

Newsletter



Summer 2025



*From Rev Vicki's
desk*



Hello Everyone,

The seasons have rolled by since my last circuit letter. The last time I was preparing a message for the Circuit Newsletter was

before my December 2024-February 2025 sabbatical. During the intervening time we have journeyed through Advent, Christmas, Lent and Easter! 'Journeying' is quite an accurate description for my sabbatical experience. Journeying spiritually through reading and prayer. Journeying physically through my walks exploring more of Lincolnshire.

I have tried to give a potted summary of my sabbatical experience in the form of the A-Z below:

A is for ADVENT – It was great to begin sabbatical with this time of personal reflection trying to understand more of the mystery of 'God with us.'

B is for BOOKS – How blessed I was to be loaned plenty of books to keep my 'little grey cells' stimulated.

C is for CAROLS – Christmas isn't Christmas without the Carols!

D is for DOG WALKS – Even though she is getting more senior in years now, hopefully our dog appreciated me having more time to take her out for walks.

E is for ECUMENICAL SERVICES – Participating in congregational worship during my sabbatical had an ecumenical flavour, broadening my experience of prayer and worship.

F is for FAMILY & FRIENDS – My family had to get used to me being about more; a mixed blessing maybe!

G is for GOSPEL – Day by day I have tried to notice 'good news' around me- whether in the natural world or in scriptural promises.

H is for 'HUSH THE NOISE' – Like some of you I found it fruitful to engage with the Methodist Connexional Advent resources.

I is for INTERCESSION FOR THE CIRCUIT & OTHERS – Having been offered the privilege of a sabbatical, I wasn't totally cut off from the Circuit, as I remembered you all in prayer.

J is for JOURNAL – I don't routinely follow the practice of keeping a Journal. (A different thing to a diary!) My sabbatical journal was a good place to record thoughts and ideas.

K is for KINDNESS – I have been grateful for the kindness of others in the staff, circuit leadership team and local churches that enabled me to benefit from sabbatical time.

L is for LISTENING – The sabbatical reinforced for me my conviction of the value of time spent listening to God and neighbours.

M is for MISSING PEOPLE – Naturally over the 3 months I did members of my circuit family!

N is for NOW – With a diary less packed with dates I was able to appreciate more being 'in the now'.

O is for OPEN – Whether it was inside the covers of a new book or out on one of my walks I was conscious of the need to be open to fresh encounters and new inspiration.

P is for PILGRIMAGE WALKS – I have another A-Z of them, so you will have to ask me for more details!

Q is for QUIET – This one probably links with the next one...

R is for RECHARGE – 3 months gives a healthy amount of time to recharge one's batteries.

S is for SUPERVISION STUDY – All ordained ministers and many lay pastoral staff are required by Connexion to undertake Supervision. This means they need Supervisors. I am a Supervisor to 3 people in

our District. It was helpful to do some reading updating myself on current practices in Supervision

T is for TRAVEL – You don't have to travel far to get the benefits of a change of scenery.

U is for UNIQUE – Each ministers sabbatical is unique because each minister is different.

V is for VARIETY – Sometimes we get fixed in habitual patterns and sabbatical time allows the freedom to change and experiment.

W is for WONDER - Whether it be wonder at the mystery of the Incarnation or at the dew drops on spiders webs wonder is a capacity that we can neglect when we live our lives in a rush.

X is for EXTRA – Receiving extra awareness of God's presence has been a bonus.

Y is for YES – When the Angel Gabriel visited Mary to reveal God's plan that she would give birth to our Saviour, she was brave enough to say 'Yes'. Finding the daily courage to say 'Yes' to serving God is a call on us as 21st century disciples too. The Covenant service provides a chance for us to respond in this way.

Z is for Zzz - Resting after a good walk with tea & biscuits has been a luxury not to be taken for granted.

And here we are in June, season of Pentecost, a reminder of God's Spirit that is always with us wherever we go and whatever we do. What gospel adventures may God's Spirit be calling us, our local churches, our Circuit, our District to engage with in the months ahead?



