

Newsletter
March 2025





From the desk of ESG Circuit Safeguarding Officer

The first of our Spring flowers has appeared this week ... a mustard seed (Matthew 13:31) compared to the taller and more vibrant daffodils and tulips and the Summer flowers that grace our gardens as the months progress- yet this tiny white flower is a flower of 'Hope' and 'Purity.' Hope, that dark nights and the cold and wet days will soon be behind us and that Spring is on its way... Purity in its whiteness and freshness, a new beginning. The tiny flower is a survivor, strong and resilient in all weathers. Similarly, Safeguarding in our churches has grown from nowhere into a snowdrop, a tiny flower of hope, resilience and strength.

I want to say a big thankyou to everyone who has contributed to positive Safeguarding practice in this circuit.

(Luke6:45-49) For people who experience any type of abuse, it can be like having their foundations taken away from them. We hear from victims and survivors of abuse that abuse alters perceptions of people and the world and can be a whole life sentence. Resilience is affected, foundations battered.

Our churches need to be as safe as possible, We need to 'talk up' Safeguarding, display evidence that we take Safeguarding seriously here and listen when someone tells their story and be supportive when truth is spoken to power.

In 2012, the Methodist church was aware that action was needed to address abuse in all of its forms and bravely put in place a research project called 'Courage, Cost and Hope,' to investigate and learn from 1,800 past cases of abuse brought to the attention of the church and

from the church's response to supporting victims and survivors of abuse. Only 57% of cases were formally reported which meant a staggering 43% were not and the victims and survivors remained unsupported. This report was published in 2015 and is available on the Methodist Church website. On the morning of the publication, Dr Martyn Atkin offered a formal apology on behalf of the Methodist Church to people who had been let down by the church in the past. On that morning, the BBC were very critical of the Methodist Church's self-investigation. By 10.00 that evening, the Methodist church was praised for its courage in owning past mistakes and moving forward towards making our churches safer spaces for worship.

The lessons learned have influenced the 'Creating Safer Space,' practice that has developed over the past ten years and the inclusion of the perspective of survivors has altered the way in which we, 'Respond well,' by recording and reporting all safeguarding incidents centrally. Doing nothing is a decision, but not a defensible decision. Therefore, doing nothing when someone bravely shares their story is not an option.

Our churches are grateful to brave survivors who continue to influence the Safeguarding decision- making of our policies and procedures, thus creating safer spaces for worship.

Yet we cannot be complacent. The Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA), published in October 2022, identified that there is more work to be done.

'Safeguarding is about the action the Church takes to promote a safer culture. It is integral to the mission of the Methodist church and is a part of its response and witness to the love of God in Christ.'

According to our policy, Safeguarding is also everyone's responsibility and is the responsibility of each church council.

Each church must have a named Safeguarding Officer who, in this circuit, is invited to be part of the circuit Safeguarding group which meets twice a year to catch up with new initiatives and expectations.

Just before Advent began, our church safeguarding officers were invited to a meeting in which we discussed the need for, 'Safer Recruitment' to be embedded in our practice. This will mean that from now, all role holders will be asked to sign a 'Self Declaration,' (Updated January 2024.) Role outlines will be given to everyone who has a role in the church showing the training required for each role and the level of DBS check (or none) related to each role. DBS checks are required for the people in roles defined in Appendix 9 of the Methodist Safeguarding Policy updated in July 2023.

All members of CLT are required to have DBS checks and all trustees of church councils are now required to have DBS checks at the enhanced level without barring.

Role outlines identify who requires a DBS check and at what level. Exemplar role outlines will be added to the Lincolnshire District Methodist Website in due course.

All roles that are with children and young people require a DBS check and Foundation training.

All pastoral visitors are now required to have foundation Safeguarding training.

All roles that require DBS checks can only be confirmed when the DBS certificate has been seen by the church safeguarding officer and is free of blemishes.

Many of us are required to take part in, 'Unconscious Bias,' Training, this now includes members of the church council, circuit meeting representatives and Local Preachers and Worship Leaders.

Safeguarding is not an 'add on' but is part of a 'Methodist way of Life' a tiny, brave and resilient flower stating proudly that there is hope and a tomorrow and even brighter and more vivid flowers will come. Like the mustard seed, Safeguarding is growing into a tall tree, golden, threaded through everything that we do.

