

## Editorial

As many of you will now be aware our minister, Jayne was admitted to hospital on Maundy Thursday with acute pain, later diagnosed as a serious kidney condition. Whilst in hospital she was also diagnosed with pneumonia and though discharged after a few days remained very poorly. At the time of writing Jayne is still on sick leave but is hoping to return shortly. However, we all hope she will take time to recover completely from not one serious illness but two. We continue to think of her and pray for her.



Jayne will be back with her reflection in our next issue but in her space we have some words from one of the best loved Celtic Saints – Brendan the Navigator. He made many sea journeys and the voyage of adventure is an appropriate analogy of the spiritual journey that each of us is challenged to undertake.

Lord, I will trust You,  
help me to journey beyond the familiar  
and into the unknown.

Give me the faith to leave old ways  
and break fresh ground with You.

Christ of the mysteries, can I trust You  
to be stronger than each storm in me?

Do I still yearn for Your glory to lighten on me?

I will show others the care You've given me.



I determine amidst all uncertainty  
always to trust.

I choose to live beyond regret,  
and let You recreate my life.

I believe You will make a way for me  
and provide for me,  
if only I trust You  
and obey.

I will trust in the darkness and know  
that my times are still in Your hand.

I will believe You for my future,  
chapter by chapter, until all the story is written.

Focus my mind and my heart upon You,  
my attention always on You without alteration.  
strengthen me with Your blessing  
and appoint me to the task.

Teach me to live with eternity in view.

Tune my spirit to the music of heaven

Feed me,  
and somehow,  
make my obedience count for You.



"Wireless communication is nothing new.  
I've been praying for 75 years!"

Eastertide was a wonderful celebration of meaningful services and we were blessed with our wonderful supernumeraries who stepped in to cover Jayne's services whilst she was in hospital. Many thanks to them all.

During Holy Week we had a fantastic production in church called "Jesus My Boy" which was very well received. We are grateful to Mike Jebson for arranging this. (See photo in centre).

We have also enjoyed a visit from Jenny Featherstone, our Mission Partner working in Zambia. Jenny spoke during the service and also afterwards over soup and sandwiches. Despite their sterling efforts it is sad to hear how much they struggle to raise much-needed funds, and now there is the threat looming of a severe drought. We continue to support Jenny as best we can.

Bishops Cleeve Methodist Church has just celebrated their 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with a weekend of celebration. On Sunday there was also a shared service with the "old section" churches many of whom were represented. This was the third such service and James (Tebbutt) expressed a desire that this be continued and hosted by another church next year. (We did it last year!)

We're delighted that Andrew May is working on our church website and updating this – it's already looking good with information about church activities and events. The weekly notices are always posted on there

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as well. Andrew would appreciate any suitable material or photos to upload on the website so please see him if there is anything you would like to have included. Take a look sometime!

We now look forward to the summer months – summer fetes, long evenings and events such as the Medieval Festival. Let's hope it's as warm and sunny as last year!

Jean Davies

*"A single sunbeam is enough to drive away many shadows" – St Francis of Assisi*

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## **Church Family News from Tewkesbury**

We send our love and prayers  
John Beardsley, Kath Hutton,  
Tony Duford, Bette Martin,  
Jackie Dobbs, Dianne  
Harrington, Mary Davies,  
Joyce Sanders, Pat Manning,  
Pat Taylor, Anthea Budget and  
Anders Alling. Anders  
(resident in Sweden).

We remember and send our  
love to all the members of our  
church family who live in Residential Homes: Joan Bottrell, Nora Booth,  
Joan Batsford, Nellie Pearson, Nesta Harris and Irene Pye.

We have sadly lost two of our members in recent months – Mair John and Dorothy Metcalfe. The two funeral services were held in our church and many of us joined with the family in rejoicing in the lives of Mair and Dorothy.

We also send greetings to all those who have moved away but still receive a copy of Crosspoint.



# FAIRTRADE

Just a reminder that the sales are held in the church after service on the second Sunday and during the coffee morning on the fourth Sunday each month. Please tell your friends and neighbours about the Saturday morning stall so that we can spread the word about FairTrade in a practical way.

