



# *Newsletter*



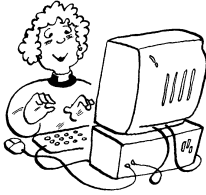
*Summer 2026*



**Epworth, Scunthorpe & Gainsborough  
Methodist Circuit**



FROM THE MANSE



Dear Friends,

Having times and places set aside where we can let go of other responsibilities and simply spend time in prayer and reflection can be a blessing. So, it proved to be with the Circuit Quiet Day in March and with the annual District Ministers Retreat. However, it is also important that we can pray where we are and how we are, gathering our daily experiences and the people we encounter into the rhythm of prayer. Hence the circuit's invitation to pray for Chapels that have supplied prayer requests for each Sunday on the Summer preaching plan. The details of what each chapel would like us, as their siblings in Christ, to pray for will be e-mailed out to church contacts, worship leaders and local preachers by the circuit office. May these prayers be a reminder that we are not little islands – thriving or surviving – but connected through the Spirit of God.

So, a few lessons from the District Ministers Retreat at Launde Abbey as we embark on this way of prayer. 3 S's in fact – sheep, spiders and a swing. Outside the inner gardens of Launde Abbey flocks of sheep roam apparently freely. On our recent visit, the sheep seemed to be in especially good voice- perhaps because many of them were looking after young lambs. The sheep and the lambs were not afraid to bleat out their needs – for sustenance, for shelter, for companionship. Perhaps we can learn from this the value of expressing our needs, the needs of our churches, the needs of our world directly to God. Meanwhile, in my room there were the spiders. Many people are afraid of spiders but thankfully I am not. The undisturbed spider, sitting patiently on its web revealed something of the nature of contemplative prayer. Not rushing around, not doing, simply waiting on God. Whilst the spider seems a

somewhat solitary creature, it's web reminded me of the significance of the support networks that we are all part of. We are linked together in faith and prayer. Within the inner gardens of Launde Abbey I found a tree swing. I couldn't resist having a turn on it and mercifully it was strong enough for me to do so safely. The literally uplifting and joyful experience of sitting on the swing signalled to me the importance of lifting up our hearts and voices in praise to God. We may want to thank God for the blessings we experience as individuals and as churches. We may just want to thank God for being God.

Thanksgiving is an especially important note to end this summer newsletter on at a time of change in our circuit. As a circuit we want to express our thanks to Rev Paul Braidell as he 'sits down'. We are grateful for the time, skills and dedication Paul has offered during his 11 years in this area. We also remember the contributions that Bronwen Braidell has made to the life of our circuit as a Local Preacher, Local Preachers Meeting Secretary, PA to Rev Paul, her work for MWiB and in many other ways. We pray God's blessing on them at this milestone moment and as they take their next steps on a journey of life and faith.

May we all be held in the grace of God. *Blessings, Rev Vicki*



## Ministers day off

|                           |                 |
|---------------------------|-----------------|
| <i>Rev Vicki Atkinson</i> | <i>Saturday</i> |
| <i>Rev Paul Braidell</i>  | <i>Friday</i>   |
| <i>Rev Debbie Caulk</i>   | <i>Friday</i>   |

## † Shared reflections from Circuit quiet day †

### *Jenny Fotheringham*

Patrick and (Jenny) went to join in the prayer service at Lea Chapel. We were welcomed by Pat and had coffee. There were about 12 of us and we had a time of reflection and fellowship that we found really uplifting.

### *Pat Gray*

There were 13 in attendance at Lea and all who came enjoyed the time together. 5 were Lea members; one lady was doing the whole day, others came from around the circuit. It was so nice to have this short time of worship together, to enjoy the moments of silence, and just be still. Refreshments were served, and people stayed to enjoy the fellowship and the garden. I am sure something similar would be welcome.

Easter Blessings.

### *Laura White*

I attended the quiet day session which Rev Paul led at Yaddlethorpe. It was lovely to spend time reflecting and praying together. There was also the opportunity for people to light a candle, which is always lovely as a focus point of your prayers. There were people from Yaddlethorpe and Ashby Wesley in attendance. It would have been nice for there to have been a few more people from other churches around the circuit.

### *Glenis Quible*

Thank you Debbie for all the organising for our Circuit Quiet Day. I attended the 2 hours at Winteringham and found it to be really meaningful. It's good to lay aside time to be in God's presence and wait on his word. To follow the other readings and prayers during the day I felt it drew the Circuit together. Thank you for using the

Methodist Worship Book. It is an excellent source of material for a quiet day. Even if we did exactly the same next year it would be time well spent. in reflection and prayer. Hazel led our time together in Winteringham - thank you.

With the world situation as it is today, we certainly need more of these 'prayer oases'.

**Cath Holmes**

I read the leaflet giving the full day's events and found it very thought provoking. I was able to get to Yaddlethorpe at 7pm and found it a very uplifting experience. I found the completely silent times very helpful as in a normal service there always seems to be someone whispering!!

I would certainly support a similar event next year and hopefully be able to attend more churches. Thank you to our three conscientious ministers and everyone else who helped to organise the day.

God bless.

**Anne Craddock**

Really good to share with visitors from other church's and to meet people we've not met. Lovely and peaceful xx

**Diana White**

Thank you to Rev Debbie for organising the circuit prayer day. I think it was a very good idea, in drawing people together in prayer and including different churches. I attended two sessions and found them very meaningful. I think that it would be good to do something similar in the future.

Best wishes.

**Sheila Atkinson**

For some strange reason, I volunteered to open up the chapel for the first venue on the Circuit Quite Day. 7am start is quite a shock to the system and takes me back to student nurse days which was even

earlier start to the Day. It was certainly outside the comfort area. The balance of prayer, and scripture was ok. I always have difficulty in being told to sit, be quiet and reflect but the colouring cards reading from worship book, hymns, and the bible helped to focus the mind.

My big mistake was not following more of the trail through the other chapels. I had intended going to Yaddlethorpe at 7 pm but sadly I had fallen asleep by then. I thank Rev Debbie for organising the day.