Pentecost Blessings,

Rev Vicki



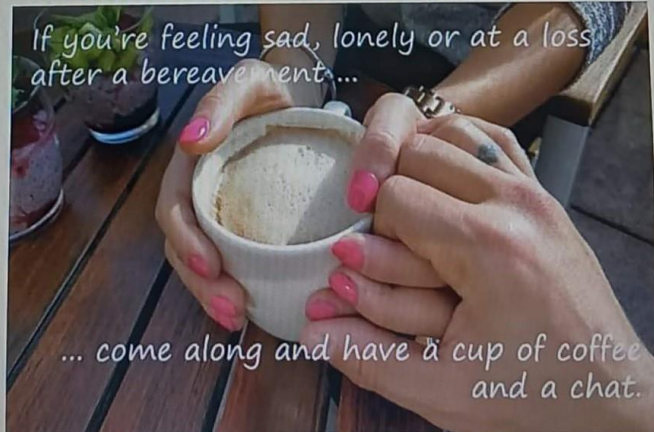
Ministers day off

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



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.

Christian Crackers

Curate to Vicar, "I've got a hunch, Vicar".

*Vicar's reply, "So I've noticed you must learn to keep your
shoulders back".*

D.W.

Compiled by Phil Mason



Book review by Hazel Jackson

Some of you who know me well, will know I read *true crime books*? I have a fascination for real crime; I watch programmes and enjoy TV dramas based on true events. I've been asked many times why and what is the attraction? They are not everybody's choice of reading material as many are heartbreaking, emotional, gruesome but also fascinating to read how people's faith and hope in justice remained strong and belief and trust in God never wavered.

Each book I've read provides an insight, or not in some cases, to the evils of our world, which I fear we will never get to grips with, and the historical, social and psychological backgrounds of perpetrators, and, or victims as often this played a big part in why crimes were committed and tells of how people are driven by perversion, greed, power lust, hate, sex or evil.



I do not believe in the devil, but I believe people have the propensity of evil, and those who choose this path, do unspeakable acts of horror without conscience or compassion.

Each book is about real life, and how lives are changed, through no fault of their own, and how they have found themselves challenging bureaucracy and the authorities, fighting for justice for their loved ones, in some cases for many years.

As each story is real life, there are also the cover ups, mistakes, decisions made to protect those in power, or murderers, or abusers; the miscarriages of justice where racism, sexism and homophobia has

resulted in innocent people sent to prison when the police and justice system fails them.

I'd love to write about every book I've read, especially over the past 2-3 years. I have a collection of 60+ books but one thing for me, is how those in the very depths of despair, keep going, keep focused and move mountains. How church and religion kept them strong. How, out of darkness and the awfulness of situations we can't imagine, mothers, fathers, families fought the system, and got it changed as a legacy to their loved ones and a future benefit for all.

Sara Payne MBE is known for her campaign for parents' right for a controlled access to the sex offender registry, "Sarah's Law" was driven by the murder of her daughter Sarah in 2000.

Ann Ming MBE created legal history after spending 17 years relentlessly worked to overturn the 800-year-old double jeopardy law, which prevented people being tried twice for the same offence. Ann and her husband, Charlie campaigned to get the law changed. In 2006, Billy Dunlop was finally jailed for life for the 1989 murder of her daughter Julie Hogg. The double jeopardy rule played a massive part also, in bringing the perpetrators who murdered Stephen Lawrence to justice.

Marie McCourt MBE led a campaign to change the law after her daughter was killed after vanishing near their home in St Helens, Merseyside in 1988. Marie campaigned to deny killers parole for failing to tell the location of their victims' remains.

The Prisoners (Disclosure of Information About Victims) Act "Helen's Law" came into force in 2021, a few months too late for Helen's perpetrator, paroled, but died never telling where he had hidden her body.