Roger and Dorothy Davis



HEGAPDL

Download from maggiep.com/2014/08/

## First Monday



The First Monday Fellowship is a relatively new weekday group that brings together three former groups.

The Fellowship, which as its name says, meets on the first Monday of each month (with possible changes on Bank Holidays) is open to both women and men. It is held in the Guild Room at 2.30pm.

Remember – the First Monday Fellowship is open to all.

## NEWS FROM APPERLEY

*From Peter Stych*

I feel sure that since the last edition of Crosspoint the Spring, including Easter, has been a busy period for everyone.

We enjoyed sharing with our Anglican friends the Lent course 'Seeking Shapes for Living' which was produced by the Gloucester Diocese. Either our own

Minister Jayne or the Anglican Curate Kay led most sessions and different Methodists from Apperley and Tewkesbury and Anglicans from the benefice were able to attend at different times. Interesting and varied experiences made it a very worthwhile activity.



Our United Palm Sunday procession of witness this year started at the Anglican Church on the Green and walked to our Chapel for the main service led by Jayne. Although enjoyed by those who attended, the witness to those outside was somewhat reduced in number.

Then in Holy Week we were, of course, dismayed to find Jayne hospitalised and very poorly. We were fortunate to have a Minister already planned for our Easter Communion but our thoughts and prayers were with Jayne and we were glad to know when she was out of hospital albeit needing a lot of love and care from her Mum and Family during her recovery. Our prayers are still with her during that ongoing period.

Our Bizzy Fingers ladies have started visiting Ashchurch View Care Home once every two months to involve some of the residents in their knitting session (not to mention the chatting as well!). Both the residents and the ladies soon strike up some relationships and the well-received visits are planned to continue.

Looking ahead to what we hope will be a bit more summery than at the time of writing this we have a planned united service with the Anglicans on **June 30<sup>th</sup>** at the usual time of **11 am** to be followed by a **Picnic on the Green**. We invite everyone to come and join us on that occasion. You know the drill - just bring your packed lunch, suncream and umbrellas!! We look forward to seeing you.

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## NEWS FROM HARTPURY

*From Liz Ledger*



We have been enjoying serving Saturday lunches and Tuesday afternoon teas to many people over the last months. Since the work on the 'schoolroom' was completed it is lovely to be able to welcome folk into our new surroundings. No longer do we meet in the 'schoolroom'; the new name for this room is the 'Morris Room.' This is an acknowledgement of the work and energy put into the church and Sunday School by Charles Morris in times gone by. So much has happened in this chapel and so much continues to go on. We know that there have been times in the past when membership has been low yet God has blessed this place of worship and kept it going. He has a purpose for the church at Hartpury and we are pleased to be involved in His work.

The newly completed Morris Room and kitchen will be 'relaunched' over the weekend of 1 and 2 June - why not join us for a special Saturday lunch on the first or come along to worship with us on the second ?

Thank you to everyone who has been involved in this work and thanks to Tewkesbury for letting us have some of your surplus chairs! They look great in the room and are very comfortable.

On May 1 several of us enjoyed a steam train trip to Broadway from Cheltenham Racecourse. Despite a gloomy weather forecast the day started sunny and rain did not come until shortly before we travelled back to Cheltenham. The day was much enjoyed by all who went and I hope we can do another outing full of friendship and fellowship before too long.

July 20 sees a Jonny Coppin concert at Hartpury Village Hall as part of our summer celebrations with the Anglicans at Hartpury. More details are available from me, Liz Ledger, (01452) 840978 and tickets are available in Tewkesbury through Jean Davies or Jayne Webb.

On May 19 I will be accredited as a local preacher at the circuit service

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in Bishops Cleeve. Thank you to all who have supported and encouraged me in the four years of my training; I do appreciate and value your help and your thoughts.

Three of us thoroughly enjoyed the production of “Jesus my Boy” which was presented at Tewkesbury in April.

We send love and prayers to Eveline Southall, one of our members who is now living in a care home and to Jayne Webb as she recovers from her recent illness. And we send our good wishes to all our friends in the Tewkesbury section.

