

Dear Friends

As I write this spring continues to awaken and the signs of new life are all around us in nature. We are approaching Mothering Sunday but the themes of mothering and nurturing continue to unfold after along with the season.



It is precisely now, at springtime, that God the birther and nurturer of life, calls nature to spring forth from the dark womb of the earth. Firstly tender snowdrops venture out though hardy enough to break through frosted ground; and shortly after crocus', daffodils and primroses clothed in their finest yellows and purples of the most delicate materials such that they bring joy to all who set their gaze upon them.

Next come the tiny buds beginning to form on tree branches, gently and slowly unfurling as they begin the journey through vibrant, pinky blossoms towards the fullness of leafy summer. Soon they will provide shelter and nurturing for a variety of creatures, not to mention the environmental protection they provide for the planet itself.

And who of us isn't delighted to see the newborn lambs suckling proud ewes or gamboling in verdant pastures.

For all too long we have thought of God's beautiful creation as a commodity, as a resource to be plundered for selfish gain and we have brought ourselves to the brink of disaster in the process.

We simply cannot go on with this imbalance.

At District and at Circuit level of the Methodist church we have committed to environmental policies. Indeed our own church has recommitted through our Green Group to a number of actions (which meets in church every second Saturday morning over coffee) including the following:

- We will continue to work towards our Gold Eco award

Crosspoint March, April, May 2022

- We will support and promote groups that we are closely linked with such as Fair Trade
- We will continue to host Green Events on our premises as well as have a presence at any such events in the locality
- Every week the notices will contain a 'Planet health' tip offered by our Green Group
- We will hold 8 services per year based on creation spirituality
- We will add a note to our letter which goes out to all preachers requesting that prayers for our planet be included in every service.
- We will redouble our recycling efforts both personally and as a church

So as we think of mothering at this time of year try reading that first book of God, the book of nature, with soft eyes and a compassionate heart. Discover how even every tiny insect is nurtured and has its place on this planet. Tread on the earth lightly and receive her gifts humbly.

Developing a close relationship with nature will create in us a deep compassionate heart which is such a critical dimension for the healing of creation at this time.

Blessings,
Jayne



March 2022 –

This is a lovely time of year in our country – as Jayne has described it is a time of growth and new beginnings. As the days draw out we enjoy beautiful sunrises and longer evenings and the promise of bright summer days. Of course our enjoyment of the prospect of summer ahead is overshadowed by what is occurring in Ukraine and it is heartbreaking to read of the atrocities happening in a peace-loving country not so far away from us. It is gratifying, at least, to see how the rest of the world has stood together in solidarity and support for Ukraine. We hope and pray for a peaceful outcome before there is more destruction and loss of life.

In this edition we have a great article from Revd Martyn Smith as he reminisces about the era of steam trains. Some great photos too, supplied by Martyn. And incredibly – after beginning in the summer of 2018 – we have the final instalment of John Beardsley’s “Potted History of Methodism”! Our thanks to John for delivering this informative and amusing narrative to us. I have set him the task of another series to publish please!

We welcome all articles – be it a one-off reflection or something you would like to do regularly – do let me know. Your contributions make the magazine interesting and something to look forward to each quarter. We also enjoy hearing of news of the church family – special birthdays, new arrivals perhaps or just good news you want to share.

As we journey through this time of Lent and spiritual reflection, experience the grief of Good Friday, and then the joy of Easter Day we pray – “Living Lord Jesus, live within me, I pray. Complete your saving work within me, and so transform me, that I may be an agent of your Light, hope and transformation in this dark and troubled world. Amen”.

Jean Davies



Church Family News from Tewkesbury

We send our love and prayers to Mary Davies and Dianne Harrington.

We are sad to report the deaths of Sue Edlin, Nesta Harris and Joyce Cooper.

We remember them and hold them and their families in our hearts and prayers.



We remember and send our love to all the members of our church family who live in Residential Homes: Dianne Harrington, Joan Bottrell, Nora Booth, Joyce Sanders and Pat Taylor.

Congratulations to Roy and Jean Greenslade who have a new great-grand-daughter born at the end of last year. That's lovely news!

We are sorry to say goodbye to Karen Marsh who has moved away from the area to settle in west Wales, but we wish her the very best for her new life enjoying the sea and beautiful surroundings. She will, of course, be popping back to Tewkesbury from time to time, so we look forward to catching up with her.