Karen Elvidge

ESG Circuit Safeguarding Officer.



Ministers day off

Rev Vicki Atkinson	Saturday
Rev Paul Braisdell	Friday
Rev Debbie Caulk	Saturday

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.

Message from Senior Circuit Steward



Dear friends

Save the date ..
9th April 2025

The President of Conference Revd. Helen Cameron and Vice-President Mrs Carolyn Godfrey are visiting the district in April. They will visit the Old Rectory on Tuesday 8th April.

There will be a District Service at Central Methodist Church, Lincoln..7pm on Wednesday 9th April.

It will be good to have as many of us from our Circuit go and support what will be a wonderful end to the president's visit

Revd. Helen is a brilliant orator, and I know from having heard her preach, she will inspire and enlighten us all as we continue to serve God in all we do for this circuit

Blessings,

Hazel
Senior Circuit Steward

Congregations - The congregation was in full flow reciting the Lord's Prayer, when a young voice, rose stridently above all the others:
"Harold be thy name," it pronounced.

It Shouldn't happen in Church by Dorothea des Forges



**A Prayer For the
Epworth, Scunthorpe & Gainsborough
Circuit (17/1)
2023/24**



Loving God,

A new year has dawned for us, and we are filled with hope that only You can provide. Through worry and uncertainty, help us to remember that you are here with us to give us courage and to embrace the future with faith. Together we pray.

We thank you for new beginnings that bring the voice of hope to the villages of our new Circuit of Epworth, Scunthorpe and Gainsborough. May your peace watch over us.

Caring God,

Watch over us as we seek to be your living disciples in our communities. Help us to show your love as we meet in our churches and in our interaction with all those we encounter, so that through our words and actions we can help others to draw closer to you.

Help us to work together to make the best decisions and guide us along the new direction you have created for us. May your Holy Spirit inspire us so that we can walk along this pathway in faith, with Jesus in the centre of our lives.

We ask this in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ.

Amen.



Christian Aid Week 2025

**Sunday 11th May –
Saturday 17th May**

7 days to make a difference

As many of you may already be aware, Christian Aid turns 80 this year. Their work began in 1945 as the British and Irish churches helped refugees following the Second World War. Throughout these 80 years, the charity have provided humanitarian relief and long-term development support for the poorest communities throughout our world. They continue to give us all opportunities to help tackle injustice and suffering by the tireless campaigns they highlight.

Christian Aid are offering a 6 week course for Lent this year encouraging us to explore 'Act on Poverty'. Session 1 (Prophetic) Find and nurture your prophetic voice. Session 2 (Broken) How we can join God's work of healing divisions. Session 3 (Generous) How we can be generous in challenging times. Session 4 (Located) Where you think Jesus would place himself in your community?

Session 5 (Hopeful) How do we develop practices of hope? Session 6 (Together) Create your Act on Poverty Plan.

[Act on Poverty - Christian Aid](#) (please click to follow the link)

There is also a short course (a 2 hour version/ideal for a group study) with lots of downloadable resources available. It is geared to help you and your church gain a deeper understanding of poverty and help equip people to do something about it.

<https://www.christianaid.org.uk/get-involved/campaigns/act-poverty-short-course>

Please look out for envelopes/donation buckets etc during Christian Aid week or alternatively you can donate online at [Ways to donate Christian Aid](#) (please click to follow the link)



God bless. Lou Howard

~~~~~  
**😊 Laughton's update 😊**

The proposed upgrade of the former Sunday Schoolroom at Laughton is taking much longer than originally thought. It has taken several months to even obtain quotes for the work from builders, who seem to be extremely busy. But, with prolonged patience, persistence and suppressing all frustrations, at last two quotes have been received, with a third in the pipeline. So, the next stage will be liaising with the local Council which, fingers crossed, will hopefully be able to organise a suitable grant for the work.

More months will no doubt pass as this next stage is negotiated. Watch this space!

***Kevin Wilbur***

~~~~~  
Bishop's move - We were celebrating the 100th anniversary of our church, and several former pastors and the Bishop were in attendance. At one point, our Minister had the children gather at the altar for a talk about the importance about the day. He began by asking them, "Does anyone knows what the Bishop does?" There was silence. But finally, one little boy answered gravely, "He's the one that you can move diagonally".

