

Newsletter

🍁 *Autumn 2026* 🍁



FROM THE MANSE



Dear Friends,

Life is a mix of sorrow and joy. For the Atkinsons summer has been a mix of sorrow and joy – the sorrow of a seriously ill elderly dog and joy in sharing a house blessing as we settled into the Epworth

manse plus the ***Welcome service for Rev Jan Atkins Snow on Sunday 6th September 6pm at Ashby Wesley Church (Refreshments from 5pm).*** ‘Sorrow & Joy’ are the well-chosen theme of this year’s President (Mark Slaney) and Vice President (Caroline Stead) of the Methodist Conference. Whether in our personal homes or our spiritual homes, sorrow and joy have their place.

The occasion of the house blessing at Epworth manse made me reflect on the saying ‘The kitchen is the heart of the home.’ What do I feel is the heart of the home? The computer desk is the heart of the home? The refuse bin is the heart of the home? Kitchens carry with them a sense of nourishment and warmth less obviously found at a computer desk. Yet, for me, no one space is at the heart of the home. Instead, I think that God’s blessing can be at the heart of the home. A blessing that can come to us even sometimes amidst the chaos of packing boxes.

To extend this thought a little further, let’s consider how the above phrase might be applied to our churches. ‘_____ is the heart of the church.’ We know that the answer to the preacher’s question is always ‘Jesus’. It is true that Jesus is the heart of the church – or at least I hope so! It is helpful to remind ourselves of this truth at times. We can be tempted to put other things at the heart of our churches – the pews or the spire, our money or our traditions. We should not neglect our responsibilities to be good stewards of resources under our care, but things get out of balance if Jesus does not remain the absolute heart of the church. The Jesus who offers ‘life in all its fullness (John 10 v 10) to people inside and outside the church.

Perhaps we can scale things up another level and complete the sentence:

‘ _____ is the heart of ESG Methodist Circuit’?

As we do so, bear in mind the wider conversations about the possibilities of the 8 circuits in Lincolnshire District becoming one for September 2028. Local churches and circuits will be asked for our thoughts and comments on such proposals in the coming year. If you are unsure which conversations I am referring to, then read on later in this newsletter and it may be worth talking with one of the circuit ministers or a steward.

Returning to this year’s Connexional theme of ‘Sorrow & Joy’, it is my prayer that we can support each other through life’s sorrows and struggles plus celebrate the things that spark joy in us. I close this letter with some words from William Blake:

*‘We were made for joy and woe
And when this we rightly know
Safely through the world we go.
Joy and woe are woven fine.
Clothing for the soul divine.’*

Every blessing,
Rev Vicki



Ministers’ day off



Rev. Vicki Atkinson	Saturday
Rev. Debbie Caulk	Friday
Rev. Jan Atkin-Snow	Friday

Circuit Prayer 2026-27

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Holy God, who inspires us, equips us, and journeys with us. Thank you for the times you challenge us; to treasure your word, to love you and our neighbour, to use our gifts and skills to be good disciples and follow you

Thank you for the times you change us; you call us and send us, renewed through the power of the spirit to pray, to worship, to praise and to witness

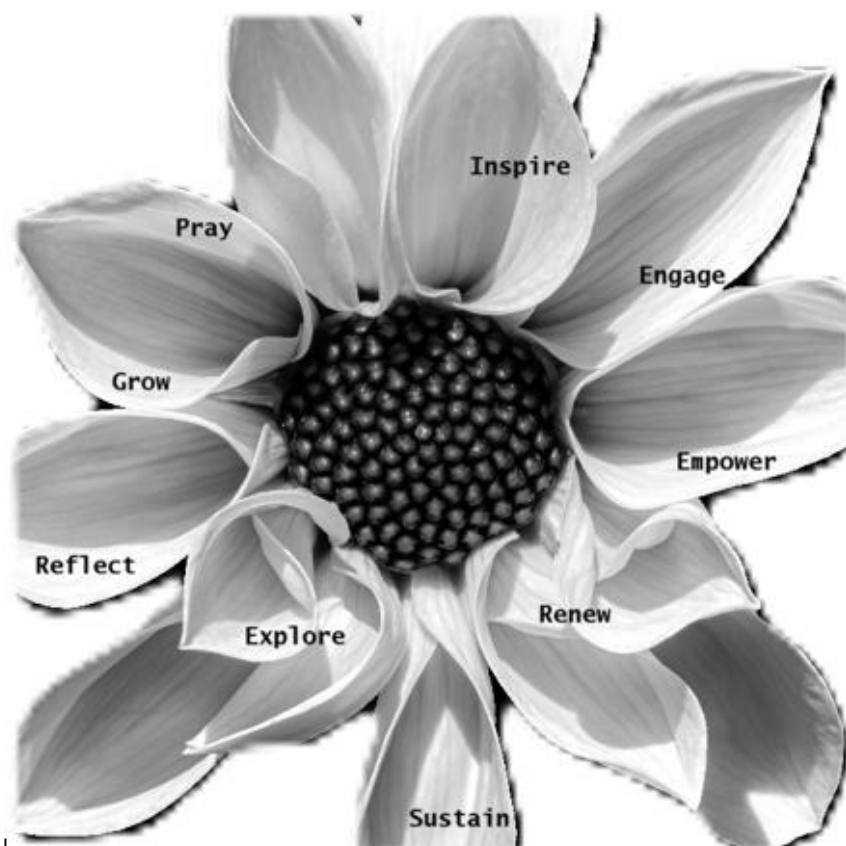
Thank you for the connectivity you bring us; for our Methodist heritage which joins us together as members of the Epworth, Scunthorpe and Gainsborough Circuit, to value differences, to listen, and to encourage each other in faith, through your guidance and wisdom

Your brilliant light leads us, like sunflowers to follow you; as we gravitate to and bathe in the warmth of your love and your grace, it transforms us, enables and ignites us. We will not be overcome by darkness, fear or worry as we move into another connexional year marked with change and challenge, yet full of promise, hope, opportunities and expected goodness

Discipleship is an adventure, we still have lots to learn, to experience, and to discover through the plans you have for us. As we reflect on times past, the time that is now, and the time yet to come, and we travel together from the old into the new, we pray, keep us travelling along with you.