We had a lovely afternoon tea early in March when we shared fellowship with some new attendees. (Photos in centrefold). We value their sharing time with us both socially and in worship. Jayne will be hosting another social get-together in the autumn when she returns from sabbatical.

THANKSGIVING SERVICE – there will be a service in memory of Nesta Harris – our longest serving member – on Thursday 19th May at 12.00. The church family is invited by her daughter, Pamela, to attend. Jean (Davies) has been asked by Pam to speak at the service about Nesta (and Harold's) time with the church. If anyone has any particular memories of Nesta over the years please can you let Jean know so she can share those memories at the service.

However did we arrive here?

or
A potted history of the Christian Church in umpteen
episodes
10th (and final) part

I ended the last episode with a riddle - How is the history of Methodism from the death of John Wesley onwards like a cream tea? The answer - Because it is full of splits! (Yes, I do feel ashamed of such a feeble pun!)

The founder of Methodism who had fought so hard to preserve the unity of the movement had been in his grave for less than a decade when the first split occurred. This was in 1797 when Alexander Kilham, a Methodist preacher, and, like the Wesley brothers, also born in Epworth, was expelled for demanding greater lay participation in the running of Methodist societies. He formed The Methodist New Connexion, which by 1822 had nearly 11,000 members. Several of the splits of the first half of the C19th had at their root the same issue - by whom, and how, the Methodist movement was to be run. The Protestant Methodists broke away, for instance, over what is known as the "Leeds Organ Controversy" of 1827, when the wealthy trustees of Brunswick chapel installed an organ against the wishes of the local congregation and preachers (who considered it to be 'a godless instrument'), and were supported by the governing body of Methodism, the Conference.

The 'Fly Sheets' controversy of the 1840s was also about the authority of Conference and its very powerful Secretary, Jabez Bunting, who is famously quoted as saying

"Methodism hates democracy as much as it hates sin". When the writer of anonymous diatribes against the hierarchy was found to be one of the preachers, James Everett, his expulsion would lead to mass defections from the Wesleyans, and to the formation first of the Wesleyan Reform Society, and then in 1857 the United Methodist Free Church.

The largest of the non-Wesleyan groups in the nineteenth century

were the Primitive Methodists (or 'Ranters', as they were sometimes called because of their habit of singing in the streets). American-style outdoor 'camp meetings', the best known of which was at Mow Cop on the Cheshire-Staffordshire border in 1807, incurred the wrath of the Wesleyan authorities (not too surprising at a time when the country was very afraid of rebellion and sedition). The expulsion from the Connexion of Hugh Bourne and William Clowes led to a movement that eventually had over 222,000 members. Incidentally, it is probable that the building in Barton Street, Tewkesbury, with the Star of David on its front was a Primitive Methodist chapel, whose foundation stone was laid in 1873, but the 'Prims' do not seem to have survived for very long here (more research needed!).

The Bible Christians, to be found mainly in the South West (but also in places like the Forest of Dean) were more of an offshoot from Wesleyanism than a breakaway.

Their name comes from their belief that all problems should be solved by recourse to the Bible, and they are particularly notable for being the first Methodist group to have women itinerant preachers, or ministers as we would call them.

In the Twentieth Century reunion became the order of the day. Firstly, in 1907 the Methodist New Connexion, the Bible Christians and the United Methodist Free Church came together to form the 'United Methodists', whilst in 1932 the Methodist Church as we know it today came into being when the Wesleyans (with 517,551 members) , the Primitives (222,021 members) and the United Methodists (179,527 members) signed a Deed of Union.

What about Tewkesbury Methodist Church in 1932? It was head of a "single minister circuit" - "single" referring to the number of ministers, not their marital state.

The chapels were at Tewkesbury: Kemerton: Coombe Hill: Apperley: Aston Cross (now an attractive house conversion: Bredon: Corse Lawn: Tirley: and Long Green.

Of those only Tewkesbury and Apperley are still open. The Manse was 3 Church Street, next to the chapel (now an office, but in 1963-4 it was sold and "Abbotswold" was bought in Abbot's Road (pity they didn't hang onto the garden as a car park at a time when car ownership was increasing!). In more recent years the minister has resided on Ashchurch Road. The interior of the chapel would not have looked too different from when it was opened in 1878, replacing the building that is now the Antique Centre. The present interior of course dates from the refurbishment of 2000.

