Newsletter

Greensand Community Methodist Church

Ampthill Clophill Flitwick

October 2026



Welcome to the October Newsletter

Contents

A Message from our Minister	3
Church Family News	4
Worship in October	4
What's On in October?	6
Poem – God's Amazing Feat of Engineering	7
Prayer Suggestions for October	8
Local Preacher Appointments	9
Boys' Brigade and Girls' Association	10
What is a Visit?	11
The Real Advent Calendar	12
My Flitwick Family in WW1 – Talk by Margaret Butt	13
News from Paraguay	14
Flitwick Village Hall Coffee Mornings	15
The Newsletter	16

A Message from our Minister

October is a month of change. The days are getting shorter, the temperatures are beginning to drop, and the trees are slowly letting go of their leaves. The colours may be beautiful, but there is also a sense that the year is winding down. Soon the garden will become quieter, and winter will settle in.

And yet, in the midst of all this, I have been planting crocus bulbs. It might seem a slightly strange thing to do - as the garden prepares for winter, I have been putting something into the ground that I won't see again for several months. For now, there is nothing to show for it. The bulbs lie hidden beneath the soil, through the cold and darkness of winter. But I know what is coming. When the days begin to lengthen again, those little bulbs will push their way upwards, bringing some of the first colour of spring.

Perhaps there is something for us to learn from this. We can easily become focused on what is ending: the falling leaves, the shorter days, the things we have lost or had to let go of. But God is always at work beyond what we can see. Sometimes new life begins quietly, unseen, while everything around us appears to be dormant.

The Christian story is, after all, a story of hope. The cross seemed to be an ending, but it became the beginning of new life. The tomb appeared to be final, but it was not the end.

So as we enter the darker months, perhaps we can remember those crocus bulbs beneath the soil. We may not be able to see what God is doing, but that doesn't mean that nothing is happening.

There are times when we are called to wait, to trust and to place our hope in what is yet to come. And, come spring, there will be crocuses.

God bless.

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.

Worship in October

October	4	11	18	25
Ampthill	10.30 am United Service at Clophill	9.30 am Worship led by Silas Wood (HC)	11.00 am Worship led by Silas Wood	10.30 am Worship led by Perllyn Thomas
Clophill	10.30 am United Service led by Brenda Ballantine	10.30 am Worship led by Janet Watts	2.30pm Worship led by Silas Wood (SoP)	11.00 am Worship led by Pat Lilley
Flitwick	10.30 am United Service at Clophill	11.00 am Worship led by Martin Truscott (HC)	10.30 am Worship led by John Sackett	9.30 am Breakfast Church Pat Lilley

Worship in October

4th October

Clophill	United Service led by Brenda Ballantine	**10.30 am**

11th October

Ampthill	Worship led by Rev. Silas Wood (HC)	**9.30 am**
Clophill	Worship led by Janet Watts	**10.30 am**
Flitwick	Worship led by Rev. Martin Truscott (HC)	**11.00 am**

18th October

Ampthill	Worship led by Rev. Silas Wood	**11.00 am**
Clophill	Worship led by Rev Silas Wood (SoP)	**2.30 pm**
Flitwick	Worship led by John Sackett	**10.30 am**

25th October

Ampthill	Worship led by Perllyn Thomas	**10.30 am**
Clophill	Worship led by Pat Lilley	**11.00 am**
Flitwick	Breakfast Church led by Pat Lilley	**9.30 am**

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1st November

Flitwick	United Service led by Rev. Silas Wood	**10.30 am**

8th November

Ampthill	Breakfast Church led by Rev. Silas Wood	**9.30 am**
Clophill	Worship at St Mary's Church	**10.30 am**
Flitwick	Worship led by Rev. Silas Wood (HC)	**11.00 am**

What's On in October?

Monday

Craft Café at Flitwick 5th October 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

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 7.30 pm - 9.00 pm

Saturday

Men's Breakfast at Flitwick 3rd October 8.30 am

Coffee and Croissants at Clophill 10th October 10.00 am - 12 noon

Ladies Breakfast at Flitwick 17th October 8.30 am

God's Amazing Feat of Engineering

A Poem Based on Psalm 139

To think that Almighty God thought of us
Loved and knew us, before we were conceived
Creating us in His own image
Just blows the mind.

