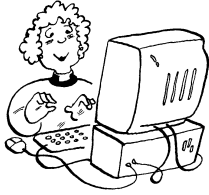


Newsletter

🍁 *Autumn 2025* 🍁



FROM THE MANSE



‘For now, we see in a mirror dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. And now faith, hope and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.’ (1 Corinthians 13 v 12-13)

Dear Friends,

Whenever I am asked to write a letter or an item that will be published in over a month’s time, I often wonder how the situation will have changed from the time of my writing to the time it is read. It is impossible to be one hundred percent certain what will be happening in the world or in the church or for any one of us individually in the future. You could say perhaps, like St Paul in his first letter to the Church in Corinth, that we are ‘looking in a mirror dimly.’ However, does this lack of clarity always have to be a cause for lament? Might it be a cause for deepening our trust in God?

At the start of the church year, there are things that we are not sure of and are still in the process of being worked out. For example, the conversations about the Lincolnshire Methodist District becoming one circuit are ongoing, with greater detail expected January/February time in circuits ready for decision making time at the Spring 2026 District Synod. And this is just the internal workings of one small corner of God’s Kingdom. In so many areas of life – from war zones to climate related changes- the story is still being written. In these times when we don’t have a neat set of answers to all of the questions, what can we hang on to? Here I am in agreement with St Paul about the centrality of faith, hope and love.

FAITH is not a static thing. It is something that can grow and be refreshed. One way in which we trust that faith can be refreshed in the circuit is through the invitation for folk to participate in a circuit quiet day. Look out for the details after the September Circuit Meeting.

HOPE is a powerful thing – even more so when it is hope that is rooted in relationship. My hope *in* God and God's Kingdom purposes is very different from my hope *that* it doesn't rain at the weekend because I am planning a barbeque. As a circuit may we encourage one another's hope in God.

The Street Bible interprets Paul's passage from 1 Corinthians 13 with these words:

'What is LOVE anyway? It is not the type that you have been forced-fed! No, love gives people space and time.'

Without wishing to be overly sentimental, I would see ministry as about sharing God's love and care. Perhaps some people in circuit chapels would have a similar view? The question this may raise is how we free things up so that we can demonstrate love as we 'give people time and space.'

So, whatever the Church Year 2025-2026 brings, both within our patch and on a bigger scale, let's keep focussed on faith, hope and love. Perhaps the story/song that this year's Connexional theme invites us to share is a story/song of faith, hope and love. Let us deepen our trust in the God who goes ahead of us. And because it can be helpful to hear the same thing in a different way I am going to finish by sharing 1 Corinthians 13 from the Message Bible:

'We don't yet see things clearly. We're squinting in a fog, peering through a mist. But it won't be long before the weather clears and the sun shines bright! We'll see it all then; see it all as clearly as God sees us, knowing him directly just as he knows us. But for right now until that completeness, we have 3 things to do to lead us towards that consummation: trust steadily, hope unswervingly, love extravagantly. And the best of the 3 is love.'

Every blessing,
Rev Vicki



Ministers day off

Rev Vicki Atkinson

Saturday

Rev Paul Braisdell

Friday

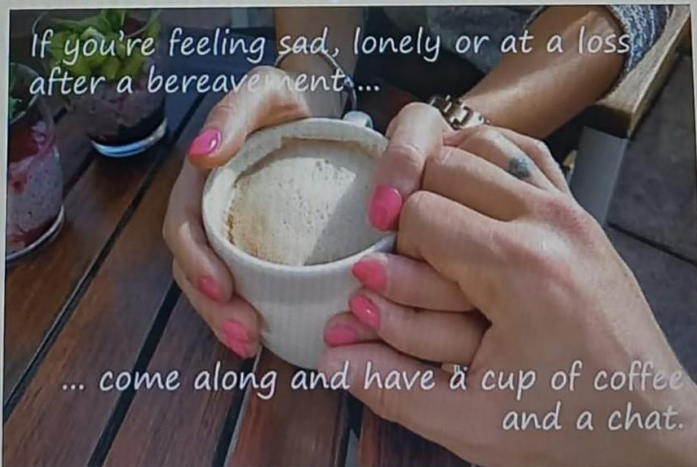
Rev Debbie Caulk

Friday



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.

It shouldn't happen in Church ☺ - Dorothea des Forges

Children - "You can't eat sweets in church," Sam told his mother, "because that man in a dress will tell Jesus."

The story of my sabbatical – Rev'd Paul Braisdell

Having had the joy of celebrating Easter Day at Ashby Wesley, including welcoming six new members into the church, I began my sabbatical. Following a conversation with a friend I started by rereading a book by Mark Townsend 'The Gospel of falling down (The beauty of failure in an age of success)' which was a strong reminder that we are loved unconditionally by God. A visit to the District Chaplain helped me to wind down and refocus and a trip to the theatre (on a Saturday night!) was one of the benefits of time away from work, a time of refreshment.

A sabbatical also gives more time to spend with God, and I joined a retreat held at Launde Abbey in the first week of May. This is a beautiful place set in the heart of the countryside on the Leicestershire/Rutland border. The retreat, entitled 'In between times' was led by a remarkable lady called Emily Owen who until her late teens had been a very talented and gifted student both academically and musically. Struck down with a progressive illness which causes tumours to grow around her body she is now completely deaf and has mobility issues but her faith and ability to lead others to recognize God in all areas of their life was inspiring. There was opportunity to reflect on scripture, share with others, be creative and to be in the moment, in the 'Now Now'.



