

Dear Friends

As I write this we have left 2024 behind us and have Spring 2025 on the horizon. Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on 5th March and we look forward to the joy of Easter morning on 20th April where we will share again in the telling of that great event - Christ risen from the dead bringing the hope of new, eternal life.



Also, at this time of year, the signs of new life begin to peek through the grey tones of winter to lift our hopes for the coming year. Firstly tender snowdrops venture out, though barely able to break through frosted ground; and shortly after crocuses, daffodils and primroses clothed in their finest yellows and purples, crafted from the most delicate materials, such that they bring joy to all who set eyes 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 gambolling in verdant pastures.

As far as the manse is concerned these wonderful glimpses of new life also herald an invasion of ants, mainly outdoors though some do venture across the threshold; needless to say that these do not lift my spirit in quite the same way! In the end though I suppose it is all a question of perspective, I realised as much when I read a piece of prose entitled Meditation on the first of May by Isaac Watts. His hymns, prose and poetry show us the divine mystery of God in all of creation, even in the most seemingly insignificant creatures. Here is an excerpt from his meditation:

Spring 2025

“What an exquisite world of wonders is complicated even in the body of every little insect – an ant, a gnat, a mite, that is scarce visible to the naked eye. Admirable engines! - which a whole academy of philosophers could never contrive, which the nation of poets has neither art nor colours to describe, nor has a world of mechanics skill enough to frame the plainest and coarsest of them. Their nerves, their muscles and the minute atoms which compose the fluids fit to run in the little channels of their veins, escape the notice of the most sagacious mathematician, with all his aid of glasses. The active powers and curiosity of human nature are limited in their pursuit and must be content to lie down in ignorance. It is a sublime and constant triumph over all the intellectual powers of man which the greatest God maintains in every moment in the inimitable works of nature – in these impenetrable recesses and mysteries of divine art’.

So as springtime unfolds may we rejoice at the signs of new life in nature that portend the greatest joy known to humankind - the new life for all in the risen Christ, and may you be richly blessed by this season of signs and wonders.

Blessings
Jayne

A prayer for Easter - Lord God, You loved this world so much, that you gave your one and only Son, that we might be called your children too. Lord, help us to live in the gladness and grace of Easter Sunday, every day. Let us have hearts of thankfulness for your sacrifice.

Let us have eyes that look upon your grace and rejoice in our salvation. Help us to walk in that mighty grace and tell your good news to the world. All for your glory do we pray, Lord, Amen.

March 2025

Dear Friends

Welcome to the Spring edition of Crosspoint. And it certainly feels more like Spring today after a wet and dull start to the year. We've seen some sunshine recently and the spring flowers are bursting out everywhere. The birds are singing their hearts out at 6am – when it is actually light now! (A blessing for someone who likes to be out and about at that time of morning!). And with Easter just a few weeks away, 2025 is quickly gaining momentum.

During Lent, the Methodist Church Soul Food Team is delivering a message to our inboxes each day containing a reflection, a video or a story to act or reflect upon. (If you have access to a computer it's well worth following). As I write this today's contribution is a reflection on a famous soul song – how many of you recognise these lyrics? –

Fish in the sea, you know how I feel
River running free, you know how I feel
Blossom on the tree, you know how I feel
It's a new dawn - It's a new day
It's a new life for me - And I'm feeling good.

It's a song that remind us that each day is a new beginning, full of potential and possibility. An opportunity for us to start again all over again. Maybe have a think about your favourite songs (or hymns) and reflect on why they resonate with you?

So for this edition – thanks to all our contributors – you make our magazine! No “Chat with –“ this time, but there is the addition of a crossword so get your brains in gear.

As we journey through this time of Lent and spiritual reflection 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
(PS – it's Nina Simone, of course!)

Church Family News from Tewkesbury

Spring 2025

We remember and send our love to all the members of our church families and particularly those who live in Residential Homes.



We continue to remember all those who suffer with ill health and mobility issues and hold them in our prayers. And we also remember those who struggle silently with their own personal problems. Many of us have been there, and hope that it is some comfort and support to know you are cared for and held in our prayers.

It is with great sadness that we report the death of Roger Davis, long-serving and much loved member of Tewkesbury Methodist Church last December. He has left a huge gap in our church family not only for all the jobs he willingly undertook, but for the friendship he showed to all – church members and strangers alike. He was a true example of how we aspire to act as Christians in the community. Our love and support remain with his wife, Dorothy at this time.