Source : Christian Humor (FB)

Old Brumby United Church

Festival of Christmas Trees 2024

For the 20th year (with only 2 years when either Snow, or Covid, caused it to be cancelled) we hosted the Scunthorpe Rotary Festival of Christmas Trees, which is appreciated by many.



This year we hosted 72 trees and were open to the public over 5 days (the weekends of 8th/9th December

and Friday/Saturday/Sunday 14th/15th/16th December. During those hours there were 400-500 visitors, 16 choirs, or groups providing entertainment, and during the week there were 3 visits from local primary schools.

On the second weekend I had the honour of leading a Christingle Service on Saturday 15th at 4:30pm as well as leading the Civic Service on 16th with Cllr Carol Ross, the Deputy Mayor of North Lincolnshire Council, and her consort, Ms Rachael Watchorn in attendance, along with the Rotary District Governor Richard Greenwood of Yorkshire and Northern Lincolnshire District of Rotary International 1040. Also with us were the 16th Scunthorpe Uniformed Groups who, as usual, were keen to help me with my Gospel Magic!

Over the 2 weekends the Festival raised over £2000 to be shared between Lindsey Lodge Hospice and Macmillan Cancer Support, they also had their own stalls and money was raised there also.

The refreshments (run by Sue Sanderson and family along with a small band of helpers) raised £1900 towards our own Church funds.

It is difficult to believe that the Festival has run over 20 years since Rev. Brian Bailey suggested it in 2004 and the Church extends their gratitude to all of the Rotary and Church volunteers who work tirelessly over the Festival but, particularly, to George Jefferson who has organised each year (along with, until recently, his late wife Sue) since the beginning and has brought unique displays ranging from Cycling Santa to replica 60s sweet shop windows!

For anyone who has not yet visited (difficult to imagine) let me say it is a real treat and a wonderful beginning to the Advent season.

Lawrie Holtby





**Methodist Women
in Britain**

For women, for justice, for Christ

If you follow MWiB on Facebook you will know that from 25th November to 10th December last year a campaign was running called 16 Days of Activism. This

encouraged people to think more deeply about issues such as violence against women and domestic abuse. A new Facebook page was also launched, Methodist Women in Britain For All which is an open page so anyone can post; we are also now on Instagram.

MWiB in our own District have 3 days planned for 2025 – the dates for your diary are:

Thursday 27th March at Holbeach Methodist Church, Spalding PE12 7DP

*Rev Vivienne Smith 'Surviving the Storms through laughter and Love'
Christian*

Thursday 12th June at Wesley Memorial Church, Epworth DN9 1EP
Madeleine Reed (Helen Kim Memorial Scholar) 'The Challenge of Comfort'

Wednesday 1st October at Trinity Methodist Church, Immingham DN40 1NB

Rev Leonora Wassell (MWiB CoChair) 'Butterfly Movement – Craftivism in Action'

As always, anyone is welcome to join us for these days – they are not restricted to ladies – and they are always great times of fellowship as we meet up with others from around the circuit. Car sharing to get to the days is also a great time of 'getting to know others' so don't be shy – contact Bronwen Braidell or Hazel Jackson if you want to know more.