### **Irene and Lawrie Holtby**

Regarding the Day of Prayer in the circuit: this was a great idea and those of us who attended at Old Brumby found it meaningful and meditative and I liked the practical element. Most of our congregation are of an age where the start time was just too early but those of us who made it appreciated it. Thanks to Debbie for the idea and to Vicki for leading. Blessings.

### **Will Maw**

I feel all who came found it good to sit still and be reflective.

We are so thankful our village gives us support in very difficult and challenging times, those members who are still able to attend worship and help in many ways.

We are especially thankful that we have two members still committed to playing our music and also a teenager still willing to help with our services.

We realise change is on the horizon help us all to look to the future giving us strength and courage to face whatever God wants from us all, we seek his calling whatever he desires.

### **Hazel Jackson – Local Preacher**

I found leading a quiet session (at Winteringham) and attending a quiet session (Owston Ferry) spiritually refreshing, a different opportunity to spend time with members across the circuit in a new way from "general worship".

For me, at Owston Ferry where we read a hymn, I was reminded of how precious words are in the hymns we sing; a thought I'd had many times when, during covid worship we couldn't sing but read the words, and I noticed how wonderful the words are.

Personally, for me as a local preacher, for future planning of worship, I will review and look at and consider reading a hymn and not sing it just to remind ourselves, how to absorb, value, and notice the wonderful words penned by so many.

Thank you for the opportunity the quiet day brought; to be together, to reflect together, to be silent together, appreciate God's presence and for me, to take away a reminder of a precious thought.

### **Betty Oldridge**

I went to the quiet day session at Gunness, which Mervyn took.

There was opening worship of about 10mins which led really well into the silent prayer time. I found this wonderful, it was so good to be still, and just pray.

Usually at "normal" Sunday worship, we're up and away, so for me, the opportunity to sit quietly in a oneness with God was a bonus.

I didn't travel to any other sessions but will do if there is another quiet day planned. I loved it all, it was different and I appreciated the quietness and time with God. Thank you

### **Louise Howard**

Thank you to everyone who was involved in the planning and hosting for our Circuit Quiet Day. I found it really encouraging to be part of a full day together spent in prayer - I have been greatly inspired to use this resource in the future. I found myself reflecting for many days afterwards on how I felt that the experience warmed and grounded me.

For the Lauds, Prime and Compline I spent my prayer time with my puppy either snuggling up or out walking in the fields nearby pausing frequently to savour the sights of the morning and the evening. Terce and None, my prayers were heartily pulled towards our family ministry, while I set up in the school room and also baked simnel cakes for the playgroup session for the following day. I also found myself pondering for those 'on whose shoulders we stand' in our Church giving heartfelt thanks for those who have shared with me their stories and their prayer- rhythms and prayed with me during times when I had no words. 1pm Sext at Owston Ferry was awesome to be with the group of us who gathered. I was a wee bit late and so missed sharing lunch together but it was a wonderful blessing as we met to pray. For part of the hour. we read aloud the chosen hymn 'Prayer is the soul's sincere desire' so we could focus on the words and their meaning. Our time together ended in quiet time reading through some Psalms or hymns.

5pm vespers, I was with extended family for dinner and so felt it easy to chat about what had happened during the prayer day and for us to share thoughts on how often we do mindfully interact with God throughout our day.

I pray that this Circuit Quiet Prayer Day helped to ground and warm all of our spirits and encouraged us to grow in faith and sow seeds of peace, love and faith as we keep watch.



### **God's Love**

*Love means caring and God cares.*

*Love means knowing and understanding and God knows and understands every reaction. Every blow that reaches us He knows about, and He is with us even when we feel most alone.      **Georgette Butcher***

♥ From "Who Cares?" – Edited and compiled by Mary Oakley



**You are invited  
to Ashby Wesley Methodist Church  
on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> July 2026**

to say Farewell to Rev Paul & Bronwen Braisdell  
as they retire from full time ministry

**5pm – Service of worship led by Rev Paul  
followed**

**by light refreshments in the church hall**

**Ashby Wesley Church  
1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday every month**

*If you're feeling sad, lonely or at a loss  
after a bereavement...*



*... come along and have a cup of coffee  
and a chat.*

***2pm to 3pm***

***Everyone is welcome to join us.***

## Longing to go on retreat or pilgrimage

By Revd Debbie Caulk

Recently the film *The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry* was on TV. Several years ago, the novel on which this film is based was on the recommended reading list of Methodist Women in Britain — I've never forgotten reading that book. Give it a go. Like many folks, I thought the experience of reading the book was best!

And BBC1 recently produced another new season of the wonderful *Pilgrimage* series — wonderful to inspire us, as well as to enlighten us concerning the thoughts of non-Christians and non-churchgoers, as the episodes capture the pilgrims' candid conversations together about 'practicing my faith' and 'institutionalised religions', as well as 'seeking spirituality' in general.

These are very good topics for us to think about and be aware of as we seek to increase attendance at our local chapels, and as we pray for our family and friends to want to start attending worship services and chapel fellowship events with us.

I've written this article in April — when Methodist ministers in Lincolnshire District have a retreat week at wonderful Launde Abbey.

And during April, for many years now, my mind automatically thinks of the opening lines of Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales*. I hope I never forget the day when one of my high school English teachers cheerfully helped us students to memorise those lines in the original 'Middle English'!

Here's a modern translation of the first sentence of *Canturbury Tales*: "When April with its sweet showers has pierced March's drought to the root ... then people long to go on pilgrimages"!

Going on a pilgrimage and going on a retreat are delightful things, deep within our basic Christian and Methodist theological traditions. Yes, at certain times in the history of 'The Church' the concepts of pilgrimage and retreat have been abused by some people. But still, the basic good idea of pilgrimage and retreat has also continually been held onto by Christians across the centuries as something valuable and spiritually enriching.