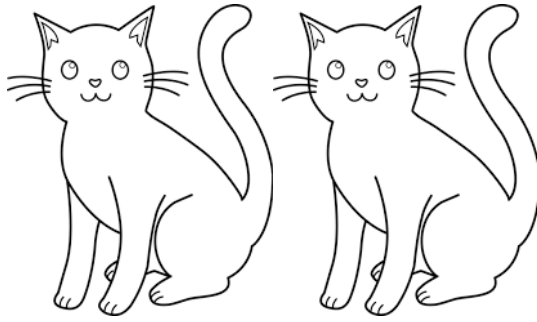
CHURCH FLOWERS

Wendy Allen continues to do flower arrangements in memory or celebration of loved ones for a small donation (suggested minimum £10). We will provide flowers and endeavour to meet your specific requests if possible. There is a clipboard in the vestibule for you to sign up for dates throughout 2025.

ALL CREATURES GREAT AND FLUFFY!

Pet reflections from Wendy Allen

Spring 2025



It is nearly three months since I wrote about the “Wrecking crew” and they are now 6 months old and they have calmed down slightly in the last month. My pot plants are slowly recovering, my cupboards have stayed in order and my clothes remain on their hangers. That is not to say that they do not get up to mischief, they do.

During the day they come and go through an open window (closed when I am out for security reasons) but when they come in, they bring all sorts of things with them, twigs, feathers, and dead leaves. These they toss about or leave at my feet looking like dead mice. Mice I can not abide they terrify me!

I know it is their instinct to catch mice and as yet they have not brought me any “gifts” but no doubt the time will come when they do. Getting back to the leaves, at this time of year they should be wet and slippery but with the dry spell we have had they are dry and crisp so when tossed about they crumble into little bits. My vacuum cleaner has never worked so hard and as soon as I have cleaned up one lot they bring in more.

It is still a race to see who can get to bed first and claim the best spot. They win every time. Being a lot bigger and a lot heavier they are more difficult to move they resist all attempts to be moved so I am the one that suffers. Ban them from the bedroom I hear you say, I would but the door doesn’t close properly and if I repaired it they would only sit outside and scratch and meow all night.

They have now been to the vets to be spayed, and the fun started, catching them was not a problem. With a bit of cunning subterfuge in the form of food

they were not allowed to eat. The call came to say they were ready to be collected. They both had “cones” on to protect their wounds but these were off before I had chance to go back. A phone call to the vets informed me that they had tried them with “pyjamas” but they objected to them and kept falling over so “cones” were the only option. I was told I could take them back to be re fitted but they could not guarantee they would work so I was to try them without but to keep a very careful eye on them. I was to prevent them from jumping up onto furniture or chasing around. How do you do that when they are used to using the furniture for circuit training?

They were quite dopey for the first 24 hours and slept most of the time but that night they managed to access my bedroom and were having a lovely time licking each others wounds not something the vets recommend. 3 days later and there wounds are looking good although they had taken out their own stitches. Today was their post op check and I was prepared for a dressing down for not following the vet’s instructions but all was well and they were very pleased with their recovery. Tomorrow they can have their freedom back and can go outside. It was a trial keeping them in and under some sort of control, preventing them from jumping on furniture and licking their wounds but we all survived. I’m now waiting for them to bring in their first Mickey or Minnie mouse!

PASTORAL CARE

It is sometimes difficult to keep regular contact with all our church family and if you are in need of some support or just need a chat please do get in touch with me or contact Revd Jayne. We all remain very busy with church affairs but pastoral care is paramount and our care and our prayers for those in need is always a priority. Please continue to pass on news of anyone who is unwell or struggling. And of course we continue to support all our members and friends through prayer.
Jean Davies – Pastoral secretary.

ETHICAL BANKING

From Sophie Franklin

No doubt you know that one of the biggest troubles in the planet is the amount of CO₂ that we, human beings, produce. This CO₂ is mainly created by burning fossil fuels, which should be replaced by renewable energy as soon as possible. Unfortunately, coal and fuel miners do not want to stop digging because it is such a profit making activity for them.

So we, the public, have to try and convince them that we care for our planet, even if they care more for their wallet, and they should stop digging. One way we can influence that is with our money: the bank we use every day makes a lot of money out of lending to the fossil fuel diggers, and if we stop using these banks, we will put pressure on them and finally, hopefully, dissuade them to lend to fossil fuel industries.

