

Newsletter



Ampthill Clophill Flitwick

August 2026



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A Message from our Minister

It's that time of year when people are busy planning. Maybe for a holiday or days out with the grandchildren, a move away to University or a new school, a big birthday or surprise party? In the Methodist church we are planning for the new church year, and for some ministers this means a new manse and circuit. We are good at planning, and at sharing our plans with family and friends. We like to look forward, don't we?

But how good are we at planning for things we won't be involved in? Are we good at that too? I had a conversation with my Mum about this. I said 'Mum, either you plan your funeral, or I will!' So we sat down together and she told me which funeral director to use, the hymns and readings she wanted, where it was to be and who would take it. It was a really positive conversation and I was so glad we had it, because when the time came that I needed to know, I had all the information to hand.

I've met with so many grieving people over the years who have no idea what their loved one would want, no idea where to start. It's so simple to do and is one of the best gifts we can give our loved ones.

I don't want this to sound morbid. My conversation with my Mum was fascinating and I learnt more about her faith through it - why she chose that reading, those hymns and what they meant to her. And if I'd planned it - well, I'd have got it so wrong! Apparently Mum didn't want us singing 'Jesus wants me for a sunbeam'!

So when you have a spare hour, sit down with your loved ones and have the conversation while you can.

God bless.

Silas

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Church Family News



Happy Birthday

to all those who have birthdays
this month.

Happy Anniversary

to those celebrating a wedding
anniversary this month.

May God be with you all on your special day and always.



Worship in August

August	2	9	16	23	30
Amphill	10.30 am Local Worship	9.30 am Worship led by Silas Wood (HC)	11.00 am Worship led by Silas Wood	10.30 am Worship led by Nigel Bibbings	Visit Clophill Lakes (more details to follow) OR 10.30 am Songs of Praise at Flitwick
Clophill	10.30 am Worship led by Janet Watts	10.30 am Worship led by Chris Fox	9.30 am Worship led by Silas Wood (HC)	11.00 am Local Worship	
Flitwick	10.30 am Worship led by Silas Wood	11.00 am Worship led by Nigel Bibbings (HC)	10.30 am Worship led by Claire Peck	9.30 am Breakfast Church Silas Wood	



Worship in August

2nd August

Ampthill	Local Worship	10.30 am
Clophill	Worship led by Janet Watts	10.30 am
Flitwick	Worship led by Rev. Silas Wood	10.30 am

9th August

Ampthill	Worship led by Rev. Silas Wood (HC)	9.30 am
Clophill	Worship led by Chris Fox	10.30 am
Flitwick	Worship led by Rev. Nigel Bibbings (HC)	11.00 am

16th August

Ampthill	Worship led by Rev. Silas Wood	11.00 am
Clophill	Worship led by Rev. Silas Wood (HC)	9.30 am
Flitwick	Worship led by Claire Peck	10.30 am

23rd August

Ampthill	Worship led by Rev. Nigel Bibbings	10.30 am
Clophill	Local Worship	11.00 am
Flitwick	Breakfast Church led by Rev. Silas Wood	9.30 am

30th August

Visit Clophill Lakes (look out for details of arrangements)

OR

Come to a **Songs of Praise service at Flitwick** **10.30 am**

If you hope to come to this service and would like to choose a favourite hymn please let me (Janet) know by the previous Sunday, 23rd August.

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Circuit Farewell Service

for Rev. Leslie Noon and Rev. Chris Sandy

Sunday 2nd August 4pm at Priory, Bedford

What's On in August

Monday

Craft Café at Flitwick 3rd August

2.30 pm - 4.00 pm

Tuesday

Prayer Meeting at 6 Brinsmade Road, Ampthill

2.30 pm

Wednesday

Tea and Chat at Clophill

10.00 am - 12 noon

Tea and Chat at Flitwick

2.30 pm - 3.45 pm

Thursday

Community Café at Ampthill

10.30 am - 1.30 pm

Saturday

Coffee and Croissants at Clophill 8th August 10.00 am - 12 noon

Harvest

For harvest there will be donations for the NEED project at Flitwick and Clophill and the Bedford Food Bank for Ampthill.

We will also have All We Can Harvest appeal envelopes.