Amen

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"All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it"

John 1 v3-5



A message from Hazel Jackson, **Senior Circuit Steward**

Dear friends,

I know it won't have escaped anyone's attention that district has been looking at reshaping the eight circuits into one; working groups continue to meet and look at resources, finance, worship and governance; there is lot going on...you will have seen the recent updates via your church contacts, and what's here in the newsletter is just a snippet of why district is considering changes, where we are and what's next

This is about us, the Lincolnshire Methodist District. God hasn't finished with us; we have a future, and we will journey forward together, it affects us all.

If you've any queries or questions, then don't hesitate to contact District Chair Revd. Angy Long, or Revd. Vicki Atkinson (Superintendent) or Hazel Jackson (Senior Circuit Steward/District Trustee)

CIRCUIT HOPES AND DREAMS

Better buildings

**Being part of the
community**

Increasing faith

More love

Welcome



**Nurturing and
encouraging
gifts and skills**

**Ministry of the whole
People of God**

More Prayer

Theological understanding

Celebration

Togetherness

Willingness to try

LINCOLNSHIRE
CIRCUIT CONSULTATIONS SPRING 2024

1 Circuit: Our Future, Reshaping for Mission



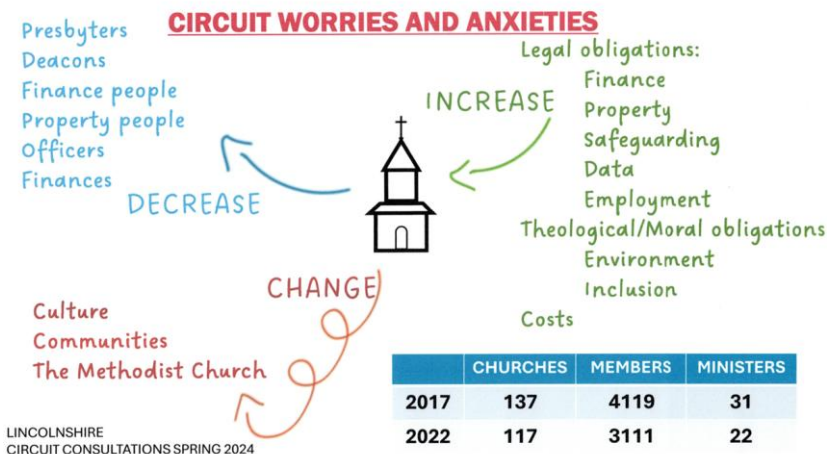
From: Rev Angy Long, Chair of District

Dear all,
Work is continuing towards more detail for a full day’s conversation at Synod in September about the possible reshaping of 8 circuits into 1. Here is a reminder of where all this began:

• The 2 slides, attached, were shown at Synod in the spring of 2024 and are about the conversations I had in the circuits where I heard your worries and anxieties and hopes and dreams about church. These and the statistics around stationing and the resources in the circuits have formed the ground for thinking about what the issues are we need to address and, therefore, the model we are offering as a possible way to some solutions. **By way of update the statistics (see worries and anxieties slide) for autumn 2025 are now even more stark: 99 churches, 2674 members and 15.73 Full-Time Equivalent Ordained ministers.**

As ever, any questions please send them to Angy and Alison.

God bless, Angy



See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? Isaiah 43:19

Introduction

Some things are working really well in the District as discussed at the workshop for circuit leadership teams held in October 2024: Many circuits reported a sense of team, committed volunteers, the employment of administrators is making the running of circuits more efficient, lay employees in various out-reach roles are making connections between church and community, alongside this there are places where fellowship and prayer meetings and good worship are supporting the church community. Such things are to be celebrated. However, can we recognise that to do Gods work and thrive (some might say survive) and grow across the County in the 21st Century, we may need to look at new ways of working?

The District is not alone in facing a number of challenges which “are of our time!”

- Reduced interest in the Church and Spiritual life as a nation
- Congregations on a Sunday are reducing
- The average age of congregations is increasing
- Financial pressures to meet assessments
- Fewer people are willing and able to take on governance roles such as money, property, safeguarding etc.
- Time spent on essential standards for any charity limits the time and energy of members to do God’s work in our communities
- Reducing numbers of ordained Ministers
- Fewer Presbyters skilled enough and willing to become Superintendents
- Differing levels of resources across the District

You could probably go on.....

“where do we go from here”

A CHURCH IS A TEAM, NOT A ONE-MAN SHOW.



WHAT IS A CHURCH?

A church is a community of people who gather around faith in God, to worship, learn, and support one another spiritually and practically.

IT'S NOT JUST A BUILDING
OR A LEADER—IT'S
a body of people.

WE ARE BETTER TOGETHER.



