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Stepping out, focused on Christ

A Sound Like a Strong Wind

Acts 2:1-21 The Message (MSG)

¹⁻⁴ When the Feast of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Without warning there was a sound like a strong wind, gale force—no one could tell where it came from. It filled the whole building. Then, like a wildfire, the Holy Spirit spread through their ranks, and they started speaking in a number of different languages as the Spirit prompted them.

⁵⁻¹¹ There were many Jews staying in Jerusalem just then, devout pilgrims from all over

the world. When they heard the sound, they came on the run. Then when they heard, one after another, their own mother tongues being spoken, they were thunderstruck. They couldn't for the life of them figure out what was going on, and kept saying, "Aren't these all Galileans? How come we're hearing them talk in our various mother tongues?"

Parthians, Medes, and Elamites; Visitors from Mesopotamia, Judea, and Cappadocia,

Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene; Immigrants from Rome, both Jews and proselytes; Even Cretans and Arabs!

"They're speaking our languages, describing God's mighty works!"

¹² Their heads were spinning; they couldn't make head or tail of any of it. They talked back and forth, confused: "What's going on here?"

¹³ Others joked,



Running the Race

I've never been good at sports, in fact when sports day at school approached, I would do anything to avoid it. But I did have one sporting achievement.

In what is now year 5 at Junior school I was asked to join the year 6 relay race. I did not look forward to this. I was to run 3rd. We were all poised for the race and the starting pistol went off. My heart was pounding. The first two ran a good race and eventually it was my turn. I took the baton and ran as fast as I could. It was not good but the first two had ran good legs, so we were in with a chance. I passed on the baton and our final runner was on the way. We won! And I still have the certificate to prove it.

Paul says, *'Surely you know that many runners take part in a race, but only one of them wins the prize. Run, then, in such a way as to win the prize.'* (1 Corinthians 9:24(GNT)).



It seems to me that Paul indicates here, that we as Christians are to live our lives with that same determination as a runner wanting to win. To be able to do this it takes time, energy and commitment.

We are living in challenging times and it will take these three things and more to remain focused on our individual race and that of the circuit. But I know that whatever we face on that journey we must keep our eyes fixed firmly on the finishing line, and in the meantime do our best as we make our way to it.

As we continue to process information from the 'What is to be done' document it is clear to us that we have very dedicated people in our circuit. We all need to seek in prayer the Lord's will and dedicate ourselves to the task in hand.

I can't promise the task ahead will be easy, but I know that we will be given the strength to enable us to do it. Please continue to pray for guidance and trust God for the future.

In Hebrews 12:1 (NIV) it says. *'Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us.'*



I remember you constantly in my prayers and ask that you will pray for each other and those who lead the circuit. We are thinking about having dedicated times in the circuit when people can meet to pray. If you have any ideas how we might do this I would value your thoughts.

God Bless

Rev Alan



News from the Churches

In each edition of the Circuit Newsletter we will be exploring the different churches which make up the diverse nature of our Circuit. In this edition we will be finding out a bit more about the churches currently in the pastoral charge of Rev Alan Swann. This includes Moorland Park, Nettleham, Scothern



Moorland Park

Our week begins on Sunday with a time of prayer before the morning service this underpins all that happens at Moorland Park during the week. The congregation is usually around 25-35 in number and our worship style is a mixture of modern and the traditional hymns and songs. This is always followed by tea and coffee in our 'Connect' lounge which has proved to be very popular with most people staying to continue the fellowship. Sunday is the springboard for what goes on in the rest of the week as we seek to serve and connect with our community in a number of ways.

On Monday evenings the 'Re-Connect' Bible study group meets for worship, Bible study and fellowship.

Tuesdays are very busy with Thrift shop open between 10.00 am. and 3.00 pm. During this time we also serve light refreshments in the 'Connect' lounge to encourage people to stay and chat together. The Toddlers group meet in the morning and the Foodbank distribution facility is available between 1.00 and 3.00 pm.

On Wednesday evening the premises are used by our Girls Brigade company who offer badge work, Christian education and activities for both girls and boys between the ages of 5 and 18.

On Thursdays we have Coffee and Conversation in the mornings which takes place alongside Foodbank being open and the City Council Benefits advice person being available to help those in the community who have benefit problems or queries.