Dame Dorreen Lawrence OBE whose son Stephen was murdered by a racist gang in 1993, along with her husband (they have since divorced) challenged the Metropolitan Police investigation. After years of campaigning, in 1999 a judicial inquiry was established to

investigate the circumstances of Stephen's death and concluded that the Metropolitan Police was "institutionally racist", this being one of the primary causes of their failure to solve the case. Dorreen continues to campaign for justice for all victims of racist crime and founded the Stephen Lawrence Charitable Trust. She has worked to secure further reforms of the police service too.

Denise Fergus tormented that she briefly let go of her toddler's hand, endured a breakdown, abuse, press intrusion, she continues to campaign and fight the system to ensure one of the killers of her toddler son, James Bulger, remains in prison. Jon Venables, has twice reoffended since killing James, applied for parole and could be free by the end of the year. Denise said recently "we are still here, we haven't forgiven, and we will never give up. I believe he will kill again if he is given any kind of freedom."

Jim Swire Father of Flora, who was on PAN AM flight 103 blown up over Lockerbie on 21 December 1988. His dogged determination, his will to see justice done not only for Flora and all the other innocent victims on the plane, including the 4 CIA agents on the plane, and to "out" the USA and UK governments for the cover-up of the true perpetrators behind the terrorist bombing.

I recommend you read Jim's book "A father's search for justice" for yourselves, and "Cover Up of Convenience, the hidden scandal of Lockerbie" by two very established reporters to fully understand that from the night the plane went down, the real story has been hidden from the public.

I'd love to share more stories and insights with you, as these are just the tip of the iceberg, but there'll be another time.

One thing I am sure about, we are and must continue to be, a justice seeking Church. Methodist voices must be heard; we have to stand up and speak out where there is greed, poverty, racism, homophobia, hate and injustice. If we don't, we become complicit in the very nature of those awful blights on our society.

Matthew 17:20. “and he said to them, because you have so little faith, truly I tell you, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you.”

Best of all, God is with us, always, in all places, in all things...and we can move mountains.

**Blessings,
Hazel**

News from Lea

What a lovely Spring we have had. The garden at Lea has bloomed really well with all the sunshine.



As part of our ongoing support for the North Warren family centre in Gainsborough, our church has supplied 15 Easter eggs and Jennie, a member of our Monday Club knitting group has knitted 15 Easter bunnies for the children using the

centre (see picture).

Lent is usually a time for giving up something but some of our members decide instead to give one item of grocery for every day of Lent and donate them to the Forge. Thank you to Bronwen for delivering the groceries to the Forge.



Pat Gray



Some good news **from Laughton**

At long last we have now received three quotes for the proposed upgrade of the former Sunday Schoolroom. All the quotes are reasonably similar and, if completed, will see a completely refurbished kitchen, an increase in the space of the hall and a new unisex toilet. A meeting between members of the Church, Laughton Parish Council and West Lindsey District Council approved the quotes and are now working on putting together a funding application. This will take some time and will involve obtaining approval from parishioners, which hopefully will be forthcoming. The Schoolroom doubles as a village hall, there being no alternative building in the village. It is hoped that work will be able to commence in July.

Meanwhile, April, May and June are busy times for the Church and for the Schoolroom. As well as Sunday services on the first Sunday of the month, there are meetings organised for Laughton Parish Council, for the Neighbourhood Development Plan, the Election of councillors to Lincolnshire County Council and the Mayoral Election for Greater Lincolnshire, the assistance to the village for VE Day celebrations, the two-day West Lindsey Churches Festival, and the 98th Church Anniversary celebrations and supper. For help with the latter, we are very grateful to our friends at Yaddlethorpe Methodist Church.



So, thankfully, work never stops at our little church in deepest Lincolnshire. But we are always grateful for any support and always look forward to seeing our friends from the Circuit and the wider church.

Kevin Wilbur



North Lincolnshire Sanctuary Group

Update April 2025

Thank you for all your support for our group.