EVERY PART MATTERS. EVERYONE HAS A ROLE.



LEADERSHIP

Guides with vision and serves with humility.



SERVERS

Use their gifts to meet needs and build others up.



TEACHERS

Share God's Word and help others grow in faith.



ENCOURAGERS

Support, uplift, and pray for one another.



EVERY MEMBER

Brings unique gifts that make the body strong and whole.



"For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ."

1 CORINTHIANS 12:12-27

*Together,
we are the
Church.*

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## Hope

*Hope is one of your best gifts to us. Teach us to give it to others.*

*From "Who cares?" Edited and compiled by Mary Oakley*



Dear friends,

First, I must mention and thank Bronwen for all her hard work, diligence and care she gave to MWiB within the circuit and wish her well for whatever the future has in store.

The District MWiB Day was held on 12 June, at Little Lea Retreat and was led by Bronwen with the theme “This is our story, This is our song” it was a feast of fellowship, fun, song and stories, enjoyed by some 37 ladies from across the district, with notably a good contingent from E, S&G. Brownen was presented with gifts from the ladies; a bistro garden table and garden clock both with butterfly motifs, as well as a cash gift too. The offertory on the day, in excess of £200 was presented to District, and will be put towards travel costs for those ladies going to New Zealand in August for World Federation Conference.

Our next MWiB Lincolnshire District autumn day on 1<sup>st</sup> October, is titled “2026 miles in prayer” and will be led by Deacon Helen Gardner, at Navenby Methodist Church. Deacon Helen’s theme is “how an intentional prayer life can sustain us in difficult times to develop creativity and bring joy” all are welcome, please come along. It will be an inspirational day of fellowship. Look out for posters of the event circulated to your churches.

This year’s Easter Offering service “Unbound” focusing on freedom, was celebrated at Ashby Wesley on 31 May. The total sum raised this year was £1572.25 for the Methodist Church World Mission Fund. Let’s see if we can beat that next year!

MWiB groups across the circuit continue to meet in fellowship, on a variety of weekdays, with a vast range of speakers, topics and themes. Check out the ES&G website for more details or speak to Hazel Jackson (ambassador-MWiB North Lincolnshire).

The Mary Bosanquet Lecture fringe event held at Methodist Conference this year in June was stimulating and challenging, the guest speaker was Revd. Dr Tessa Henry-Robinson, a womanist and moderator of the free churches group. Her theme was “the authority of the called: women, voice and the future of the church. It is now on YouTube, and I encourage everyone to hear the lecture for themselves, so powerful and meaningful for our church today.

Finally, up to date information and the latest news about MWiB can be found on the website [www.mwib.org.uk](http://www.mwib.org.uk)

God bless and thank you...*Hazel Jackson*



Methodist Women  
in Britain  
for women, for justice, for Christ



**Methodist Women in Britain**  
**Lincolnshire District**  
**2026 miles in prayer**  
Come and join us at  
Navenby Methodist Church, High Street,  
Navenby, Lincoln LN5 0EN  
**Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> October**  
**Tea & coffee served from 10.30am**  
**11am onwards**  
**Deacon Helen Gardner**  
will share how an intentional prayer life can  
sustain us in difficult times to develop  
creativity and to bring joy.  
**Bring a packed lunch, drinks provided**  
**Finish at 3pm**  
  
More details from Rita Rowe: [ritarowe18@gmail.com](mailto:ritarowe18@gmail.com)

## Conference Business Digest: A report for local churches about the business of the 2026 Methodist Conference



Please share this with the office holders and members of your Church and Circuit. This can be read online and downloaded from [methodist.org.uk/conference](https://methodist.org.uk/conference)

The 2026 Methodist Conference, held at Telford International Centre:  
Presbyteral Session 25–26 June; Representative Session 27 June – 1 July.

[methodist.org.uk/conference](https://methodist.org.uk/conference)

### Induction of the President and Vice-President for 2026/2027

On Saturday 27 June, the Revd Mark Slaney was elected and inducted as President of the Conference, and Caroline Stead as Vice-President. Their addresses were on the theme of 'Sorrow and Joy' and are available to read here:

[methodist.org.uk/about/structure-and-governance/the-methodist-conference/conference-2026/presidency/](https://methodist.org.uk/about/structure-and-governance/the-methodist-conference/conference-2026/presidency/)

### Reception into Full Connexion and Ordination Services

During the Sunday worship, 13 presbyters and two deacons were received into Full Connexion with the Conference, along with three presbyters by transfer, and one presbyter by reinstatement.

Having been received into Full Connexion on Sunday morning, those presbyters and deacons not already ordained travelled to churches around the region with their families and friends for the ordination services.

### Connexional Council

The Council presented reports from the Ministries, Mission, and Resourcing Committees, along with other matters of report or for decision.

The Council also brought an update on the Economic Justice Working Group, which was established in 2024 to develop a process by which ministry and mission can be funded where the need is greatest, to practise the connexional principle and to tackle inequality and poverty.

This interim report set out the process by which the group will prepare its report for the 2027 Conference.

The Council brought a report on the Missional Use of Property, emphasising the need for clarity about the relationship between a Local Church as an entity, its trusteeship and any building/s associated with it. The Conference directed the Faith and Order Committee, in consultation with others as appropriate, to develop and articulate a clear and theologically informed understanding of the Local Church and report to the Conference in 2027. The Law and Polity Committee was directed to produce detailed proposals for how models of trusteeship might work in practice.