## NEWS FROM TIBBERTON

*From Christine  
Gardner*



It seems very likely that sometime this summer Tibberton will formally

become a ‘Class’ of St John’s Methodist Church, Gloucester. This is necessary not because our church building has closed but because our small membership means we cannot remain as a church on our own. Our work in Tibberton and our close partnership with the Anglicans in the village will continue, but sadly we will no longer be in the Tewkesbury section of churches. In line with the Circuit Vision and Strategy proposals and the reorganisation of sections and ministerial oversight, it was felt that we should in future be joining more closely with Gloucester. Over the last six years we have valued our association with Tewkesbury, the services shared, the friendships made, and of course the support and encouragement of both Chris and latterly, Jayne. We hope we will not lose touch as we move onwards.

There has been lots happening in Tibberton over the last few months. ‘Together at 3’, informal worship with tea and cake, has been continuing. Our ecumenical home group met during Lent to follow the

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Diocesan course 'Seeking shapes for living', and there has been sufficient enthusiasm to carry on meeting as a group since. Easter was a great weekend – despite Jayne unfortunately not being able to be with us – with a hastily re-planned meditation for Good Friday and a wonderful Easter morning service in the parish church. JAM Club also took up the Easter theme as the children explored the events of Holy Week together.

We continue to look after our chapel building, still trying to find a home for some remaining items, while the Circuit is currently applying for planning permission before putting it on the market as a residential property.

We are looking forward to our annual Service of Praise in the show marquee at 3pm on 18<sup>th</sup> August, which this year will be led by members of the Salvation Army and accompanied by the Cheltenham Salvation Army band. It should be a very special event – do join us!

We send our greetings to all Crosspoint readers and especially to Jayne, hoping she will soon be feeling fully recovered and back with us all again.

**John Beardsley's "Potted History of the Christian Church in umpteen parts" will resume in our next issue.**

## **On becoming a Local Preacher**

During the past four years in which I have been training for this work there have been times of joy and times of anxiety and stress - even despair! But I have never wished that the call had not come my way and just wonder why it took me 40 years to answer it. Well, I believe God had lots of other things for me to do in those 40 years and I hope I

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did them to his satisfaction!

You may be surprised to hear how rigorous the training to become a Local Preacher is and, as many people have asked me what it involves, I thought I'd let you know.

The training course I followed is now being retired and a new course has been started. Robert Carr is following the new course and I can only say it doesn't look any easier than Faith and Worship! There are several steps involved in the training:

1. Approach your minister to ask about training.
2. An interview with the Superintendent minister; this was longer and more involved than any job interview I've ever had.
3. Be commended to the Local Preachers and Worship Leaders meeting and be 'given a note to preach.' (I was approved but for some reason never received my actual note!)
4. Work with a mentor beginning to learn about the basics of Christian thought and Methodist doctrine. Also start to take part in services with mentor and start to produce prayers and reflections for services.
5. The next step is the first trial service at which you are assessed to see if you are ready to set out on leading worship without a mentor in support.
6. Start the theory studies - from the basics of Christianity to current theological thought and approaches. From the Wesley's to Methodism today. There is a lot to learn but I was sure I could do it in two years; it took me four. It can take up to five and even then sometimes an extension of time is needed. Each unit of the training course is completed by an assignment which is marked by your local tutor then sent to Methodist Connexion for final marking. This takes the form of preparing and developing acts of worship, essays, meditations, prayers, reflections and taking Bible passages apart so their meaning becomes clear. I was blessed in not having any work turned down by Connexion until my very last submission when one of these "taking apart" efforts was returned as not up to standard.
7. Throughout the training prepare and lead 3 acts of worship a quarter, one of which will be assessed by a local preacher.
8. A halfway 'conversation' and a 'final' conversation with a

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preacher or minister in front of the preachers' meeting. After the formal conversation the members of the meeting ask you questions then deliberate on whether or not your training should continue (or in the case of the final one, lead to full acceptance as a local preacher.)

9. A final assessment service in the presence of a minister, a local preacher and a steward of the church.

10. Go to work, live a family life, earn a living, read read read, study, prepare for services, study, read, lead worship, learn that people rarely remark on a service either kindly or otherwise although there may be comments about the choice of hymns! Travel all over the circuit funding your own transport. And I could go on ...