We've recently had a spring social at the Oasis Hub on Avenue Vivian – chances to meet refugees, asylum seekers, volunteers. Nationalities including Kurdish, Moroccan, Polish, Afghan, Syrian, Ukrainian, Yemeni, Ethiopian, Ghanaian, British. Gave away many items of clothing. People enjoyed chatting and relaxing together – getting to know each other, a chance to build relationships to help people adjust to life here.

The Thursday group had a party celebrating Eid at the end of Ramadan where they were shown how to make Chai tea with cardamon, cinnamon, fennel, sugar and milk. A group of women of different nationalities regularly meet to talk and cook together.



Recently people have been supported to become volunteers in hospitals, others becoming taxi drivers. Support with healthcare has been given, GCSE support, and support to a family who have recently been bereaved.

Please continue to pray for so many in our world who are forced to leave their homeland, losing everything, dividing their families and friends. Terrified of the future. Life changing, life devastating, can you imagine it???

If you'd like a member of the group to come and do a talk at your chapel, please contact **Kirsty Barker** at Ashby Wesley.



Methodist Women in Britain

Ladies from the circuit have been able to enjoy two recent events.

In March four intrepid travellers set out on a glorious spring morning to drive to Holbeach in the south of the county. Good conversation, and remarkably clear roads made the journey pass quickly and we were greeted warmly with a welcome cuppa.

The district day was led by Rev Vivienne Smith and entitled 'Surviving the Storms through laughter and love'. After opening worship Vivienne soon had us crying with laughter as she shared humorous stories from her life and ministry – and her imagination – but with the skill of the best stand up comedians made us think as well. And all accompanied with her versatile musical skills. After a break for lunch, and chance for our aching sides to recover, the afternoon continued in a more reflective way, but still with music and song, with thoughts on prayer from Vivienne and shared around our tables with friends old and new. The day was a blessing to all who were there, and the journey home didn't seem half as long as we chatted and shared fellowship.

In April five ladies from our circuit enjoyed the annual Swanwick conference, this year led by Rev Dr Sonia Hicks. With the theme 'This little light of mine' we were challenged as Sonia shared her experiences of being a black woman presbyter in the Methodist Church. A wide variety of workshops on Saturday afternoon included Bible Study, neurodiversity and worship, circle dancing and craft activities with All We Can and was followed in the evening with a variety show provided by some of those present at the conference. News from the World Federation and a service of Holy Communion concluded conference on the Sunday morning. A taste of the conference can be found on our website www.mwib.org.uk including the keynote address from Rev Dr Sonia Hicks. And if you want to know more or are interested in attending next year, note the dates 10-12

April 2026 in your diary and speak to Hazel Jackson, Sheila Atkinson, Kirsty Barker, Ann Speed or Bronwen Braisdell; we will all be happy to tell you more about it.

Our summer district day takes place at Wesley Memorial Church, Epworth on Thursday 12th June starting with tea & coffee from 10.30am. Our speaker for the day is Madeleine Reed, who is our current Helen Kim Memorial Scholar and is travelling from near Salisbury for her first visit to Epworth. The Helen Kim Memorial Scholarship is a 5-year training programme for young women between the ages of 18 and 30 provided by the World Federation of Methodist & Uniting Church Women, of which MWiB is the British Unit. Madeleine is coming to the end of her time as HKMS and I'm sure she will be sharing some of her experiences in this role as part of her day which is entitled 'The Challenge of Comfort'. Why not come and join us and be encouraged and challenged. *Our day will end by 3pm and there is also opportunity to visit Epworth Old Rectory and see the Women's Collection and tour the house. See poster in the newsletter for info.*

Bronwen Braisdell

It shouldn't happen in church

By Dorothea des Forges

Jesus

After a week of rain, the garden was looking wild and unloved, with a mass of tangled undergrowth. Tony couldn't wait to start clearing all the weeds, which seemed to have a mind of their own. As he dug or pulled one up, he would toss it over his shoulder, and it became an ever-increasing pile. Five-year-old Sophie came to help. "Daddy," she asked, "Is it true that Jesus is always with us?"

