

Newsletter



Ampthill Clophill Flitwick
December 2025



Welcome to the December Newsletter

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A Message from our Minister

Our theme for Advent and Christmas this year is 'Gifted', encouraging us to give thanks by recognising the gifts in one another.

As we journey through Advent to Christmas and on to Epiphany, we will reflect on how we are gifts from God and can be gifts to others, offering hope and love. At Christmas we celebrate the gift of Jesus, given out of God's love for us, and then on to Epiphany and the gifts of the Magi. We will be giving thanks for the greatest gift we have received: Jesus Christ, God's love made visible among us. In Jesus, we discover grace, hope, and the promise of new life - a gift freely given, not something we have to earn.

This season our theme is a reminder that God has given each of us unique abilities, passions, and strengths. Some gifts are quiet and steady, others bold and creative - but all are given with purpose. When we offer these gifts in our church, our families, and our community, we are taking part in God's ongoing work of sharing love and bringing light into the world.

As we celebrate Christmas, I pray that we will recognise Christ as God's gift to us, that we will honour the gifts God has placed in one another and that we will encourage, support, and empower each other to use these gifts generously and joyfully.

So remember: God has gifted us - so that we may be a gift to others.

Christmas blessing to you all.

Silas



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.



Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn.
Romans 12:15



Flowers at Flitwick

Thank you to the many who have contributed in various ways in 2025 by gracing the chapel at Flitwick with flowers. This adds beauty to our worship and gives the opportunity to give flowers out to our congregation in celebration and love.

In October we also sponsored a floral arrangement at the Parish Church flower festival which was a great success for them (see letter in foyer).

Many thanks,

Maryan



Worship in December

7th December

United Worship at Clophill led by Rev Silas Wood **10.30 am**

Circuit Advent Service at Henlow (see next page) **3.00 pm**

14th December

Ampthill Worship led by Rev Silas Wood (HC) **9.30 am**

Clophill Local Worship **10.30 am**

Flitwick Christingle Service **11.00 am**

21st December

Ampthill Local Worship **11.00 am**

Clophill Carol Service led by Rev Silas Wood **11.00 am**

Flitwick Worship led by Chris Robinson **10.30 am**

Christmas Eve

Ampthill Carol Service led by Rev Silas Wood **3.00 pm**

Flitwick Worship led by Rev Silas Wood (HC) **11.15 pm**

Christmas Day

Ampthill United Service at Flitwick **10.00 am**

Clophill Worship at St Mary's Church **10.30 am**

Flitwick Worship led by Rev Silas Wood **10.00 am**

28th December

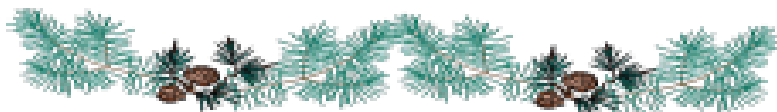
United Worship at Ampthill led by Janet Watts **10.30 am**

4th January

United Worship at Flitwick led by Rev Silas Wood **10.30 am**

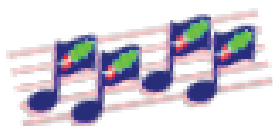


CIRCUIT ADVENT SERVICE



HENLOW METHODIST CHURCH
HIGH STREET, HENLOW, SG16 6BS

SUNDAY 7th DECEMBER
3.00 pm



Followed by Refreshments
All Welcome

A Retiring Offering will be taken for
Methodist Charity
ALL WE CAN

Come and join us for this time of worship and celebration
as we prepare ourselves for this special season
of the Christian year, when we look forward to
the birth of our Saviour, Jesus.

Worship in December

| December | 7 | 14 | 21 | 24/25 | 28 |
|----------|--|--|--|---|--|
| Ampthill | 10.30 am United Worship at Clophill | 9.30 am Worship led by Silas Wood (HC) | 11.00 am Local Worship | 24th 3.00 pm Carol Service Silas Wood 25th 10.00 am United at Flitwick | 10.30 am United Worship led by Janet Watts |
| Clophill | 10.30 am United Worship Silas Wood | 11.00 am Local Worship | 11.00 am Carol Service Silas Wood | 25th Worship at St Mary's Church | 10.30 am United Worship at Ampthill |
| Flitwick | 10.30 am United Worship at Clophill | 11.00 am Christingle Service | 10.30 am Worship led by Chris Robinson | 24th 11.15 pm (HC) Silas Wood 25th 10.00 am Silas Wood | 10.30 am United Worship at Ampthill |

Tuesday Prayer Meeting

We have had a few changes to the meeting one being a new time 2.30pm and also a new venue. We are now meeting at Perllyn and Corrine Thomas's home, 6 Brinsmade Road, Ampthill.