Amongst other significant events since 1932 are the union with the Congregationalists when their chapel (now the home on Barton Street of the Jehovah's Witnesses) closed; the merger with the Cheltenham Circuit in 1991 and the formation of the Methodist Circuit of Gloucestershire in 2008.

So, this is how we got here! Where are we going and how will we get there?

"We'll praise him for all that is past,
And trust him for all that is to come".

John Beardsley

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 Fair-Trade in a practical way.

Roger and Dorothy Davis



©CCGPEXL

Download from maggot.com (2011-2012)

The Green Group

Following on from Jayne's introduction some more information about the Green Group. Please do join the group if you are interested in how we can work together to make a contribution to working towards a greener planet. Meetings take place on the 2nd Saturday of each month at 10.15am in the church over a cup of coffee.

The Green Group met for the first time since March 2020 and was intended to touch base and explore how we go forward together. Here is a summary of their discussions.

Crosspoint March, April, May 2022

* We will explore further 'Greenfaith' as an organisation to link our work with as it encompasses the group's ethos of Green Spirituality.

- We will continue to be involved with All We Can and Christian Aid in terms of our climate change activism using their resources for campaigning and also as a focus for our giving.
 - * Our Green group will continue to work towards the Gold award through A Rocha as a key focus.
 - * We will support and promote groups that we are closely linked with such as Fair Trade and Annie Bea's Beekeeping.
 - * We will continue to host Green Events on our premises as well as have a presence at any such events in the locality.
 - * Every week the notices will contain a 'Planet health' tip offered by the green group.
 - * We will hold 8 services / events per year based on creation spirituality.
 - * We will add a note to our letter which goes out to all preachers requesting that prayers for our planet be included in every service.
 - * The Green group will become involved in the discussion of the living walls aspect of our Welcome Space Project with a view to advising and maintaining.
 - * We will pursue the recycling project we began before lockdown.
 - * Jayne will be developing green Celtic spirituality resources during her sabbatical for use during the 8 Celtic festivals of the year. The festivals are intended to be celebrated across the section in some form using the prayers, rituals and reflections that will form the output of the sabbatical.

STEAM TRAINS AND CONNECTIONS TO OUR JOURNEY!

'Dirty old engines!' huffed my Gran some 50+ years ago when, as a young enthusiastic steam railway fan, I'd asked what she thought of the engines on view at the heritage railway station. I've occasionally thought about Gran's comment when at work on the nearby Gloucestershire Warwickshire Steam Railway where I volunteer as a member of both the Station Staff and 'Meet & Greet' teams following my retirement from full time work in 2019 and subsequent re-location to Winchcombe. Though many people (like my Gran!) would not share my interest in steam trains, it is surprising how strong the connection has been between Christianity and railways over the years. The popular Thomas the Tank Engine stories were first written by Rev. Wilbert Awdry while former Bishop of Wakefield, Eric Treacy, was a leading railway photographer. First time visitors to stations such as St. Pancras could be forgiven for thinking that they were entering an abbey or cathedral while notable railway authors like Cecil J. Allen often spoke at Christian events. Are such connections just incidental or might there be some comparisons that can be drawn from the railways that can still help Christians today?

When a young trainspotter, I recall that my aim was to see as many different locos as possible. Many a Saturday was spent travelling with friends to distant places in the hope of 'spotting' a particular engine. Yet as time went by, so my interest in railways widened. I learned about different designers, special engineering features, loco liveries and much more. Surely there is a message here about the need for Christian faith with a growth and maturity being in evidence as people discover more about God and themselves ... through reading the Bible, prayer, Sunday Worship attendance and so on. St. Paul felt that, with encouragement and time, all Christians should grow in their faith to become more Christ-like [eg. Col. 1: 9-12].

Growing up in Stoke-on-Trent was very convenient for a steam train enthusiast in the early 1960s, because the large railway works and locomotive sheds at Crewe and Derby were within easy range. Occasionally I'd travel to such destinations alone but invariably soon struck up conversations with other youngsters who were usually congregated at the end of the longest station platforms. In due course, I joined the Northern Rail Fans Club that organised outings to railway depots and special events. In the company of like-minded enthusiasts, many a happy hour could be spent comparing notes, exchanging stories and discussing points of railway management! Some people tell me that they can live a Christian life without attending a Christian place of worship. Yet without chance to reflect, pray, study and grow in faith alongside others of like mind, I do feel that a solitary Christian is far more prone to doubt and less likely to cope well in troubled times. By contrast, the support, friendship and fellowship that can be offered by members of a caring Christian Church, can make a huge difference to a person's whole wellbeing.