"Yes, love, of course He is," he replied.

"Well, I think you should be more careful then."

"Why love?"

"Because if you're not, you'll hit him with some of those weeds."

From Gainsborough

Hi All...!

Life's been a bit of a roller coaster at GMC. Lent has been and gone, The usual nibbles (and the scrummy, expensive Easter Eggs) have been welcome including the regular bookings... you know... slimming World, Tuesday club., and the Brews-up and several others. Sunday worship has been great...I must say that one worship service that really got me flying was the Passion Praise.

It was the Easter story told in loads of songs and readings. The music group, formed in the old Wolds and Trent circuit, was absolutely fabulous. Somebody said they raised the rafters, but there's no wood to be seen in the roof. Cracks have been observed in some reinforced concrete, however. The band also did a post Easter Praise at Middle Rasen. I hear that they will be reconvening for more events. Can ESG circuit come up with a band/choir to do similar?

Keeping my ear to the ground (not very difficult for me) I overheard 'the tourists' saying they were off on another long continental jollyday.... So.. packed my bags and sneaked off in their brand-new rucksack. It took a bit of time to snuggle in, but worth it.

Well, passing through France, it was a super feast of crunchy baguette, with cheeses of all kinds... some really stinky ones. There was even time to soak up a bit of sun, but the weather was the same at home where most managed without the obligatory continental garlic.



Into Spain, well, I had to try the churros... a bit of a long, thin, sugary donut cake, and there were even more cheeses on offer along with a spicy sausage thing. Mmmm... paella, now that's something else.

We ended up in Portugal with fish nearly all the time but worked it off writing emails home. Then it was time to return to catch the Bilbao ferry.

Most of the Spanish road signs had a picture of a scallop shell indicating a “camino” route. I had to google it. There are many pilgrimage routes leading to Santiago de Compostella, or St Jacques even St James, just different languages. The remains of St James, the first martyred Apostle and Patron Saint of Spain, has attracted pilgrims for centuries including some from the Old Brumby area. There are lots of interesting friendship encounters and bonding on the way... Anybody interested? Five Weeks and three hundred miles on foot with a certificate at the end. I’d love to do it (in the rucksack)

I’m back in my cosy GMC mouse hole now... just dreaming
Let’s continue to pray for each other
wishing you...Every Blessing

Anon-e-mouse



Sankey Evening



On Sunday 9th March Mervyn White helped arrange and led an afternoon full of rousing and recognisable hymns and songs to celebrate 150 years of Ira D Sankey's Sacred songs and solos.

Laura led the congregation by reading out a short description and story to introduce each song. Ministers, members of the circuit leadership team and some members of different churches led the prayers and read the readings.

The service was well attended. For anyone who wasn't able to attend this wonderful circuit service, Mervyn is planning on doing an afternoon on singing Charles Wesley hymns, both well-known ones and less popular ones too.

Laura White

Winteringham's news

We received a lovely surprise when a young family in our village rang to enquire if it was ok for them to arrange a *Cake and Lemonade day* at their house to help raise funds for our Chapel.

We were very delighted, and it had to be a massive yes please and thank you.

They arranged it for one Saturday morning in April. It was a lovely sunny day and people had been popping in throughout the day for delicious home baked cakes and a lemonade drink.

We received a phone call later that day to say they had made us well over

£100.00. It was absolutely brilliant, and we had a special presentation of the money at our Easter breakfast.



Our picture shows the arrangements they made, and they agreed to a photo shoot. A special thanks to Daisy whose idea it was. Well done all of you as this will certainly help our funds.

EASTER DAY

Rev Vicki led an all-age communion at 9.00am. We had a good congregation of around 30. William and Daisy helped, with William playing his guitar and Daisy singing. They had practiced the song "We have a king who rides a Donkey". An appropriate



Easter celebration song, especially the short chorus “Jesus the King is risen”.