It would be lovely to see some new faces.

Sheila

What's On in December

Monday

Craft Café at Flitwick 1st December 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

Ampthill Ladies Group 2.00 pm

10th December - Christmas Party - Silas

Tea and Chat at Flitwick (3rd and 10th) 2.30 pm - 3.45 pm

Thursday

Baby Comes Too at Flitwick (Term time) 9.15 am - 11.15 am

Community Café at Ampthill 10.30 am - 1.30 pm

Boys' Brigade and Girls' Association at Flitwick (Term time)

Anchors and Juniors 6.15 pm - 7.30 pm

Company and Seniors 7.00 pm - 8.15 pm

Saturday

Men's Breakfast at Flitwick 6th December 8.30 am

Saturday 6th December 11.00am

Join us at Flitwick to decorate the Christmas tree, sing carols and eat mince pies and chocolate. All welcome.

Coffee and Croissants at Clophill 13th Dec. 10.00 am - 12 noon

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Craft Café

Craft Café continues to meet at Flitwick Mission Hub on the first Monday of the month - although Bank Holidays can cause confusion!! We meet from 2.30pm - 4.00pm, starting with refreshments, followed with creative activities and conversation and generally, a good time of fellowship together. Please feel free to join us whenever/if possible.

In 2026 we will meet on:

Monday 5th January

Monday 2nd February

Monday 2nd March

Monday 13th April (2nd Monday in the month)

Maybe you feel you have no craft to bring, so just bring yourself and talk to one another - that is a craft in itself.

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Carol Singing

CTAF have been invited to sing carols at Aldi in Flitwick on Friday 19th December from 10.30am - 11.30am. However, space is limited if we are not to get in the way of shoppers so we hope to be a group of 15 singers plus keyboard.

If you are interested in joining us on that morning please let Linda know (tel.01525 714060) so that we do not abuse our invitation and take too many people. I am sorry that we may not be able to take all who offer but we will accept the names of the first 15 volunteers.

Thanking you.

Linda

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Christmas or Halloween

Do you celebrate Christmas or Halloween?

Or maybe you celebrate both

One celebrates life

The other death

Although not many people would know.

You see their merchandise for sale

Side by side in shops and garden centres,

One represents Light

The other darkness,

One is hope

The other is despair.

There is a spiritual battle between the two,

Good and evil,

Truth and lies,

Christ and Satan.

Christmas rejoices in Godliness, Holiness and Purity,

Halloween rejoices in sin.

Which camp are you in?

God says,

You can't be in both.

Lance



A Book of Lance's Poems

Many of you say how much you enjoy Lance Mason's poems. A local publisher has collected over 65 of them under the title *God's Love for You*, divided into topics that cover the seasons, nature, the Trinity, spiritual living, and God's promises to us.

"Poetry that is God-affirming, fear-confronting, peace-inducing and threaded through with humility, courage, humour, and wonder."

It has colour illustrations throughout.

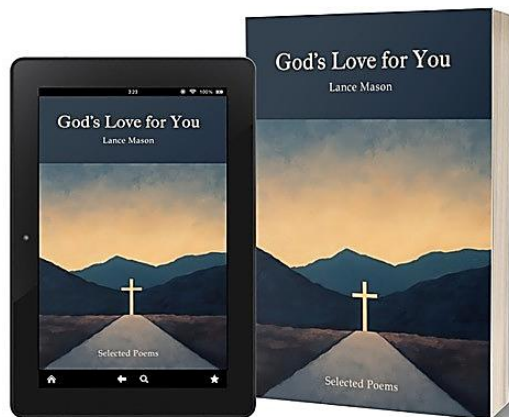
There will be a few copies placed in each mission hub and you may take one in exchange for a donation to church funds. Any queries please speak to Lance or Carole.