On Saturdays we have occasional Coffee mornings for various charities such as Parkinson's UK, FMA UK (Fibromyalgia) and Oases academy (a school in a very poor area of Nairobi which we support).

There are several organisations which use our premises such as WW (Weightwatchers), Slimming world, The Blind society, Alzheimer's Association etc. We are also a popular venue for circuit and district events.

We see our main reason to exist as a church is to serve God by building community in our part of Lincoln.

Scothern

Even though this is not the first Methodist Church in Scothern, the present building has been in use for more than 160 years.



There have been a number of refurbishments and upgrades during that time, including replacement windows and improved lighting and regardless of whether the central heating is on, we hope and pray that it will always be warm and welcoming.

It is a multi-purpose building with flexible seating and is suitable for various formal meetings, social events and even family celebrations.

Regular events include “**Prayers and Coffee**” which is held twice a month on Thurs. mornings at 10.30. when a small number – some regular - some occasional, meet together and we also welcome friends from the Parish Church for worship and social occasions.

Joint services are held on an occasional basis alternating between the churches and there have also been a number of joint services with neighbouring churches in the Lincoln Circuit.

“**Music and Chat**” on the 3rd. Thurs. afternoon each month enables us to welcome some of the community who may not attend worship but who enjoy the opportunity to listen to a varied programme of live keyboard music, enjoy refreshments and shared conversation.

At the time of writing, several regular friends from the parish Church will once again be helping the team with the house-to-house collection for Christian Aid. We are now in the 36th year and hoping to beat the total of £814 from last year – a good result from a small team in a small village.

Other fundraising during the past year has helped Lincoln Community Larder, Nomad Trust, Bible a Month, NCH, JMA, St. Barnabas, Macmillan, and Samaritans.

Friends from the circuit will always be welcome to any of our events.

Further information from Brian Beardsell 01673 862504



Nettleham Methodist Church



Time to sort out your debt?

As we're now into the sixth month of the year (where did the time go?!) it's a good time to reflect on the New Year's resolutions we made all the way back in January. How long did yours last? Maybe you're still going – well done! If not, don't worry – there's always time to give it another try.

This includes getting your financial situation into shape. At Christians Against Poverty (CAP), we know that being in debt can feel like a prison sentence, but we also know that there's always a way out.

There are lots of brilliant debt counselling organisations that can help you if you're worrying about debt. Step-Change, PayPlan and Citizens Advice are just a few to consider.

However, if you're struggling emotionally as well as financially and need that extra bit of support as you work your way out of debt, get in touch with CAP. Our service is specifically tailored to help the most vulnerable and marginalised in society because it's face to face and accessible (we visit every client in their own home) and it's holistic (we recognise that debt is often a cause or symptom of wider issues).

And there is help in the local area!

It is now 5 years since **Nettleham Methodist Church (NMC)** partnered with the charity Christians Against Poverty to provide debt counselling in the local area. In those years, Marcus Harborne, the debt centre manager, with be-frienders, has seen over 120 clients and families; that is well over 300 visits in their homes. In 2018 alone, 76 visits were made, and the centre has been fully booked since Summer last year. With this in mind, Chris Higham from NMC has now been trained up by CAP to be an extra debt coach, which will increase the capacity of the centre.

So far, 17 clients/families have become **DEBT FREE** with the help of the Nettleham CAP debt centre, with 25 others receiving ongoing support. Many other clients, after being visited by Marcus, have been prompted to take control of their financial situation themselves, working towards being debt free.

The area of coverage of the centre is quite extensive, covering not only Nettleham, but as far afield as Caister, Market Rasen, Wragby, Cherry Willingham, Saxilby, Sturton, Welton, Hemswell, in fact most of West Lindsey, plus the northern half of Lincoln itself. There is another CAP Debt Centre in Lincoln that covers the city and further south.

The reasons for getting into debt are many and various, no two situations are the same. Losing a job, relationship breakdown, physical or mental health issues, addiction, budgeting problems, navigating the benefits system, are just some of the issues highlighted by clients. In fact the rollout of Universal Credit is another factor in the mix.

If you would like help with your problem debt, just book an appointment with us on 0800 328 0006 or to find out more visit capuk.org



Debt coaches Marcus and Chris with just some of the CAP centre volunteers between.