The Council reported on the work undertaken by the Ministries Committee concerning ministerial flourishing. Significant work has been done to ensure a thorough understanding of the needs and the systemic and complex issues which cause concern. Pilot schemes are being established in three Districts and connexional resources are being developed. An interim report will be brought to the Ministries Committee in October 2026..

The Council brought its reflections on the strategic direction of the Church, flowing from the strategies already adopted by the Conference. The Council has identified two key strategic objectives for the wider Church as key to fulfilling *Our Calling*: to increase the number of accountable disciples, by making members, and to enrich the fidelity of those disciples to God through excellence in worship. The

Council has also identified the following specific change areas that it believes are necessary to achieve those objectives: governance structures, support of those in ministry, and the opportunities of a digital age. The Conference affirmed these two strategic objectives and three change areas and directed the Secretary to oversee a process which will present a draft statement to replace 'Our Calling' to the Conference of 2028.

#### **Update on the Justice, Dignity and Solidarity (JDS) Strategy**

The Conference received an update on the implementation of the JDS Strategy, since it was adopted in 2021. Key developments include new oversight bodies, practical resources, dedicated inclusion roles, Equality Impact Assessments, and efforts to diversify leadership. Training has been expanded through the Learning Network, alongside initiatives such as Solidarity Circles, inclusive worship pilots and the Discrimination and Abuse Response Service. While significant progress has been made, implementation remains uneven across districts, and the report stresses that full transformation requires JDS to shape every aspect of Church life. The Conference affirmed the observance of a JDS Sunday on a locally chosen date across the Connexion.

#### **Review of the Conference**

The Law and Polity Committee brought a report setting out its concerns about the length of the Conference. The Conference agreed to bring forward the next review of the Conference and to widen its scope to include matters of length and structure as well as the number of members of the Conference. The Conference approved terms of reference for a task group to undertake the review, directing that it report to the Conference of 2027 with recommendations.

#### **3Generate and the Voices of Children and Young People**

3Generate 2025 was the largest yet, with over 1,700 young attendees. Young people expressed to the Conference how much they value worship, community and faith development, but shared their concerns that church practices do not fully

meet their needs, desiring more accessible and age-appropriate worship, greater involvement in leading services and clearer teaching of the Bible. The Conference encouraged circuits and districts to enable those involved in ministry with children and young people to support them in biblical exploration and explore more frequent opportunities for local gatherings.

#### **Assisted Dying**

The Conference considered a report on assisted dying, which had been requested by last year's Conference following the long-standing public debate of this issue, and the legislative developments in the various jurisdictions covered by the Methodist Church in Britain. The Conference referred the report back for further work, requesting that a broader range of people with lived experience be included in the work, and that a new report be brought to the 2028 Conference. The Conference agreed to remove the status of Conference Statement from its previous statement which dated from 1974. It agreed to maintain its historic position of opposition to assisted dying, noting that this does not place any restriction on resolutions that may be brought to the Conference as part of future work.

#### **Budget**

The Conference adopted the connexional central services budget for 2026/2027, and noted that some progress has been made to reflect concerns of economic justice through changes to the Assessment formula. Despite some progress in addressing the deficit over the last year, decisive action will be required to reduce the deficit between now and 2029. This will include a review of every area of the budget, including the costs of the Conference.

#### **Triennial Membership Returns**

The Conference received the membership returns, alongside data that had been collected on attendance at worship and other forms of engagement within the life of the Church. The total membership figure (adjusted for missing data) stands at 129,697 with total attendance (including online) at 99,813. The figures were received in the

context of the Church's strategy for evangelism and growth and the signs of numerical growth in some places, alongside the ongoing work towards a programme for digital transformation.

#### **Action for Hope**

The Conference received an update on the aspiration to become net zero. The Conference noted that progress has been made across the Connexion, but parts of the Church have struggled to develop a robust strategy to meet the target. With regret, the Conference agreed to the refocusing of the work to an ongoing carbon reduction plan, with the removal of the 2030 target date.

#### **Online celebrations of Holy Communion**

The Conference, following a period of discernment since 2021, provisionally decided that online celebrations of Holy Communion should be generally permitted in the Methodist Church; the views of the Synods will be sought and a final decision will be made by the 2027 Conference. In the meantime, the period of discernment has been extended for a further year.

#### **Revision of Authorised Liturgies**

The Conference adopted principles for liturgical style and language to guide the work in the revision of its authorised liturgies. These principles emphasise the need for language that seeks to be inclusive and expansive, recognises a variety of traditions, and uses different registers where appropriate. The new collection will be called *Praying the Faith: Authorised Liturgies for Methodist Worship*. All Methodist preachers and leaders of worship are encouraged to study the report and to reflect on the language they use in worship.

#### **Artificial Intelligence (AI)**

In response to a memorial brought to the Conference in 2024, a report was received considering the implications of AI and its practical and theological impact across the Methodist Church. Recommendations adopted by the Conference include working towards issuing appropriate guidance that would be available across the Connexion and directing the Ministries Committee to consider how material on

theological, ethical and practical implications of AI can be included within training for ordained and lay ministries.

#### **Kairos II**

Father Fadi Diab, Rector of the Anglican Parish in Ramallah in the West Bank, presented the Kairos II document, *A Moment of Truth: Faith in a Time of Genocide*, calling for greater costly solidarity with the Palestinian people. The Conference asked for a study resource to be produced for churches. It also asked the President to write to the UK Prime Minister and Foreign Secretary, and the governing bodies of other jurisdictions in which the Methodist Church in Great Britain has a presence, urging them to uphold international law and to take the actions outlined in the Time to Act campaign.