You can also buy copies for £6.99 from Amazon. Search 'Lance Mason God's Love for You', or simply enter the 13-digit ISBN which is 9781916604353. Or download the Kindle edition for £5.

100% of royalties from book sales will go to Greensand Community Methodist Church.

Here is a direct link to view the book on Amazon:

<https://amzn.eu/d/8oBiWEe>

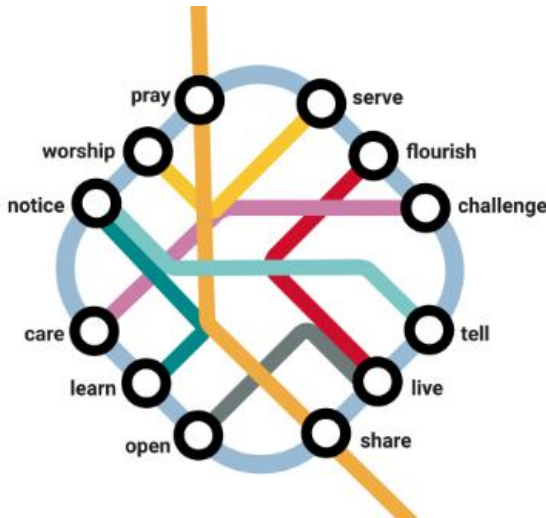


Growth Planning

The Circuit has asked us to consider how we are nurturing our spiritual growth.

Margaret Byass, Janet Watts, Ann Jones and Anne Foley went along to the circuit growth day to learn more. Angela Turner was leading the session. We are all happy to talk to anyone about our experiences and thoughts.

Growth happens when a church deepens its roots in the love of God and grows outward in love for our community. It's when **we** become **fully alive** in **Jesus Christ** and all that he wants the church to be.



Spiritual growth is about becoming more and more rooted in the love of God in Jesus Christ. This love that includes all people, calls us to share good news through evangelism and doing justice. A Methodist Way of Life (left) gives us the map of practices that help build

spiritual growth and discipleship.

Over the coming weeks, as we celebrate advent and Christmas, please think and pray. Ask yourself, talk and pray with your friends and family.

How am I growing spiritually?

What can I do to learn more about Jesus?

FLITWICK SINGERS PRESENT

Rejoice and be merry!

at Sacred Heart Church Flitwick

Where voices rise like winter stars,
And melodies drift through candlelit air ...

MONDAY 15 TH DECEMBER

• Concert starts at 7:30 PM



Tickets: £10 Available from: theflitwicksingers@gmail.com

Scan the QR code or available on the door.



Proceeds from this concert will
be given to Stepping Stones,
Luton



Prayer Suggestions for December

The shepherds hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in a manger. When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart.

Luke 2:16-19

6 days beginning 1st December - Advent

- As we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus, pray that we will want to spend more time with God.
- Pray that we will not become too busy to remember what we are preparing to celebrate this Christmas.
- Pray that we will expect this to be a time of renewal as we remember that the birth of Jesus heralded the beginning of a new era. May it be so for us.
- During Advent we remember that we look forward to when Jesus comes again. Pray that we will be ready.

Week beginning 7th December - Hope

- Advent is a time of hope, with Jesus bringing a new hope to the world which had been waiting for a Messiah for so long.
- Pray that the hope Jesus brought to the world will be ours.
- Pray that we will look forward with hope, knowing that Jesus is with us whatever we face as we go forward.
- Pray that the God of hope will bring joy and peace to us and to the world. Look up Romans 15:13.

Week beginning 14th December - Waiting

- As we wait for the day when we celebrate Jesus' birth give thanks for all God's goodness.
- Pray for people who are waiting for a new birth at this time.

- Mary had the long wait of pregnancy before Jesus was born. Pray that when we have to wait for something that we will wait with patience.
- Mary accepted her role as the mother of Jesus. Pray that we will be willing to accept what God has planned for us, knowing that he will equip us for the task he has for us.

