

20th May 2025

Dear Friends

Isaiah 43:19 *See I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.*

Greetings to you, and blessings! What an amazing weekend we have just had! I wanted to write to you with points that are on my heart right now:

Firstly, with regard to the plan. You will have noticed that in this current plan we are facing new challenges, and the passage from Isaiah has laid on my heart. We are trialling our first Sunday circuit service - this is because of a shortage of preachers and we have looked for a creative way to connect ourselves together, having listened to churches who have said they didn't want to close their local church to gather as one body. We are still gathering together as all the churches are live streaming from their own hub, with involvement from many of the folk from the churches in the service. Watch this space as we have a second run for the August bank holiday Sunday in the same way. Thank you for your patience while we work out the technicalities, as "Rome wasn't built in a day".

The other service that has been requested, and we are trialling, is a pre-recorded circuit service for the 29th June. This is Conference Sunday, and it will be a service along the lines of the services provided in covid. Each church will be given access to run this (details to follow). It will have all the conference hymns and readings, a sermon from me and a recorded interview between Rachael and myself about her forthcoming ordination, to be played on the day she is received into full connexion and ordained in Shrewsbury Abbey. Again, this opportunity has been created due to lack of resources, but something new and exciting has come from difficulty.

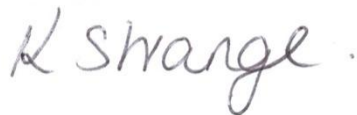
Secondly – Thank you to all of those who came and took part in the circuit 'Mission and Vision Day' on Saturday 17th May. It was an amazing time of worship and fellowship, hearing the churches journey of the past year through a creative expression of a psalm. Through listening to the situation of the circuit's finances and property, we believe that there is a greater confidence for people to engage in mission. We have ideas for how the circuit team can support churches moving forward, now we have an established team. *"see I am doing something new"*

Lastly – Thank you to all who came to support Rachael in her District Ordinands Service. A coach full came to Kidlington to listen and fellowship; it was the end of a season for Rachael and for us, as well as a new beginning – *something new*. The fact that so many (approx. 30, I think) turned out in person, with many more on line, shows how Rachael has embedded herself, and is loved here. But she could not have flourished here without the encouragement, love, time, and patience that you have collectively shown her and so I thank you. I feel so confident in the people that we are submitting for another probationer

in this stationing round, as I know that together we will love, nurture and train them well here in this place. If it is to be, our God is a God who can move mountains, one will be placed with us, so please pray into that for us. *"Now it springs up, do you not perceive it?"*

And, as always, I thank you all for your love and support, for your patience with the plan. For your understanding that, despite the depleted resources, we are all working to offer the best service we can for you all across the churches - in worship, personally in pastoral care and in group work, and in the churches business and meetings. And we are looking forward to receiving the grant forms from the churches and seeing the mission of the churches moving forward in the next few months. *" Making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland" .*

Yours in Christ

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "K. Strange". The signature is written in a dark ink and is positioned below the typed name "Rev Kate Strange".

Rev Kate Strange

Superintendent High Wycombe Circuit