

STOTFOLD METHODIST CHURCH

To all preachers,

We are grateful for your ministry to us and have compiled some notes to help you to plan the worship. Please note that our service times are 10.00am and 6.00pm.

Our Resources

There are Good News Bibles in the pews. Please could you announce page numbers to allow people to follow the readings. There are also people who are happy to read if given due notice. If you want readers please mention the readings to the steward when you are giving them the hymns.

Music resources are hymns and psalms, a locally compiled booklet of Newer hymns and songs and mission praise books 1 and 2. Please let the steward know which you would like to use.

For morning worship we use a digital organ which provides most of the hymns that we require. We share our evening service with the Anglican church - St Mary's using each others premises on alternative weeks. When we worship in our own church during the evening we have an organist. It would be helpful if the Senior Steward could have the hymns by Thursday in order to give time to check them out on the digital organ.

We also have a flip chart and an overhead projector with a screen. If you would like to use these please notify the steward before the day of the service so that the equipment can be set up in time. The church has a public address system which incorporates a loop system for the hard of hearing.

Contact numbers.

Minister	Rev. Brian Trudgian	01462 834971
Senior Steward	Mrs. June Simpson	01462 730948

Our circumstances and our way forward.

We at the Methodist Church in High Street Stotfold are now into a new situation. Those familiar with our life and witness will be aware we have spent the last thirteen years seeking to improve our premises. This has involved consulting architects, surveyors and going through the process to sell at one stage.

The issue has been that our premises are not suitable for 21st century conditions. By that we mean that access is hazardous for the disabled (our worship area is on a level which requires people to climb steep steps) and the interior, even if this problem

could be overcome, is not attractive to people today. We have sought ways of adjusting the premises to get over these problems. There was no way we could change the interior of our building, nor modify the outside of the building, to make much difference, without major expenditure. We came to a watershed in 2008 when it became clear that, despite years of fundraising and receiving a substantial legacy, the grant we needed for major refurbishment would not be forthcoming.

We also considered many other options over the ten years, many options more than once. It is fair to say just about every possibility has been considered and every door has been pushed. In the end it came down to leaving these premises. Once this decision was taken there were various options open to us, all of which had been considered over these years of searching.

From these options we have chosen the most testing but also the most exciting. Whatever the emotional cost, which was considerable- we would look for a new home elsewhere in Stotfold, not necessarily in a Church Building.

We have decided to seek permission from the Methodist authorities to sell our building in the confident expectation that the amount received by the Circuit Advance Fund will be available for the purchase of a building at Stotfold. By this means, and this means alone, we will retain control of 'our' premises, and be able to adapt our new home to the needs of the present time.

How all this is going to work out we do not know. We are adopting a policy of preparing for the future. Our services are gradually becoming more all age style and more on the ground floor, using our hall which we have recently re-decorated. We have embarked on an Alpha Course, a user friendly approach. We are seeing what Fresh Expressions has to teach us.

The nature of the building we seek will, probably, be a house, although other possibilities have not been excluded. The precise nature and location of new premises will be the subject of Stewards and Church Councils to come. We are seeking to move forward together.

The Minister and Stewards, Stotfold Methodist Church