Week beginning 21st December -Jesus' birth

- Rejoice in the birth of Jesus. Give praise to God.
- Jesus came to bring us life. May we accept the life he offers us with thanksgiving.
- Pray for those who give no thought for why they are celebrating and for those for whom Christmas is a difficult time.
- Jesus came to bring us joy. Give thanks for the joy he gives, which is a deep lasting joy because Jesus is our Saviour, and does not depend on our circumstances.

4 days beginning 28th December - End of Year

- Thank God for bringing us through to the end of another year.
- Thank God for his presence with us guiding us through the year.
- Ask God to forgive us for those times when we have been unaware of his guidance and have tried to do things on our own.
- Praise God for his mercy and love.

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Local Preacher Appointments

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

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|-----------------|---------------------------------------|
| Perllyn Thomas | 28th at Shefford |
| Janet Watts | 7th at Kempston East; 28th at Amptill |
| Angie Woodcraft | 14th at Putnoe Heights |

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Ampthill Ladies Group

Ampthill Methodist Mission Hub

Meetings are held fortnightly on Wednesday afternoons at 2.00pm followed by refreshments. All are welcome.

On 29 October, we were joined by Mariella Cook telling us about **“Mary - The Flying Duchess of Bedford”**, who we learned was a proficient pilot, whose aviation activities earned her the title of the ‘Flying Duchess’. She was the second daughter of the Rev Walter Tribe, rector of Stockbridge. She was born in Stockbridge in Hampshire on 26 September 1865. She spent much of her early life in India apart from a short interlude at Cheltenham Ladies College, during which time she met Lord Herbrand Russell, the youngest son of the 9th Duke of Bedford. The couple were married in 1888. Five years later, Mary and her husband unexpectedly became 11th Duke and Duchess of Bedford, following the sudden death of her brother-in-law, the 10th Duke of Bedford, who left no legitimate heir. They inherited more than 86,000 acres of land, including the Woburn Abbey estate in Bedfordshire with its long established pheasant shoot. Mary became the ‘top lady shot’ of her time and also established a private cottage hospital at Woburn Abbey for the benefit of the local community. Mary died at the age of 71 in 1937 when her private aeroplane crashed into the North Sea while she was on a solo flight. A remarkable woman who excelled in all sporting activities and also made a major contribution to the world of natural history and ornithology.

On 12 November we enjoyed a very educational talk with Caroline Chappell entitled **“The Unknown Soldier”** where we learnt about Rev David Railton who was ordained in 1908. During the 1st World War, he became very concerned at the number of ‘unknown soldiers’ and the fact they received no formal recognition for their war efforts and were left in unmarked graves. He arranged to fly several soldiers home in order for them to receive full military honours for their war efforts.

The Queen Mother started the tradition of leaving a wedding bouquet on the grave of the unknown soldier in Westminster Abbey, which continues to this day.

Our last November meeting is due on 26 November with Richard Luscombe talking about “**An American at Wrest Park**”.

Carole

ALG Committee Member

Creation Care and Eco Church

Christmas is approaching and can often be a time of excess, with gifts food and decorations not forgetting new clothes that some feel to be a necessity at Christmas.

Recycling and reusing are as important at Christmas as at other times of the year. Buying local and making at home are other ecofriendly alternatives. When shopping, look out for the following logos to identify more sustainable producers:



Finally, at all costs please avoid using glitter! It is basically a micro plastic product, that pollutes the environment and can also enter the food chain. See poster in our churches for more information.

Angela

On behalf of the Eco Team

A New Year Date for your Diary

After enjoying a Christmas lunch at Flitwick for the past few years, we are taking a break this year, and, instead, planning something for the New Year when life is not so busy, Christmas lunches not in such abundance and we are all feeling a little flat in the dark days of January!



On Saturday January 10th, we invite friends from our three mission hubs to come to a Soup Lunch at Flitwick. Many years ago, Anne Foley and Rebecca Caird and Girls' Brigade used to organize amazing Soup Lunches at Flitwick which were always very popular. There will, of course, be more than just a selection of soups. As always there will be a selection of cakes to follow the soup!

So please, put the date in your 2026 diaries and come for a time of Soup and Fellowship. If anyone would like to offer to make their favourite soup recipe or provide a cake or tray bake please let Ann Blair or Linda Pitts know.

