Latest news items added:

- Magna Carta – 800th Anniversary  See page 1
- May Circuit Meeting Minutes  See page 1
- Pray and Give for Nepal  See page 2
- World Church Relationships News Bulletin June 2015  See page 3

================================

MAGNA CARTA – 800TH ANNIVERSARY

Monday, 15th June 2015 is the 800th anniversary of the sealing of Magna Carta at Runnymede.

As part of the celebrations, a flotilla will sail down the river Thames, led by the Queen’s Rowbarge, Gloriana, between Bisham Abbey and Runnymede on the weekend 13th / 14th June.

As the crow flies, 7 of the 12 churches within the circuit are within one mile of the Thames, and the one furthest away is 2.6 miles. The flotilla will be travelling right through the Thames Valley Circuit from North-West to South-East.

We think that, as a fitting tribute, it would be good to generate an album in the Picture Gallery on the circuit website, with photographs of this event taken from different points within the circuit. If you do take pictures, please, each of you, send one or two to the Circuit Webmaster!

The following Sunday, 21st June, is a Circuit Service in Old Windsor – the Methodist Church closest (1.3 miles) to Magna Carta Island, where tradition says the Charter was signed.

A summary of events taking place locally is included as an appendix at the end of this news.

================================

MINUTES OF THE MAY CIRCUIT MEETING

The minutes of the March Circuit Meeting are available on the Circuit website, either by going to the relevant Reports link in the About Us section, or by following this link.
The 25th April 2015 earthquake, the worst in 81 years, caused devastation in the capital city Kathmandu as well as in isolated mountain areas of the country including Gorkha district. The epicentre of the earthquake, which measured 7.8 in magnitude, centred around 50 miles east of the second city, Pokhara. Over 8000 people are already known to have died, and thousands of homes and public buildings have been damaged or destroyed.

The next major earthquake, on 12th May, brought additional death and devastation.

All We Can, Methodist’s Relief and Development arm, is responding to the humanitarian crisis through our experienced local partners, providing support to some of the most affected communities, including distributing food, tarpaulin sheets and mosquito nets to those in need. They are also supporting teams from our partner Kopila, which has expertise in trauma management and mental health issues, to provide emergency counselling to survivors.

The second picture here is of a team from All We Can's partner Kopila next to a newly erected communal shelter in the village Pokhari, where every home was destroyed by the first earthquake.

The Methodist Church website is being updated regularly with news from Nepal about the situation, and also about our Mission Partners there. Click here to see it.

The Methodist Church Fund for World Mission exists to support the work of the British Methodist Church and its partner churches overseas, through the sharing of both resources and personnel. If you wish to find out more about giving a donation for the relief work in Nepal (or any other project) click here.
Recently, the news has been full of speculation about, and responses to, the current crisis that has seen thousands of migrants drowning in Mediterranean waters. The following four documents relate in different ways to church responses to the current migration crisis in the Mediterranean:

**Mediterranean Hope**
A PowerPoint introducing the project of the Federation of Protestant Churches in Italy which monitors the crisis from Lampedusa Island and offers welcome in a house in Scicli, Sicily.

**Safe and Legal Paths to Protection**
Joint recommendations from seven Christian refugee and migration bodies in Europe to counter trafficking.

**Read the joint statement here**
of the World Council of Churches, the Conference of European Churches and the Churches Commission for Migrants in Europe on the tragedies of recent weeks.

**Statement on the Migrant Crisis in the Mediterranean**
from the Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, Rt Rev John Chalmers.

Please pray for all those affected by this matter and for those who are working on ways to address it.

================================

**WORLD CHURCH RELATIONSHIPS NEWS BULLETIN**

The World Church Relationship News Bulletin for June 2015 is now available.  

It includes:

- Nepal: After the devastating earthquakes.
- Papua New Guinea: also hit by earthquakes.
- Fiji: improved relations between its government and the Methodist Church in Fiji.
- Those seeking refuge in other countries, and the ongoing migrant crisis.
- The Methodist Church in El Salvador
- News from other mission partners.

================================
ALL WE CAN’S RESPONSE TO THE VANUATU CYCLONE

All We Can has pledged its support after tropical Cyclone Pam hit the Pacific island nation of Vanuatu in mid-March, wiping out infrastructure and leaving thousands of people homeless.

Vanuatu is one of the world’s least developed countries and highly vulnerable to natural disasters. It has a population of around 250,000 spread over 65 islands. Many of them were initially unreachable, raising fears that the death toll would rise sharply as rescuers reached outlying islands.

Vanuatu’s President, Baldwin Lonsdale, who linked the cyclone to climate change, said that it had “wiped out” the development of recent years. The United Nations has stated that Cyclone Pam could be one of the worst natural disasters in the history of the Pacific.
Local events celebrating 800 years since Magna Carta was sealed at Runnymede.