To think an embryo and how it came to be
Were the beginnings of you and me
Is nothing short of a miracle,

And then to see how we developed
Within our mother's womb
We just cannot comprehend
The majestic complexity
Of God's Creative mind.

To know that we actually exist is a mystery
All unique from each other
With emotions and a brain
So much larger than artificial intelligence and a computer
With everything that makes us who we are
Down to our genes, DNA, finger prints and teeth.

We are the most remarkable
Advanced, mind-bending and mind-blowing miracle
Of all engineering.
We are so complex and unfathomable
We don't even know nor understand our own hearts and minds,
Let alone our emotions and inner being.

And yet how loveable and priceless we are to God
That he wants us all to have fellowship with Him.

Lance

Prayer Suggestions for October

1st October - International Day of Older Persons

- Pray that older people will feel valued. Pray for those who do not feel valued within their families.
- Thank God for the contributions of older people in paid work or as volunteers.
- Pray that the skills of older people will be recognised and celebrated.
- Pray for older people whose health issues prevent them from doing things they would like to do.

Week beginning 4th October - Homelessness Sunday

- Pray for people who are homeless.
- Pray for the charities who help homeless people.
- Pray for people who have lost their homes in natural disasters.
- Pray for people who have fled from their homes to keep themselves and their families safe.

Week beginning 11th October - Prisons Week

- Pray for victims of crime especially those who need healing, both mental and physical.
- Pray for offenders and those in prison.
- Pray for families of victims and offenders.
- Pray for those working in the prison service, and for chaplains.

Week beginning 18th October-

Week of Prayer for World Peace 11th - 18th October

The International Prayer for Peace
Lead us from death to life, from falsehood to truth;
Lead us from despair to hope, from fear to trust;
Lead us from hate to love, from war to peace;
Let peace fill our hearts, our world, our universe.

- Pray for peace in families and communities.
- Pray for places of conflict and innocent people caught up in these conflicts.

Week beginning 25th October - United Nations Day

"Together, let us make a decisive final push to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and build a healthy, prosperous future for us all."

Antonio Guterres, UN Secretary-General, 7th July 2026

Thank God for these achievements and pray for continued progress.

- Since 2015, nearly 1 billion people gained safely managed drinking water and 1.2 billion gained safely managed sanitation.
- 54 countries have successfully eliminated at least one neglected tropical disease, demonstrating major healthcare triumphs.

For more on the progress made with the Sustainable Development Goals see the United Nations website.

Local Preacher Appointments

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

Anne Foley	25th at London Road
Perllyn Thomas	11th at Priory; 25th at Ampthill
Angela Turner	25th at Priory
Janet Watts	11th at Clophill; 25th at Henlow

Boys' Brigade and Girls' Association

Since starting back after the summer break all our Company & Senior members have returned and our Junior. However not all the Anchors have returned but it may take time for some of the young people to adjust to the new school year.

All sections started back with a pizza themed evening, including sweet pizzas for the older age group.

October sees our first competition of the new session with 10-Pin Bowling for the Company& Seniors at Go Bowling in Dunstable on Saturday 10th. Do like our Facebook page where our progress will be updated during the day.

Our first Church Parade of the new session is on Thursday 1st October at 6.30pm. Please do come along and support the young people on this evening, which will be followed by refreshments.

New prayer cards will be available on this evening. The prayer cards are for members of the church to take away and pray for one or more of our young people. Thank you to those who have prayed for our young people over the past year.

How else can you support the work of BBGA?
Financially, - have you signed up to support us through easy fundraising? There are so many companies who are registered with Easy fundraising. Travel, electrical clothing, many online but some instore donations are available, including Tesco if you spend enough in one go!
https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/1stflitwickboysbrigade

Alternatively, if you would like to make a regular contribution to our funds just email 1FlitwickBBGA@gmail.com for details.

Join the team! We could still use some additional help on a Thursday evening – if only on an as and when basis – every little helps. Email 1flitwickBBGA@gmail.com for more information.

Thank you for your ongoing support for the work with the young people of our BBGA Company.

Angela
Company Captain/ Leader in Charge

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What is a Visit?