Please let us know by the beginning of January if you are able to join us.

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Flitwick Village Hall Coffee Mornings

During December the coffee mornings at Flitwick Village Hall will be in aid of the following:

5th December Mid Beds Widows

12th December Flitwick WI

19th December Town Lands

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Boys' Brigade and Girls' Association



November we took part in the Flitwick Remembrance Parade and laid a wreath.

Battalion competitions were updated just after I wrote the previous report. The Junior Competitions on the 22nd were change to figure marching and dodge ball but sadly our Juniors were not available to attend. The Anchor party took place on Saturday 29th November and we had both our Anchors attend and have a great time.

Thursday Evenings have included a variety of activities. For Anchors and Juniors, they covered Remembrance, did some den building, and played sleeping bag games and a ninja warrior themed evening. Company & Seniors also reflected on Remembrance, considered the Nicene Creed and celebrated St Andrews day.

To keep up with all our Thursday evening activities do like our Facebook page or look at the Notice Board in the back room at Flitwick

One way in which you can support the work with children and young people is to pray and there are still some Prayer Cards available. Thank you to those of you that have taken a card already, they will available again at the Clophill United Service.

Lot of exciting things happening, please do support us in any way you can

Blessings

Angela

Company Captain/Group leader



Children and Families at Greensand Community Methodist Church

Messy Church

Our Christmas Messy Church will take place on Saturday 20th December at our Flitwick Mission Hub from 4pm. We would love for the wider church to be involved by contributing food to our Christmas buffet. We would also love for the wider church to come along and share in the craft and the worship and engage with the families and young people in attendance. If you can help or want to come along please speak to Angela or email greensandcommunitymessychurch@gmail.com.

Another way you can support the children and young people is financially. You can either put cash into a envelope marked “Children and young people” into the collection at any of our mission hubs. Or you can pay direct to the bank using “children and young people” as the reference. Thank you to those who have already contributed.

We have the chance to support the local Round Table with their Santa Float and raise funds at the same time for our children and young people. The date we have agreed is Monday 22nd December. Anyone over the age of 14 and keen on walking, can collect. Under 14 can if accompanied by an adult. The more volunteers we can muster the more we are likely to collect – oh and we also need someone to play Santa! (Costume provided) Please speak to Angela or call/whatsapp 07954377971.

Finally we are looking to have a zoom meeting to decide on how we shape Messy Church moving forward, as well as a provision for those are getting too old for Messy Church. If you would like to be included in the meeting, please contact Angela as above.

Angela

On behalf of BBGA, Messy Church and Baby Comes Too

News from Paraguay

As the year moves through November Paraguay moves toward summer. Cold nights are now just history and soon every day will be as hot as the one before. This year November has been pleasant rather than hot. There have been quite a few wet days and that always keeps the temperature down.

Rain and then sunshine is one of the reasons everything in Paraguay is always so green.

The approaching end of the year also brings the end of the school year. Exams until mid November then that is it until late February.

It is also the time of school festivals. I went to the festival at Evangelina's school and that made a good night. Every class had their turn to dance in traditional costume on the open air stage. Everyone would have been practicing for a while to make sure they knew their dances.

This being Paraguay even though the smallest of the children were pre-school nothing got started until after 10. Advertised start times have little meaning around here.

One interesting find on the shopping front came in the local supermarket. They have a freezer of frozen fish. I never know what I will find in there as it contains things people have caught on fishing trips and then sold to the supermarket. As such they might have a type of fish for sale, and then never again have it.

My discovery was to find they had a few frozen piranha. Not something I had seen before so a chance not to be missed. Grilled they were very nice, if rather bony.

I have also this month continued to keep busy showing people around. There are many more people coming to Paraguay now than in the past.

And I have one more thing to show them. In Paraguari one of the old steam locomotives has been brought out and installed next to the old station to form what will be a railway museum.

Simon

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The Newsletter

As this is the last newsletter for this year I would like to thank all those who have supported the newsletter in any way during the year, with your contributions and/or your comments.

Will you be one of those people next year? It is your contributions that make the newsletter varied and interesting so please let me have items for the January issue by **Sunday 21st December**.

Thank you very much.

Janet

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