If you've never been on a pilgrimage or retreat, or if it's been a long time since you last did, consider doing it again — whether 'spur of the moment' like the character Harold Fry; or thoughtfully planned out and saved-up for.

Next time you see me, let me know where you've been glad to go on pilgrimage or retreat. I'm always looking for new pilgrimage and retreat ideas — for my days off and quarter days and annual leave weeks — and especially as I have another sabbatical to start planning for.

I've now been on several pilgrimages, and many retreats, and I do believe that each experience helped me to be a better Christian and deepened my spirituality and helped me to learn more about our Methodist Wesleyan theology and Methodist Way of Life. Some of the places I've been on pilgrimage and retreat are these:

- \* **Walsingham**, England's 'Little Bethlehem' — where John Wesley also intentionally visited and encouraged other Methodists to do the same, and where he built a chapel;
- \* **ancient labyrinths** — there are several different types across the UK, including stone at Ely Cathedral and turf at Alkborough — right here in our own Circuit;
- \* **Cornwall**, to walk where Jesus allegedly walked when he was a teenager, on a visit to England with his alleged great-uncle, Joseph of Arimathea;

- \* the shrine of Thomas Becket at **Canterbury Cathedral**;
- \* St Cuthbert's chapel off the coast of **Lindisfarne**, and to his shrine at **Durham Cathedral**;
- \* Mother Julian's Chapel in **Norwich**;
- \* the shrine of Margery Kemp at **King's Lynn Minster**;
- \* the shrine of St Margaret Clitherow in **York**;
- \* the shrine of St Peter in **Rome**;
- \* the shrine of St Thomas at Chennai, **India**.

Retreats and pilgrimages aren't just something for ministers do. Retreats and pilgrimages are a traditional choice for all Christians to participate in, whenever and however they can.

A lovely little local retreat or pilgrimage for you personally — a simple way to start — could simply be to make a commitment to attend the weekday service of Holy Communion at your nearest parish church.

In the spirit of our Methodist Way of Life, and within Wesleyan theology, we learn that we can never attend too many services of Holy Communion! In fact, Wesley taught that we should seek to have Holy Communion as often as we can.

Wesley encouraged Methodists to have a spiritual hunger and thirst for Holy Communion beyond the once a month that a communion service is held at your local Methodist chapel on a Sunday.

So please notice on our Preaching Plan that our Circuit includes several mid-week Holy Communion services, not just Sundays — we all are welcome at any of those services of Holy Communion – these are ministries of our Circuit, not just of the local chapel.

So why not consider a midweek half-day pilgrimage or retreat for Holy Communion within our Circuit, on a Thursday morning, to our

chapels at Messingham, Ashby-Wesley, and Gainsborough – or at your nearest parish church.

Within our own Circuit, we also have the beautiful Lea Chapel for day retreats —

<https://www.lincolnshiremethodist.org.uk/district-projects/little-retreat-at-lea.html>

Within the Methodist Connexion, we have many possibilities for retreats and pilgrimages — including ideas for retreats and pilgrimages that you can do safely at home!

<https://www.methodist.org.uk/faith/life-and-faith/spirituality/>

<https://www.methodist.org.uk/faith/life-and-faith/pilgrimage/pilgrimage-resources/>

<https://www.communitysf.org.uk/>

And if you'd like to attend a day or more retreat at Launde Abbey, less than 2 hours from our Circuit, here's that website - <https://www.laundeabbey.org.uk/>

Please know that I'd be happy to talk with you about possibilities for pilgrimages and retreats.

Peace be with you as you consider taking a pilgrimage or retreat.



## One Circuit: Our Future, Reshaping for Mission



### TIME LINE

#### SPRING '24

##### Conversations in Circuits

Worries and anxieties – overburdened by the amount and complexity of compliance and administration.

Hopes and dreams – to grow the church and to create new expressions of church in new places.

#### MARCH '24

##### District Synod

Presentation of the conversations and 2 models from Scotland and from the Yorkshire North and East Districts about how they were reshaping their strictures to enable growth.

#### SEPT '24

##### District Synod

Presentations from Revds Ann Lett and Andy Lindley about how the reshaping in Yorkshire North and East was helping them increase a missional outlook in their Circuits.

#### APRIL '25

##### District Synod

4 possible models for the way forward:

- 1 Circuit
- 3 brand new Circuits
- A model based on Yorkshire North and East with an overarching administrative Circuit which geographical Circuits would opt into when they were ready, but retaining their Circuit status.
- Not changing

Synod gave the go ahead from more work to be done on 1 Circuit.

|                                     |  |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| <b>SUMMER '25</b>                   | Working Groups established, Terms of Reference set out.<br>Discipleship and Mission Resources<br>Making it Work (Governance)   |
| <b>MARCH '26</b>                    | District Synod<br>Presentation of a 'Hub and Spoke' model of reorganising churches into groups for discipleship and mission alongside the centralisation of compliance and administration. |
| <b>SUMMER '26</b>                   | Conversations in Circuits<br>Seeking responses to and questions on the proposed model.   |
| <b>SEPTEMBER '26</b>                | District Synod<br>Further details to be discussed, seeking agreement to formally propose the model to the churches and Circuits.   |
| <b>AUTUMN '26-<br/>SPRING '27</b>   | Formal consultation with every Church Council and every Circuit Meeting.   |
| <b>APRIL '27</b>                    | District Synod<br>Reports back from Circuit Meetings and Church Councils.<br>Seeking ratification of the proposal  |
| <b>JUNE '27</b>                     | Methodist Conference<br>Ratification of agreement from Synod   |
| <b>SEPTEMBER '27</b>                | Interim Year to begin implementation of the new Circuit.   |
| <b>SEPTEMBER 1<sup>st</sup> '28</b> | New Circuit is formally created.   |

Update 2 (2 of 3) – 20.05.26

## ONE CIRCUIT: OUR FUTURE, RESHAPING FOR MISSION

### Why are we doing this?



There are 3 obvious and easy answers to this question:

- Because what I heard from every current Circuit and Church is that people are over-burdened by and anxious about administration and compliance.
- Across the Connexion there are fewer Presbyters and even fewer offering for Superintendency, leaving us even more stretched.
- There is an imbalance across the District, with the north having more resources of pretty much every kind and the south fewer.