Bronwen Braidell



Methodist Women
in Britain

Lincolnshire District



Thursday 27th March 2025

at Holbeach Methodist Church

Albert St, Holbeach, Spalding PE12 7DP

Surviving the storms through laughter and Love

Rev Vivienne Smith

**will share some amusing stories before
thinking about how we can go deeper with God**

Come & join us for a day of fellowship and fun

10.45am to 3pm

Tea & Coffee served from 10.15am

Bring your packed lunch, drinks provided

ALL WELCOME

~~~~~  
**Christian Crackers (compiled by Phil Mason)**  
**Nationwide - from Northamptonshire**

The Sunday notices reported that: The STANDING  
COMMITTEE had sat for three hours.

**P.M.**

## Greetings from Gainsborough

***Hi All***

My...!.... Hasn't it been cold ?..... Here's hoping you haven't been suffering with any of these bugs that have been making their way all over the place.



My cosy corner is usually pretty snug, but I must tell you of a chilly incident during an unusually cold snap a few Sundays ago. Some gremlin in the boiler system turned off one side of the Church radiators sending out a chilly draught. This meant that the warm fans on the other side were working overtime. Everybody migrated there to get the benefit by herding together. The band, on the cool side, suffered without complaint. Some boffins mended it the next day, so I'm OK again.

Talking of a cosy corner... it looks like 'they' are finally completing their own cosy corner under the stairs in the foyer. It is looking good, and will be used for private prayer, small consultations, or a quiet comfy retreat... 'they' might leave a few crumbs there too. The project commemorates the life of a highly respected lady, and who was a key member of our congregation.

Valentines day has passed, one or two choccies came my way (somebody loves me). Now lent is upon us and I'll try and refrain until I receive an Easter egg.

Just checked my diaries and found that our second-Saturday-morning "Brews up" has been going for three years. It certainly doesn't feel that long. The cakes get better, and I hear that the posh coffees beat anything in local coffee shops. There are the regulars, the occasional visitor, but I'd like to see how the team would cope with a bus load. Perhaps we ought to break them in gently by hosting a couple of car

loads from the far reaches of the circuit. 10am to noon. (pay and display Saturday)

It's also in the diary that GMC is celebrating Easter 2025 with another high-power Passion Praise service. Loads of musicians from our three local circuits will be leading worship. Previously, the Church has been packed... so put Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> April 4pm into your diary. (Parking is free on a Sunday.)

Looking forward to the Autumn, 4<sup>th</sup> October actually, we see the return of the Anston male voice choir. They were so entertaining and funny last time. Perhaps I'll learn more details and tell you later.

In the meantime...

Let us all share the Good News of Jesus, and pray for each other.

***Anon-e-mouse***



## **Christmas at Lea**

Hello from the members of Lea.

Christmas was a time of blessing for us as we strived to help those in need. We were pleased to send a large amount of food and clothing to the Forge who were able to produce a three course Christmas meal for their customers.

Following an appeal by a Gainsborough children's family centre asking for toys for the young children in their care, our members and friends bought new toys which were wrapped and given to the children on Christmas Day. Our church has pledged to support the centre throughout the coming year.

Our Monday Club held their Christmas party with quizzes, Carol Singing and sharing festive food.

The Little Retreat at Lea is becoming popular and is a wonderful venue for a day retreat or quiet day for churches in our circuit and beyond.

Peace and Blessings to you all.

**Pat Gray.**

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**Winteringham  
Methodist Church**

**Special Coffee Morning  
Pancake Day**

***Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> March  
10 am till 12 noon***



***Pancakes will be served,  
along with coffee, tea etc***



**There will be a bookstall and raffle.**

**Come along and enjoy the event.**



## Good news from Winteringham

Here we are starting a new year. February has come and we have put together our news for the Circuit newsletter. Time does fly as they say or ***Tempus Fugit***, if you are into Latin.