#### **Reparative Justice**

The Conference considered the issues raised by the work undertaken to uncover and understand the extent to which Methodist churches might have benefited directly or indirectly from the traffic in enslaved African people. The Conference heard that the research exposes both the silence and the complicity of Methodism's early leaders and of the Methodist Church during its first century. A statement, apology and initial actions will be brought before the Conference for approval in 2027, recognising that these will be informed by ongoing work with Global Partners and will not preclude additional statements, apologies and actions alongside Global Partners as further work unfolds.

#### **Safeguarding Committee**

The report of the Safeguarding Committee was presented to the Conference by the Chair, Judith Davey-Cole, and Vivien Almond, a representative from the Methodist Survivors' Advisory Group. The Conference agreed to a possible change in how often refresher sessions of advanced safeguarding training are required, from every four years to three.

#### **Ecumenical**

The Conference adopted a formal response to the eleventh report of the Joint International Commission for Dialogue between the World Methodist Council and the Roman Catholic Church.

The Conference commended the report – *God in Christ Reconciling: On the Way to Full Communion in Faith, Sacraments, and Mission* – to the Methodist people for study and discussion.

A report from the Life in Covenant Group reviewed the progress and future direction of the shared work of the Methodist Church and the Church of England to advance the commitments of the Anglican-Methodist Covenant (2003). Work is now underway towards drafting a formal declaration of communion, liturgies for an inaugural joint service, an ordination rite for a President-bishop, and guidelines for ministers serving across traditions. Subject to the agreement of the Church of England's General Synod, it is envisaged that this work will be achieved within the next five years.

The Conference recommended renewal of the Life in Covenant Group for a further five years and directed the Faith and Order Committee to work in collaboration with the Faith and Order Commission of the Church of England to bring full implementation proposals by 2031.

The Conference received a report from the Methodist-United Reformed Church Liaison Group, welcomed the proposed consultative meeting between District Chairs and Synod Moderators, and directed that a report come to the 2027 Conference concerning the vision and shape of future possible collaboration.

#### **Report of the Chairs' and Warden's Meeting**

The District Chairs and Warden of the Diaconal Order asked the Conference to make an urgent response to hate crime, harassment, discrimination and malicious conduct directed towards ministers. The Conference directed the Council to establish

a process to provide coordinated support in such instances, drawing on relevant expertise as necessary.

#### **Memorials**

Memorials are requests from Circuit Meetings and District Synods to the Conference. The Conference replied to 16 memorials on topics including the training of local preachers and worship leaders, delivery of offline and online training, governance for circuits and churches, Standing Order 943, supernumeraries chairing Circuit Meetings, Church Treasurer membership of Circuit Meetings, denomination of sanctuary, Israel-Palestine and Kairos II, the JTC group (as it relates to the Central Finance Board), menopause policy and guidance, maternity policy.

#### **President and Vice-President designated for 2027/2028**

The Conference designated the Revd Dr Jennifer Smith to be President and Daniel Keen to be Vice-President of the Conference 2027/2028.

#### **Appointments**

The Conference made a number of appointments and reappointments, including:

- the Revd Romeo Pedro as Chair for the Yorkshire North and East District from 1 September 2026;
- Deacon Claire Gill as Warden of the Methodist Diaconal Order from 1 September 2026;
- the Revd Dr Janet Corlett as Chair of the Isle of Man District for a further period of three years from 1 September 2027;
- the Revd Faith Nyota as Chair for the London District for a further period of five years from 1 September 2027.

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#### **Future dates of the Conference**

The Methodist Conference will meet in Telford from 24–30 June 2027.

**The Methodist Church**



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## Tales from Gainsborough

***Hi All***



Here's hoping that you are well. What a hot Summer! My cosy nest was a bit too cosy, just like yours perhaps. The nights have been drawing in, then we had football on tele... well..!?!? then there were the Commonwealth Games and Wimbledon. It encouraged me to become a bit of a couch potato.

Our music group are improving by leaps and bounds under our fave keyboardist. They are also part of the lively ensemble formed under the old Wolds and Trent circuit. This group led a couple of Trinity Praise services.... Again, it was fortunate that our GMC roof was heavy concrete when they raised it. Because of their fame, you are cordially invited to a "Creation Praise" service at Ashby Wesley 4pm 25<sup>th</sup> October... put it in your diary now.

I try to keep my ear to the ground.. it's not that far any way. So, our Tuesday club has been having their summer rest and will be resuming in September, the other regular groups are a bit sparse too. I'm barely existing on the few meagre crumbs. Mercifully the Brews up is still going strong on the second Saturday. The first Saturday the menfolk gather to have a breakfast at Wetherspoons, I've never been, but hear that they have a great time.

Over the past few months, my playground has been increasingly exciting. The storage cupboards have been filling with loads of religious books from all over the place. There was enough literature to fill a huge car boot for delivery to the Saxilby hub and onwards. We can only thank the donors and organisers for their hard work.

Here's hoping that the rucksack hasn't been reorganised. It's been OK so far, doing a MAF tour of Lincoln Circuit chapels picking up ideas. On another bright side "they" are doing a tour starting off in France when I can make myself comfortable. Looking forward to

crunchy baguette, with Camembert and Pong L'Eveque stinky cheeses.

Last time "they" did France we must have visited every castle in the country.... Tired?... absolutely Chateau-ed.