However, those answers may only lead us to the conclusion that if we can create an administrative and resourcing centre in 1 Circuit we will have solved the problem.

What I also heard from Circuits and Local Churches was that there is a desire to grow the church, numerically and spiritually, and to share the Good News of Jesus in better, more relevant ways.

Sorting out compliance and administration and addressing the imbalance in resources, therefore, is only one part of the 'Why'. The other is that we feel that God still has work for us to do in Lincolnshire.

So, I offer 4 broad areas, which I think come directly from our Methodist way of being Church, that the Methodist people might have to offer to Lincolnshire:

- **The Ministry of the Whole People of God.**

"Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it." 1 Corinthians 12:27

In a county where the narrative is often about being on the edge, about being disregarded, we have something to say about the importance of every person. That every person has something of value to offer in shaping our communities in good ways.

- **Hearts strangely warmed.**

"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope." Romans 15:13

In a time of great uncertainty; environmental, economic, political and militarily, there is something about the reassuring presence of God who is with us.

- **The Methodist Quadrilateral.**

"For the LORD gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding". Proverbs 2:6

Methodists balance scripture, reason, tradition and experience when it comes to thinking about our faith and our relationship with and understanding of God.

In an age of reaction, soundbite, and 'them and us' this measured approach is both counter-cultural and opens us up to listening to others.

- **Connexionalism.**

"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another." John 13:34

The vocabulary of Methodist structures is of Circuits, Societies, and Connexion. Mr Wesley's idea of Social Holiness is that faith is not an individualistic, 'Sunday' thing, but that it should be lived out in community and for others. (Matthew 25; Sheep and Goats.)

In a county where travel links are difficult, where farmers can often feel isolated, where the economy of our seaside towns is of hustle and bustle in the summer months and then nothing in the winter, and undoubtedly in a county where if you look different or you sound different you are noticeable, then being connectional, building relationships, and understanding what we have in common, strikes me as vitally important and it is part of our Methodist DNA.

### **So, why are we doing this?**

Because God isn't finished with us yet, and as the Methodist people of God we have something particular to say about the Good News of Jesus.

Rev Angy (May 2026)

Update 2 (1 of 3) – 20.05.26

## **Crowle and Ealand**

### ***Celebrating Kath Skyes' 40 years as a local preacher***

Friends and family turned out in force for a momentous 3<sup>rd</sup> Easter Sunday service at Crowle & Ealand Methodist Church to pay tribute to our oldest member, ***Kath Sykes in celebrating 40 years as a local preacher.*** Rev Vicki Atkinson led this special service during which she read out a congratulatory letter from The Methodist Church Conference signed by the President, Rev Richard Andrew and Vice-President, Mr Matthew Forsyth.

It reads:: “As you mark this milestone, we offer you our heartfelt congratulations and deep gratitude. This moment is both a celebration of years past and a sacred pause to give thanks for the grace that has carried you and the lives you have touched through your ministry.

“Your commitment to preaching the gospel has shaped the story of the worshipping life of the Church, often quietly, sometimes sacrificially, but always with faithfulness and love. Through seasons of joy and challenge you have borne witness to God’s story and sung the song of grace for others to hear.

“The ministry of Local Preachers is woven deeply into the identity and story of the Methodist Church. Week by week you, and others like you, have opened Scripture, offered words of hope and challenge, and enabled worship that draws people closer to God and to one another. This is no small gift; it is a legacy of the Spirit’s work in and through you.

“We know that such service is not without cost. There will have been nights of preparation, time given freely, decisions made with care and sacrifice. Yet we hope there has also been glimpses of joy: a word received with gratitude; a life encouraged in faith; a sense of God’s Spirit moving as you preached.

“Today we give thanks for your witness and pray for the path ahead, whether it continues in the pulpit, in prayer, or through other forms of service. May you find space to reflect with joy on your journey, to name the blessings you have encountered, and to rest in the unending love of God. As you continue to walk in faith, may you be reminded often: you are God’s beloved. You are still called, still held, still part of God’s story and God’s song. “With our deepest thanks and blessing.”

Kath received a Certificate from Conference praising her 40 years of dedicated service. She was also presented with iced cake depicting a photo of her beloved Chapel kindly donated by our resident organist Ian Thomas and wife Freda.



*Kath pictured with members of her family. Consent has been given to publish photos.*



Kath still has the original letter from Methodist Conference welcoming her as a fully accredited Local Preacher in April 1986 plus a well-worn Bible presented to her at the same time.

A former teacher at Crowle Primary School, Kath chuckles as she recalls how she insisted on taking all 4 examinations to qualify before starting as a Local Preacher even though a local Minister told her she

could preach during the 2 year period of training. “I had a bug for studying” she says.

Kath passed the first 3 exams but failed the final one based on the New Testament. She says it was her own fault because she thought she knew it so well without putting in the same amount of studying. Thankfully she qualified at the next attempt.

Kath, who has a BA to her name, has spent an amazing 90 years attending the same Crowle Church having started Sunday School at the age of 3. Could that be a record?

She still takes on an active role at Church, as a long service steward, helping out at Coffee Mornings and occasionally sharing the Gospel. She has also taken her turn as an organist over the years.

Crowle member Roy Briggs says : “Kath is an inspiration to us all. She recently rang me quite early one morning to check if I was Ok. It was the day of my late wife’s Birthday hence her call. That meant a lot to me.”

***Roy Briggs***

---

## **News From Laughton**



Here at Laughton we have had quite an eventful past three months. It began with a visit from the Quinquennial Inspector who took a good look round and also took lots of photographs. Quite what the inspection report will reveal will, no doubt, soon be made available and in the meantime, we hold our breath!