Winteringham Methodist church had a very busy December as we have supported **THE FORGE** which is a day centre in Scunthorpe for the under privileged. They provide food and hot meals along with toilets and shower facilities. **THE FORGE** is a very caring centre and food, and clothing donations are always most welcome.

During each day in December for the past four years, we have collected food from all round our village, calling the project **BOX IN A BARROW**. The whole community gets involved for which both our Chapel and the Forge are very grateful.

This year, Alfie Borrill helped every day to push the barrow out and liaise with *The Barrow's* hosts. He has done this as part of his *Duke of Edinburgh Bronze* award. Both The Chapel and The Forge are very thankful for his unfailing commitment to the food collection.



***First photo shows Alfie and Mr Peter Tong (this year's president of the Winterton Lions) with The Barrow. The second photo shows the helpers who loaded all the food into the van.***

We are indebted to Sue and Graham who are members of Winterton Trinity Methodist Church. Both of them transported the huge amount of food to **THE FORGE** from Winteringham. We say thank you to everyone who made our food collection such a success.

***Consent given to publish the photos.***

### **CAROL SINGING AT MORRISONS**



Winteringham, Winterton and Burton Stather Chapels met at Morrisons on Saturday 15th of December to entertain and raise money for *The Lindsey Lodge Hospice*. We say thank you to the

musicians, singers, Morrisons and all the people who donated to this very worthy cause. A sum of £161.29 was raised.

### **CHRISTMAS EVE ALL AGE CAROL SERVICE AND BUFFET**

We say a big thank you to everyone who attended the above service. There were about 35 people, including 8 children. We give thanks to Mrs Hazel Jackson who put a lot of time into making the service such a success. She even had a lovely order of service book printed. Everyone enjoyed the message she gave about Denis the Donkey.

Thank you, Hazel. We hope and pray for you to have a speedy recovery from your recent accident.

We all went home feeling ready for Christmas Day after attending such a lovely gathering.

### **COFFEE MORNINGS**

As reported previously, we hold a Coffee Morning in the Chapel on

the first Tuesday of the month from 10.00am till 12.00 noon. The money we raise goes to our general Chapel expenses.

Our February event was the best on record. It went on so well that we nearly ran out of cups and mugs. People from the village come each month to enjoy fellowship, have a natter, enjoy tea and coffee, collect a book or jigsaw and generally enjoy a couple of hours with friends.

Our March coffee morning on the 4th is going to be rather special as it falls on Shrove Tuesday. Therefore, we will be serving Pancakes. Casting our minds back to the last time our Coffee morning fell on this special day, we got a lot of extra people joining us, so an invitation is extended to everyone from the circuit.

Report submitted by **Will Maw, Senior Steward**

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A SERVICE TO CELEBRATE

150 YEARS OF

Ira D. Sankey's

Sacred Songs & Solos

AT

ASHBY WESLEY METHODIST CHURCH

SUNDAY MARCH 9TH 2025

4.00pm

Come and join in the singing of many familiar old hymns made popular by the famous singing evangelist published in the best-selling gospel hymn book of all time.

All Welcome

Refreshments to follow

Old Brumby United Church

Monthly Coffee Mornings

On the 3rd Tuesday



bookstall and tombola

10:00 – 12:00

All are welcome.

Tea/Coffee and cake

Proceeds for Church funds



St Aidan of Lindisfarne (580 – 651)

Born in Ireland, Aidan became a monk on Iona before travelling to the Holy Island of Lindisfarne as Bishop, at the request of King Oswald.

Aidan loved to walk. A gift of a horse (in case of emergencies) by King Oswin, was shortly given by Aidan to a beggar asking for alms. Taken aback the King asked "Why!?" only to ask Aidan for his forgiveness a while later for being so selfish.

A humble man, Aidan managed to bring the best out of almost everyone.



Image : Lindisfarne Castle, Holy Island

Exhibitors

- Lindsey Lodge Hospice
- United Lincolnshire Teaching Hospitals
- Capela – Caravan Chaplaincy of the East Lincolnshire Methodist Circuit