So, did I enjoy it? I miss the training meetings, I miss the camaraderie with other students but it has been one of the best experiences of my life and has brought me closer to God and to his people. I enjoy the fellowship of the local preachers' and worship leaders' meetings, I love leading worship and retired early from nursing to give more of myself to this work. I do not know how I manage financially or practically except that I have been truly blessed by not (so far) missing what had seemed to be an essential income. Becoming a local preacher is one of the best things I have ever done; sharing the word with others is such a privilege and I am looking forward to the future with joy and enthusiasm.

I would commend others to consider if they have been called to this work and also ask churches to keep their eyes and ears open for possible candidates and encourage them to offer for preaching or worship leading. I rejoice that I answered this call and look forward to continuing to lead worship and learning ever more about our Lord.

Liz Ledger

## DARREN'S CHALLENGE!

On Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> April Darren who was a member of our Junior Church 22 years ago ran the London Marathon in memory of his baby son Isaac, who lived for 6 days in 2012.

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Darren was raising money for the Evelina Children's Hospital which is part of St. Thomas's Hospital in London where Isaac was cared for by a team of dedicated nurses and doctors. This year Evelina is celebrating 150 years and Darren will be 40yrs so he has decided to take on 3 challenges in the hope of taking his fund raising to £50,000 which would buy 2 specialist incubators for the Neo-Natal Unit, so far the total he has raised over 7 years is approximately £45000 including gift aid. Darren really should not have started the marathon this year having had chest infections over the last few weeks prior to it but he was determined and even though it took him just over 7 hours to complete it he did cross the finishing line. His next challenge is the classic 100 ride on August 4<sup>th</sup> where he will cycle 100 miles starting from the Olympic Stadium all round parts of Surrey and finishing outside Buckingham Palace. Until about 3 weeks ago he hadn't ridden a bicycle since leaving school!! Following on from the cycle ride he will do a 2mile open swim in the Serpentine in September another hard challenge for him as Darren has always swam Breast Stroke and he has been told he needs to learn to swim the Crawl correctly.

Carol Smith

*It is always good to hear and see what previous members of our Junior church get up to, though it seems Darren has set himself a challenge few are likely to take on! If you would like to read more of Darren's story or if you could manage just a small amount to help his fundraising then this is the link to his page:*

<https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/fundraiser-display/showROFundraiserPage?userUrl=runningforisaac&pageUrl=14>

## **The Cobalt Unit**

Many of us have a family experience of the wretched disease of cancer at some time. At the front of the fight against it is the local Cobalt scanning unit in Cheltenham for early detection and treatment. You may not know that, as well as having six mobile oncology scanning units, the Unit also undertake dementia research.

Several kind members here almost "painlessly" fundraise by saving heavy copper coins and even some small silver ones! This does mount up. We have been treasurers for less than a month, and have already collected £20 in purse and pocket heavy small change! I will leave

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some of the collection tubes in the “D” pigeon hole in the Link if you would like to take one and help. There is no expectation or any time constraint.

When you want to empty your tube, please bring the contents to either of us. We hope you can support this if you are not already collecting. Thank you!

Jane and Peter Dickinson  
((274309)



Further to our article in the last copy of Crosspoint, we finally reached the level to be able to apply for our Silver Eco Award. We are now awaiting our certificate and plaque. No time to rest on laurels though – we need to endeavour to get to Gold status!

We are now trialling some environmentally-friendly cleaning products and will continue with these if they are satisfactory.

We still need to raise awareness to all, including our hirers, of how much can and should be recycled i.e. using the food waste bins and recycling bins and we will display notices a little more clearly.

Repeating from our last article we would ask that you as individuals think carefully about what you can recycle, and also church groups when disposing of items no longer of use. If you have any queries or want help with items that might need to be taken to the Stoke Orchard

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Recycling Centre, then please see either of us.

If you have any further suggestions as to how we can avoid waste, please let us know! You may find it interesting to have a look at the eco-church website – [ecochurch.arocha.org.uk](http://ecochurch.arocha.org.uk).

