

Newsletter



Ampthill Clophill Flitwick
September 2026

“The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few.
Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send
out workers into his harvest field.”

Jesus in Matthew 9:37-38 niv

Harvest

www.heartlight.org

Welcome to the September Newsletter

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A Message from our Minister

On the first Sunday in September, we will share together in our annual Covenant Service. It is one of those occasions in the Methodist year when we are invited to pause, reflect and renew our commitment to God. Each year we are reminded that:

*“In this covenant God promises us new life in Christ.
For our part we promise to live no longer for ourselves but for God.”*

But what does it actually mean to live for God?

The Covenant Service goes on to give us some idea of what this might look like. We may be called to do something that is easy, or something that is difficult; something we enjoy, or something we would rather not do; something that brings us honour, or perhaps something that brings us criticism or even reproach.

Living for God doesn't necessarily mean that life will always be comfortable or straightforward. It means being willing to place our lives, our choices, our gifts and our future into God's hands, trusting that God will guide us and give us the strength and grace we need for whatever lies ahead.

And then we come to those wonderfully simple, yet incredibly powerful words:

*“I am no longer my own but yours.
Your will, not mine, be done in all things.”*

They are easy words to say. But perhaps they are not quite so easy to say when we stop and consider what they really mean.

To say “I am no longer my own but yours” is to recognise that our lives belong to God. To say “Your will, not mine, be done” is to acknowledge that sometimes God's way may be different from the way we would choose. That doesn't mean that we have to know exactly what God wants of us, or that we will always get things right. It means being willing to listen, to trust and to take the next step in faith.

Perhaps, as we come to our Covenant Service this year, we might hear these familiar words afresh. Not simply as words that we repeat because they are part of the service, but as a prayer that challenges us and invites us to place our whole lives in God's hands.

"I am no longer my own but yours. Your will, not mine, be done in all things."

Simple words. Challenging words.

And, if we mean them honestly, potentially life-changing words.

God bless you at the start of this new church year

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.

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A very big thank you to all who sent cards or popped in to see me on my birthday all very much appreciated. I had a wonderful weekend and met up with many old friends, as we get older friends are so very important and I have been really touched by the kindness of so many. It was a lovely surprise when Silas popped in with a card signed by my Church family, thank you all very much.

May God be with you all.

Sheila

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Worship in September

6th September

Ampthill	United Covenant Service (HC)	10.30 am
Circuit Welcome Service for Rev Zena Smith		
	Trinity, Biggleswade	3.00 pm

13th September

Ampthill	Breakfast Church led by Rev. Silas Wood	9.30 am
Clophill	Worship led by Jane Whymark	10.30 am
Flitwick	Worship led by Rev. Silas Wood (HC)	11.00 am

20th September – Harvest Services

Ampthill	Worship led by Rev. Silas Wood	11.00 am
Clophill	Worship led by Liz Little	9.30 am
Flitwick	Worship led by Chris Robinson	10.30 am

27th September

Ampthill	Worship led by Janet Watts	10.30 am
Clophill	Worship led by Rev. Silas Wood (HC)	11.00 am
Flitwick	Breakfast Church led by Rev. Silas Wood	9.30 am

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### 4th October

|                 |                                         |                 |
|-----------------|-----------------------------------------|-----------------|
| <b>Clophill</b> | United Service led by Brenda Ballantine | <b>10.30 am</b> |
|-----------------|-----------------------------------------|-----------------|

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## *Worship in September*

| Sept     | 6                                                 | 13                                               | 20                                                      | 27                                           |
|----------|---------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|
| Ampthill | 10.30 am<br>Covenant<br>Service<br><br>Silas Wood | 9.30 am<br>Breakfast<br>Church<br><br>Silas Wood | 11.00 am<br>Worship<br>led by<br>Silas Wood<br>(HF)     | 10.30 am<br>Worship<br>led by<br>Janet Watts |
| Clophill | 10.30 am<br>Covenant<br>Service<br>at Ampthill    | 10.30 am<br>Worship<br>led by<br>Jane Whymark    | 10.30 am<br>Worship<br>led by<br>Liz Little (HF)        | 11.00 am<br>Worship led by<br>Silas Wood     |
| Flitwick | 10.30 am<br>Covenant<br>Service<br>at Ampthill    | 11.00 am<br>Worship led by<br>Silas Wood<br>(HC) | 10.30 am<br>Worship<br>led by<br>Chris Robinson<br>(HF) | 9.30 am<br>Breakfast<br>Church<br>Silas Wood |



## *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 Foley 07885176355, [anne@foley.org.uk](mailto:anne@foley.org.uk)



# Harvest Supper and Quiz

Saturday 26 Sept  
6.30-8.45pm  
Amphill

Everyone is invited to our Harvest Supper and House of Games Style family quiz.

Our meal will be a Ploughman's supper and fruit pie/crumble with custard/ice cream.