More time to spend with family is another gift of sabbatical and Bronwen and I were able to spend a long weekend near Cambridge with our daughter & son in law, visiting places such as the American Cemetery, Trinity College Library (designed by Sir Christopher Wren), the Botanic Gardens of Cambridge University and spending the day at Bletchley Park, the home of codebreaking during WW2. We spent a weekend in Droitwich Spa visiting family and worshipping at Bronwen's home church as well as being able to spend more days with the

grandchildren in Dronfield, having chance to attend Esme's sports day and collect Eli from school as well as taking them out to Creswell Craggs during the half-term holiday and having them over to stay. We spent a few days in Wrexham, our former home, and I was able to return later in my sabbatical and spend time catching up with family and particularly with some old friends – a chance to put the world (and the church) to rights with the conversations that come from a shared history.

A sabbatical includes a time of study, and I have been considering Pastoral Care, mostly with reference to older folk in our churches. As well as reading much online I also read 'A great place to grow old (reimagining ministry among older people) by Tina English' and 'Falling Upward by Richard Rohr' both of which gave me some practical ideas.



Being on sabbatical gave me the opportunity to attend the Methodists for World Mission conference held at Cliff College where the keynote speaker was the General Secretary of the World Methodist Council, Rev Reynaldo Ferreira Leao Neto, known as Leao. He spoke on Isaiah 43:19 'I the Lord am doing a new thing. Do you perceive it?' The mission of God NEVER ENDS. Our present mission does not forget the past rather it brings a new perspective. The Lord is doing something new – have you noticed? Have you perceived it? Here and now God is working!

I then went on a second time of retreat, this time staying in West Kirby at a Retreat House run by the Sisters of Jesus Way, a place I have been familiar with since my late teens and somewhere that is a thin place, where the presence of God is tangible. This time away gave me opportunity for more reading, reflection and being still.

The opportunity to worship in different places, and for Bronwen and I to worship together, was another gift of sabbatical. One Sunday we were in Stamford, another found us in Doncaster Minster, another at

the Salvation Army; a few found us worshipping on You Tube, still others found us out in God's creation, with family or even down a coal mine! We also attended Methodist Conference and enjoyed worshipping in a large congregation both at the Opening of Conference and on the Sunday morning in Telford before attending the Diaconal ordination service in Shifnal. I also attended the Presbyteral sessions of Conference and would highly recommend you find and read or listen to both the President and Vice President of Conference speaking at the opening of Methodist Conference – both the Rev'd Richard Andrew and Matt Forsyth spoke inspiringly and practically. Whilst at Conference I also attended the Mary Bosanquet Lecture given by Kathy Galloway and the Beckley Lecture given by Anthony Reddie – both are available on YouTube from MWiB and JPIT respectively.

Whilst staying near Telford we were able to visit the local museums in the Ironbridge area including Blist's Hill, a reconstructed town set in 1900. It was amazing how many times Christian faith cropped up in the story of the area around Ironbridge with many of the significant people involved being Quakers using their faith in practical ways to ensure life for their workers was improved. We've made good use of our National Trust cards over these 3 months, and it is strange how often religion crops up in the variety of different places we have visited – in both positive and sometimes negative ways.

I completed my sabbatical as I began, spending time with the District Chaplain to reflect and prepare to come back into circuit. It has been refreshing to be in conversation with people from different places and to see what is happening away from the local circuit, to see the bigger picture as it were. It has been refreshing to have time to read and reflect on many different books and articles. Perhaps the greatest message I have from my sabbatical is found in Psalm 131 (NIV):

My heart is not proud, Lord, my eyes are not haughty;

I do not concern myself with great matters or things too wonderful for me.

But I have calmed and quietened myself, I am like a weaned child with its mother;

like a weaned child I am content.

Israel, put your hope in the Lord both now and evermore.

And in this poem of interpretation from 'Dwelling in the Psalms by Pat Marsh':

My soul is at rest.

*I no longer strive over things beyond my understanding
or have the arrogance to think I'm in control.*

In my identity as a child of God I am content.

He will care for me. All will be well. My soul is at rest.



Retirement of Marie Atkinson

as steward - After serving as a steward and then senior steward for many years Marie felt now is the time to pass on the baton and retire. During the service on 17th August, Marie Atkinson was presented with flowers & a gift voucher in gratitude for her dedication & hard work during over 18 years as senior steward of the Church.



***Suzanne Lynaugh &
Colin Cowling***

All parties verbally agreed in front of the whole congregation that the photos may be used in the Circuit Newsletter.

Photo credit : Colin Cowling

Messingham News

Do you enjoy organ playing but perhaps don't have an organ at your church? Messingham Methodist organ has just been refurbished after 200 years (we know lots of hymns have been played in 200 years). It has been a mammoth task and we were all delighted when like a jigsaw it went back together again (with no spare parts!!).

The family of the late Alan Phillips - a well-known organist in Lincolnshire and former teacher at Frederick Gough School – knew it was something Alan always wished could be done, so in Alan's memory they have paid for the refurbishment, which would have delighted him.

We have been advised that to keep the organ in good condition it needs playing more often than once a fortnight for our services, so if you are interested in coming along to spend an hour or two playing this wonderful instrument,



please contact the steward Tony Kirk (01724 762778) at Messingham Chapel to arrange a mutually convenient time.

*You are invited to an organ recital in memory of Mr Alan Phillips,
to be played by Mr Geoff Brown
on Saturday 18th October at 3:00 pm
in Messingham Methodist Church
Church Street, Messingham,
DN17 3SB*

*Light refreshments to follow.
No admission fee. Donations welcome.*

Marie Atkinson





This is my story

Dear friends,

“This is my story, this is my song” a phrase we’ll hear many times in the coming year as it is the keynote, the tagline, the theme, of this year’s president and vice-president of methodist conference. Yes, I was

there, to see and hear them, at their induction at conference, in Telford, as a Lincolnshire District representative.