In the mid 1960s, following Dr. Beeching's 'axe' closing many rural railway lines and an increasing use of diesel and electric powered locomotives, it was harder to witness steam engines at work on the national railway network. One by one, badly maintained, grime-encrusted and rusting steam locomotives were regularly sold to scrap metal merchants for cutting up and melting down. My first visit to the Dai Woodham Scrap-yard in Barry, South Wales took place with my father on 16th August, 1967. I do not recall seeing anybody else there throughout our time walking alongside the lines of rusty tracks where scores of faithful workhorses - some still in their prime - had been condemned to the 'knacker's yard'. In those days there were no fences or 'Keep Out' notices to deter visitors. Perhaps that's just as well because you can just imagine what the local Press might have made of such encroachment: 'Anglican Vicar & 13 Year Old Son Arrested for Trespass!'

Walking up and down the rows of apparently doomed engines on that day, there was the schoolboy excitement of seeing some locomotives for the first time and 'cabbing' as many as I wished. Yet there was also a deep sadness that these once gleaming, powerful machines had been abandoned to the mercy of the corrosive sea air and vandals while awaiting their seemingly inevitable fate from the cutters' acetylene torches. Yet before my next visit to Barry Scrapyard in 1972, something astonishing happened. Over twenty of the condemned locomotives which I'd seen there previously, had in the meantime been purchased for restoration and preservation by railway societies. Indeed, this process would continue in the years ahead, resulting in over 200 of these engines being purchased for restoration and an unexpected new lease of life! Given this figure, it's not so surprising to learn that all the steam locomotives based on our local GWSR heritage line, came from this Barry Scrapyard. What a remarkable 'from death to life' story that is! What a powerful illustration of Easter joy and the Good News that lies at the heart of the Christian faith! How wonderful that God does not want anybody to be rejected and end up on the 'scrap heap' [2 Peter 3: 9] but desperately wants all of His creation to enjoy a loving restoration in His Hands and to receive a life-giving transformation resulting from His Forgiveness and Love [Romans 12: 1-2].

One of the most powerful parallels between railways and the Christian life is surely that of the 'journey' image where a given destination is in mind but where the enroute stops made and company kept, can be full of surprises. When standing on any busy station platform, you soon notice those people who are travelling light and those who seem to be taking enough luggage to last them for months! Yet as Christians on life's journey, I believe that we're called to 'travel light' wherever we can. In other words, we are asked to focus less on building up stores of material wealth [Matt. 6: 20-21] and instead to concentrate on the tasks that God has lined up for us, trusting

that His resources will be available to us, as they are needed. Occasionally locomotives break down, signals may slow the expected progress or the train needs to be re-routed due to track problems. In the same way, difficulties come to us all along life's roadway, with delays, disappointments and sadnesses setting us back. Yet we have our Lord above, one who has travelled on this route already [John 14: 6] and has also faithfully promised to accompany us all the way to our final Heavenly destination [Matt. 28: 20].

Whether you enjoy the romantic nostalgia now created by steam heritage railways or take my Gran's view of 'dirty old engines' ... there is little doubt in my mind that railways have much to say about our own journey of life. I'm going to conclude with a fascinating epitaph that I came across on a memorial in Ely Cathedral. It was written in memory of two railway workers who died in an accident on the Norwich to Ely Line back in 1845. The language understandably seems rather dated now but I believe that the essential Gospel message within ... is timeless.

The Spiritual Railway

The Line to Heaven by Christ was made - With heavenly truth the
Rails are laid,

From Earth to Heaven the Line extends - To Life Eternal where it
ends.

Repentance is the station then - Where passengers are taken in.
No fee for them is there to pay - For Jesus is Himself the Way.
God's Word is the first Engineer - It points the way to Heaven so
clear.

Through tunnels dark and dreary here - It does the way to Glory
steer.

God's Love the Fire, his Truth the Steam - Which drives the
Engine and the Train.

All you who would to Glory ride - Must come to Christ, in Him
abide.

In First, and Second, and Third Class - Repentance, Faith and

Holiness.

You must the way to Glory gain - Or you with Christ will not remain.