EASTER EGG AND BUNNY HUNT

The four children had a great time following the service with the above organised by Andrew Wilson. Everyone received an Easter egg.

EASTER BREAKFAST

We all look forward to this part of our Easter celebration before going home, with cereals, boiled Eggs and then toast with preserves. Thank you to everyone who helped.

SPONSORED WALK ALL AGE SERVICE AND BBQ

Up to Covid, we must have done this annual event at least 30 times, raising money for many local charities. After a break of four years, the Winterton Lions came forward to help arrange one this year. We have set the date for Sunday 13th of July, walking for Lindsey Lodge Hospice and our Chapel funds. Mike Joyce has offered to take a short devotional with singing and prayers before we set off.

Let's hope and pray for a fine day.

Consent given by parents to have all pictures published.

Shared by Will Maw

Christian Crackers - It really happened

From Canada - During Evensong just as the rector had finished his sermon, all the lights went out for a few seconds. When they came on again, he announced the next hymn. Number 93 - 'The people that in darkness sat'.

From the Parish News - We are delighted to report that the choir raised £120 for the building fund during their recent sponsored sing. This included £10 not to do it again.

Compiled by Phil Mason

The Methodist News

Call for school governors



"Methodism, following the example of John Wesley, has a long and proud tradition of putting education at the heart of its service to the community."

"My days as a school governor in South London over 50 years ago were some of the most rewarding in my life. I strongly recommend service in this form to those seeking to get involved in their local communities in a practical and useful way."

The need for more people to become school governors has been highlighted by Lord Boateng and the President of the Methodist Conference during a visit to Holly Hill Church School in Frankley, Birmingham. Holly Hill is part of the Methodist Academies and Schools Trust.

Read more here ---→ https://methodist-news.org.uk/c/AQieeBCegZQHGIHgqN4GIM_P6aUBKrWrTI5l2GhQqptmgcxhJ90WgQY8Y6V3m4Qhdtu4gcA

Minister tackles 70K in three days for global charity appeal

"Every year, during Christian Aid Week, people across Britain and Ireland raise funds, act and pray for their global neighbours in a celebration of hope for a fairer world."

Sunderland Methodist Minister John Purdy is going the extra mile for vulnerable communities around the world for Christian Aid Week 2025.



Read more here ---→ https://methodist-news.org.uk/c/AQieeBCegZQHGIHgqN4GIN_66aUB4xMAPxM64B1mlF6TavaHOsEKOcQNRIDCRbJ2App2EI



Journeying

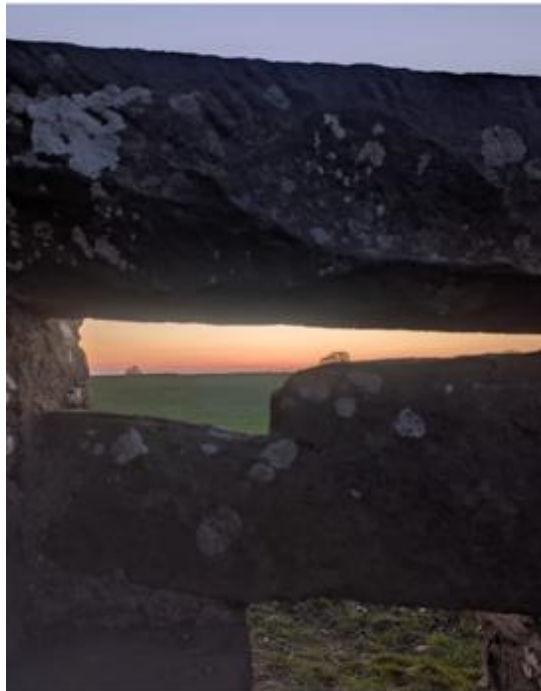
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The world tells us to seek success, power
and money;
God tells us to seek humility, service and
love.