Last year I was so inspired hearing the speeches, the words of encouragement, worshipping with 250+ people at the opening of conference, in Leeds, when I went under my own steam that I put myself forward to be a district lay-rep and I was fortunate to be voted in.

Off to Telford I went, enjoying a few extra days to myself to look around the area, sight-see, visit Ironbridge, and attend the Mary Bosanquet lecture for the MWiB fringe event, as this year’s speaker was Kathy Galloway (Iona community and ordained minister) “pay attention, be astonished and tell about it” was an inspiring and thought-provoking topic, as was the JPIT fringe event, on the Monday evening, with Professor Anthony Reddie who spoke on “whiteness is the sea not the shark” a post-colonial critique of British Methodism. I couldn’t fail to be spiritually fed and intellectually challenged by both topics, a highlight of conference for me.

Now, as a newbie to conference, I attended a session on the Saturday morning, “speakers’ etiquette, what to do and how to address the conference” if you wish to speak (newbies/first time speakers get a special card) the president will invite them to the podium, as new blood, before the “perpetual, die-hard speakers” get to speak...and I didn’t get up to speak at all, I didn’t feel confident, and to be honest,

I felt I didn't have the knowledge to say anything of value, and I'll touch on that shortly.

Overall, though, one cannot fail to be inspired, be filled with the spirit, worshipping with 250+ people, from across the methodist connexion. Meeting and seeing fellow methodists from all corners of the globe, the bigger picture, with a deeper sense of belonging. I loved sharing lunch time (the food was superb, tasty and varied, well-presented and all diets catered for, because we were fed each day) with representatives from Tonga, Sierra Leone and Spain or chatting with some of the newly ordained presbyters, hearing of their faith journeys, and of course seeing friends from All We Can and MWiB.

I went to the remembrance service for presbyters who have gone to glory, those local to us being Renee Howling, Liz Childs and Louise Carr, all immensely moving but wonderful too and I attended one of the ordination services, I went to St Chad's in Shrewsbury, needless to say I cried.



However, and there is a **but** coming, because conference is ALSO about the business, which I found overwhelming, mind-fuddling and not what I expected. There were 3 books of agendas, and I expected to start at report one, but this doesn't happen, they don't run in order, not sure why, there must be a reason? Colour-marking reports is a must to avoid getting lost/confused (which I did often) between the 3 agendas and discussions.

There were some important decisions made; changes to wording in the worship books, making language more inclusive; changes to stationing, although some of the changes were voted back to report stage and to conference 2026; neurodiversity and how it affects us all in worship, and inclusivity. Other heavy weight reports were on Finance, Safeguarding, and 3 Generate to name a few (*please read the conference digest in this summer's newsletter, it's a much better summary than mine*).

My story is I have been a methodist since I was 8/9 years old, although I have had some officer roles in church over the years, didn't become a steward till 2013; I didn't know what CPD was till 2014...a good part of my steward's journey began when I started my local preacher training, and then my appointment to CLT.

And whilst I am senior circuit steward, I am very humbled, because there are a good many of you in the circuit who know so much, have history, facts, stories and songs they can tell, while I am still on that steep learning curve, and by attending conference, it's confirmed, I still have a lot to learn.

I didn't know what I didn't know for the business side of conference, but I do know I am not the right person, at present, to be a lay rep for the district. That isn't to say in a few years' time, if I'm still able, voted to be a rep, still have a song to sing, have some thinking space in my brain, I would attend again, because I will be better prepared, have more info under my belt and feel more worthy. Thank you for all your care, love, wisdom and support to get me this far...and with God's help, I know I will go further, and I will get there.

Love and blessings to each one of you.

Hazel

Senior Circuit Steward

Christian Crackers

Round and about - From Northamptonshire

Bishop Feaver's surname was frequently mis-spelt. In reply to a P.C.C. Secretary who had obviously addressed her letter to Bishop Fever, he wrote: "I am not now, nor have ever been a disease".

Purple Feaver by John Kelly

Compiled by Phil Mason

Conference Business Digest: A report for local churches about the business of the 2025 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

The 2025 Methodist Conference, held at Telford International Centre:
Presbyteral Session 26-27 June; Representative Session 28 June – 2 July.

methodist.org.uk/conference

The Conference is the governing body of the Methodist Church in Great Britain and meets annually to discuss matters affecting the life of the Church, the nations and the world.

Induction of the President and Vice-President for 2025/2026

On Saturday 28 June, the Revd Richard Andrew was elected and inducted as President of the Conference, and Mr Matthew Forsyth as Vice-President. They shared their theme of 'Our Story, Our Song' in their addresses to the Conference.

You can read both addresses in full here:

methodist.org.uk/about/structure-and-governance/the-methodist-conference/conference-2025/presidency/president-and-vice-president-2025-26/

Reception into Full Connexion and Ordination Services

New presbyters and deacons were ordained on Sunday 29 June 2025.

During the Sunday worship, 21 presbyters and three deacons were received into Full Connexion with the Conference, along with five presbyters by transfer, and two presbyters 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

Following the changes to the governance structure of the Church which took effect in September 2024, the Connexional Council is charged with responsibility for the general control and management of the connexional administration of the Methodist Church. The Council presented reports from the Ministries, Mission, and Resourcing Committees, along with other matters of report or for decision.

Revising the Methodist Worship Book

The Conference agreed to begin a process of revising the Church's authorised liturgies. This decision sets in motion a major project to equip the Church with new and revised liturgical resources, available in a wide variety of formats, including digital and printed versions. The first stage of the process is to consider the style and language to be used in the resources, in order to enable the Church's worship to be as inclusive as possible, in line with the Conference's commitments in its strategy for Justice, Dignity and Solidarity. Should the 2026 Conference adopt the report, the expectation is that the first new liturgies to be commended for experimental use will be brought to the Conference of 2028 and formally authorised in 2030.