- Waterways Chaplaincy
- St Barnabas Hospice
- Anna Chaplaincy
- Schools Chaplaincy
- Pastoral and Spiritual Care Team, Humberside Health Partnership
- Street Pastors
- Emergency Faith Responders
- Lincolnshire Community Healthcare Chaplaincy
- RAF Chaplains
- Sport Chaplaincy UK
- Bishop Grosseteste University, Lincoln
- University of Lincoln Multi-Faith Chaplaincy
- Royal Army Chaplains' Department
- Queen Victoria's Seamen's Rest
- Lincolnshire Rural and Agricultural Chaplaincy
- Lincolnshire Agricultural Society
- Wesley House, Cambridge
- Police Chaplaincy UK working with Lincolnshire and Humberside Force Chaplains
- Lincolnshire Army Cadet Force
- Cathedral Chaplains
- Association of Chaplaincy in General Practice
- LRSN Lincolnshire Rural Support Network

SUNDAY 23RD MARCH, 3.45 PM Evening Cathedral Service

Come and join the Festival Evensong service in St Hugh's Choir. The service will have a special focus on chaplaincy with guest preacher The Venerable Dr Giles Legood, MBE, KHC, Chaplain in Chief of the RAF Chaplains Branch and Archdeacon for the Royal Air Force.

Everyone is welcome.



MORE ABOUT CHAPLAINCY

Across our wonderful county and beyond and across all aspects of life from healthcare to agriculture, prisons to armed forces, caravan parks to waterways, hospices to theatres you will find dedicated chaplains working alongside ordinary people giving their time, offering their support, lending a listening ear and all helping to bring hope. This is the work of the church outside of the church walls and this is what the Festival of Chaplaincy will celebrate.

For more information visit
<https://lrac.org.uk/events/festival-of-chaplaincy/>



What's On

**First Festival of Chaplaincy
at Lincoln Cathedral
Saturday 22nd March 2025**



THE FESTIVAL OF CHAPLAINCY

Celebrating the diverse contributions of chaplains across Greater Lincolnshire, Saturday 22nd March promises to be a wonderful day out for all the family.

Open from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM, the Cathedral will host a special open day with free admission for all.

Attendees can explore exhibitions showcasing chaplaincy work in sectors such as farming, healthcare, education, and the military to name a few.

The event will also feature interactive activities suitable for all ages, informative talks, guided tours of the Cathedral, and musical performances by local choirs and groups.

No prior booking is required for this family-friendly event.

Talks

- **History of Chaplaincy**
The Reverend Canon Paul Wright. Since 2015, he has served as Sub-Dean of the Chapel Royal and Deputy Clerk of the Closet: as such, he is the only full-time clerical member of the Royal Household of the United Kingdom. Prior to his royal service, he was ordained in the Church of England and served in the Royal Army Chaplains' Department. His last post before leaving the military was as Chaplain of the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst.
- **Joys & Challenges of University Chaplaincy**
The Revd Dr Arabella Milbank Robinson, Dean and Chaplain of Selwyn College, Cambridge
- **RAF Chaplaincy**
The Reverend (Wing Commander) Ian Brown OBE, Chaplain at RAF Cranwell
- **Agricultural Chaplaincy in Lincolnshire**
The Rev Canon Alan Robson, Agricultural Chaplain
- **Lincolnshire Community Healthcare Chaplaincy**
Chaplaincy in GP surgeries. Howard Smedley, Chaplaincy Manager and Rev Julie Doddrell, volunteer chaplain
- **Queen Victoria Seamen's Rest, Immingham**
Established in 1843 as the Seamen's Mission of the Methodist Church, the Queen Victoria Seafarers Rest (QVSR) has a long history of serving those in need, both on land and at sea. The seafarers' centres at Tilbury, the London Cruise Terminal, DP World London Gateway, Felixstowe, Bristol & Immingham provide a warm welcome and pastoral support for those who have spent many months at sea and are far from home.

Music Performances

- **Harmony Lincs** are a male Acapella group singing songs in the Barbershop Style. Formed back in 1993 they have entertained the folks of Lincolnshire since that time.
- **The City Waites** were the Mayor of Lincoln's Band of Musicians (until 1857). The present-day Waites recreate the sound, sights and atmosphere of a Tudor Mayor's Band. Most of the music they perform was written before 1530