Greensand Community Harvest Supper and quiz, this year will be in the Upper Room at Ampthill on the evening of Saturday 26 September. Angie Woodcraft, quiz-master extraordinaire will preside over the quiz. Everyone is invited and more details to follow. If you are able to help with preparations and/or tidying up, please contact Anne 07885176355, anne@foley.org.uk

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Harvest Services - 20th September

Ampthill	Worship led by Rev. Silas Wood	11.00 am
Clophill	Worship led by Liz Little	10.30 am
Flitwick	Worship led by Chris Robinson	10.30 am

A Message from Bedford Foodbank

As we plan our Harvest Appeal this year we are so grateful for the support everyone at Greensands Community Church has shown to our community by supporting our work. On behalf of Bedford Foodbank, I wanted to thank you for your congregation's continued support of our work.

As you may be aware, sadly the need for emergency food in our area still remains incredibly high. During the last year, Bedford Foodbank has provided 19,240 emergency food parcels to people who can't afford the essentials.

Thank you for your support, which is so vital to ensure that we can continue to provide our services in Bedford Borough

Churches like yours are already vital partners as we seek to end hunger in Bedford Borough today, but there is so much we can explore as Harvest approaches together. As well as ending hunger today, our vision is to end hunger together with our communities and end hunger forever by building more just systems.

This vision echoes, for us, God’s call in Micah 6:8: to act justly, love mercy and walk humbly. It’s about supporting people today when they are in crisis, seeking justice by influencing people in power, all while serving one another humbly, and including as many people as possible.



Eco Update

We are continuing to change cleaning products as they run out.

Most recently change is the toilet rolls. But with August being a quieter month it may take a while to use up the last few of the old supply. But happy to receive any feedback on the new product.

We have recently restocked hand towels, but they are already made from recycled paper, so no change needed.

Also, when anti-bacterial spray runs out they can be refilled. This is a Tesco own product that anyone can buy.

Good progress but still some way to go.

Angela
On behalf of the Eco Church Team



Faith versus Doubts

Living by faith means calm and security
In God's love,
Trusting in Him and His Word
No matter what life throws up at us
And, what evil and injustice man carries out in the world.

Doubts only bring fear and insecurity
And to some extent disables a person's walk with the Lord.

Even though we are appalled at what we see and hear,
How evil, cruelty and sin seem to dominate
Threatening human existence

And we cry out to God
"Why"!?
"Where are you"!?
"Aren't you a God of love, hope and justice"?
Doubts can then creep in as Satan tempts us so.

But focussing our eyes on Jesus
And trusting in His Word
All our doubts about his love will disappear,
For one day all evil will be forever destroyed
When Jesus comes to reign,
Bringing Satan's days of wickedness to an end,
With everlasting peace
To those who have put their faith in him.

Lance



A Prayer Alphabet

As you can see I have used a different format for the prayer suggestions this month. I hope you will find them helpful. I would be interested to know your thoughts.

- A Give to God the **adoration** he deserves.
- B Ask a **blessing** on those you love.
- C Let us **confess** our sins to God.
- D Pray that God will help us to be true **disciples** of Jesus.
- E May we follow the **example** of Jesus and live lives of service.
- F We rejoice that God, our **Father**, **forgives** us. Pray that God will help us to **forgive** others.
- G May the **grace** of God be with us.
- H May we recognise the **Holy Spirit's** promptings in our lives.
- I Thank God that Jesus **intercedes** for us.
- J May the **joy** that Jesus offers his disciples be ours.
- K Let us recognise Jesus as the **King** we follow.
- L May we make Jesus the **Lord** of our lives.
- M May we stand in awe of the **majesty** of God.
- N Ask God to give us spiritual **nourishment** through his word.
- O Pray that God will teach us to be **obedient** to him.
- P May the **peace** of God be with us.
- P Thank God for his **promises** we find in the Bible.
- Q Ask God to help us to come closer to him in our **quiet** times.

- R Pray that God will help us to **remember** all that he has done for us.
- S Ask God to help us use the **spiritual** gifts he has given us.
- S Pray for those **seeking** a closer relationship with God.
- T Ask God for help with resisting **temptations**.
- T May we **trust** God in all circumstances of life.
- U Ask God for greater **understanding** of his will for us.
- V May we recognise that our relationship with Jesus is the most **valuable** thing in our lives.
- W May we **worship** God in our daily lives as well as on a Sunday.
- W Pray that God will give us opportunities to **witness** for him and for help to use those opportunities.
- Y Pray for **young** people that you know.