(Pope Francis)

Image: Eventide by Nick Gleed



www.journeying.co.uk

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*“You pray for the hungry. Then you feed them. That’s how prayer works.” – Pope Francis (sourced from The Joint Public Issues Team FB page)*

## Churches Together



## Pentecost Praise



Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> June @ 3 pm

on the lawn of St John the Baptist Church

Alkborough, DN15 9JF

Refreshments provided

All welcome

supporting

## Action for Children



'Step Out'

## Our annual walk

Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> June at

1.30pm for 2pm start

meeting at CENTRAL PARK

main car park (Kingsway,  
Scunthorpe)

followed by refreshments at Old Brumby  
United Church

Further detail phone C.Joyce 01724 732214



**Methodist Women  
in Britain**

**Lincolnshire District**



**Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> June 2025**

**at Wesley Memorial Methodist Church, Epworth**

**37 High Street, Epworth, Doncaster DN9 1EP**

## **The Challenge of Comfort**

**Madeleine Reed (Helen Kim Memorial Scholar)  
will lead us in our thinking around this subject**

**Come & join us for a day of fellowship and learning**

**11am to 3pm**

**Tea & Coffee served from 10.30am**

**Bring your packed lunch, drinks provided**

**ALL WELCOME**

**You have the opportunity to extend your day in  
Epworth with a tour of The Old Rectory, Home of  
Susanna Wesley & John and Charles Wesley, and of  
the Methodist Women's Collection Exhibition  
followed by light refreshments served in The Granary**

**More details or to book a tour contact Bronwen**

**[communications.mwib@gmail.com](mailto:communications.mwib@gmail.com)**



Epworth Old Rectory Presents  
**In a Primitive  
Physick Garden**

Performed by

Caroline Clemmow and Susan Hollingworth

Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> June

Performances at 3pm & 7pm



[www.epwortholdrectory.org.uk/events/in-a-primitive-physick-garden](http://www.epwortholdrectory.org.uk/events/in-a-primitive-physick-garden)

The Old Rectory, Epworth DN9 1HX





**LOOK!**

**DON'T  
MISS  
IT!**

**BAND &  
SONGSTERS**

**ON SATURDAY  
14<sup>th</sup> JUNE AT 7.00 pm**

**AT HAXEY METHODIST  
CHURCH**

**ADMISSION: £7.00 WITH  
CAKE AND TEA  
(Tickets or at the door)**



# 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.**

## 21. The Barren Fig Tree

### Luke 13:6-9 AMP

And He told them this parable: A certain man had a fig tree, planted in his vineyard, and he came looking for fruit on it, but did not find [any].

So he said to the vinedresser, See here! For these three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree and I find none. Cut it down! Why should it continue also to use up the ground [to deplete the soil, intercept the sun, and take up room]?

But he replied to him, Leave it alone, sir, [just] this one more year, till I dig around it and put manure [on the soil].

Then perhaps it will bear fruit after this; but if not, you can cut it down and out.

### Luke 13:6-9 CEV

Jesus then told them this story:

A man had a fig tree growing in his vineyard. One day he went out to pick some figs, but he didn't find any. So he said to the gardener, "For three years I have come looking for figs on this tree, and I haven't found any yet. Chop it down! Why should it take up space?"

The gardener answered, "Master, leave it for another year. I'll dig around it and put some manure on it to make it grow. Maybe it will have figs on it next year. If it doesn't, you can have it cut down."