21st May: Guildhall, Windsor
New Displays – Medieval Stories
Details can be found at [http://www.rbwm.gov.uk/web/museum_magna_carta.htm](http://www.rbwm.gov.uk/web/museum_magna_carta.htm)

5th – 7th June: St Andrew’s Church, Wraysbury
Flower Festival
The church path will be decked with displays of flowers made by children. An embroidered wall hanging has been worked, showing King John sealing the Magna Carta, together with the coats of arms of the barons involved. To be unveiled during the Flower Festival.

Book Reading, afternoon, 7th June
Denise Steele has written a book intended for children which will be published this year. There will be a reading in St Andrew’s and at the Baptist Church. More information at [http://www.standrewswraysbury.co.uk/](http://www.standrewswraysbury.co.uk/)

10th June: Lincoln to Salisbury via Maidenhead & Windsor
Ghurkha Walk
Route details will be published on the Magna Carta Website.

11th June: Wraysbury Village Hall
Wraysbury Players Magna Carta Play
Tickets are £5 to be donated to the Wraysbury players. The play will be primarily for the villagers of Horton and Wraysbury. The performance will include details about the Magna Carta and feature medieval music from Lumina Music. More information at [http://www.wraysburyplayers.co.uk/](http://www.wraysburyplayers.co.uk/)

13th and 14th June: organised by Thames Alive
River Relay
Route: The flotilla will travel from Hurley to Runnymede Pleasure Ground over two days, carrying a facsimile of the Magna Carta, created by young people in the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead for the Windsor & Royal Borough Museum. The lead boat will be the Queen's Row barge "Glorianna".

The relay will stop at various points on the way to recount the story of Magna Carta and hand over the responsibility of carrying the document to a new relay bearer, who will be on board the Royal Shallop "Jubilant" and escorted by rowed craft. The flotilla will continue travelling downstream with opportunities for registered other craft to join in. Details at [http://www.thamesalive.org.uk/magnacarta](http://www.thamesalive.org.uk/magnacarta)
13th June

1. River Relay
The route is from Hurley to Bray. 195 boats, none using power, will come from Spelthorne. They will overnight at the Oakley Court Hotel, Windsor.

2. Wraysbury Fair.
This event will reflect the medieval theme and everyone, including stall holders, will be appropriately costumed. There will be manpowered floats, archery, falconry, Morris dancing and jousting on Shetland ponies. The village will be decorated with streamers from lamp posts and hanging baskets in the red and gold colours of King John's badge.

3. Egham: Magna Carta Day and Street Festival
Details at www.runnymede.gov.uk/magnacarta

4. Gathering of the Barons. Lammas Field, Staines
Details at: www.spelthorne.gov.uk/magnacarta

5. Medieval Fair on the Brocas, Eton and a LiberTea in the main street at 3 pm.
Details at: https://liberteas.co.uk/

14th June

1. River Relay (details as above)
Continues from Oakley Court Hotel to Runnymede/Ankerwycke.

2. Land Pageant at Runnymede
A ticket is required for entry to the Pageant but not to watch the River Relay from the riverbank from outside Runnymede Pleasure Ground. From 10 am a wide range of entertainment and activities throughout the day for families to enjoy before the re-enactment starts. Details at https://www.runnymede.gov.uk/pageant

3. Great Charter Festival at Royal Holloway University, Egham
Details at https://www.runnymede.gov.uk/magnacarta

4. ¼ Peal of Bells at Wraysbury Parish Church and across the country at key venues associated with Magna Carta. (The bells will also be rung during the Flower Festival on 7th June.)

5. LiberTeas These are happening all over the country on 14th June, including locally at:
   - Eton: 3 pm in the main street.
   - Bachelors Acre, Windsor, 4 pm
   - Wraysbury Grange, 4 pm
6. Songs of Praise at the Grange, Wraysbury. 5.30 pm

15th June
800th Anniversary of Magna Carta
National event in the presence of Her Majesty the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh. Ticket Holders only. This includes the unveiling of a new piece of public art in the Meadows, commissioned by Surrey County Council.

Everyone else is welcome to come and watch the ceremony on large TV screens on the Meadows near the National Trust lodges at Runnymede. Note: the usual access routes to Runnymede Meadows will be extremely restricted throughout the day, and the car parks at Runnymede and Runnymede Pleasure Grounds will be closed. The easiest way to get to the site will be to use those local footpaths which will remain open.
Details at www.surreycc.gov.uk/magnacarta

21st June
Circuit Service at Old Windsor Methodist Church
This is the Methodist Church closest (1.3 miles) to Magna Carta Island, where tradition says the charter was signed.

================================