The Easter service taken by Rev Paul was well attended and was a joyous occasion. There were many spring flowers on show to bring a splendid floral aroma to the church.

Early May witnessed the 99<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the church and the 201<sup>st</sup> Anniversary of Methodist presence on the site. Rev Paul again conducted a superb service with hymns taken from the Methodist Hymn Book. This was followed by a supper provided by our friends from Yaddletorpe church, which was enjoyed by one and all. Part two of the Anniversary the following Sunday saw Bob Sheard take another of his specialised services. Later in May we once again took part in the West Lindsey Churches Festival. Many visitors came to look round our small but elegantly formed chapel. We now look forward to a great summer and then our Harvest Songs of Praise and supper in mid- September.

The planning for the renovation of the former schoolroom which was begun in early 2024 was nearly abandoned this spring. We were getting nowhere with constant setbacks caused by new demands on our time and energy. With time running out before the grant monies from West Lindsey District Council became totally lost, we decided to have one last attempt at the renovation. The original plan was thrown out and a new plan brought in. This streamlined plan would see new toilet facilities built within the confines of the schoolroom and so planning permission would not be needed, saving time and money.

New quotes have been received, a new Grant Funding Agreement has been instigated between the Council and ourselves, and the residents of the village have given the plan their blessing by attending a meeting and a tea, coffee and cakes morning. We hope that the renovation will be started soon and completed by October.

Things are now looking up. Let's hope that continues and everyone will come and approve of the renovation.

*Kevin Wilbur*

## **A story from Yaddlethorpe**

### **A JAR OF COINS**



Do you remember the essays we used to write at school : A Day in the Life of.....A Piece of String.....A Sixpence.....A Rubber Band.....? I was reminded of this recently.

One of our members gives me jars of small-denomination coins for church funds. She mentioned that a friend saves them and then doesn't know what to do with them, so asked her if the church could use them (which of course we can!)

I count them, change them into larger coins and duly pay those into the bank. I then put the original coins back in their jar and pass them to another member. He saves them for a teacher friend who uses them for class work and school sales etc.

Quite an adventurous life for a jar of small coins!

### **GOOD FRIDAY AT YADDLETHORPE**

Our afternoon service was led by Rev Paul. It covered the Good Friday story in words and hymns and was a very meaningful event. We were delighted to welcome many friends from around the circuit, also some visitors.

The service was followed by hot cross buns and tea or coffee in the hall, and everyone was invited to stay.



Photo credit : Maddi Bazzoco-  
unsplash.com

***Virginia Isitt***

## Easter time at Upton Chapel



Members of Upton Chapel were delighted to celebrate Easter weekend with our friends from the village, Lea chapel members and 7 children! The chapel was full for our Good Friday Gathering when the bare cross was decorated with items relating to Holy Week and then covered with a drape to signify the death of Jesus. Fellowship continued after the service with hot cross buns. The joyous Easter Sunday Service was led by Rev. Gunson. The wooden cross was decorated with spring posies brought by the congregation and Easter eggs were distributed.

A beautiful banner made by some of Upton Chapel's members was on display. We were also thrilled to see the choisya bushes in full bloom and our cherry tree, planted in memory of Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip, finally decided to send forth blossoms!

Thank you to everyone who made our Easter time special. Easter reminds us that even after the darkest days, fresh beginnings in the new life around us brings us hope for the future.

*Julie Barrow*

## Ukrainian Easter eggs at Ashby Wesley Chapel



The local Ukrainian community arranged an event for Ukrainians to come together to do their traditional craft “Pysanky”. It was interesting watching people of all ages painting eggs with melted wax, dipping them in dye and decorating them.

*Consent given to publish photos*



Olia, one of the organisers’, writes: Ukrainian Easter eggs, called pysanky, are a traditional craft with deep cultural meaning. They date back to ancient times, before Christianity, when eggs symbolised the sun and new life. After Christianity spread, pysanky became connected to Easter and the resurrection of Jesus. The word pysanka means “to write,” because the designs are made with wax, not paint. Pysanky are created using a wax-resist method and dyed in layers from light to dark colours. Each design and colour has a special meaning. Common symbols include the sun for life and energy, and plants for growth and renewal. Animals like birds represent freedom and the arrival of spring. Crosses are important Christian symbols of faith and protection. Triangles often represent the Holy Trinity. Colours are also symbolic: red stands for love, yellow for the sun, and green for new life. Black represents eternity, while white symbolises purity. Pysanky are often given as gifts during Easter. They are believed to bring protection, good luck, and blessings to the home.

*Kirsty Barker*

## Some news from Winteringham

### *Easter Celebration - All Age Service and breakfast*

This was well attended and our service was led by the Rev Vicki. We sat around 20 adults and children down for breakfast which consisted of cereals, boiled eggs and toast with preserves.

It was good to see people coming along to join our Easter worship celebration and enjoy the social aspect of the morning. We have been including the Easter breakfast in our gathering since the Chapel was opened in 1978 and Easter would not be the same without it.



We had four young people who contributed to the service and a “bunny hunt” was organised for them. ***Our picture, whom the parents have agreed for publication,*** shows them with their Bunny collection. Easter eggs was also distributed to everyone.

William played his guitar and Daisy sang in the service. They presented the hymn “***What a wonderful saviour is Jesus***”, putting in lots of practice before hand which paid off.

### *Service on Sunday 12th of April*

Our service was led for the first time by Rev Debbie Caulk, which everyone enjoyed. We look forward to her taking over as our Minister in the coming months.

Rev Debbie explained that there is a surplus amount of ministers in America. That is the reason why she and her husband came over to England to help in our ministry which we are very thankful for.

### **Midweek visits from Winteringham under fives**

From time to time, we welcome the under-fives, leaders and families at Easter. We did a special welcome as we looked at aspects of Easter with them. They were each given Easter eggs and at the close sang three Easter songs and everyone enjoyed the time together.



