

## **Information about the Churches in the Basingstoke Section of the Basingstoke and Reading Circuit.**

This section consists of 6 Methodist churches and 1 L.E.P.

### **Kempshott**

This church is situated on the western side of Basingstoke within close reach of the M3. A small, ageing but lively membership maintains a distinctive presence, welcoming and nurturing new arrivals with warmth and fellowship. Many off-site activities extend this fellowship. These include Kombat (a social group for men who are not all regular worshippers), a Ladies' group, a house prayer/fellowship group, Kaleidoscope (a house-based discussion group), a church run table tennis group with young families, regular monthly Sunday lunches for both Church members and non-Church goers, and an annual weekend away at a Christian hotel. The building is used by a local dance school which participates in some services. Links, including shared services, are also growing with the local Anglican church. The church is noted for its support of social need at home by working with the homeless and abroad with support for prisoners and a school in Zambia.

### **Oakley**

Overlooking the village pond Oakley Methodist Chapel is very much at the heart of the local community. A number of well-established groups provide opportunity for fellowship through the week. These include Monday Club, Tuesday coffee morning, Prayer and Praise and Bible Study evenings. "Souper Saturdays" on the first Saturday of the winter months provide a lunchtime focus accompanied by soup and pudding. Recently the congregation has become involved with regular Open the Book assemblies at the local primary school. This is a church with a strong pastoral focus. It also has good links with the local Anglican Church and the Community Church.

### **Oakridge**

Established as part of a near town-centre development Oakridge Methodist Church serves a heterogeneous community. It has responded well to local demands including those made by children who drifted into the church demanding to know what it was all about. The number and age-range of children involved is now becoming a challenge to the congregation. The building is used by local community groups, uniformed organisations and a Nursery. There is a regular weekly coffee morning and until recently a Toddler group provided weekly outreach. The Circuit Messy Church which meets on a monthly basis is held at Oakridge Methodist Church. Oakridge also supports a local community allotment. The congregation provide outreach to a number of local care homes and sheltered accommodation e.g. special services and a craft group.

### **Old Basing**

At the heart of the historic village of Old Basing lies Old Basing Methodist Church which is celebrating its 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary this summer. This small congregation has

worked hard to modernise its interior, introducing a modern décor, new flexible seating and kitchen and toilet facilities. A high-tech television screen facilitates worship and teaching. A warm and friendly welcome greets visitors and there are regular coffee mornings and a craft group. The congregation have strong links with the local Anglican community.

### **St Andrew's**

St Andrew's is a new development which includes a church and a Medical Centre. This provides many opportunities to reach out into the community. The Circuit has a Deacon whose work has been based at St Andrew's. The "Mug and Biscuit" coffee shop provides a social venue; lunches are served two days a week and have proved popular. The versatile building is proving popular with both regular and casual tenants. A weekly prayer group, coffee club and knitting group add to the buzz generated by the hospitable atmosphere.

There is also a Mothers and Toddlers Group and a thriving Boys Brigade Company. Many local groups regularly hire the church building.

### **Trinity Basingstoke**

Occupying a site on the outskirts of the town centre Trinity is one of the largest Methodist churches in the circuit. Blessed with an attractive modern worship area, a large hall, a lounge, a church office and a number of smaller rooms there is scope for a rich variety of activity and witness. Additionally there is a basement area where Badminton and other games can be played and this is connected to a separate hall with its own kitchen area, which was created to provide a venue for the uniformed organisations which use the building. This church offers evening as well as morning worship on Sundays and provides a monthly mid-week communion service. There is a Prayer Link, a 'Heart and Soul' meditation group, weekly coffee mornings and JAM, a monthly group for families, has recently started. The church has an active network of house groups, a women's fellowship and an evening group called "Trinity Circle". A pre-school uses part of the building on weekdays. The central position of this church, together with its large size has made it the ideal location for the town's food-bank which has been created as an ecumenical response to social need in our times. The Zimbabwean Fellowship also uses the building for worship.

### **Christ Church Chineham**

Christ Church Chineham is a four way L.E.P. with a full time Youth work Leader and a part time Children and Families Worker on the staff team.

Further details about these churches can be found on the Circuit website:

[www.basingstokereadingmethodists.uk](http://www.basingstokereadingmethodists.uk)