

Where we meet and who we are



The office and mid week activities are based at our building in:
Well Street. MK18 1ET



On a Sunday morning we meet for worship at :
Lace Hill Academy, Catchpin Street,
MK18 7RR

Well Street United Church is an LEP (local ecumenical partnership) of Baptist, Methodist and United Reformed churches. In reality, many of us come from other churches or no church background, but we have felt at home in this church.



Giving

As part of our worship we have an offertory box and also a card machine is available at Lace Hill Academy (by the school hall door). If you are visiting please feel under no obligation to give.

If you are a regular worshipper please speak to James Knapton or Wendy Collins as to how you can give by Standing Order or online and also about Gift Aid if you are a tax payer.

Contact: treasurer@wellstreetchurch.org.uk

Minister: Revd Malcolm Oliver

malcolmoliver54@gmail.com

Mobile: 07957 252208

P/T Monday, Tuesday & Thursday

Safeguarding officer:

Yvonne Tideswell

wellstreetsafeguarding@gmail.com

Mobile: 07501 379041

Treasurer: James Knapton/Wendy Collins

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Well Street United Church, Well Street, Buckingham, MK18 1ET

Registered Charity 1144369



well street
united church

putting the King at the heart of Buckingham

September
2026

Welcome to Well Street United Church

Welcome to Well Street United Church especially if it is your first time.

If you would like to receive electronic weekly updates please speak with a Welcomer.

Welcome to Revd Malcolm Oliver.

I am sure that you will all want to join me in welcoming our new Minister, Revd Malcolm Oliver. We have a special Circuit Service at Lace Hill Academy at 10.30 am on Sunday September 6th to formally welcome him. I hope that as many of our congregation as possible will come and meet him as we start a new chapter in the life of our Church.

Malcolm has not only significant experience as a Methodist Minister in various parts of England, but he also worked for some years in Zambia, where he has family connections.

I hope to see you all on September 6th.

Margaret Gateley

Refreshments will be served after the Welcome Service. If you are able to provide a cake for the occasion please contact Margaret Gateley



Please note that Renew Café will be closed on Saturday 3rd October

Weekly Activities

Sunday

10.30am Morning Worship
Lace Hill Academy MK18 7RR

Tuesday 10.00am

First Steps (Toddler Group)
(Term Time only)

Tuesday, Wednesday and

Thursday - Life Groups –contact
Church Office for details

Thursday 5.00pm

Explorers (5-11year olds)
(Term time only)

Saturday 10.00am-12 noon

Renew Café
NB Closed on 3rd October

Monthly Activities:

Lace Hill Manor Service
1st Sunday

Sunday Prayer and Praise
2nd Sunday

CAMEO

1st Wednesday

Contact Ros to book a place

An Elder's Reflections

I lift my eyes to the hills

Psalm 121 has always been a favourite of mine. It reminds me of holidays to the Alps in Switzerland, the Himalaya in Nepal, and many other hilly destinations of beauty in the UK and beyond. Perhaps my best memory was climbing Poon Hill (10,530 ft) in Nepal to see the sun rise over the Annapurna mountains, and our trekking group spontaneously singing, "How Great Thou Artwhen I look down from lofty mountain grandeur..." – it was also the holiday on which Lorna and I first met 30 years ago.

But Psalm 121 took on new meaning for me on 6th June when hill walking with friends in Snowdonia, mostly from Well Street Church. My foot clearly did slip (see v.3) in a gorge ironically called the 'Devil's Kitchen' and I fell 2-4m before landing on my head. We had to wait 5-hours for mountain rescue before walking down ever so slowly, then I 'did not slumber nor sleep' (v.4) for about 18-hours at Bangor hospital, before being transferred to Stoke-on-Trent for emergency surgery on my fractured neck.

It was a privilege to stand in church the following Sunday and share a few words of testimony about my remarkable rescue, give thanks for all the care that I received, and acknowledge that the outcome could have been so very different. In the weeks that have followed it has been humbling to become aware of many people far and wide that were praying for me. I have also had many opportunities to share a recording of my testimony; there must be easier ways of being a witness.

Apart from a stiff neck I am fully recovered, thank you God. Sometimes when people ask how I am, I reply, "I'm a walking miracle, but aren't we all".

I am sure that it wasn't a coincidence that Lisa Kerry preached on Psalm 121 at Tim's retirement celebration service. She spoke of the importance of being on the right path, the joy of the eternal perspective, and the reality of suffering but God is at our side. Ultimately, it is a reminder to 'lift our eyes' to God, and to put our faith in Him (v.1-2). And it is a promise to us all, that ultimately, we are in His care at all times. "... he will watch over your life, the Lord will watch over your coming and going, both now and forevermore". (v.7-8)

Andrew Brazell

First Steps returns after the Summer break on **Tuesday 8th September 10.00am at Well Street United Church**

Explorers on Thursday 10th September, 5.00pm at Well Street United Church

Explorers is open to all primary school children

Please contact Katy Morris for more detail

Pray for the teams as they prepare for the Autumn term and for the children and families as they return.



Family Prayers

We give thanks that Tim has had his surgery and pray for healing and for patience during his recovery. We also give thanks that Tony is now home.

We remember those who are in care homes and also undergoing medical treatment may they know God's love surrounding them at this time.

We pray for those we know who are seeking employment.

We pray for our schools as they return for the Autumn Term.

We remember the young people who will be starting university, apprenticeships, or taking a gap year. May they know God's guidance.

We pray for ourselves at the start of a new ministry and for Malcolm and his family, as Malcolm starts his new role at Well Street United Church.



