

Plan Letter

December 24

Dear Friends

Here is a copy of the latest plan. I would like to thank those local preachers who are still able to offer us preaching appointments, and those stewards who have and still are learning new gifts and skills to enable more LA's. Since the last plan we have held a worship leading course which Rachael ran and was attended by 15 people from across the circuit. We were greatly encouraged by this; that so many people were wanting to learn more about how to lead worship within our churches, further expanding the circuits mission to share resources and spend more time together in fellowship.

Secondly this plan has all the circuit Covenant services planned on them. This service is the annual rededication service for every member of the Methodist Church to remind themselves of the promises they took at membership as they dedicated their lives to Christ publicly. The prayer itself is beautiful and the service very powerful. During our conversations Rachael and I have identified that the reading of the prayer is only one format in which people are able to dedicate their lives and not as inclusive as it could be. Therefore, this year we are encouraging all the churches to engage with the covenant promise in the weeks running up to the service. In each of the services there will be a slot dedicated for testimony where those who wish to contribute can share what their thoughts are about the promise. In each of the churches both copies of the covenant promise, old words and new, will be available at the back of the church for you to take away.

Some ideas we would like you to consider are:

1. What hymns or music does the promise connect you to?
2. Are there words or phrases that have special meaning to you? Would you like to share why?
3. Could you make something creatively - paint/knit/build/display flowers/ to express the promise, or some words from the promise, to display on the day?
4. There are two versions of the covenant promise – which do you connect to most and why?

We are hoping that this makes the covenant service more meaningful for us all and we can learn more about each other and deepen our discipleship. Thank you, in anticipation, for being prepared to 'try something different'.

Rev Kate Strange

Superintendent Minister High Wycombe Circuit