Come then poor Sinner, now's the time - At any Station on the line ...

If you'll repent and turn from sin - The Train will stop and take you in.

Rev. Martyn Smith 10 - 2 - 22

OUR REVEREND

Jayne will be taking her postponed sabbatical next year between June and September – though she will also be unavailable for the last week of May and first week of September. She is required to have NO contact with her churches during this time. Arrangements are being made for cover for Jayne and we are not expecting to have any Church Council meetings or formal church business between those dates. A sabbatical is an important and relevant part of the ministry of our presbyters, and is indeed compulsory – a time to study, research, refresh and renew and I'm sure we all wish Jayne well during this time, and will hold her in our prayers.

Tewkesbury Methodist Players invite you to their next concert 'Cascades of Water' on Saturday 18th June 2022 at 7pm at the Church. We look forward to seeing you there!

**FOR THE ATTENTION OF CHURCH OFFICERS REQUESTING
REFUNDS**

Refunding Purchases made for Tewkesbury Methodist Church

HSBC started charging fees on charity bank accounts last November. Tewkesbury Methodist Church has since paid around £19 each month in bank fees. This includes a charge of 40p per cheque raised or cashed, whereas all electronic payments (standing orders, direct debits and BACS transfers (Bankers' Automated Clearing System)) have no additional charge. To minimise our bank charges, from now on, anyone who has bought anything for the church will be reimbursed by BACS transfer, rather than by cheque. Carol Smith and Julie May will meet twice a month and will together setup the transfers, which will pay straight from the church to the receiving bank accounts in the following three working days.

Please pass all church related receipts and invoices to Julie May.
Please include your bank details with your next receipt or invoice:

- Bank account name (as it appears on your cheque book, bank statement or banking app),
- Bank sort code (6 digits, often formatted 12-34-56) and
- Bank account number.

Do not include the long number across your credit or debit card or the 3 digit number on the back of the card. You only need to provide your bank details once; just update us if you change bank account.

I appreciate this is a change so please contact Carol or Julie with any queries. Thank you.

Julie May

The next issue of Crosspoint will be produced in early June – please send copy for the next edition to Jean Davies (Tel: 01684 772178) by Sunday 22nd May please.

Articles including family news are welcomed. It helps if you are able to send via email. Send to Jean Davies:

jed0606@yahoo.com



BREAKFAST CLUB (Formerly BREAKFAST PRAISE)

We are continuing our monthly Breakfast Club get-togethers on the first Monday of the month starting at 9.15am and led by our family outreach worker, Clair Prosser. We welcome everyone to this informal gathering, and though we love to see families and young children the invitation is open to all. Do come and enjoy breakfast (cereal, toast, juice, and delicious bacon rolls!) and join in the fun! (Dates are confirmed in the weekly notices).

WELCOME SPACE

The Welcome Space project proceeds and we are now happy with the final draft plans. We now await the drawing up of the final plans by the architect and we can then move forward to the next stage. Welcome Space is the name of our project but we will be creating a community area which will be known as Oasis.

We are very excited as we move ahead and look forward to appointing a contractor. There are still months off before work will actually begin and realistically we are looking at early 2023.

However there is still plenty of work to be done in applying for funding and grants from various sources, and also establishing partners who will make use of the building for their various activities. We hope there will be opportunities for people from all walks of life to be part of this project including those with disabilities, mental health issues, the lonely and isolated, drama or music groups, LGBTQ+, or simply for those who want a safe, comfortable place to meet for a coffee and a chat.

We hope our church family will embrace the changes as we move forward in a way which will secure the future of our church and our worship space.

WIVES AND FRIENDS GROUP

The Wives and Friends group meet on the first Tuesday of the month at church and would be very pleased to see some new faces. The next meeting will be on Tuesday 5th April at 2.30pm. If you would like any further information please see Lin Sallis.



CHURCH FAMILY AWAY-DAY

We will be having an “away-day” at the beautiful Holland House retreat in Crophorne on Monday 28th November. This was originally planned for 2020 but could not go ahead, so we have rescheduled for a time of fellowship and reflection. The day has not been formally planned but it is not intended to be overly theological - more a time to relax and share and be thankful for our good fortune compared to so many as we come out of a 2 year pandemic and now hear of the terrible happenings in Ukraine. All are welcome, but numbers have to be limited. There is a list in the vestibule to add your name if you are interested or please contact me direct. There is no commitment at this early stage.