Looking ahead, 'Thy Kingdom Come' is a global prayer initiative taking place between 30th May and 9th June. At Nettleham Methodist Church we will join with the millions of Christians, in more than 114 countries, taking part. We launch our 24 hours of prayer at 7.00am on 8th June and complete it with an open air service, on Bishops Palace, at 7.00am on Sunday 9th June, followed by breakfast.

The call went out from Archbishop Justin Welby and Dr John Sentamu, Archbishop of York:

“Come Holy Spirit, Thy Kingdom Come”.

You are invited to join us for prayer, for the service, or simply for breakfast.



Praying Together - Ju

1. Pray for all families who have children going through the current exam season. Pray peace into homes where there would be stress.

2. Pray for the **Bailgate** Church Family Camp which is taking place on July 12th - 14th, at East Firsby. Please pray that God will bless this weekend and all those taking part, young and old, families and singles, as we share fun and laughter and fellowship together (and that we have good weather!).

3. Pray for the Message Trust mission teams as they go into schools across Lincoln on 5th, 6th and 7th June, sharing testimony and great music!

During the evening concert on the 7th June, young people will be given an opportunity to respond to the gospel.

4. Pray for the GodPod, as it undergoes a minor refit to make it more 'user friendly'. Pray it would continue to be a safe space for young people, particularly on the St Giles estate.

5. Pray for the congregation at **Bracebridge Heath** as they plan to cease meeting together on a Sunday. Pray for peace of mind, and that God would guide their future.

6. Pray for our nation, during this time of Thy Kingdom Come, that the Spirit may sweep through the land and draw people back to God

7. Thank God for John Lawson and the work he is doing on St Giles with the Eden Project. Pray for more volunteers to join his team and ease his load.

8. Pray for **Burton Road** as it is very much a Church in the community. Pray that all who meet there during the week—Church groups or community groups—would feel welcomed and cared for.

9. Pray for **Central**, that they would see themselves being used more to reach out to the community around the Church, and as they partner with other Church groups.

10. Pray for the Methodist Conference, as it tackles difficult subjects this year. Pray that conversations would take place in a spirit of grace and love. Pray God's will be done.

11. Pray for ongoing work to establish a pioneer ministry at Bracebridge Heath. Ask God for guidance as to how the Methodist Church can still play an active role in that community.

12. Pray for **Nettleham** as they look to make changes to the building which will make it more welcoming and inviting for the village community during the week.

13. Pray for Rev Alan Swann, as he leads the Circuit, as well as pastoring his own Churches. Pray for God's guidance for his future.

14. Pray for our Local Preaching team, that they would be used by God to spread His message around our Circuit.

15. Rev Margaret Doughty – Pray for wisdom as she supports people at Central and in her work with prayer ministry

16. Pray for the older members of our Circuit, who maybe cannot get to Church on a Sunday. Pray that they would be cared for and still feel like they belong.

Circuit

ne to August 2019

17. Pray for GLAFN (Greater Lincoln Active Faith Network) as they draw together all the different strands of Church work that go on around our city.

18. Pray for **St. Columba's** as they look to do more in their local area of Brant Road. Thank God for this example of different denominations working well together for God's Kingdom.

19. Pray for good health, safety and times of refreshing as people head off on holiday over these months. Pray that we would return to our Churches refreshed and energized for the new Connexional year

20. Pray for Lincoln Street Pastors. Thank God for the valuable work that they do for Lincoln's nighttime economy, and pray that they would have all the resources that they need to continue.

21. Pray for the Circuit Stewards as they oversee the work of the Circuit. Pray for wisdom and God's guidance. Pray that more would step up to join the team and spread the workload

22. Pray for the re-Connected sessions at **Moorland Park**, that they would be a time of fellowship and deepening faith for those who attend

23. Pray for guidance as we look for a new Circuit Treasurer. Thank God for Anne, who has so willingly and capably done this work over the past year.

24. Pray for all the Circuit Ministers, that they would find renewing and refreshing during their summer breaks. Pray that God would instill fresh vision and energy for their work.

25. Pray for your next door neighbours. Ask God for opportunities to talk to them about Jesus, and possibly invite them to events at your Church.

26. Pray for uniformed organisations that meet in our Churches. These may often be the only connection a family has with Church, so pray for opportunities for mission and ministry with these groups.