Next issue we'll give some examples of what we need to do for our church to achieve a Gold Eco Award.

Thank you for recycling!

Patricia Turner and Jean Davies

## *MESSY CHURCH DATES 2019*

Dates for 2019 are Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> June, Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> September and Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> November



## **REPORT FROM THE TCT FORUM – 30<sup>th</sup> April 2019**

**FOODBANK** – the need is greater than ever, and usually for families in work but on low incomes or zero hours contracts – in 2013/14, 250 vouchers were issued. To date in 2018/19, 637 have been issued and the proportionate amount of meals

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provided has risen from 7290 to 14,000. There is a particular shortage of pasta sauce, tinned fish, meats and fruit and sponge puddings, squash and coffee.

**REFUGEE SUPPORT** – there will be a fundraising event on Friday 31<sup>st</sup> May at Theoc's which will be a poetry and music evening. More details later in the notices.

**HOPE** – the Easter Competition went really well with a record number of entries. Thanks to Claire Prosser for her hard work in arranging this. The Christmas Lights Switch-on is confirmed as 24<sup>th</sup> November.

**24 HOUR PRAYER** – will be held at Trinity Church Mission Hall between 5<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> June. There will only be 24 hour opening on the Friday night, for which stewards/volunteers are sought. There will be a joint service at Holy Trinity on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> evening.

**UNITED SERVICES DATES** – 30<sup>th</sup> June at St Nicholas, Ashchurch 6.30pm and 29<sup>th</sup> September at Tewkesbury Methodist Church at 6.30pm.

**Were you an EVACUEE in September 1939,  
or did your family receive an Evacuee?**

**This September  
marks the 80<sup>th</sup>  
anniversary of the  
mass evacuation of  
children and  
vulnerable adults**

*Crossp*



**out of London and other big cities to the country for safety.** It was called Operation Pied Piper and evacuation began on 1 September 1939, the day the German army marched into Poland, and two days before war with Germany was declared.

By the end of the war in 1945 an astonishing three and a half million people, mainly children, had experienced evacuation.

We have heard that a few of our church community were evacuated or welcomed refugees into their homes.

*If you did, please speak to Michael Jebson (01684 593465) who would like to hear of your experiences and share them in this magazine.*

Depending upon the response we get, we may also have a special meeting of the First Monday Fellowship to share evacuation experiences in more detail.

## **RAMADAN – A CHALLENGE OR A JOY?**

Some weeks ago my friend, Farook, a devout Muslim and the excellent Activities Co-ordinator at Ashchurch View Care Home, was encouraging others – be they of a faith or no faith – to explore the meaning of Ramadan by trying the fast for a day or two each week. “I could do that”, I thought. “After all you can eat as much as you like out of daylight hours!”

However, realisation dawned, as I learned a bit more about the traditional way of “doing” Ramadan.

We are now into the month of Ramadan – Ramadan, which began on May 6, is the holiest month in the Islamic calendar. Healthy adult Muslims fast in Ramadan from dawn until dusk. This includes abstaining from drinking, eating, immoral acts and anger. Fasting is one of the five pillars of Islam. Other acts of worship such as prayer,

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reading the Quran and charitable giving are also encouraged during the holy month.

So Muslims fast as an act of worship, a chance to get closer to God, and a way to become more compassionate to those in need. Fasting is also seen as a way to learn patience and break bad habits. It is a special time they relish rather than dread.

Muslims were commanded to fast during Ramadan more than 1,400 years ago, the ancient Greeks recommended fasting to heal the body, and today some scientists are advocating a modified fast for its mental and physical benefits.

It is necessary to rise before dawn (that is as early as 2.48am!) – and take some nourishing and sustaining food and drink before sunrise. Until the sun sets no food or drink will be taken. That includes water – which I'm afraid for me, was a non-starter. I argued my great age, my health (prone to migraines) and Farook just smiled ruefully. Obviously there are exemptions for not following Ramadan – the elderly, the sick, those pregnant etc. but normally every Muslim over the age of puberty will follow Ramadan. The fast is broken after sunset, traditionally with dates, and then a meal. Farook tells me that the urge to eat vast quantities doesn't exist – the stomach shrinks and the body adjusts. I'm not totally convinced!