RSVP [anne@foley.org.uk](mailto:anne@foley.org.uk) with any dietary requirements or allergies.



If you have a favourite savoury, please bring some along to share

If you are able to make a fruit pie/crumble, please let Anne Foley know.



## *What's On in September*

### *Monday*

**Craft Café** at Flitwick 7th September 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*

**Coffee and Croissants** at Clophill 11th Sept. 10.00 am - 12 noon

**Ladies Breakfast** at Flitwick 19th September 8.30 am

**Harvest Supper and Quiz** at Ampthill 26th September 6.30 pm  
(see previous page for details)

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## *Tuesday Prayer Group*

Our Tuesday Prayer Group meets again on 8th September at 2.30pm after our summer break. We meet at Corrine and Perlllyn's home, 6 Brinsmade Road, Ampthill.

All very welcome and you don't have to attend every week, it is always good to see a new face.

With blessings

*Sheila*



## *Craft Café*

Our final Café of the church year was held on Monday 3rd August, when it was SO hot that even the knitting needles found it hard work to keep working in that temperature. We had ice creams or lollipops to try and keep us cool - for a few minutes!

Over the past year, all those who have shared in the afternoons have put donations in a pot for the pleasure of sharing with each other over refreshments and company. By the time this newsletter goes to print I hope to have given/sent

£35.00 to the church treasurer towards heating and light

£30.00 to Maryan's Flower Fund

£85.00 to DEC (Disasters Emergency Committee) supporting wherever help is needed most at this time.

A BIG thank you to all who have shared in this year. It all started after finding a box of wool in the store cupboard upstairs!

Our next meeting will be on Monday 7th September at 2.30pm.

Many thanks,

*Linda*

## *Beds and Herts Historic Churches Trust*

### *Bike Ride 12 September 2026*

James and Anne Foley will be cycling about 70km around churches for the Beds and Herts Historic Churches Trust with half the money raised going to Greensand Community Methodist Church. Please sponsor us either by going to our justgiving page or by completing the form in our church buildings. This is the link to the page

[Anne Foley is fundraising for Beds & Herts Historic Churches Trust](https://www.justgiving.com/page/anne-foley-beds-herts-churches)  
(<https://www.justgiving.com/page/anne-foley-beds-herts-churches>)

Many Thanks

*Anne*

### *Bike 'n Hike 2026*

A few weeks ago Silas kindly sent out an email giving information about the Bike 'n Hike in our area which will take place on Saturday 12th September.

I am pleased to say that, in my absence, Sue and Janet have kindly offered to coordinate the opening of Flitwick Hub from 9am to 12 noon on that day so that anyone who calls during that time is able to have refreshment of some kind if they wish. Most of our visitors call between those hours, but if walkers, cyclists, travellers by train or car drivers arrive at any other time, they will still be able to sign the 'attendance' sheet on the wall!

If you know of anyone involved with this, please support them, since half of their given donations will support churches in need throughout Beds and Herts whilst the other half will go to the church of their choice.

With grateful thanks

*Linda*

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## *Boys' Brigade and Girls' Association*

We start back to BBGA on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> September, with a Pizza evening for all age groups.

Anchors and Juniors meet from 6.15pm until 7.30pm

Company and Seniors from 7.30pm until 9.00pm

Our first Church Parade of the new session is on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> October at 6.30pm.

You are all warmly invited to come along and support the young people on this evening.

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.

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>

Join the team! We are in the process of expanding our chaplaincy team with Nigel Bibbings coming on board to support Silas as chaplain. But 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](mailto:1flitwickBBGA@gmail.com) for more information.

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

*Angela,*

*Company Captain/Leader in Charge*

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## *Prayer Suggestions for September*

Earth is the Lord's: it is ours to enjoy it,  
Ours, as God's stewards, to farm and defend.

Fred Pratt Green StF 727 v. 4a

### *5 days beginning 1st September - New Methodist Year*

- Thank God for the Methodist Church and in particular our own Greensand Community Church in Ampthill, Clophill and Flitwick.
- Pray for all who are involved with our church in any way.
- Thank God for our North Bedfordshire Circuit and our Circuit churches and ministers.

### *Week beginning 6th September - Recent disasters*

- Pray for the people who have lost their homes and are trying to rebuild their lives following the earthquakes in Venezuela and Colombia.
- Pray for people who have suffered from the wildfires in this country and in Europe.
- Pray for those working to help people who have suffered from disasters in recent times.

### *Week beginning 13th September - Education*

- Pray for children starting school or moving to new schools and classes, that they will settle well into new routines and situations.
- Pray for teachers, that God will give them wisdom and patience.
- Pray for headteachers and other members of staff.
- Pray for students and lecturers in higher education.

### *Week beginning 20th September - Harvest*

- Thank God for farmers and food distributors.
- Pray for farmers who have problems because of climate change.
- Thank God for his generous provision.
- Pray for people who have to rely on foodbanks for their food.
- Pray for the All We Can charity and all who work in partnership to help those in need.