December 25th 2026 Christmas Day Lunch, The Centre, Verney Close, Buckingham

We are hoping to run a Christmas Lunch this year for people in Buckingham who would otherwise be alone on the day.

Our aims would be

- To have the facility of transport if needed
- To arrive to a nice welcome and be led to a well laid table
- To be served a nice Christmas Meal with all the trimmings and have good company
- To have tea/coffee/mince pies and enjoy entertainment
- To be given a present

Safety and Security:

No guests will be allowed to attend if they have been drinking alcohol.

A first aider to be on hand

It will require a team of people to put together a plan, and we will need people who can help with preparations before the day and those who are also able to help on the day. There will be many tasks which will need to be done including writing invitations and cards, decorating the room, wrapping up presents, welcoming, setting up tables and laying them, flower arranging, veg preparation, cooking, transporting guests to the venue, arranging a few fun activities, washing up, clearing tables and putting away, and so on.

We would like to encourage people who can offer their time and skills on Christmas Eve and/or on Christmas day, and like working as a team. To this end please consider how you might be able to help and let me know by August 31 st 2026 by email or text message.

Many thanks

Sheila Handley

sheila.handley@sky.com

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September Preaching

Date	Place	Time	Theme	Preacher/ Worship Leader
6th September	LHA	10.30am	Circuit Welcome Service For Revd Malcolm Oliver Including Communion	Revd Sara Cliff Katy Morris
13th September	LHA	10.30am		Revd Malcolm Oliver Katy Morris
13th September	WSUC	6.00pm	Praise and Prayer	
20th September	LHA	10.30am		Jenny Boxwell Peter Butcher
27th September	LHA	10.30am	Harvest	Sally Woodd
4th October	Church Weekend Away—There is no service at Lace Hill Academy as we will be away at Highgate House, Northampton			



Pray for the Well Street Team as they lead the service at 3.00pm on **Sunday 6th September** at Lace Hill Manor



CAMEO returns on Wednesday 2nd September. If you would like to book a meal please contact Ros. Cost £7

The Speaker for September is Andrew Brazell who will be sharing about the work of the charity he works for Practical Action,. His theme is 'Go Tell, Rwanda'



Thursday 10th September

7.30pm @ Well Street United Church, Well Street, Please join us for our September QCM

Wednesday 16th September
Circuit Meeting (with Food Fellowship)
Well Street United Church @ 6.30pm

Celebrating 30 Years of Ministry

It was a joy to see the church full on Saturday 11th July as the chapels, Well Street and many others came together for the 'Celebration of 30 Years in Ministry for Tim & Wendy', the last 12 of which have been here in Buckingham.

After opening worship, some words of appreciation were shared on behalf of our denominational partners; Rev Lisa Kerry, Rev Geoffrey Clarke, and Rev Sara Cliff, on behalf of the Baptists, URC, and Methodists respectively. Then it was the turn of representatives from Gawcott, Steeple Claydon, Thornborough (who could forget Paul Hodges getting us all to sing), and Well Street (including presentation of a photo book). Rev Lisa Kerry took Psalm 121 as the basis for her sermon. Tim shared a few words in response before we prayed for him and Wendy. And we finished with 'Crown Him with many Crowns', a blessing, and The Grace.

Then it was cutting cake, sharing of sandwiches and more, and enjoying each other's company – with many happy memories of what has been and prayers for what is to come, as Tim & Wendy retire from paid ministry and move to Oswestry, Shropshire.
- Let's keep in touch

Andrew Brazell



NB Tim and Wendy will continue to live at The Manse, until their house purchase goes through.

Dear Well Street Family

It was so good to have you share with us on 11 July in our Celebration of 30 Years Ministry.

Thank you for all of you who made it happen, and for your kind words and expressions of love to us. We felt it was a fitting way for us to finish, even though we are both working or a little while longer. As Tim said on the day, it was not so much a celebration of his ministry, or his and Wendy's, but of the partnership in the gospel that we have shared with all of you, and others, over the years.

The lovely flowers that we were given even came with us on holiday to Shropshire, and we enjoyed having them in the porch of our tent all week!

With our love and thanks
Tim & Wendy



The book club meets at our Well Street Building on the 4th Friday of the month for a light meal and discussion.

The books we read include fictional biographies: I Julian by Claire Gilbert and Phoebe by Paula Gooder. Both these books were particularly well researched by experts in the historical period. This made them very immersive and opened our eyes to the challenges of living as women and particularly as Christian women during difficult times.

We read Quarantine by Jim Crace. This is a more traditional fiction book and focuses on a group of travellers who have chosen to spend time in solitude in the desert, all seeking spiritual answers in desperate situations. Jesus is portrayed as one of these characters. Into the mix we meet the particularly manipulative character of Musa, who gradually takes centre stage. I won't spoil the ending but it generated discussion around the little known life of Jesus as a young man and how non-christians view this particular episode in His life.

We were challenged by more traditional Christian literature: Do I Stay Christian? by Brian McLaren, and warmed by the more humorous Touching Cloth : Confessions and Communion of A Young Priest by The Reverend Fergus Butler-Gallie. Another highlight was the free audio book Women of Holy Week: An Easter Journey in Nine Stories by Paula Gooder.

Although we have taken a break during August, we are back on

Friday 22nd September @ 6.00pm

Please speak with me or email me if you would like to come along to any of our meetings and to book your seat at the table.

Suzy Peace

Book for September:
Blown Away: From Drug Dealer To Life Bringer
by Pastor Mick Fleming.