That reminds me of another message of comfort that Jesus gave to His disciples, recorded in John 14. ***In my Father's house are many mansions.***

Many thanks for reading this... stay safe!

Until the next time, let's share every blessing.

***Anon-e-mouse***



With God all things are possible.

## **Thoughts by a teenage Laura regarding preaching**

When I was younger, I used to look up to the preachers and think wow what a job they're doing by doing that. I then wrote these top 10 tips for a service to keep people interested on 3rd September 2018 when I was just 14 years old:

- don't talk about the same bible passage for the whole sermon
- try to choose readings that link together
- try to explain things in a way that most people will understand
- try to ask questions that will make the congregation think
- try to say how you think different people in the passage may be feeling (eg. I think the decoupled may have felt scared)
- to make the congregation more interested you could maybe ask for them to be in a person's shoe from the story (to see how the person was feeling at that time)

I wonder if these will make us think about the way we're doing our preaching.

***Thanks, Laura***



## **North Lincolnshire Sanctuary Group - thank you**

Thank you to everyone who came to the concert at Ashby Wesley supporting North Lincoln. Thank you to you all.

In that concert we shared some true examples of people who the North Lincolnshire Sanctuary Group support. Over the coming newsletters we will share some of these.

The people coming into our area have lost so much. The majority need supporting at every level – clothing, shoes, advice and food. There's also a great need for company, understanding and social contact. The group supports and befriends refugees and asylum seekers as much as possible in many ways, including:

- Obtaining necessary items for people to be able to live.
- Teaching English on a one-to-one basis.
- Supporting people with driving tests
- Helping with shopping, medical appointments and schools.
- Finding volunteering opportunities and supporting people get jobs.
- Encouraging opportunities for sport and music

A Ladies group meets on Thursday mornings sharing cooking, sewing and other activities. A men's group meets weekly; once a month joining with another multi agency group, sharing food cooked by asylum men.

These meetings are very important. When newly arrived individuals are told they can come to a group, for support and to meet others they are so pleased and relived. There is so much stress, isolation and loneliness in the community. The meetings give us the opportunity to distribute donations of clothing, toys and food to those who need it; improving families' overall health and wellbeing.

A number of people from Ukraine have prepared an excellent exhibition, currently at Scunthorpe Museum about their culture, history and lives. It's well worth a visit. The Ukrainian community in Scunthorpe goes back many, many years.

An example of a family from Iran we have supported is below.

*"I'm Iranian and was born into a Muslim family. I had a job in printing. When I became a Christian, I couldn't remain in Iran, as I would be killed.*

*I came to Scunthorpe, attending a small church in Hull weekly. When I finally was given "leave to remain" I moved to London; obtaining a job in printing there.*

*My wife and child have now moved from Iran to England to join me".*

Please continue to support us with prayer, items you no longer need and money. Thank you.

**Kirsty Barker**

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Christian Crackers

From Norfolk

The Bishop of Norwich, the Rt Rev Peter Nott, soon got to grips with the Norfolk way of keeping matters in perspective.

"I was taking a communion service in a freezing church in West Norfolk. When it was over, I walked to the back of the church. My hands were completely numb with cold, and I had great difficulty grasping the mug of hot coffee the churchwarden gave me.

"My goodness, your church is cold", I said. "Oh yes Bishop, that is cold", said the churchwarden, "but you should be here when we don't have the heating on".

Compiled by Phil Mason

News From Laughton



The Harvest celebrations at Laughton Methodist Church will be slightly later this year than most years because of the availability of our colleagues from Yaddlethorpe, who provide the delicious refreshments following the service. So, everyone will be most welcome to join us on Friday September 18th at 7pm. The service this year will take the form of a ***Songs of Praise*** with a ***Harvest twist***. Tea, coffee, sandwiches and puddings will follow at 8pm. All produce from the celebration will be donated to The Forge. Rev Debbie will conclude the Harvest weekend with a service on the following Sunday, September 20th at 4pm - again everyone will be most welcome to join us.



The renovation of the former schoolroom is gaining pace. We now have a couple of items outstanding before the builders can be given the go ahead. It is anticipated that this will be before the end of September. Many thanks to Rev Vicki for her assistance, advice and expertise in liaising with TMCP and others. It is a brilliant example of everyone working together for a common good.

The whole process was begun over two years ago with the backing of Rev Paul, and we wish him and Bronwen all the best for the future.

Kevin Wilbur





Worship leader service at Yaddlethorpe

The following version of the 23rd Psalm, a Psalm for busy people, is really apt for our current lives, was shared and read by Virginia Isitt during the Worship leader service.

“The Lord is my pacesetter, I need not rush,
He makes me stop and rest for quiet intervals.
He provides me with images of stillness, which restore my serenity.
He leads me in way of efficiency through calmness of mind.
His guidance is peace.
Even though I have a great deal of things to accomplish each day, I
will not fret.
For his presence is here, his timelessness, his importance will keep
me in balance.
He prepares refreshment and renewal in the midst of activity
by anointing my head with oils of tranquility.
My cup of joyous energy overflows.
Such harmony and effectiveness shall be the fruit of my hours,
For I shall walk in the peace of the Lord
And dwell in his company for ever. Amen.”

Toki Miyamisha’s (a Japanese poet) version of Psalm 23

From “A box of delights, J. John and Mark Stibbe, Monarch Books”

Tiredness

Five best things to say if you get caught sleeping at your desk.