Healing Ministry and Neurodiversity

In response to a particular request made through a notice of motion in 2022, the report from the Faith and Order Committee highlights the importance of being reflective and sometimes self-critical in relation to healing prayer, both for the person praying and the person being prayed for. The Conference adopted pastoral guidance for responding to such requests for prayer, and asked for further work to consider how the church might express appropriate repentance for the past exclusion of neurodivergent people in the life of the church and to explore how the church might be more inclusive of neurodivergent people, as well as ways to address ableism in the Church. The Conference also directed consideration of more resources relating to healing ministry in general.

Stationing Review

The report of the Stationing Review Group asserted the need for significant changes in the processes governing the stationing of ministers within the Methodist Church. The recommendations arose from a comprehensive review of existing practices. The report was received by the Conference but it referred the proposals for a new process for matching presbyters with circuit appointments to the Ministries Committee, directing that a further report be brought to the 2026 Conference.

Part 11 Standing Orders

Following the Conference's decisions in 2024 to adopt new processes for complaints and discipline procedures, the Conference adopted the Standing Orders to give effect to that. The report set out some points of clarification which had arisen in the drafting of the Standing Orders.

3Generate and the Voices of Children and Young People

The Youth President's report considered how the voices of the young people are calling for the Church to be more accessible for those who are neurodiverse or unfamiliar with Church culture.

The Conference urged Circuit Local Preachers' Meetings to consider how they can involve children

and young people in the planning and execution of acts of worship and recommended that Circuits and Districts bring together dispersed youth populations, especially in rural communities for activity-based sessions.

Methodist Forces Board

The Conference received a report from the Methodist Forces Board highlighting the work of those who minister to the members of His Majesty's armed forces throughout the UK and around the world. The Conference directed the Faith and Order Committee, in consultation with the Forces Board, the Joint Public Issues Team, and others to create theological and pastoral resources to support the Methodist people at this time of conflict and insecurity, in the light of the reports and public statements of the Church on matters of war and peace.

Assisted Dying

The Conference noted the current public debate regarding assisted dying, arising from the introduction of a Private Members' Bill on the subject. The Conference last adopted a formal statement on euthanasia in 1974, and a debate in the 2015 Conference led to a decision by the Council to make resources available to enable churches to respond to those facing decisions about end-of-life. Mindful of this, the Conference directed that a task group be established to review the Conference's position with regard to assisted dying and to report not later than 2028.

Hope in God's Future

The Conference received an update on *Hope in God's Future* from the Director of Environmental Engagement, Dr Hamish Leese. Dr Leese told the Conference that the 2011 Statement has served its purpose well but was in need of revisiting and developing to acknowledge the changes in scientific and theological understanding. The Conference agreed that a steering group be appointed to review and update the text by 2027. The Conference heard that more resources will be created to encourage churches to carry on the work to aspire to achieve net zero by 2030.

Presbyteral Session

The Conference adopted a report from the Presbyteral Session which had directed the Secretary of the Conference to draw together a working party to review the role and purpose of the Session and to report no later than 2027.

Budget

The Conference adopted the connexional central services budget for 2025/2026 and approved a new funding model for the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes.

A justice-seeking Church: conferring on justice priorities

The Conference spent time conferring on justice for people seeking asylum and refuge. This involved listening to the realities and experiences of people who have experienced seeking asylum and those who have been alongside them. The Conference was invited to listen, pray and confer, to discern together the call of God in this area of work.

Memorials

Memorials are requests from Circuit Meetings and District Synods to the Conference. They play a vital part in enabling the Conference to hear and to respond to concerns from across the Connexion. This year, the Conference considered and replied to 22 memorials on topics including cuts to the UK aid budget, the housing crisis, Israel/Palestine and the Tent of Nations, Christian Zionism, TMCP processes, safeguarding, training requirements, local preacher and worship leader training, ministerial development review, resourcing

administration, and the *Don't Buy Into Occupation* report. The Conference also considered a District Resolution, brought by three Districts, which was concerned with ministerial wellbeing. The Conference affirmed its commitment to the wellbeing of all its ministers, and directed the Ministries Committee to work with others to bring forward proposals to assess and address high stress levels among ministers.

President and Vice-President designated for 2026/2027

The Conference designated the Revd Mark Slaney to be President and Caroline Stead to be Vice-President of the Conference 2026/2027.

Appointments

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

the Revd Dr Jonathan Hustler as Secretary of the Conference for a further five years from 1 September 2026;

the Revd Conrad Hicks as Chair for the South East District from 1 September 2025;

the Revd Dr Rachel Deigh as Chair for the West Midlands District from 1 September 2025;

the Revd Faith Nyota as Chair for the London District from 1 September 2025;

the Revd Rachel Bending as Chair for the Channel Islands District (in addition to the Southampton District) from 1 September 2026.

Future dates of the Conference

The Methodist Conference will meet in Telford from 25 June – 1 July 2026.

The Methodist Church



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GOOD NEWS FROM CROWLE & EALAND CHURCH

What a successful year we've enjoyed since the installation of our new entrance ramp in July 2024 which has been welcomed as a great benefit by wheelchair users and other disabled visitors as well as prams, pushchairs and double



buggies enabling us to accommodate all ages and abilities.

Coincidentally in that same period we have fostered a relationship with the local Primary schools and have seen over 300 new faces coming through our Chapel doors. Thanks to pupils from Crowle Primary School and St Norberts Academy accompanied by teaching staff as part of their mission to involve youngsters in the local community.