- **The Hungate Singers** are a small choir who enjoy singing music from the 1500s to the present day and love to perform all genres from Byrd to The Beatles and beyond.
- **1685** - Lincoln based Early Music group. Sixteen Eighty Five showcases a selection of their favourite music from Byrd and Purcell through to Handel and Boccherini.

Family Activities

- ★ Cathedral and chaplaincy trail
- ★ Prayer Labyrinth
- ★ Bulb planting
- ★ Sports quiz
- ★ Crochet and discussion
- ★ Craft activities on the Table for the Nation
- ★ Cookies to decorate
- ★ From Farm to Fork



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.**

70. Blessings

Galatians 3:5-11 NLT

I ask you again, does God give you the Holy Spirit and work miracles among you because you obey the law? Of course not! It is because you believe the message you heard about Christ.

In the same way, "Abraham believed God, and God counted him as righteous because of his faith." The real children of Abraham, then, are those who put their faith in God.

What's more, the Scriptures looked forward to this time when God would declare the Gentiles to be righteous because of their faith. God proclaimed this good news to Abraham long ago when he said, "All nations will be blessed through you." So all who put their faith in Christ share the same blessing Abraham received because of his faith.

But those who depend on the law to make them right with God are under his curse, for the Scriptures say, "Cursed is everyone who does not observe and obey all the commands that are written in God's Book of the Law." So it is clear that no one can be made right with God by trying to keep the law. For the Scriptures say, "It is through faith that a righteous person has life."

This way of faith is very different from the way of law, which says, "It is through obeying the law that a person has life."

But Christ has rescued us from the curse pronounced by the law. When he was hung on the cross, he took upon himself the curse for our wrongdoing. For it is written in the Scriptures, "Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree." Through Christ Jesus, God has blessed the Gentiles with the same blessing he promised to Abraham, so that we who are believers might receive the promised Holy Spirit through faith.

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

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70. Blessings

ABOUT
ABRAHAM
CHILDREN
COMMANDS
COUNTED
COURSE
CURSE
DIFFERENT
EVERYONE
FAITH

FORWARD
GENTILES
HEARD
HOLY
HUNG
LIFE
MAKE
MIRACLES
OBEYING
OBSERVE

PERSON
PROCLAIMED
PROMISED
RESCUED
RIGHT
RIGHTEOUS
SPIRIT
TOOK
TREE
WORK

Bible crosswords

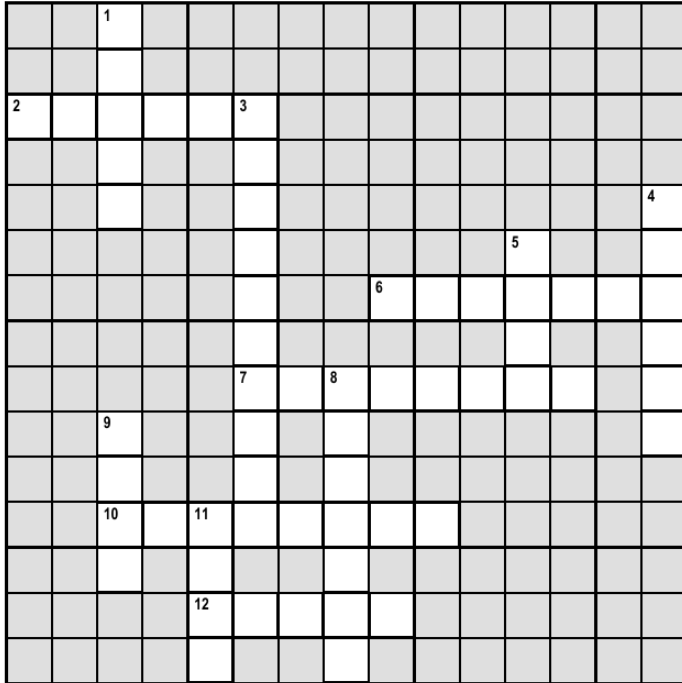
Across

- 2** Who was Mary pledged to? (6)
- 6** What did Joseph have in mind to do quietly? (7)
- 7** What means "God with us"? (8)
- 10** According to Mathew, how many generations from Abraham to Jesus inclusive? (5-3)
- 12** Who was the wife of Judah? (5)

Down

- 1** Who was King David's father? (5)
- 3** Mary was with child by polish I try! (4,6)
- 4** What was Joseph faithful to? (3,3)
- 5** Where did Joseph take Mary after he woke from his dream? (4)
- 8** Who was the great grandfather of Jesus? (7)
- 9** What did the angel tell Joseph to take Mary as? (4)
- 11** Who was the mother of Obed? (4)

Matthew 1



Bible Crosswords:

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- 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.

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Lectionary readings for March to May 2025

2 nd March	Psalm 99 Luke 9:28-36 (37-43)
9 th March	Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16 Luke 4:1-13
16 th March	Psalm 27 Luke 13:31-35
23 rd March	Psalm 63:1-8 Luke 13:1-9
30 th March <i>Mothering Sunday</i>	Psalm 32 Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32 <i>Psalm 127:1-4</i> <i>John 19:25-27</i>
6 th April	Psalm 126 John 12:1-8
13 th April	Psalm 31:9-16 Luke 22:14 - 23:56
20 th April	Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24 John 20:1-18
27 th April	Psalm 118:14-29 John 20:19-31
4 th May <i>Vocations Sunday</i>	Psalm 30 John 21:1-19
11 th May	Psalm 23 John 10:22-30
18 th May <i>Aldersgate Sunday</i>	Psalm 148 John 13:31-35
25 th May	Psalm 67 John 14:23-29



John Wesley quote

***Christ the Lord is risen today,
Sons of men and angels say.
Raise your joys and triumphs high;
Sing, ye heavens, and earth reply.***



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