5. They told me at the blood bank this might happen.

4. Whew! I must have left the top off the Tipex. You probably got here just in time!

3. I wasn’t sleeping! I was meditating on the vision statement and envisioning a new paradigm.

2. I was testing my keyboard for drool resistance.

1. ... in Jesus’ name. Amen.

From “A box of delights, J. John and Mark Stibbe, Monarch Books



**Ashby Wesley Methodist
Church
Holiday Club 2026**

**KINGDOM
BUILDERS**

This year's holiday club Kingdom builders based on



Matthew's gospel, aimed to introduce children to the Kingdom of God. As always, the week was underpinned by prayer

and alongside this each morning before the children arrived a worship session was held in church led on different days by Rev. Paul, Bob and Dom.



Each day had a different focus;

- ✚ The kingdom of God is like treasure Matt. 14 v 44
- ✚ The kingdom of small things Matt 20 v. 1 - 3
- ✚ The wise and foolish builder Matt 7 v 24 - 27
- ✚ The pearl of great price Matt 13 v 45 & 46

This year we had a team of twenty volunteers over the week in addition to those praying for us at home. 26 children attended over the week 21 coming every day. (25, 21, 24, 24)

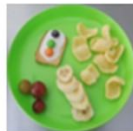


Each day started with a Lego challenge before going into the main session which included songs, keep fit, and a drama which included a video of the days Bible story.



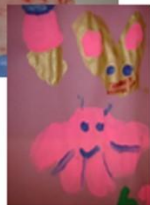


Our volunteers in the kitchen kept us well supplied with snacks and drinks.



Once refreshed the children moved into craft groups,

On day two the children painted pictures reflecting their ideas about the kingdom of heaven.



Rainbows were present in many of the paintings and ice-cream! On Friday the children decorated a treasure chest which included a



mirror in the lid to remind them we are all precious in God's eyes. The outside of the chest decorated with beads, pearls (not real) and stickers.





Games in a section of the carpark allowed the children to expand some energy before regrouping in the celebration



hall for a 10-minute team building challenge, prayer time, singing and Q & A session.



Comments from the children

We liked building the houses.

Lego - working fast

Building a Lamborghinis

Making bags

Craft was the best



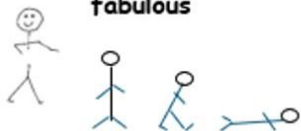
Volunteers' comments

Very well organised
good teamwork

Wonderful food, plentiful drinks

Children

fabulous



Save the date

Holiday Club 2027

Tuesday 10th to Friday 13th
August



Wesley Memorial Church Epworth

Bethlehem's Best Christmas:

Following the success of the Nativity Pantomime, we are planning to stage another production: *Bethlehem's Best Christmas*.

We are looking for volunteers, young or old, to take part in the performance. And to help with props and make-up etc. If you are interested or know someone in your community who would like to join the team, please get in touch.

Approximate Timeline

End of September: Casting and script development.

October: Read-throughs and rehearsals begin.

Showtime: 3pm on Saturday 2 January and Sunday 3 January 2027.

Cast List

Dame Bossy Betty – The local laundress. Loud, cheerful, with outrageous costumes and terrible jokes.

Benny – Betty's assistant. Kind-hearted but not the sharpest.

Mary

Joseph

Gabriel

King Herod – The villain.

Captain Crumble – Herod's hopeless soldier.

Innkeeper Ivy

Three Wise Visitors – Caspar, Melchior and Balthazar.

Shepherds

Angel Chorus

Spread the word!

To volunteer for any part of the production please contact Dave or Margaret Chennells in person or by email: dave.chennells123@gmail.com

1 Thessalonians 4:17

***After that, we who are still
alive and are left will be
caught up together with
them in the clouds to meet
the Lord in the air.
And so we will be with the
Lord forever.***



Journeying

19 Jul · 🌐

...

"Be, Lord Jesus, a bright flame before me,
a guiding star above me,
a smooth path below me,
a kindly shepherd behind me,
today, tonight, and forever."
- From the prayer of St Columba.

Image: Tenby and view, West Wales.



<http://www.journeying.co.uk/>



Journeying

6 Aug · 🌐

...

'All the way to heaven is heaven, because
Jesus said "I am the Way"
(St Catherine of Siena)



<http://www.journeying.co.uk/>

Ashby Wesley Church **1st 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.

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.**

The **Methodist** Church



62. Mary, Mother of James and Joses

Then Jesus uttered another loud cry and breathed his last. And the curtain in the Temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. When the Roman officer who stood facing him saw how he had died, he exclaimed, "Truly, this was the Son of God!"

Some women were there, watching from a distance, including Mary Magdalene, Mary (the mother of James the younger and of Joseph), and Salome. They had been followers of Jesus and had cared for him while he was in Galilee. Then they and many other women had come with him to Jerusalem. (Mark 15:37-41 NLT)

Joseph took the body, wrapped it in a clean linen cloth, and placed it in his own new tomb that he had cut out of the rock. He rolled a big stone in front of the entrance to the tomb and went away. Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were sitting there opposite the tomb.

After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb.

There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow. The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men.

The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples: 'He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him.' Now I have told you."