The children, usually 2 classes at a time, have come along several times to our ***Tuesday CALL IN Coffee Mornings*** to entertain us with singing and poetry recitals and really Wowed us all with their talent and smiling faces. After their performance and refreshments, the kids were allowed, under supervision, to explore the Chapel and upper gallery where our organ is played at most services by resident organist, Ian Thomas. Ian kindly turned up on his day off from work on one occasion so he could explain about the organ and play a tune for them.

We have played our part in these visits and have spoken to the children about the history of the Chapel, our fundraising, Baptisms and on their last visit after hearing about our connection with NCH and sunny smiles (I'm sure you will remember them from your

Sunday School days) they had the opportunity to try on our robe and crown worn by our previous Sunday School Queens, which added to much discussions and the ways charities are supported now in Schools.



Children from Years 3 and 4 also took a major role in our Christingle Service on December 5 by entertaining us, and the Church was packed with visitors, so the upstairs Gallery (seldom used these days) had to be opened up to accommodate the overspill, and the collection of £200 was donated to the National Children's Home. They are coming again this year to celebrate the Christingle, and we are hoping to make this an annual event.

This has been a fantastic opportunity to open our doors now that the building can be accessed by all, and we've heard comments like "wow I've never been inside before and can we come again. The children, who clearly enjoyed themselves on each visit, were extremely well behaved and friendly and from our point of view we can't wait to see them again.

Just to add we were without a ramp for approximately 18 months when the old one fell into disrepair. Due to Health and Safety regulations, plus a costly planning application, the cost of the replacement was over £8,000. Even with a Circuit grant, it seemed a daunting target to raise. But Crowle showed its true community spirit by raising more than half of the cost via fund raising events, individual donations from residents and businesses, plus local community groups joining in with financial support.

Since the dedication ceremony in July 2024 by Rev Vicki and the ribbon cutting by our longest serving member, retired teacher Kath Sykes, attendances at our Sunday Services have doubled, and our monthly Coffee Mornings are regularly attended by over 50 and weekly Call In session are proving a popular event to enjoy a catch-up coffee and occasionally a sing along with the children.

Only yesterday one of our newest members brought along her Mum and commented "It's a good job you have the ramp or my Mum wouldn't be able to come as she can't manage steps nowadays".

We are looking forward to welcoming the Schools again once the summer holidays are over and hoping to attract even more families inside our wonderful building.

God Bless,

Roy Briggs

Strawberry tea at Lea and some retreat news

A busy time at Lea recently.



Our Strawberry tea in August raised £251. Everyone enjoyed their dishes of strawberries and cream and homemade shortbread biscuits and the variety of things on sale.

A new monthly double charity event has started at the little retreat. Firstly, to raise funds for some Gainsborough children to meet Santa and receive a Christmas present, and secondly to take in donations of food items for the Salvation Army food bank in Gainsborough. Cake and a variety of beverages were served at these events, and the next date is set for Sunday August 31st 2-4pm. Everyone is welcome (bring a food item if you can, please).

The retreat also has a new hirer, Yoga with Angela on Monday and Wednesday evenings from 6.30 - 7.30pm each week.

Enjoy the rest of the summer.

Every Blessing,

Pat Gray

Winteringham Methodist Church

OUR SUMMER EVENT - SPONSORED WALK AND BBQ

We met at our Chapel on Sunday 13th of July at 10.00am for our above planned event, which was supported and helped by the Winterton Lions. They have been brilliant in giving guidance and practical help with everything.



Peter Tong, the Lions President for this year and Matthew Joyce, an independent helper cooked a brilliant and very tasty BBQ. It was cooked on a large gas fired BBQ, kindly lent to us by the Lions. Without this, we would not have fed the people that attended, estimated between 80 and 90. We are very grateful and thank everyone for helping in any way and for giving so generously. In fact, everything that we needed was donated ie meat, bread buns and cakes.

People have been extremely generous with sponsorship and donations. We cannot thank everyone enough for all the support. It has been a great pleasure talking to people round our village, and when we mentioned the event was to raise money for Winteringham Methodist Church and Lindsey Lodge Hospice, the generosity of each giver shone out, bowling us all off our feet. At the moment, we are unable to give any idea of the amount raised but will do so in our next issue, as not of all the sponsor money have been handed in.

The event started with half an hour of family worship led by Mr Mike Joyce of Winterton. He picked up a theme of direction and walking.



We had two leaders for the walk; one taking some on a longer walk, around 3.5 miles and another leader taking the less able on a shorter walk round the village. We were blessed with warm weather and a gentle breeze.

The photo (previous page) shows some of the walkers who wanted to be included in the photo for printing. After the walk we had a lot more people joining us for the BBQ, making a total of around 90 people.

We estimate that we have organised this event approximately 30 times over the years, raising money for many different charities. The bottom line for this time is that we could not have done it on such a large scale without help from the Lions, and everyone else.

A special thank you to Janet Button who has been involved within our Chapel and as a Lion herself, helped to enthuse everyone with the whole event.

COFFEE MORNINGS - These are held on the first Tuesday of every month in our Chapel from 10.00am till 12.00noon we always get a good turnout, and anyone is always made most welcome to join us.

CHAPEL ANNIVERSARY - September 14th (all age worship) we will celebrate the Chapel which has been opened for 47 years. Our special guest Preacher will be Mrs Becky Guilliat, a lady who attended our Sunday school and is now recognised as a very good local preacher.

Worship time will be 10.30 am please come along to support Becky.