27. Pray for the congregation at **Monks Road**, for Rev Terry Nowell as he leads them and the work they do in the Monks Road area.

28. Pray for our Government, as Brexit rumbles on! Pray for wisdom and guidance. Pray that the voice of Christians in government would be heard.

29. Pray for Rev David Lawton, as he works to discern the best way forward for the LEP's of North Scarle and Thorpe on the Hill. Pray for good relations between the denominations. Pray for wisdom about the way ahead.

30. Pray for all our village Churches, that over the Summer months they may find ways to make themselves more visible to their communities and find their mission at the heart of their communities again.

31. Pray for Denise and Anne as they work to support the Circuit, and the Ministers. Pray for wisdom and servant hearts in all they do.



So what exactly is Prospects....?!

Have you noticed the term 'Prospects' on each of the Lincoln Methodist Circuit Plans and wondered what it was? It appears once month under Cherry Willingham. It is a Christian group especially for adults and young people with learning disabilities and their families and carers. It is attached to Cherry Willingham Methodist Church and affiliated to the national Christian charity, Livability, which supports adults with disabilities.

We have been meeting for 13 years at Fiskerton Village Hall, on the third Sunday of each month, at 3.00pm. Our attendance is currently about 50, of all abilities and from a wide geographical area. A team of people, from several different churches, gets together to plan out each service. A lot of time and much prompting from the Holy Spirit ensures that each service is a joyful and inclusive occasion, providing us all with faith-building experiences.

Every service has a clear aim, for example for people to know that Jesus loves them. We repeat and consolidate the message in a meaningful way from different points of view. This means that we ensure that everyone can understand and apply the message to their own lives, as far as possible.

Stories are illustrated through dramas that enable everyone to be included in some way, if they chose to be - and most do! We continually try and increase the interactive nature of these in a way that makes them even more enjoyable and memorable for everyone. One of our biggest joys is to see the way that more and more people are becoming increasingly prayerful. Most are keen to use the microphone to take part in the Prayer and Share section of our time together and the prayer corner is always busy at the end of each service.

We constantly try to make our services even more inclusive, so that everyone has the opportunity to take an active part, and that includes leadership roles too. We do not differentiate but aim to value and celebrate contributions from everyone. It is so rewarding to see people developing the confidence to take part in the dramas, to lead worship, prayer and singing. Everyone has chance to take a turn to distribute birthday cards, read a prayer, introduce the next song or activity and to be involved in short talks.

We are known as Lincoln North Prospects group as there is another group that meets in the south of the city at St George's Church in Swallowbeck, on the first Sunday afternoon each month. The groups are not intended to replace membership of a local church, but to supplement it.



Please let others know about us. Pray that more people with learning disabilities will get to become part of a Prospects group, so that they will be able to hear and understand the gospel message in an effective way that will impact their lives and those of their parents and carers. Also pray for more people to come forward to give assistance with the group. Feel free to come and visit us at any time; you will be very welcome and wonderfully blessed.

For more information, contact Jenny & Barry Robinson 01522 807088.

Central News

As we strive to serve the Lord on our Christian journey, our care for each other and serving the Community continue to be paramount.

Following Rev Margaret's meeting with students from the University we held on 23 March, from 10:00am to 3:00pm, a "Central Communications Time". As part of the students' project and study course they displayed a variety of cultures through different foods which we were allowed to sample – British, Chinese, Caribbean, Eastern European and Indian – and chat with the students.

There were board games and activities for all ages. An opportunity to promote Central and its halls to serve the community.

On the 3rd Wednesday of each month from 10:00am to 1:00pm we are holding a "Pick and Mix" time, which will include a morning of activities including board games, table tennis, crafts and much more. Refreshments and a light lunch will be served free of charge. It is open to all ages. A time for meeting new people in a welcoming and relaxed atmosphere.

The Food Bank continues to serve those in need and sadly in recent weeks the numbers have increased. It is open each Thursday morning from 10:30am – 1:00pm. Coffee at the same time attracts friends from around the neighbourhood.

St. Columba's

Friday 14th June at 7:30pm we are hosting a **10year service of Celebration for the Joy Foundation** for their work of sharing the love of Jesus in Local schools with staff and children.

From Tuesday 9th July between 2pm and 4pm and every Tuesday after we will be opening our doors to anyone for **Tea and Cakes**. Come along and meet new people and have a chat.

