
June, 1st July, 5th
August

Breakfast Cafe Church:
Sunday July 30th 10am at Witheridge Parish Hall

'Christians in Witheridge' Beer and Hymns night:
St John's Parish Church 6pm 11th June. £5 for a pasty and a drink ,
and the chance to sing some of your favourite hymns.

Ruth Towers

Thank you to everyone for your contributions in this plan.

If you have any good news stories to share, or anything to add to the 'community notice board' for the next plan then please send it to me by **Friday 14th July**.

Megan Heath, Circuit Administrator



Good News from Emmanuel



Emmanuel have had a busy Easter.

It started with the joint Walk of Witness starting at St Mary's Church leading down to Emmanuel, on Good Friday.

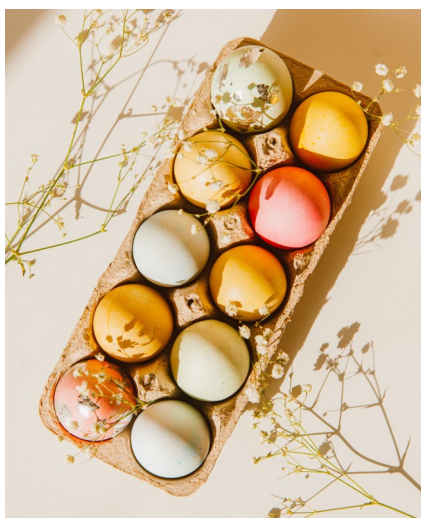
This was followed by a thought provoking Easter Sunday Service with Julio Andrade.

The photograph is of the cross decorated outside the church with Spring flowers.

Good News from Hele Lane

At Hele Lane, we started celebrating the Easter season with a 4 part preaching series over lent studying Holy Week. Good Friday then saw a cuppa chat special with tea, coffee and cake and an Easter egg hunt for the young at heart! With over 60 people attending, half of which were non-church, we were delighted with the morning. Easter Sunday then saw another egg hunt in a nearby field followed by cake and hot cross buns in the church before an Easter family celebration.

Claire Davey



have the chance to relax and talk in a quiet space. There was also a hula hoop challenge taken on by some.

Roots & Shoots

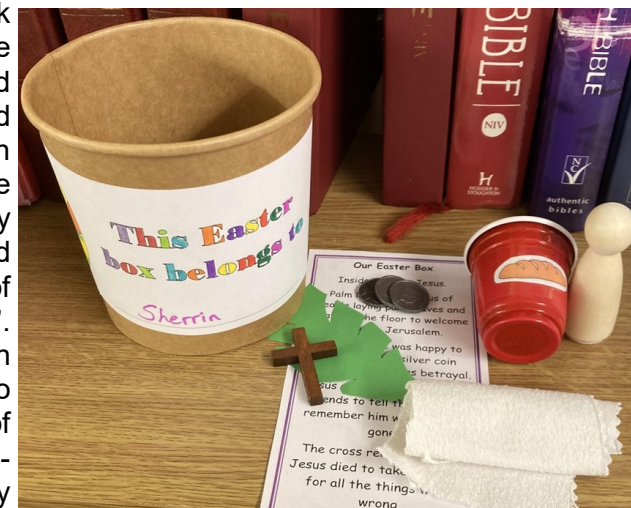
'Roots' Bible Study group for secondary aged young people of the circuit continues to run on the second Sunday of the month. In February we talked about the importance of good roots. In March we talked about Baptism and Mark, Kirsty B, Sherrin & Stuart all shared their Baptism stories.

'Shoots' Bible Study for primary children, years 3-6, meets on 5th Sundays. This month we will be thinking about Prayer using (among other things) paper aeroplanes!

Lighthouse

We had 39 children at the Easter Eggstravaganza in Witheridge on Maundy Thursday. In the craft session the children made a perpetual calendar, they also enjoyed their games session led by Mark which included being different types of beans. As we watched videos going through Holy Week we talked about the Easter story and the children created their own box with symbols of the story so that they could go home and share the story of 'The Empty Tomb'. We are very much looking forward to welcoming lots of children at the 3-day event 31st May – 2nd June at the playing fields at Morchard Bishop.