So the women hurried away from the tomb, afraid yet filled with joy, and ran to tell his disciples. Suddenly Jesus met them. "Greetings," he said. They came to him, clasped his feet and worshiped him. Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid. Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me." (Matthew 27:59-61; 28:1-10 NIV)

And returned from the sepulchre, and told all these things unto the eleven, and to all the rest. It was Mary Magdalene, and Joanna, and Mary *the mother* of James, and other *women that were* with them, which told these things unto the apostles. And their words seemed to them as idle tales, and they believed them not. Then arose Peter, and ran unto the sepulchre; and stooping down, he beheld the linen clothes laid by themselves, and departed, wondering in himself at that which was come to pass. (Luke 24:9-12 KJV)



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62. Mary, Mother of James and Joses

| | | |
|------------|-----------|-----------|
| AFRAID | EXCLAIMED | RISEN |
| APOSTLES | FACING | ROCK |
| AWAY | FOLLOWERS | ROLLED |
| BREATHED | HURRIED | ROMAN |
| BROTHERS | LIGHTNING | TALES |
| CLASPED | LINEN | TOP |
| CRUCIFIED | LOUD | UTTERED |
| CURTAIN | OFFICER | WHITE |
| DAWN | OPPOSITE | WONDERING |
| EARTHQUAKE | PASS | WRAPPED |

Bible crosswords

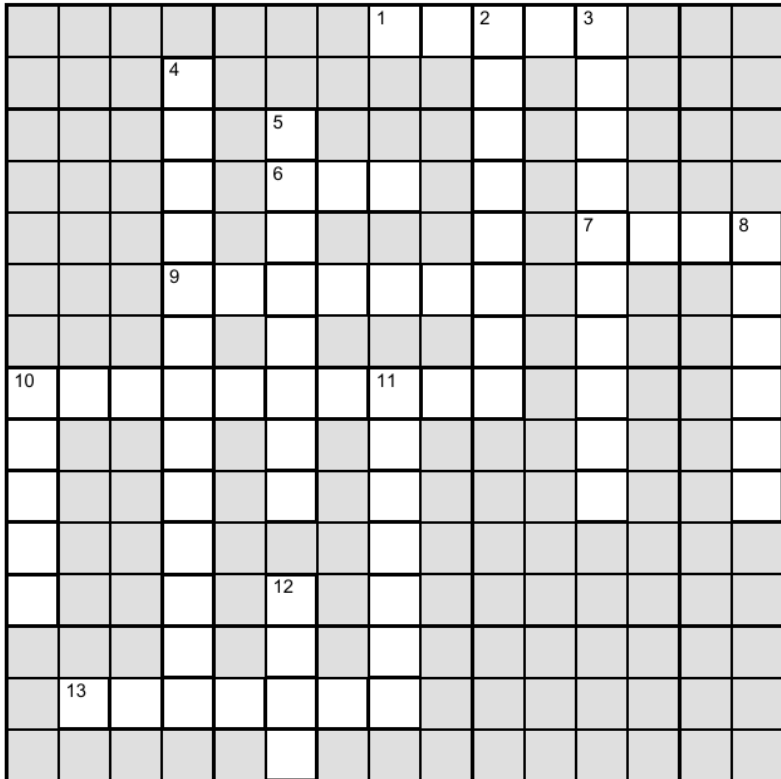
Across

- 1** What flying creature may destroy your earthly treasures? (5)
- 6** What is What should you put on your head when fasting? (3)
- 7** What is the eye of the body? (4)
- 9** What does each day have enough of? (7)
- 10** Who looks sombre in fast? (10)
- 13** What can you not serve two of? (7)

Down

- 2** What must you not announce with when giving to the needy? (8)
- 3** What cannot be added to life by worrying? (6, 4) (6,4)
- 4** Do not do your 'shoestring use' before men! (13)
- 5** What will worry about itself? (8)
- 8** Who runs after what to drink, eat and wear? (6)
- 10** What of yours will be where your treasure is? (5)
- 11** Who will not be able to break in on your heavenly treasures? (7)
- 12** What needs to be healthy for your body to be full of light? (4)

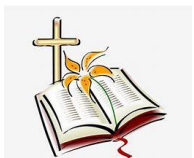
Matthew 6



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/>



Lectionary readings for September to November 2026

| | |
|--|---|
| 6 th September | Psalm 149
Matthew 18:15-20 |
| 13 th September
<i>Education Sunday</i> | Psalm 114
Matthew 18:21-35 |
| 20 th September
<i>Peace Sunday</i> | Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45
Matthew 20:1-16 |
| 27 th September | Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16
Matthew 21:23-32 |
| 4 th October
<i>Homelessness Sunday</i> | Psalm 19
Matthew 21:33-46 |
| 11 th October | Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23
Matthew 22:1-14 |
| 18 th October | Psalm 99
Matthew 22:15-22 |
| 25 th October | Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17
Matthew 22:34-46 |
| 1 st November | Psalm 107:1-7, 33-37
Matthew 23:1-12 |
| 8 th November
<i>Remembrance Sunday</i> | Psalm 78:1-7
Matthew 25:1-13 |
| 15 th November | Psalm 123
Matthew 25:14-30 |
| 22 nd November | Psalm 95:1-7a
Matthew 25:31-46 |
| 29 th November
<i>1st Sunday of Advent</i> | Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19
Mark 13:24-37 |



A John Wesley quote

I have never known more than fifteen minutes of anxiety or fear. Whenever I feel fearful emotions overtaking me, I just close my eyes and thank God that He is still on the throne reigning over everything and I take comfort in His control over the affairs of my life.



Sixteen Miles Out – unsplash.com

Spiritual meaning of the sunflower

It is seen as a symbol of the human quest for divine light, spiritual awakening, and unwavering faith.

Circuit Safeguarding: Mrs Karen Elvidge

07533-554615

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