Saturday 13th July between 12:30pm and 2pm **Saturday Lunch** 3 Courses £6 per head children under 12 £3. If you are going to join us please contact Mrs Sue Anderson on 01522 851170 or Mrs Cathy Hanger on 01522 874728 for more information.

Friday 16th August **Friday Lunch**. See July's Saturday Lunch for the details .

A Heartfelt Thank You from Sarah Belcher

I would love to thank people who donated personally, for now I send this message of thanks to the Circuit:

Firstly, Higher Nights this year would not have been able to go ahead without the generosity of the Methodist Circuit and individuals who donated.

You are collectively an answer to so many prayers!

I believe that many young people will be inspired, given hope, hear the gospel and decide to follow Jesus who otherwise won't have had the opportunity. We pray that many will be disciplined through local churches and youth groups.

We will be in four or five schools and this is because we didn't have to cut the number of schools our bands will go into as we had enough funding.

I have told others involved (without mentioning names) that you have all helped to make this happen and everyone is bowled over and very grateful.

May God bless you all richly for your kindness and generosity.

Thank you all so much.

From Page 1— A Sound Like a Strong Wind

Acts 2:1-21 The Message (MSG)

"They're drunk on cheap wine."

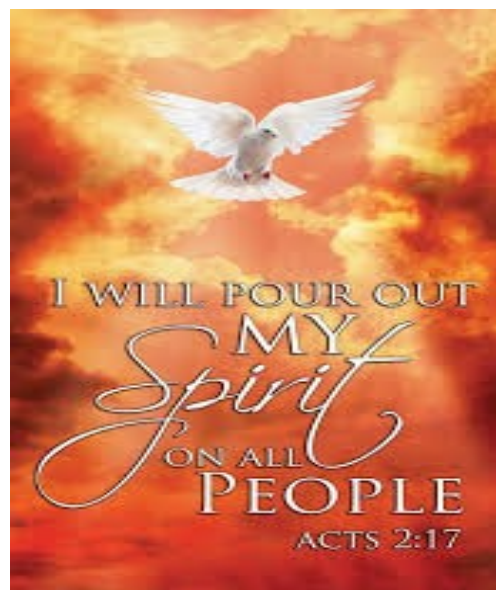
14-21 That's when Peter stood up and, backed by the other eleven, spoke out with bold urgency: "Fellow Jews, all of you who are visiting Jerusalem, listen carefully and get this story straight. These people aren't drunk as some of you suspect. They haven't had time to get drunk—it's only nine o'clock in the morning. This is what the prophet Joel announced would happen:

"In the Last Days," God says, "I will pour out my Spirit on every kind

of people:
Your sons will prophesy,
also your daughters;
Your young men will see visions,
your old men dream dreams.

When the time comes,
I'll pour out my Spirit
On those who serve me, men and women both,
and they'll prophesy.
I'll set wonders in the sky above
and signs on

the earth below,
Blood and fire and billowing smoke,
the sun turning black and the moon blood-red,
Before the Day of the Lord arrives,
the Day tremendous and marvellous;
And whoever calls out for help
to me, God, will be saved."



Special Events (June to Aug 2019)

SATURDAY 1ST JUNE - COFFEE MORNING AT REEPHAM: Reepham Methodist Church are holding a coffee morning from 10am - 11.30am, which will also include a plant and produce sale.

WEDNESDAY 5TH JUNE 2:00pm : Circle Dancing : Central : New members always welcome.

WEDNESDAY 5TH/THURSDAY 6TH/FRIDAY 7TH JUNE - MESSAGE TRUST TOUR PLUS HIGHER NIGHT: The Message Trust are returning to Lincoln and visiting schools in the area for 3 days, with the week culminating in a concert - Higher Night - at Alive Church. This is a wonderful opportunity for the Gospel to be heard by hundreds of school-children across our city, and prayer is the powerhouse that makes things happen, so please consider being a part of this, even from the comfort of your own home. Please spread the word in your Church.