### *4 days beginning 27th September - Disability Awareness*

The theme for Disability Awareness Sunday this year is ‘One body, many parts’

- We celebrate the contribution of everyone to the body of Christ, whether able bodied or disabled.
- Pray that God will help us to remember that all have a part to play in God’s kingdom.
- Pray that we will welcome everyone, just as Jesus does.
- Pray that we will be aware of the needs and feelings of others.

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### *Local Preacher Appointments*

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

|                 |                                        |
|-----------------|----------------------------------------|
| Anne Foley      | 6th at Shefford; 27th at Kempston East |
| Perlllyn Thomas | 6th at Langford;                       |
| Angela Turner   | 20th at Putnoe Heights                 |
| Janet Watts     | 27th at Ampthill                       |
| Angie Woodcraft | 20th at Upper Caldecote                |

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## *The Sun Melts - The Sun Hardens*

As the saying goes,  
The sun melts ice  
And the same sun hardens clay.

So it is with the Light of Christ's Word.  
It can melt a man's heart  
And brings him to the Cross  
Or the man's heart is hardened  
And rejects the Truth  
And goes on in his sinful ways.

It is a choice everyone who hears the Good News has to make.

God or Satan,  
Light or darkness,  
Love or hate,  
Faith or doubts.

One road is tough to travel on,  
The other easy.  
One positive and gives life,  
The other negative and brings death.

Which one will you choose?  
Only you can make that choice.

*Lance*



## *Eco Home Extravaganza*

Dreaming of a greener, warmer, more energy-efficient home?

Visit a free, family-friendly community event packed with practical tips, inspiration, and expert advice. Chat with energy specialists, explore eco-friendly products, discover simple ways to save energy, and money!

Whether you're already transforming your home or curious about where to start, our Eco Home Extravaganza is the perfect place to connect, learn and get inspired.

When: Sunday 20 September 2026

Where: Parkside Hall, Ampthill, MK45 2HX

Time: 11 am to 3 pm

Cost: Free!

We have lots of stalls, activities, a raffle, refreshments and entertainment.

Eco Home Design Children's Activities and entertainment

Expert Energy Savings Advice – plus a chance to Explore Renewables and EVs

Local suppliers and Eco Products

Our very own author and storyteller in Puffin corner

Insights into plants and wildlife

For more information contact [Jane.Hooper@greensandenergy.org](mailto:Jane.Hooper@greensandenergy.org).



Ampthill  
Climate Change  
Group  
Every Action Counts.



Greensand  
Community  
Energy

## *News from Paraguay*

Trust everyone is well over in England and remembered not to stare straight at the sun yesterday.

No eclipse over in Paraguay, but plenty of other things going on.

August in Paraguay sees the last of the winter in Paraguay, so I know I will soon be able to put away my jumper for another year.

Although in truth cold is a relative term as it was only cold enough for anything like frost for a few nights a couple of months ago. For most of the winter the sky is blue and the temperature very pleasantly in the mid 20s.

It has been six months since I returned from holiday so I was due by the beginning of the month a holiday. Living a quiet country life my holiday is a few days in the city.

I headed off then to Asuncion for a long weekend of city life. As I always do I found a lot to do to keep me busy while I was there.

One day was spent being a tourist walking around the old town. There is the place to find historic buildings, and I think I visited them all. My timing was just right as for once I was able to get inside the cathedral. It is very ornate inside but only open during mass.

Also with the old town being built around the port and the waterside government buildings it is a good place to look out across Asuncion Bay and to the River Paraguay beyond.

Then having had some history my next day was spend in the modern neighbourhoods of the city where all the shopping centres are located. Shopping centres don't exist in the countryside, so walking around them for a day is s treat.

Then with that all done, and the things I cannot buy in the countryside bought it was time to head back home.

There in Piribebuy August is a busy time. Doubly so if you are a child.

In the first week of the month there is the Pintata. That is a day for the pre-school children. The roads in the town centre are closed and with their handfuls of chalk they colour the streets. Their paintings will stay there until rain washes them away.

After that there is always a show in the plaza with music, dancing and clowns.

Then mid month is Children's Day when there are always events all around town for children from many of which they come home with goodie bags of sweets and biscuits.

And finally 12<sup>th</sup> August is parade day in Piribebuy so all in all a busy month.

*Simon*

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### *Flitwick Village Hall Coffee Mornings*

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

|                |                                            |
|----------------|--------------------------------------------|
| 4th September  | Mid Beds Widows                            |
| 11th September | Christadelphian Church                     |
| 18th September | The Jigsaw Club                            |
| 25th September | Mid Bedfordshire National Childbirth Trust |

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### *The Newsletter*

Thank you to those who have contributed to this newsletter.

Please let me have items for the October newsletter by **Sunday 20th September.**

Thank you very much.

Janet

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