Jean Davies

jedo606@yahoo.com

01684772178

NEWS FROM APPERLEY

From Peter Stych



We were full of good intentions in the last edition of the magazine, heading for Christmas celebrations. Then as the old idiom says 'one step forward and two back ' and one planned Carol Service after another was cancelled as the wretched omicron variant rifled through our communities. Fortunately many individual family visits were still able to take place which were so rewarding for the families. Thank heavens for the vaccines!

Then we set off again in January and cautiously opened for our Covenant service and two more planned services into February. In our case here the stop/go board was turned against us again when at 8 pm on a Saturday evening at the end of February we were plunged into darkness as the mains power to the whole village failed! On waking on the Sunday morning still no power which in turn meant no heat, organ, or lighting at the Chapel. The only course of action was to cancel the service.

So what next? Well we now return to the planned services with a few modifications and to a joint **Lent Group** shared with our Anglican friends. This will be held in Apperley Village Hall on Thursday afternoons but will be almost completed by the time you are reading this article.

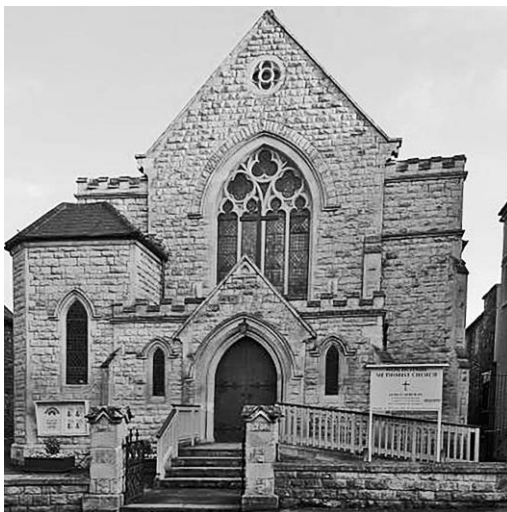
We do hope that the Easter season will uplift us all and maybe the coming of Spring will add to our enthusiasm to get back on track. Although the Circuit Plan shows no service here on **Easter Sunday morning happily we have Russell Buley to preach** in place of his visit on the following Sunday – April 24th.

After Easter our Bizzy Fingers group, and ecumenical Open the Book team can return to spreading the joy of the gospel in our corner of the county.

As always we will be delighted to welcome any of our readers to share worship and fellowship with us here at Apperley.

WINCHCOMBE METHODIST CHURCH

No news from our friends at Winchcombe this time, except we are aware they are making some tough decisions. We hold them all in prayer and send greetings and hope we can meet up socially together again in the not-too-distant future.



WORTH A PONDER -

Is what you are living for, worth Christ dying for?

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. Thank you for your support.

Crosspoint March, April, May 2022

The Revd Inderjit Bhogal, President of City of Sanctuary and former President of the Methodist Conference, has released a statement calling for peace in the face of hostility.

Solidarity with Ukraine: Sanctuary for Refugees

I am deeply troubled and angry at the Russian invasion of Ukraine. This is an injustice, not least in terms of:

- the use of force by Russia to invade a nation to build its own security. The end result will do little to leave either Russia or Europe in a more secure place.
- The use of violence to resolve a conflict in the 21st century, which is also driving civilians to resort to guns.
- The large number of casualties and deaths including civilians.
- Thousands of civilians forced to flee from danger and threat of violence to protect their lives. According to the UN up to 7 million will leave Ukraine and cross a border for safety and sanctuary. This will be the largest refugee situation since 2015. Many remain trapped in the long queues in Ukraine at borders, without shelter, food or drink, and some face hostility here too.
- Young and old, children and babies among the refugees. This is the reality of conflict. It is conflict which makes refugees
- the possibilities of the escalation of the conflict and violence and refugee numbers. What is clearly visible in the situation are two realities: violence and refugees. Where there is war, violence and persecution, there are always refugees.

And as always, refugees try to escape and find sanctuary in the nearest next country, in this case Poland, and are grateful for welcome, hospitality and safety.

Poland has welcomed refugees with open arms and given them sanctuary. Britain can follow this lead.

It is deeply disturbing to see images emerging of refugees of African and Asian ethnicities and colours being blocked, and facing racism and hostility, while trying to flee violence. This is a further violation of human rights and unacceptable.