Local Preacher Appointments

Please pray for preachers from our Greensand Community Church who are planned to lead worship in July:

Anne Foley	23rd at Sandy; 23rd at London Road
Perllyn Thomas	23rd at Sharnbrook
Janet Watts	2nd at Clophill; 9th at Putnoe Heights
Angie Woodcraft	9th at Kempston East



Boys' Brigade and Girls' Association



July saw two weeks of meeting before another Brigade session came to an end.

The first week, Anchors had a summer holiday themed evening, and Juniors a sun safety evening. Company & Seniors headed out for a litter pick.

The second week we were due to head to Ampthill Park for a picnic, however the temperatures once again caused us to rethink and instead we picnicked in the back room at the church with all the curtains closed.

The end of our BBGA year saw Church Parade at Flitwick when we enrolled a new Senior (A teenager no less) and awarded some badges and the Annual awards. It was great to have some of our new families at church that Sunday and also stay for lunch, along with members from Church.

We had a few folk missing from lunch but we gave everything unopened and in date to the Flitwick Community fridge. The ice creams we donated to Tea & Chat for warm Wednesday afternoons.

Looking ahead to September we start back on Thursday 17th September, when we hope to have some new helpers on board, as well as some additional members in Juniors. The summer break may feel like a long one for BBGA leaders but long before we head back then preparations will begin for the new session.

Why not play your part in making BBGA a success and allowing more young people to start the journey that is faith. I have emailed some folk

specifically but if you are interested then please do drop an email to 1flitwickBBGA@gmail.com

Thank you to those who have been praying both for our members and for more helpers to come onboard. Please continue to pray for the youngsters over the summer and the leaders as they prepare for a new session.

Angela

Company Captain/Leader in Charge

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News from Paraguay

Whilst England has been enjoying some warm summer weather it has been winter here in Paraguay.

Winter lasts from June to August, but just comes in short sharp spells. Most days remain warm and sunny. Which is why a spell of winter weather can feel so cold here.

This year it began with a couple of blasts of winter as polar air found its way to Paraguay.

Two weeks in a row there were a couple of frosty nights. Which when everything is built for the heat felt very cold. One night out here in the countryside it got down as low as -3.

Paraguay becomes a very quiet country at times like that with everyone staying indoors until the weather is a bit warmer.

As always is the case the cold does pass and now after being quite chilly last week the temperature is back over 30.

And quite comically now that it has warmed up schools have closed for the winter holidays. Like the Christmas holidays in England they only last for a couple of weeks. Everyone gets quite long enough time off during the summer.

Before the cold arrived I made a start on pruning my trees to build up a pile of firewood for the coming year. Did not quite get it finished before the cold arrived and so was up balancing on the top of the ladder this week cutting the last few branches.

In my capacity as a source of knowledge about Paraguay I have had several families to show around this month Something I always enjoy doing.

Then so far as this month's exploring went there has not been a whole lot going on. With it being cold outside.

I did though get to visit a railway museum in the old railway workshop in the town of Sapucaí.

The old shed has been turned into a museum and as well as a few steam locomotives the machinery is still sitting where it was left when the railways in Paraguay shut down at the turn of the century.

Most of that machinery (and the trains) came from the UK. Walking around I could see stamps on the various machines saying things such as London, Birmingham, Glasgow or elsewhere that heavy machinery was made.

An interesting afternoon out and as is so often the case in Paraguay I had the place to myself.

Simon

Flitwick Village Hall Coffee Mornings

During August the Coffee mornings on Fridays at Flitwick Village Hall will be in aid of the following:

7th August Tibbs Dementia

14th August L & D Neonatal Unit

21st August Royal British Legion

28th August Healing Rooms, Flitwick

The Newsletter

Thank you to those who have contributed to this newsletter. I look forward to next month when those activities which have taken a summer break will resume and there will be more news to report.

September is a busy time. As well as activities starting up again after a break, we will come together for our annual Covenant Service on 6th September at Ampthill, at the start of the new Methodist year. Later in the month we celebrate harvest time. You will have already read about our harvest services which will be held on 20th September (see page 7).

Please let me have items for the September newsletter by **Sunday 23rd August**. Thank you very much. I appreciate your support.

Janet