HIRE OF OUR PREMISES - We welcome enquiries for hiring our barn area, which is fully refurbished. It has a lovely kitchen, a special needs toilet, modern cooking appliances and furniture. Suitable for walkers to use as a centre to explore our village or for businesses wanting an away day for groups, non alcoholic parties etc. We charge £15.00 per hour. Enquiries ***to Will Maw. Senior steward. Tel 01724-734631***

The Methodist Church

God for all update -Summer 2025

This month's story of hope

On the Woodcote corner of the Formula 1 track at Silverstone, amongst all the shops, Methodist volunteers ran a wellbeing and conversation space during the British Grand Prix. *Pit Stop* offered a space to rest, reflect and refuel, free of charge, with comfy seats and conversation. With 160,000 people at Silverstone at peak times,



it was a very loud and at times overwhelming environment. At the Pit Stop people could take a break, build Lego F1 cars, squeeze stress balls and chat with volunteers. Conversation went deep quickly, getting beyond "Hi, how are you?" and into the big questions of life. People brought the burdens of life with them and happily discussed them with strangers. Some used the prayer jar. At the end of each day, volunteers prayed for all the people they'd met. Elsewhere on site, an interfaith prayer room was very popular, particularly with Muslim guests, and Silverstone Methodist Chapel, passed by visitors on the way to the campsite, offered a drop-in with free phone charging and cake. The team were amazed at the wealth of opportunities to connect, and sometimes pray, with people who would never be seen in a church building on a Sunday morning.

What festivals are happening near you? Check out [these pages](#) for advice and resources to help you engage with unaffiliated people at your own local festivals.



**Methodist Women
in Britain**

Lincolnshire District Day with Madeleine Reed (HKMS) – The Challenge of Comfort

Our summer district day was held at Wesley Memorial Church, Epworth on 12th June and we were delighted to welcome Madeleine Reed to lead our day. After welcome refreshments served by gentlemen from the church, the minister Rev Deborah Caulk led our opening devotions and introduced Madeleine.

Madeleine began by explaining about the Helen Kim Memorial Scholarship and how she has benefited from the program. The theme for the day was 'The Challenge of Comfort' and madeleine had divided her day into 4 sections. We began with 'an introduction to comfort: Jesus' and reflected together on what kind of man Jesus was – radically generous, extreme in hospitality, radically extreme. Discussion in breakout groups considered the question: How has God challenged you? in light of thoughts that we are ambassadors for Christ and the world is watching us to see how we react to situations.

Madeleine continued with 'an introduction to challenge: Jeremiah' leading our thinking with thoughts about how quotes are often offered for every situation but considering whether they are helpful or not. Citing the example of Jeremiah 29:11 – a verse often used to give comfort but it is used out of context if you actually read the preceeding chapter and verses – there was not a quick fix. Encouragement and conviction are twins that are not alike. The hymn 'God grant us words to speak' (StF 647) ended the morning.

Lunch was as usual a time of fellowship, sharing and shopping at the MWiB and Fairtrade stalls, again admirably looked after by the gentleman from church – how lovely for the ladies to be able to relax and join in the whole day.

Our afternoon began by singing 'I, the Lord of sea and sky' (STF 663) before Madeleine talked 'On Suffering: Sin' and 'On Suffering:

Sacrifice'. With confidence and empathy Madeleine led our thinking through these two challenging topics, sharing personal testimony, biblical examples and referencing real life stories such as David Livingstone. She reminded us that often accepting a situation is better than railing against it; that God enters into our suffering with us; he sits with us in the form of Jesus. that prayer is powerful and that coming alongside people in their suffering is sacrifice, living sacrifice.

The afternoon breakout groups saw honest and poignant sharing as we considered the questions: How have you entered into suffering alongside someone to comfort them? How has someone done this for you?

With words from Shakespeare, 'Much ado about nothing' (Act 5, scene1), Paul's letter to the Romans and Jesus' words known as The Beatitudes, Madeleine brought the day to a close, leaving us with some challenging thoughts to ponder on further:

In the church we stand in the light and beckon people to come in out of the darkness but they can't get out by themselves, we need to go and get them from the darkness.

The only way to truly comfort people is to make ourselves uncomfortable.

The Methodist Church loves to talk about making room at the table but sometimes the only way to make room is to give up your seat. Our model, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, died that we might live; we are signposts to the Saviour, we are not saviours ourselves Thank you to Madeleine for being inspiring and challenging in equal measures. We were delighted to welcome her to Lincolnshire and to Epworth. After leading the day Madeleine joined some of the ladies on a visit to Epworth Old Rectory where they embarked on the full tour, learning all about the lives of Susanna, John and Charles Wesley and the rest of the family at their family home.

Bronwen Braidell



Methodist Women
in Britain

Lincolnshire District



Wednesday 1st October 2025
at Trinity Methodist Church, Immingham
313A Pelham Rd, Immingham DN40 1NB

Butterfly Movement **– Craftivism in Action**

Rev Leonora Wassell (CoChair MWiB)
will talk about the Mirabel Sisters, the 16 days of
activism and lead us in a craftivism activity

Come & join us for a day of fellowship and challenge

11am to 3pm

Tea & Coffee served from 10.30am

Bring your packed lunch, drinks provided

ALL WELCOME



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 19th at 7pm for the service taken this year by Rev Paul. Tea, coffee, sandwiches and puddings will follow at 8pm. All produce from the celebration will be donated to The Forge. Dr Diana White will conclude the Harvest weekend with a service on the following Sunday, September 21st at 4pm - again everyone will be most welcome to join us.

The renovation of the former schoolroom is gaining pace. We have heard from West Lindsey District Council that our application for a grant of £20,000 has been approved. The Circuit will help with finance for the licence which is a necessary proviso from the church's freeholders. We now await approval of our grant requests from various Methodist Trusts and the National Lottery to complete the extra £10,000 needed. Many thanks to Rev Vicki for her assistance and expertise in applying for the grants while Rev Paul was undertaking his sabbatical. It is a brilliant example of everyone working together for a common good.

As soon as all the finance is in place then the building firm can be contacted and hopefully work will commence shortly after that. So, by the time the next Newsletter is due there may be some good news regarding the schoolroom's renovation.