THURSDAY 6TH JUNE 2019: 10.00am -12.00 noon : PRIMARY COLLECTIVE WORSHIP COURSE/ WORKSHOP : STORYTELLING THE BIBLE : For Clergy/Church Leaders/Workers involved in Primary Schools. Blenkin Room (Please use side entrance), St Nicholas Church, Newport. Drinks on arrival. Free of charge to churches within Christianity Deanery; £10 to others. To book a place or for further details please contact Andy Housam via Email - andy.housam@joyfoundation.org.uk Phone – 01522 822853

THURSDAY 6TH JUNE : 12 noon – 1:00pm : Free Lunchtime Organ Recital – Hilary Punnett: Bailgate Methodist Church. Retiring collection – proceeds to charity. For further information, please contact Christine Matthews 01522 702428

SATURDAY 8TH JUNE: 10:00am – 12:00 noon: Prayer and Coffee: Moorland Park: This is part of the "Thy Kingdom Come" event.

SATURDAY 8TH JUNE: Faithwalkers: Chapel Point 6 miles : Leader Peter Butcher : Depart from outside Burton Road Methodist Church, Lincoln at 9:30am. Please endeavour to let the designated walk leader know by the Thursday prior to the walk if you intend to attend, this helps us with transport planning.

SUNDAY 9TH JUNE - PENTECOST SUNDAY: All are welcome to a couple of special events happening in our Circuit on Pentecost Sunday:

- **7am at NETTLEHAM** - start the day well by joining friends at Nettleham for an early morning service at the Old Bishop's Palace, followed by breakfast baps served in the Church.

- **6pm at MOORLAND PARK** - Circuit Service led by the Healing Rooms team, with David Stubbs preaching. The evening will begin with a 'bring and share' tea at 5pm - doors open at 4.30pm.

THURSDAY 13TH JUNE 1:15pm : Prayer Shawl Meeting : Central : New members always welcome.

FRIDAY 14TH JUNE: 7:30pm: St Columba's Church: 10-year service of Celebration for the Joy Foundation for their work of sharing the love of Jesus in Local schools with staff and children.

SATURDAY 22ND JUNE: Faithwalkers: Dry Doddington 7 miles: Leaders Andrew and Ian Moir: Depart from outside Burton Road Methodist Church, Lincoln at 9:30am.

WEDNESDAY 26TH JUNE 7.30pm : St Mary Magdalene's Church , Bailgate, Lincoln : Lindum Brass Ensemble. Free concert; voluntary donations.

THURSDAY 4TH JULY : 12 noon – 1:00pm : Free Lunchtime Organ Recital – Charles Edmonson and Barbara Tune: Bailgate Methodist Church. Retiring collection – proceeds to charity. For further information, please contact Christine Matthews 01522 702428

TUESDAY 9TH JULY - STEPPING OUT IN THE BIBLE: Venue to be confirmed. 6:30-9:00pm, including a light tea. The focus will be the Bible, and no other details have been confirmed yet, but please make a note in your Church notices.

SATURDAY 13TH JULY: Faithwalkers: Chesterfield Canal, West Stockwith & River Trent 7½ miles : Leaders David and Elva Vandenbos: Depart from outside Burton Road Methodist Church, Lincoln at 9:30am.

SATURDAY 13TH July: 12:30pm – 2:00pm: Saturday Lunch at St Columba's 3 Courses £6 per head children under 12 £3. If you are going to join us please contact Mrs Sue Anderson on 01522 851170 or Mrs Cathy Hanger on 01522 874728 for more information.

SATURDAY 27TH JULY: Faithwalkers: Belchford 6 miles : Leader Peter Butcher : Depart from outside Burton Road Methodist Church, Lincoln at 9:30am.

THURSDAY 1ST AUGUST: 12-1:00pm : Free Lunchtime Organ Recital – David Oldfield: Bailgate Methodist Church. Retiring collection – proceeds to charity. For further information, please contact Christine Matthews 01522 702428

SATURDAY 10TH AUGUST: Faithwalkers: Sotby 7 miles : Leaders Andrew and Ian Moir : Depart from outside Burton Road Methodist Church, Lincoln at 9:30am.

Friday 16th August: 12:30pm – 2:00pm: Friday Lunch at St Columba's. 3 Courses £6 per head children under 12 £3. If you are going to join us please contact Mrs Sue Anderson on 01522 851170 or Mrs Cathy Hanger on 01522 874728 for more information.

Material for the **September 2019** edition of **Circuit News** must be with the Circuit Office by Friday, 16 August 2019. Any material received after this date will not be included in the September edition.

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