And of course, as usual prayers will be said throughout the day at regular intervals with a special late evening prayer involving the reading of the Quran.

The period of Ramadan is also a time for thinking of those less fortunate and Muslims will be generous in their giving to charity (called Zakat).

I thought there was a lot to be learnt here. Patience, self-discipline, regular prayer, a time to consider others and their needs, and a time to make that extra donation to a charitable cause. Not to mention a healthy body detox.

So I agreed I would try the fast for 2 or 3 days a week when possible

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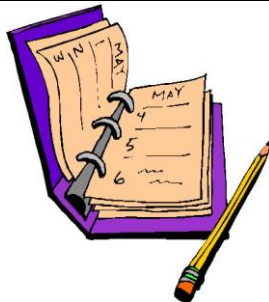
(no lunches, coffee mornings etc booked!) and just drink water between sunrise and sunset. I would try and remember to stop at the prayer times and join with our Muslim friends and spend a minute or two in prayer. Farook asked me to keep a journal to record my feelings so I will try that.

So Day 1 – Monday 6<sup>th</sup> May is a day of putting my toe in the water so to speak and if nothing else to show a bit of solidarity with Muslim friends as they begin their month long fast. I had nothing except water until my evening meal (healthy vegan meal) which I'm afraid I did have at 6pm with my husband! Eating after 9 would be a problem for me – firstly because I cook for both of us and it would be difficult to hold my meal back – and secondly, that I am not good at eating so late as I go to bed at 10. I'd also be tempted to snack – it's my worst possible time of day for cravings. However, this was only a try-it-out day so we'll see. I haven't yet got the prayer times fixed in my head so will work on that....

So time to go to press – so we will see how the month goes....!

Jean Davies

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



### June

Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> – Breakfast Praise 9.15am

Wed 5<sup>th</sup> – Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> – 24 hour prayer – Holy Trinity Church

Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> – Afternoon strawberry tea and “Love Letters” presentation

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Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> – “Methodist Homes for the Aged” Sunday  
Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> – Messy Church  
Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> – Armed Forces Service 3pm

## July

Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> – Communion – Celebration of Long Service with Jayne, John and Claire  
Monday 8<sup>th</sup> – Hawling Barn Service  
Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> – Church summer fair and Med Fest weekend  
Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> – Note 10am service (MedFest)  
Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> – Jonny Coppin concert at Hartpury  
Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> – 6pm – Service of Remembrance and Thanksgiving

## August

Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> – Lowri and James’ wedding

## **CHURCH SERVICES –**

Any alteration to dates and or times will be shown in the weekly notices (also available on our website). The church is also open to visitors on Saturday mornings (coffee morning) and most Wednesday mornings between 10am and 12 noon during the winter months.

*A service is held every Sunday at Tewkesbury at 10.30am service (with occasional changes to times as per the notices).*

*10.30am service **with** Holy Communion is the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of each month.*

*Breakfast Praise takes place on the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month at 9.15am. An evening service **with** Holy Communion is held on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of each month at 6.30pm.*

*We do not have a Junior Church as such, but all families and children*

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*are welcome to any of our services though there will be particular emphasis on involving children in our 9.15am Breakfast Praise.*

### **CROSSPOINT MAGAZINE COSTS**

**We would appreciate your continued financial support for the production of Crosspoint, which costs about 60p a copy to prepare. There is a box in the church porch for donations. The suggested donation is 60p per copy or £2.40 for the year. Those who pay annually by cheque please mark the envelope clearly. Thank you for your support.**

**ITEMS FOR THE NEXT ISSUE OF CROSSPOINT** (Sept, Oct, Nov) to Jean Davies (Tel: 01684 772178) by Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> August please.