Kevin Wilbur

Baptism celebration at **Epworth Wesley Memorial Methodist Church**

On Sunday 29th June during the 4pm service, Epworth Wesley celebrated the baptism of the youngest member of one of our long – standing, much loved Church families.

Baby Harvey's great-great grandmother sang in the choir when she first moved to Epworth; his great-grandmother was married here and has been actively involved in the life of the Church throughout her life in Epworth; Harvey's grandmother (along with her siblings) was baptised and married here, and she continues to worship and be a valuable right hand helping with the Jack in a Box playgroup. And here in 2025, Harvey is the youngest member of his family to celebrate his first rite of passage with the Church family and friends with over 100 people attending.



Beautiful handmade family christening gown (by Grandma Kerry), hand-embroidered with baptism dates.

We celebrate quite a few Baptisms at Wesley each year – some families are connected via Messy Church and the playgroup; some we may only see at a special service or at Christmastime; some we don't see again until another sibling comes along for Baptism; and some sadly, we don't see again. For the latter observation, we do pray that we can find an answer to keep our connections.

For several years, Baptisms took place after the Church service on a Sunday but for Rev Debbie's first Baptism at Epworth, she suggested we try including this celebration during the afternoon service. It worked so well...

[Closeup photo of wind waves photo](#)
[– Free Beach Image on Unsplash](#)



... For this service, Debbie led us on the theme of 'by the sea' – highlighting the importance of water in Baptism. A sea collage was laid out in front of the communion rail with blue fabric strewn across to represent the sea and it was on here that little handmade boats appeared to float along. The boats were made by the children during the service as they sat at the little craft tables which were laid out in Church. The collage turned out so well

and just looked like a beautiful day at the seaside! The week previously had been Refugee week (16th – 22nd June) and so these little boats were also the poignant and tragic reminder of the people who make these indescribable journeys as they seek safety from conflict and persecution. The reminder that these people too should be given the right to thrive and given the opportunity to experience the love, friendship and safe space that we all experienced that afternoon.

The worship songs chosen were all well-known hymns, sung during primary and junior school years, and the Church sounded amazing as everyone sang along. Looking around, we could see parents singing with their children, couples and friends singing along together, old and young joint together in worship. The air was buzzing with all the best vibes – the best of all, God with us as we celebrated the beautiful baby boy's Baptism.

The family expressed one of their most favourite parts of the service was the 'gathering of the water for the Baptism'. Each of their friends, from far and wide, brought water with them to pour into the font before it was Blessed by Rev Debbie. The family thought this was so moving.



It got us pondering again as to how can we adapt our spaces to be open to all who come through our doors so that they feel included, feel at home, that all leave the space feeling they have learnt something of God's love and that they are intrigued to find out more. How

can we deeply develop our connections with the families and couples and singles who do only come to Church for rites of passage services?

The Messy Church and Jack in a Box playgroup continued the theme of 'by the sea' the following Wednesday and Saturday during their sessions and each added their pieces of seaside artwork. A wonderful collaboration of all involved!

Tish Baker and Lou Howard

Some news from Old Brumby United Church

As Irene and I owed a meal out to Simon and Kelly Cross from his time with us, I contacted Simon to arrange something. As a good Minister would, he suggested I preach at one of his churches and then we could meet at a local hostelry. This was duly arranged and so on the 20th July, Irene and I travelled to Christ Church Swanland (an LEP Church), East Riding of Yorkshire where I led the service. The beautiful Grade 2 listed building, right next to the Duck Pond (the swans have long since gone!) was warm and welcoming, as were the people and we stayed for refreshments and a chat as well. There were about 25 or so in the congregation and I was asked if I'd go again so I must have done something right!



Afterwards we met Simon and Kelly at The Star Inn in Willerby for a Sunday roast. They were then travelling North for a holiday in Kirby Lonsdale. We have now repaid our dues and are looking for another reason to see them again!

Lawrie Holtby



Ashby Wesley Methodist Church

Holiday Club 2025



The aims of Wonder Zone

- To help children experience the wonder and awe of scientific discovery
- To offer a safe and fun environment for all children

We began by thinking about Solomon and his request for wisdom and the wonders of space. Our day 2 involved learning about light and that Jesus came as a Light for the World. On day 3 we explored the diversity of creation and our place in it. We concluded with day 4 and the exciting world of robots reflecting on the choices we make having listened to the parable of the prodigal son.

Our week ended on the Sunday with an intergenerational worship time which the children and holiday club team participated in, sharing activities, songs, and even a keep fit session with the church family!



Parachute games
and team games
to challenge all!



I had 2 of the
rainbow jellies!

Imogen



Ice-cream turtles



The bananas were
great!

Alivia



I liked the fish finger
sandwiches so much I
had 2.

Rachel



Robots





Two trustee vacancies at the Old Rectory

The Old Rectory is advertising for two trustee vacancies and expressions of interest with an outline of relevant experience should be sent to the Chair of Trustees, Sarah Friswell, on sarah.friswell@btinternet.com by **Monday 22 September 2025**.

Below are links to details of the two role descriptions and background documents.

[Ads for Trustee Treasurer and Secretary 2025.docx](#)

[SF055 D2 Work Outline for Treasurer of Trustees EOR.pdf](#)

[SF054 Work Outline for Secretary of Trustees EOR.pdf](#)

[Background 2025.pdf](#)



Advance notice for Christmas events

There are a few events happening during the quarter :

Sat. 22nd Nov. 11am -1pm Misterton Christmas Bazaar

Sat 29th Nov. in the afternoon - Owston Ferry Christmas tree open day

It shouldn't happen in Church ☺ - Dorothea des Forges

Jesus - At nursery school, the teacher asked: "Now who can tell me what the shepherds brought baby Jesus."