*Our picture shows the under-fives who joined us and parents gave permission for the photo to be printed.*

*Will Maw – Senior steward*

.....

## **Christian Crackers – compiled by Phil Mason**

*A bishop, a scout and the Brain of Britain were passengers in a small aeroplane. The pilot announced serious trouble and asked everyone to leave the plane. There were only two parachutes so the bishop suggested that as he was the oldest, he should stay behind. The scout said :  
"Don't worry Sir, there are still two parachutes - the Brain of Britain has jumped with my haversack".*

**D.W.**



## Methodist Women in Britain

### News from District & Connexion

Our District Day held at Middle Rasen was well attended and turned out to be a real day of fun & fellowship. Our guest speaker was Olive Ruvimbo Rudvidzo, Co-Chair of MWiB who encouraged us to think about simple actions we can do – they made up the petals of our MWiB District sunflower. Olive also helped us to get to know each other and find things we had in common and then put us to work in teams to develop a mission plan using the following 5 items: a tea bag, a clothes peg, a packet of seeds, a parcel label and a rubber duck. After lunch each team had to pitch their idea, Dragon's Den style, and we all awarded marks to find the winning team. The church was full of fun and laughter, as well as some really good mission ideas using these objects.

Some of the 17 ladies from our District who attended the Connexional MWiB Conference at Swanwick had a head start on the Saturday when Olive instigated her Solar Panel Challenge there – those rubber ducks were utilised in some creative ways! And Lincolnshire ladies featured on one of the winning teams! The conference was titled: Where power meets purpose: small acts that change the world and our keynote speaker, and preacher at the Sunday communion service was Carolyn Godfrey, former Vice President of the Methodist Conference. She spoke powerfully about how we have more power than we think we have - we have the power to show glimpses of heaven to other people in the way we act. We can share small acts of kindness – if you think you are too small to make a difference try sleeping in a room with a mosquito in it!

The conference heard from the outgoing President Emerita of World Federation of Methodist & Uniting Church Women (WFMUCW) Alison Judd about her 10 years plus involvement, and from outgoing WFMUCW President (Britain & Ireland) Barbara Easton and outgoing

HKMS Madeleine Reed of their experiences over the last 5 years. Current CoChair of MWiB Leonora Wassell spoke of her decision to step down from her role early due to ill health and we heard how a restructuring and reshaping of MWiB is underway to secure the charity as it moves forward. Delegates enjoyed a wide variety of workshops on Saturday afternoon and the Worship Disco held on Friday was so popular that it was repeated on Saturday night – and looks set to become a regular feature.

Our next District day takes place on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> June at Little Lea Retreat led by Bronwen: This is our story, This is our song – a summer day of fellowship & fun sharing hymn & stories. Bring your packed lunch, drinks provided – we start at 10.30am, finish by 3pm.

Advance dates for your diaries: Lincolnshire District autumn day 2026 miles in prayer led by Deacon Helen Gardner will be held on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> October at Navenby Methodist Church – how an intentional prayer life can sustain us in difficult times to develop creativity and bring joy.

Next year's MWiB Conference takes place 9<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> April 2027 at The Hayes, Swanwick.

*MWiB information on the website [mwib.org.uk](http://mwib.org.uk) & on social media Facebook & Instagram*



*Olive & Bronwen*



*Rita (District secretary), Olive, Nina, Eileen & Janice*

***The MWiB Lincolnshire Sunflower is now part of the District Story & Song Exhibition***


The poster features a white background with decorative elements. At the top and bottom, there are blue and yellow curved shapes containing musical staves with notes. A large black microphone is positioned on the right side, with a red vertical line extending downwards from its base. The text is centered on the left side.

# SUMMER CONCERT OF HOPE

June 6<sup>th</sup> 7 pm  
Ashby Wesley Church

FREE ENTRY. ALL WELCOME



 North Lincolnshire  
Sanctuary Group

 W. Sanctuary Group  
 @wsl\_sanctuary  
 [wsl@northlincolnshiregroup@gmail.com](mailto:wsl@northlincolnshiregroup@gmail.com)

 <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>



Methodist Women in Britain



Lincolnshire District

## **This is our story This is our song**

Come & join us at

The Little Retreat, Lea, Gainsborough DN21 5HZ

**on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> June**

**Tea & coffee served from 10.30am**

**11am onwards**

A summer day of worship, fellowship & fun  
sharing hymns & stories

*led by Bronwen Braisdell*

**Bring a packed lunch, drinks provided**

**Finish at 3pm**



More details from Rita Rowe: [ritarowe18@gmail.com](mailto:ritarowe18@gmail.com)

**GUNNESS**  
METHODIST CHAPEL

*Coffee Morning*

GOOD COFFEE  
GREAT COMPANY  
WARM WELCOME

ENJOY TEA, COFFEE,  
HOMEMADE CAKES  
AND GOOD COMPANY

CAKE STALL  
RAFFLE  
FABRIC STALL

ALL WELCOME -  
BRING A FRIEND!

10am - 12 noon  
Saturday 20th June

DISPLAY OF  
**QUILTS**  
CREATED BY MEMBERS OF  
*Our Quilty Pleasures*

Made with love

Everyone Welcome

ENTRY  
**£1.50**  
INCLUDES  
DRINK AND  
BISCUIT

Pop in,  
you'll be  
very welcome!

AT THE HEART OF OUR COMMUNITY

Epworth Old Rectory  
Presents

**The Wesley Women**

Performed by  
Caroline Clemmow and  
Susan Hollingsworth

Saturday,  
11 July at 3pm

Epworth Old Rectory  
1 Rectory Street  
Epworth DN9 1HG

**£7**

**The Wesley Women**

Tickets available on Eventbrite (see QR code), at the Rectory Gift Shop, or by calling 07880 500762



**Journeying**

2h · 🌐



**BREATHING WITH GOD.  
Breathe in His stillness,  
Breathe out your cares  
Breathe in His peace,  
Breathe out your fears  
Breathe in His compassion  
Breathe out your pain,  
Breathe in His infinite love  
Breathe out your reluctance to receive  
Breathe in the infinity of His presence  
Breathe out the smallness you feel.  
Breathe in The Incomprehensible  
Breathe out all ideas of your self  
Breathe in and receive all from God  
Breathe out your heartfelt thanks  
Breathe in and receive all of God  
Breathe out and give all of you**

**Cheryl "Pepper" Tettmar**

<https://www.journeying.co.uk/about/leaders>



[www.journeying.co.uk](http://www.journeying.co.uk)

# A Methodist Way of Life

A Methodist Way of Life encourages us to grow together.  
Make time to discuss these questions regularly with others.