Every person seeking safety must be valued and welcomed equally and with compassion.

We can all respond to refugees with humanity, hospitality and hope.

The way forward in the conflict must be a ceasefire in the violence, a ceaseless diplomatic dialogue and non-violent resolution.

As Christians we are called to speak out for peace and support

sanctuary. It is good to hear of churches around Britain, Ukraine and other countries offering space for prayer, and opening their doors to offer sanctuary. Every Church can be a Church of Sanctuary. We will work and pray for a world without war and violence, and always sanctuary for those whose lives are vulnerable to danger and harm.

Inderjit Bhogal

Psalm 121

I lift up my eyes to the hills – where does my help come from?

My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth.

He will not let your foot slip – he who watches over you will not slumber;

Indeed he who watches over Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.

The Lord watches over you – the Lord is your shade at your right hand;

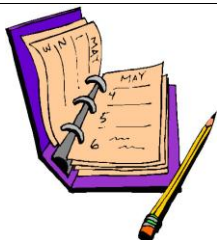
The sun will not harm you by day, nor the moon by night.

The Lord will keep you from all harm – he will watch over your life;

The Lord will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Please see the weekly notices or our website for more detailed information about events



March

- Saturday 26th Coffee morning 10am – 12.00
Preparation of posies
Sunday 27th – 10.30am Russell Buley – Mothering Sunday

APRIL

- Saturday 2nd 10am – 12.00 Coffee morning
Sunday 3rd 9.15am Breakfast Praise
10.30am Holy Communion – Revd Jayne Webb
4pm – Service of Thanksgiving and Remembrance
Tuesday 5th 2.30pm Wives and Friends
Saturday 9th 10am – 12.00 Coffee Morning
10.15am Green Group
Sunday 10th Palm Sunday 10.30am Rev B Bishop
Friday 15th 10am – Reflection prior to Walk of Witness
Saturday 16th 10am – 12.00 Coffee Morning
Sunday 17th Easter Day 10.30am – A Jackson
Friday 22nd Dinner Ladies lunch
Saturday 23rd 10am -12.00 Coffee Morning
Sunday 24th 10.30am Liz Ledger
Saturday 30th 10.30am Coffee Morning

May

- Sunday 1st 9.15am Breakfast Club
10.30am – Holy Communion Revd Jayne Webb
Saturday 7th 10am – 12.00 Coffee Morning
Sunday 8th 10.30am – Revd D King
Saturday 14th 10.00 – 12.00 Coffee Morning
10.15am Green Group
Sunday 15th 10.30am – Local Arrangement
Thursday 19th 12.00 Service of Thanksgiving for Nesta Harris

Saturday 21st 10.00 – 12.00 Coffee Morning
Sunday 22nd 10.30am Revd Jayne Webb
3pm – Circuit Assembly at our church
6pm – Circuit service
Saturday 28th 10am – 12.00 Coffee morning
Sunday 29th – 10.30am Gail Whiting

CHURCH SERVICES –

Any alteration to dates and or times will be shown in the weekly notices (also available on our website). The church is generally also open to visitors on Saturday mornings (coffee morning).

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 first Sunday of each month.*

Breakfast Praise takes place on the first Sunday of the month at 9.15am.

We do not have a Junior Church as such, but all families and children are welcome to any of our services though there will be particular emphasis on involving children in our 9.15am Breakfast Praise.

CHURCH GROUPS AND MEETINGS

Church Council – Tuesday 17th May

Worship Forum – tbc

Finance/Property – Tuesday 26th April

Stewards – Tuesday 17th May

Tewkesbury Churches Together - tbc

Pastoral – tbc

Publicity – Monday 23rd May

Green Group – Saturday 19th March 11am

Wives and Friends – Tuesday 5th April 2.30pm

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 Winchcombe Methodist Church

Apperley Senior Steward – Peter Stych Tel: 01452 780508

Tewkesbury Senior Steward - Linda Sallis Tel: 01684 294169

Registered Charity No: 1136205

***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

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.



CROSSPOINT is planned by the Tewkesbury Methodist Church Publicity and Editorial Group: Jackie Dobbs, Dorothy Davis, Jean Davies, Hilary Jebson, Michael Jebson, Adrian Shelley. Colour section and cover design by Adrian Shelley. Photographs as credited. Crosspoint is printed on recycled paper. We are members of the Association of Church Editors (ACE)