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

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## 21. The Barren Fig Tree

ALONE  
ANOTHER  
AROUND  
BEAR  
CHOP  
CONTINUE  
CUT  
DEplete  
DOWN  
FIG

FOUND  
FRUIT  
GARDENER  
GROUND  
GROWING  
INTERCEPT  
JUST  
LEAVE  
LOOKING  
MANURE

NEXT  
OUT  
PICK  
ROOM  
SOIL  
SPACE  
SUN  
THREE  
VINEDRESSER  
YEARS

## Bible crosswords

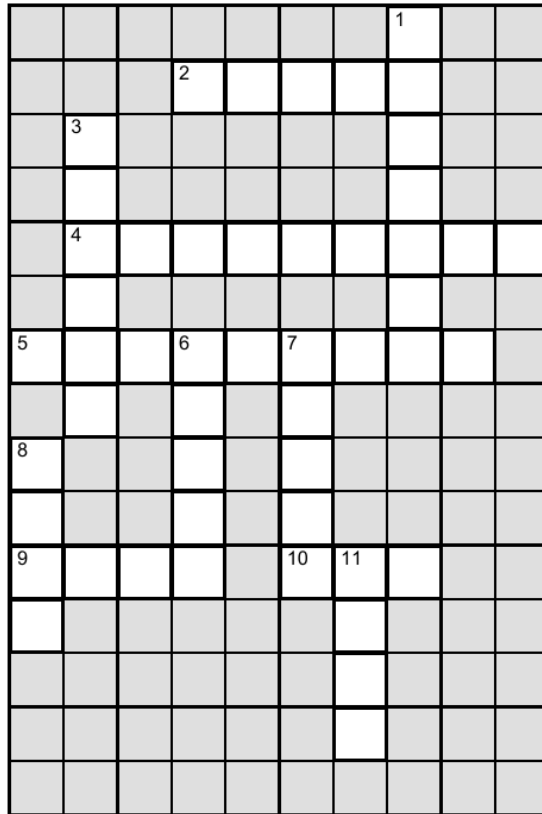
### Across

- 2** Which province was Jesus born in? (5)
- 4** How did Herod instruct the Magi to go in search? (9)
- 5** The helm be where Jesus was born! (9)
- 9** What was one of the gifts bought to baby Jesus? (4)
- 10** Boys of how many years were ordered to be killed (3)

### Down

- 1** Where did Joseph go instead of Judea? (7)
- 3** Who wept for her children? (6)
- 6** After whose death could Joseph return to Israel? (5)
- 7** Where did the angel tell Joseph to escape to? (5)
- 8** Who came to Herod following a star? (4)
- 11** Where had the Magi seen the star? (4)

## Matthew 2



### 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.



## Lectionary readings for June to August 2024

|                                                                   |                                              |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> June                                              | Psalm 97<br>John 17:20-26                    |
| 8 <sup>th</sup> June<br><b><i>MHA Sunday</i></b>                  | Psalm 104:24-34, 35b<br>John 14:8-17 (25-27) |
| 15 <sup>th</sup> June                                             | Psalm 8<br>John 16:12-15                     |
| 22 <sup>nd</sup> June                                             | Psalm 42; 43<br>Luke 8:26-39                 |
| 29 <sup>th</sup> June                                             | Psalm 77:1-2, 11-20<br>Luke 9:51-62          |
| 6 <sup>th</sup> July                                              | Psalm 30<br>Luke 10:1-11, 16-20              |
| 13 <sup>th</sup> July<br><b><i>Action For Children Sunday</i></b> | Psalm 82<br>Luke 10:25-37                    |
| 20 <sup>th</sup> July                                             | Psalm 52<br>Luke 10:38-42                    |
| 27 <sup>th</sup> July                                             | Psalm 85<br>Luke 11:1-13                     |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> August                                            | Psalm 107:1-9, 43<br>Luke 12:13-21           |
| 10 <sup>th</sup> August                                           | Psalm 50:1-8, 22-23<br>Luke 12:32-40         |
| 17 <sup>th</sup> August                                           | Psalm 80:1-2, 8-19<br>Luke 12:49-56          |
| 24 <sup>th</sup> August                                           | Psalm 71:1-6<br>Luke 13:10-17                |
| 31 <sup>st</sup> August                                           | Psalm 81:1, 10-16<br>Luke 14:1, 7-14         |

## **John Wesley quote**



***“What the Scripture promises, I enjoy. Come and see what Christianity has done here; and acknowledge it is of God.”***



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