Sherrin Neenan, Youth Worker (Emmanuel, Hele Lane, Witheridge)



Good News from the Youth Team

The Gathering Kids

We took a group of 10 young people to the Gathering Kids @ Belmont in February. We looked at the story of the wise and foolish builders and the importance of building our lives on a strong foundation. It was a good afternoon and a good time was had by all!

Prime & Edge Christmas Meal & Games



At Prime alongside the usual games and craft we are now having a 'God-slot' at the end of the evening. In February our focus was about how much God loves us and the world. In March we looked at the fact that Jesus wants to be our friend and how important Jesus and our friends are in our lives. We are still very busy at Prime and a good proportion of them are coming along to Spree with us in June.



At the March Edge we had a pamper evening with face masks and nail painting. It was lovely to

Good News from Copplestone

The cafe at Copplestone continues to be a great outreach for the local community.



We have a talented crew of Level 2 food hygiene certificated volunteers who make and serve delicious cakes such as lemon drizzle, brownies and coffee and walnut to name a few. There's also toasted tea cakes and occasionally crumpets and cheese scones if you'd rather have something not so sweet.

There's also a range of teas, hot chocolate with marshmallow and cream and café style coffees such as lattes, cappuccinos or americanos.

It's all free as well but a donation to a monthly local charity is always welcome, but not expected.

In February we held our third quarterly café church, this is in place of the usual Sunday evening service. This time we had a very entertaining talk and demonstration on the wonder of bubbles and the mystery of God's creativity by our very own Professor of Physics Sir Roy Sambles.

It would be lovely see some new faces from the circuit visiting our cafe. You would be made most welcome. We are open every Thursday from 9am - 12pm and at the moment we are taking part in the warm space initiative after cafe from 12pm - 6pm with a light soup and roll lunch between 12pm and 2pm.

Lulu Couchman

Preaching Plan June 2023 - August 2023

	June				July					August			
	4	11	18	25	2	9	16	23	30	6	13	20	27
Copplestone 10:45	J Duke	P Smith HC	P Morrish	L Martin	TBC	GRID	P Yendell	S Schofield	C Down	G Harry	J Madden	T Nott	TBC
18:15	Wed Housegroup	S Mackay	I Pinhey	C Smallacombe	R Sambles	Circuit Service	M Greig	I Pinhey	H Castle	Café Church	R Allington	D Wordon	M Friend
Hele Lane 11:00	S Mackay HC	L Martin	H Castle	C Down	W Boundy	Junior Church	A Waite HC	J Allan	A Yates	R Govier	C Smallacombe	C Roe	P Smith HC
18:30	Leaders				Leaders	Circuit Service				Leaders			
Morched Bishop 11:00	A Browse	L Friend	C Hutchings	M Burd	L Warren	P Smith HC	R Sambles	S Lakey	P Yendell	Nayamba Trust	M Jackson	LA	United at Emmanuel
18:00	Church Picnic	House Group		House Group	Church Picnic	Circuit Service		House Group		Church Picnic			
Wetheridge 10:30	H Castle	R Allington	C Pullen	T Nott	M Burd	J Cole	R Towers	L Friend	R Towers Breakfast with St John's	S Mackay	P Smith HC	C Hutchings	D Haylett
						Circuit Service							

Key:

CC Café Church	CS Circuit Service
FCN Farming Community Network	FS Family Service
HC Holy Communion	LA Local Arrangement
P Prayer Service	US United Service

Safeguarding of Children and Vulnerable Adults

The Methodist Church requires that all Local Preachers, Worship Leaders and Ministers are DBS checked and safeguarding trained through the Foundation Module.

All visiting preachers are politely reminded that when you come to preach in Ringsash you are required to adhere to the Circuit's safeguarding policy, a copy of which can be provided on request or can be downloaded from:
<http://ringsashcircuit.org.uk/safeguarding/>

Any Preacher who would appreciate a conversation about these requirements, please contact the Ringsash Superintendent.