Articles including family news are welcomed. It helps if you are able to send via email. Send to Jean Davies: [jed0606@yahoo.com](mailto:jed0606@yahoo.com)

## **THE METHODIST CHURCH**

### Priorities for the Methodist Church

To proclaim and affirm our conviction of God's love in Christ, for us and for all the world; and renew confidence in God's presence and action in the world and in the church

#### **Main contacts for Apperley and Tewkesbury Methodist Churches**

Minister: The Revd Jayne Webb

Tel: 01684 298650

*Who also has pastoral responsibility for the following churches  
in our section: Hartpury and Tibberton)*

Apperley Senior Steward – Peter Stych Tel: 01452 780508

Tewkesbury Senior Steward

Linda Sallis Tel: 01684 294169

***We are in the Methodist Circuit of Gloucestershire, part of the  
Bristol Methodist District***

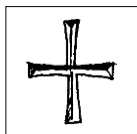
***Web site for Apperley and Tewkesbury Methodist Churches  
[www.tewkesburymethodistchurch.org.uk](http://www.tewkesburymethodistchurch.org.uk)***

**Tewkesbury Church phone:** 01684 291101 This is situated in the vestry with an extension to the vestibule kitchen and is intended primarily for use by church officials and for emergency use.



**IMPORTANT Booking rooms and events**

**If you are arranging any event on the church premises of Tewkesbury Methodist Church, the room and time must be arranged with the bookings secretary, Roger Davis Tel: 01684 293423. Church events at other venues, such as at home, should be put on the Church Calendar in the hall.**



**CROSSPOINT** is planned by the Tewkesbury Methodist Church Publicity and Editorial Group: Jackie Dobbs, Dorothy Davis, Jean Davies, Jane Dickinson, Hilary Jebson, Michael Jebson, Frank and Pat Manning, Adrian Shelley. Colour section and cover design by Adrian Shelley. Children's pages by Jane Dickinson.

Photographs as credited. Crosspoint is printed on recycled paper. We are members of the Association of Church Editors (ACE)



**[actionforchildren.org.uk](http://actionforchildren.org.uk)**

Reading a piece in the paper about The National Children's Home, now named "Action for Children", started in 1869 by Methodist Minister Thomas Bowman Stephenson, reminded me of when I was young we used to have little pictures of children given to us at Sunday School and

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we would pay a penny (old money!) for the picture.

Also in the late 1940's or early 1950's we went with the Junior Guild to a National Children's Home Village. We went by train from West Hampstead Midland Station and I think it was to Harpendon. It was lovely – houses built around a green, each house had a House Mother and Father who went to work during the day.

The children had a lovely bedroom; each child had a bed with a locker for their own treasures and a small rug so they did not have to walk on the cold lino. We thought how lucky they were to have such a lovely home.

The area around Quex Road Methodist Church was comprised of large Victorian houses which were multi-occupied. I lived in a house with two other families and most of my friends lived in similar houses.

We had a Sunday School teacher who worked for NCH in the office and she arranged for some friends to stay while their mother was in hospital having their baby brother. The three girls did not appreciate this; they were very home-sick!

Many years later – about 1967 - when I lived in Stratford-upon-Avon we had a coach outing from the church to Chipping Norton instead of a Sunday School Outing, to support the “Homes” Open Day. The children at this Home were disabled and my children were fascinated by the wide double doors to the toilets!

There were various stalls and games, and of course, tea and cakes. We had a lovely day and raised money for a good cause.

Pat Taylor

***The article Pat mentions was in the Daily Mail and it refers to the Charity's efforts to trace the families of the first youngsters they took in 150 years ago. The gallery of 30 images of some of the children who were cared for in the Homes between 1869 and 1919 can be found online at***

*Crosspoint June, July, August 2019*



Alverstoke, Hampshire 1901



Hospital Ward, Birmingham – 1882 - 1909



Agatha Johnstone, Ivy Keeping, Nora Blake – Cardiff 1912 - 1920



## **A PEOPLE PLACE**

### **Does our Church match up to this?**

If this is not a place where tears are understood –  
Where can I go to cry?

If this is not a place where my spirit can take wing –  
Where do I go to fly?

If this is not a place where my questions can be asked –  
Where do I go to seek?

If this is not a place where my feelings can be heard –  
Where do I go to speak?

If this is not a place where you will accept me as I am –  
Where can I go to be?

If this is not a place where I can learn and grow –  
Where can I just be me?

Attributed to William J Crockett

To  
God  
*be the*  
GLORY



*Great Things He Hath Done!*

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