After some thought, Melanie raised her hand: "Was it pies Miss?"

Perfect sense to a 5-year-old. I now never eat shepherds pie without smiling.

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



6. God Is With Us

John 14:23, 26 KJV

Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him.

But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.

Hebrews 13:5-6 KJV

Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said,

I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.

So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me.

1 Timothy 1:6 NLT

And I am certain that God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns.

Philippians 12:13 TLB

For God is at work within you, helping you want to obey him, and then helping you do what he wants.

Y	O	U	C	C	D	A	T	F	I	N	A	L	L	Y
N	N	O	T	O	F	E	S	N	E	W	A	N	T	E
E	V	A	E	L	V	O	H	P	E	E	K	R	O	W
H	I	C	O	N	V	E	R	S	A	T	I	O	N	M
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C	C	E	L	R	W	I	A	B	E	E	N	B	E	S
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6. God Is With Us

ABODE
ANSWERED
BEGAN
BOLDLY
BRING
CERTAIN
COME
COMFORTER
CONTENT
CONTINUE

CONVERSATION
COVETOUSNESS
FEAR
FINALLY
FINISHED
FORSAKE
HELPER
HELPING
HOLYGHOST
KEEP

LEAVE
OBEY
REMEMBRANCE
RETURNS
SEND
TEACH
UNTIL
WANT
WITHIN
WORK

Bible crosswords

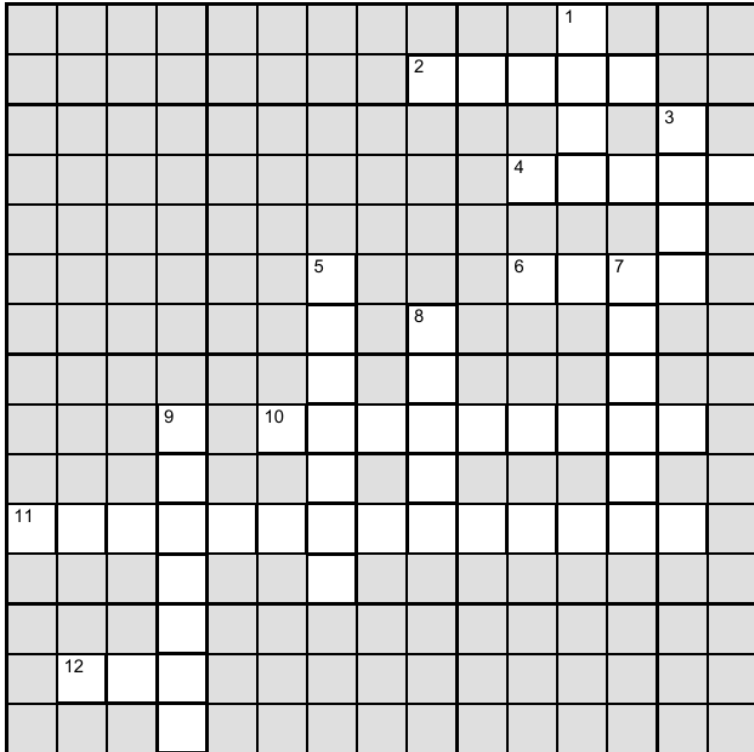
Across

- 2** From what animal were John's clothes made? (5)
- 4** What product is in keeping with repentance (5)
- 6** What did the spirit of God descend like? (4)
- 10** What nectar food did John eat? (4,5) (4,5)
- 11** Both jet hatpins was preaching in the wilderness! (4,3,7) (4,3,7)
- 12** What is already at the root of the trees? (3)

Down

- 1** Where did John say the kingdom of heaven was? (4)
- 3** Into where will the non-bearing trees be thrown? (4)
- 5** Where did Jesus come from? (7)
- 7** What did John say those from Sadducees were a brood off? (6)
- 8** Where was the desert John was preaching in? (5)
- 9** What of Jesus was John not worthy to carry? (7)

Matthew 3



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.

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



Journeying

2h · 🌐



Come, sit with Me

I looked into the wind
Her roar was deafening
I looked into the sun
His gaze was blinding
I heard His voice as a thought
Turn your head away
And when I did the sun and wind obeyed
And I heard the soft rolling of the waves
On boundaries set of old
The chorus of a dozen birds
Each chirping out my name
And I saw the movement on the sands and the
life with which it teems
And again I heard His voice to me
Sit still and receive

A poem by Journeying pilgrim, Ash

Image: St Maelrhys' Church, Llanfaelrhys



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



Lectionary readings for September to November 2025

7 th September	Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18 Luke 14:25-33
14 th September <i>Education Sunday</i>	Psalm 14 Luke 15:1-10
21 st September <i>Peace Sunday</i>	Psalm 79:1-9 Luke 16:1-13
28 th September	Psalm 91:1-6, 14-16 Luke 16:19-31
5 th October <i>Homelessness Sunday</i>	Psalm 137 Luke 17:5-10
12 th October	Psalm 66:1-12 Luke 17:11-19
19 th October	Psalm 119:97-104 Luke 18:1-8
26 th October	Psalm 65 Luke 18:9-14
2 nd November	Psalm 119:137-144 Luke 19:1-10
9 th November <i>Remembrance Sunday</i>	Psalm 145:1-5, 17-21 Luke 20:27-38
16 th November	Isaiah 65:17-25 Luke 21:5-19
23 rd November	Psalm 46 Luke 23:33-43
30 th November <i>1st Sunday of Advent</i>	Psalm 122 Matthew 24:36-44



From letters of John Wesley

“Beware you be not swallowed up in books! An ounce of love is worth a pound of knowledge.”

— John Wesley,



Circuit Safeguarding: Mrs Karen Elvidge

07533-554615

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