A session for all involved in Pastoral Care

with

Pauline Jackson, Regional Officer for Safeguarding
and Stuart Watkin, from the Learning Network

Saturday 31st October

10.00am -12.30 pm

at Priory Methodist Church, Bedford

Designed to support anyone with pastoral responsibilities in making confident, compassionate decisions in their role. Also looking at how churches can ensure no-one is overlooked through clear pathways, good signposting and shared responsibility.

Book at: https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/what-is-a-visit-tickets-1992823937041

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The Real Advent Calendar

In this modern age you can get a variety of Advent Calendars containing anything from chocolate to beauty products. But how many of them have any connection to advent or Christmas?



This is where The Real Advent Calendar is different. Behind each window is a line of the Christmas story and a fairtrade chocolate. The Real Advent Calendar also comes with an activity book which also includes the Christmas Story.

The Real Advent Calendar is made produced by the Meaningful Chocolate Company, and charity donations are made from the sale of the calendars. The Real Advent Calendar is not available in any supermarket.

Greensand Community Methodist Church will purchase an Advent Calendar for each child connected with the church, either through the groups for children and young people or our pastoral groups.

If you would like to order a calendar for either yourself or someone else at a price of £5 each then please email Angela Turner: turnerangela2026@gmail.com or there will be a signup form at the United Service at Clophill on 4th October. Latest date for orders is Sunday 18th October. The calendars should be available to be distributed at the United Service at Flitwick in November.

An Illustrated Talk

by

Margaret Butt



My FLITWICK FAMILY in WWI



7:30 pm

Flitton Church Hall

Friday 30th October 2026

Tickets £10

for tickets & information contact

Margaret Butt <mkatebutt@yahoo.co.uk>

proceeds in aid of Flitton Church

News from Paraguay

Trust everyone is fine over in Flitwick and that all had a good summer.

As for Paraguay -

September in Paraguay is very much a month of change.

It is getting light a little earlier in the morning and the cold winter nights are gone for another year.

It is the month that brings in spring and with the heat of summer still some way in the future one of the most pleasant times of year. Warm sunny days and nights that are cool but far from cold.

The month is a good time for getting jobs done around the garden. The plants are all coming back to life and the trees once more filling with leaves.

So I have spent many long afternoons tidying the place up and clearing away all that had not survived the winter.

Whilst doing that I even found several small trees that had seeded themselves and popped up around the garden.

It is also a nice month for getting out.

An ideal time for taking long walks across the countryside in the warm spring sunshine. There is always somewhere new to explore.

And further afield a good time for day trips.

One of those was to the little town of Atyra. A place that markets itself as the cleanest town in Paraguay.

It was a nice place to spend a few hours with a couple of large well kept plazas and a big old church.

I also took a day trip into the capital.

A trip to Asuncion is always a long day. Three hours on buses each way. A nice day out though.

My reason for going to the city was a little shopping. It is nice to live in the countryside, but what can be found in the shops is sometimes a little limited.

I had a good and successful day finding all that I had gone looking for and with daylight now lasting a little longer I was back home before dark.

Also while I was there quietly having a cup of coffee a stranger came up to me to tell me how much he enjoyed watching my videos on YouTube. Hardly the first time that sort of thing has happened.

And to show what a small world it is I have recently been talking to someone from Bedford who is thinking of moving to Paraguay.

I wait to see what the next month will bring along.

Simon

Flitwick Village Hall Coffee Mornings

During October the Coffee mornings on Fridays at Flitwick Village Hall will be run by:

2nd October	Flitwick Village Hall Management Committee
9th October	Flitwick Church
16th October	Trefoil Guild
23rd October	Saint Vincent de Paul
30th October	Flitwick Scout Group

The Newsletter

Thank you to those who have contributed to this newsletter. The contributions from our regular and occasional contributors are appreciated, and it would be lovely to receive something from more people as well.

Something to think about. For the last few years you have had the opportunity to put a Christmas Greeting in the December issue in exchange for a donation to a charity the church chooses to support at Christmas. As this opportunity is only used by a limited number of people, I am asking, would you like this to continue? If so, I will put the details in the next issue. Please let me know whether this is something that should be offered again this year.

Please let me have items for the November newsletter by **Sunday 25th October.** Thank you very much.

Janet