## Worship

- What is the pattern of your prayer life?
- How easy or hard do you find it to pray?
- What has spoken to you recently in worship or in the Bible?
- When, lately, have you felt close to God or distant from God?

## Learning and Caring

- How have you practised generosity since we last met?
- How have you shown hospitality to others recently?
- How are you caring for yourself?
- How and what are you learning now?

## Service

- How are you seeking to serve others in your communities and beyond? What has helped or hindered you in your service of others?
- How are you caring for God's creation?
- How are you using God's gifts (including your financial resources)?
- What issues of injustice are you currently concerned about? What are you doing in response?

## Evangelism

- When was the last time you were able to talk about God?
- What opportunities to share your faith have there been since we last met?
- How have you responded to opportunities to share your faith?
- Is there anyone you might invite to consider Christian faith?

**How can we support each other in our Way of Life commitments?**

# A Methodist Way of Life

**The calling of the Methodist Church is to respond to the gospel of God's love in Christ and to live out its discipleship in worship and mission.**

As far as we are able, with God's help:

## **Worship**

- We will pray daily.
- We will worship with others regularly.
- We will look and listen for God in Scripture, and the world.

## **Learning and Caring**

- We will care for ourselves and those around us.
- We will learn more about our faith.
- We will practise hospitality and generosity.

## **Service**

- We will help people in our communities and beyond.
- We will care for creation and all God's gifts.
- We will challenge injustice.

## **Evangelism**

- We will speak of the love of God.
- We will live in a way that draws others to Jesus.
- We will share our faith with others.

**May we be a blessing within and beyond God's Church,  
for the transformation of the world.**

## Bible Crosswords

### Across

- 4 What will you commit if you marry a divorced woman? (8)
- 5 What should you do with a sinful hand? (3,2,3) (3,2,3)
- 7 What did Jesus not come to do to the Law of the Prophets? (7)
- 10 Who will inherit the earth? (4)
- 11 What of yours should you hand over as well, if they take your shirt? (4)
- 12 Where might you be thrown if you don't settle with your adversary? (6)

- 13 Who might hand you over to the officer? (5)

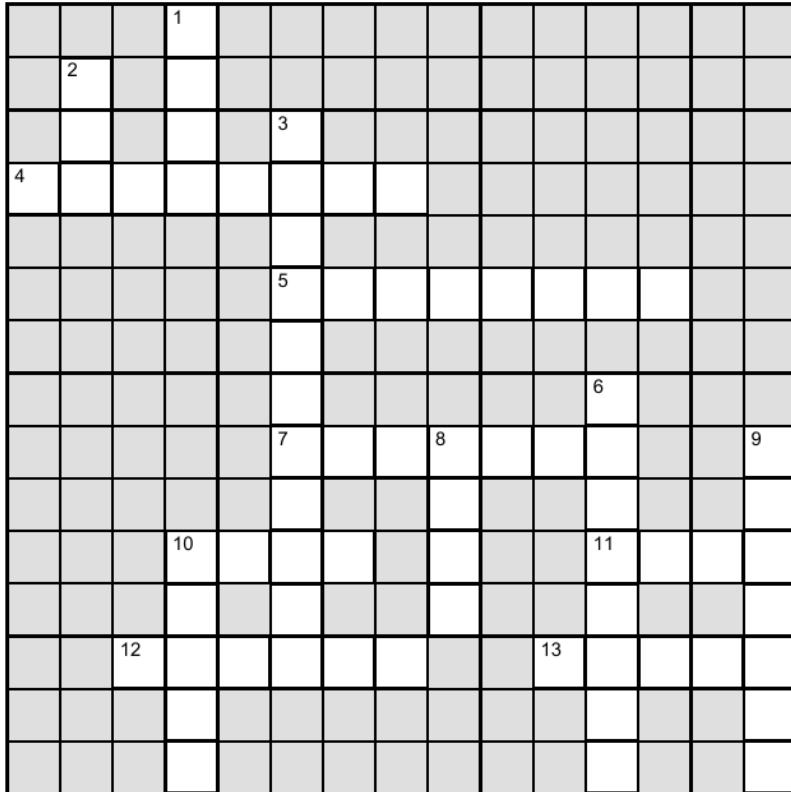
### Down

- 1 Where will you prevent your whole body going to if you remove a sinful part? (4)
- 2 Who will the pure in heart see? (3)
- 3 Who are called the children of God? (11)
- 6 Those who say to his brother 'Raca' will answer to who? (3,5) (3,5)
- 8 What do people not put under a bowl? (4)
- 9 What should

settle quickly with your adversary? (7)

- 10 What will the merciful be shown? (5)

## Matthew 5



### Bible Crosswords:

- These thoughtfully crafted crosswords are available for free use.
- While they are copyrighted, you're welcome to print them for private enjoyment, inclusion in church magazines, or educational purposes. Our goal is to encourage individuals to read and study the bible, so we intentionally do not provide crossword answers.

<https://bible-crosswords.co.uk/>

## 71. Pray for Others

### **Job 42:10 AMP**

And the Lord turned the captivity of Job and restored his fortunes, when he prayed for his friends; also the Lord gave Job twice as much as he had before.

### **1 Timothy 2:1-2 KJV**

I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men;

For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty.

### **Ephesians 6:18-19 NIV**

And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints.

Pray also for me, that whenever I open my mouth, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel,

### **James 5:16 AMP**

Confess to one another therefore your faults (your slips, your false steps, your offenses, your sins) and pray [also] for one another, that you may be healed and restored [to a spiritual tone of mind and heart]. The earnest (heartfelt, continued) prayer of a righteous man makes tremendous power available [dynamic in its working].

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| G | N | I | K | R | O | W | S | T | L | U | A | F | G | E |
| C | G | O | D | L | I | N | E | S | S | O | N | N | R | S |
| C | A | P | T | I | V | I | T | Y | F | E | I | O | K | F |
| S | S | R | E | S | T | O | R | E | D | V | F | N | A | T |
| T | O | Y | T | S | E | N | O | H | I | E | A | L | S | O |
| H | Y | O | N | E | P | N | A | G | B | H | S | E | D | N |
| E | N | T | O | T | H | I | U | E | T | E | E | X | N | E |
| A | Y | D | I | S | R | K | L | T | S | P | S | H | E | L |
| R | R | R | Y | R | I | H | A | S | R | P | N | O | I | B |
| T | E | Y | E | N | O | N | E | F | O | O | E | R | R | A |
| F | T | T | D | D | A | H | S | A | T | R | F | T | F | L |
| E | S | S | W | O | A | M | T | E | L | N | F | E | S | I |
| L | Y | A | N | I | O | M | I | U | T | E | O | H | E | A |
| T | M | R | Y | R | C | U | G | C | A | M | D | N | K | V |
| T | R | E | L | A | Q | E | N | T | U | R | N | E | D | A |

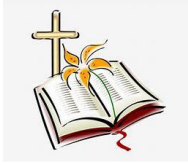
Copyright 2007 © GIL PUBLICATIONS, www.BibleWordSearchPuzzles.com

## 71. Pray for Others

ALERT  
AUTHORITY  
AVAILABLE  
BEFORE  
CAPTIVITY  
DYNAMIC  
EXHORT  
FALSE  
FAULTS  
FORTUNES

FRIENDS  
GIVING  
GODLINESS  
HEALED  
HEARTFELT  
HONESTY  
KINDS  
MADE  
MYSTERY  
OFFENSES

QUIET  
RESTORED  
SINS  
SLIPS  
STEPS  
THANKS  
TONE  
TURNED  
TWICE  
WORKING



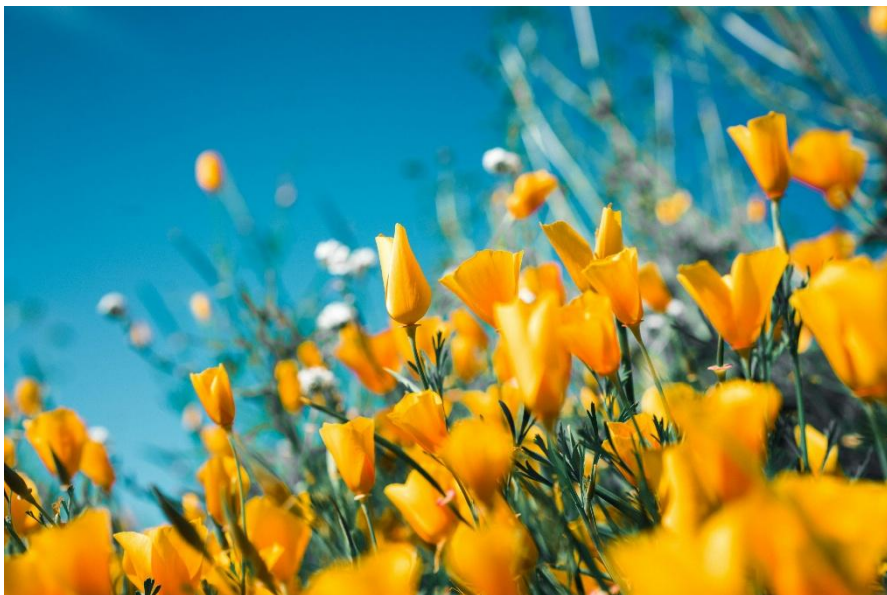
## Lectionary readings for June to August 2026

|  |  |
|--|--|
| 7 <sup>th</sup> June                                       | Psalm 33:1-12<br>Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26                         |
| 14 <sup>th</sup> June<br><b>MHA Sunday</b>                 | Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19<br>Matthew 9:35-10:8 (9-23)               |
| 21 <sup>st</sup> June                                      | Psalm 86:1-10, 16-17<br>Matthew 10:24-39                       |
| 28 <sup>th</sup> June                                      | Psalm 13<br>Matthew 10:40-42                                   |
| 5 <sup>th</sup> July                                       | Psalm 45:10-17<br>Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30                      |
| 12 <sup>th</sup> July<br><b>Action for Children Sunday</b> | Psalm 119:105-112<br>Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23                     |
| 19 <sup>th</sup> July                                      | Psalm 139:1-12, 23-24<br>Matthew 13: 24-30, 36-43              |
| 26 <sup>th</sup> July                                      | Psalm 105:1-11, 45b<br>or Psalm 128<br>Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52 |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> August                                     | Psalm 17:1-7, 15<br>Matthew 14:13-21                           |
| 9 <sup>th</sup> August                                     | Psalm 105:1-6, 16-22, 45b<br>Matthew 14:22-33                  |
| 16 <sup>th</sup> August                                    | Psalm 133<br>Matthew 15:(10-20) 21-28                          |
| 23 <sup>rd</sup> August                                    | Psalm 124<br>Matthew 16:13-20                                  |
| 30 <sup>th</sup> August                                    | Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45c<br>Matthew 16:21-28                  |



**John Wesley quote**

**“Proceed with much prayer, and  
your day will be made plain”**



*Photo credit : Sergey Shmidt – unsplash.com*

Circuit Safeguarding: Mrs Karen Elvidge

07533-554615

Circuit website @ <https://www.esgmethodist.org.uk/>