There are some leaflets in church, giving you details of organisations who will help you change your bank, choose a better non-ethical one, and ask for a transfer. Once you have decided which bank to go to, the operation is very simple. The bank you leave has to give all the information to the bank you are joining and organise all your regular ins and outs, so it is really simply a question of choosing an ethical bank and tell them you are joining them. Your children and grand-children will be pleased with your action to protect their planet. Thank you very much.



Spring 2025

NEWS FROM OWEN RADTKE

Recently I have been fundraising for HCPT group 3 and I will take this opportunity to explain what this means.

HCPT stands for Hosanna House and Children's Pilgrimage Trust and is a charity that is made up of numerous groups and they take children with special needs to Lourdes at Easter at no expense to the parents. I am volunteering with group 3 which is the group based in Gloucestershire and we are taking 11 children to Lourdes this year with 15 helpers including myself. This group is great and they took Duncan to Lourdes in 2019 which is how I know about them. (See photo).

I have been fundraising for them because in order to take the children we need to pay for the accommodation, flights and activities such as trips to the zoo, and into the Pyrenees as well as lots of café stops for hot chocolate!

In order to cover these costs all of the volunteers do some individual fundraising as well as the group doing some together. For my fundraising I have a 20km walk arranged for March** as well as carrying out coffee mornings/events at local churches.

If there is any more information you would like to know about HCPT, Lourdes, the fundraising or anything else like this please do come and talk to me about it.

Owen Radtke

** STOP PRESS! I can confirm that Owen completed his walk on Saturday 8th March – well done Owen. If anyone would like to donate you can do so at the Just Giving Page HCPT Group 3 – Owen's Fundraising, or see any of the stewards.



Spring 2025

The diary of a Geriatric Lay Worker

Chapter 5

Andrew is the Lay Community Outreach Worker at Bishops Cleeve and here he continues his diary to share his thoughts, joys and trials and tribulations of his vocation.

Last time, I was telling you about the privilege I feel when going into the local Care Home. Since then, the situation has changed slightly in that we are now meeting in a lounge upstairs, with a more intimate setting. After this week's service a decision was made to hold a service every week for the foreseeable future. Jennifer and I, regularly state before every service there that "This is the highlight of our week" This comment may have started in jest, to engage with the residents, but it now resonates emphatically with the way we honestly feel.

So, one of the main purposes in the church in offering this role to me was to work with people isolated by Covid and by technology! Clearly, without wishing to sound "ageist", this was to work predominantly with the retired community. There speaks the voice of experience, as one who relies on his eldest grandson for help in using his mobile phone!

In those circumstances you may have expected my total focus to be amongst my own age group. Being a maverick Lay Community Outreach Worker as well as a geriatric Lay Worker, that was never going to be the case!

During the first exhibition held, I was delighted to be able to invite some local school children into the church to enjoy the amazing "climate change" banners, produced by various groups as part of a Christian Arts initiative. I was very nervous but excited at the same time. I was keen to involve others as I lacked the confidence in the area of 'climate change'. The experience of working with the children and seeing their excitement just fuelled my desire to do more with them.

In August that year, we were running a "Churches Together" stall with some of our friends from the Anglican churches, at a "Fun Day" organised by the Parish Council. Among the various new friends I met that day from the Anglican church was Judith. She ran a group in the local Primary school called "Jaffa", Jesus a friend for all. She asked if I would like to join her ministry in the school. Greedy for any opportunity to get involved in as much as possible, (my scattergun approach) I immediately agreed.

Judith was delighted as in her words it represented ..."the first joint thing the Anglicans and Methodists had done together for ages". The only problem was that at this time I was working on a Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, and Jaffa met at lunch time on a Thursday. Something had to change, and it was to be....my day off.

I loved my time with Jaffa. We would go into the school to meet the children, discuss what had happened the previous week, have a bible story and then play some games. Judith was brilliant with the children and organised everything. Her team, of which I was one, would take it in turns to go in to support Judith and occasionally lead the session.

I had been involved in this project for many months, when suddenly a directive came from on high - I didn't have the appropriate DBS Certificate to be able to continue! I needed one for the Anglican church and mine was for the Methodist Church. A series of conversations later, I agreed that I would need to obtain a second DBS Certificate for the Anglican church and my continuing involvement with Jaffa would be as a volunteer for the Anglican Church and not as part of my role as a Lay Worker for the Methodist Church.

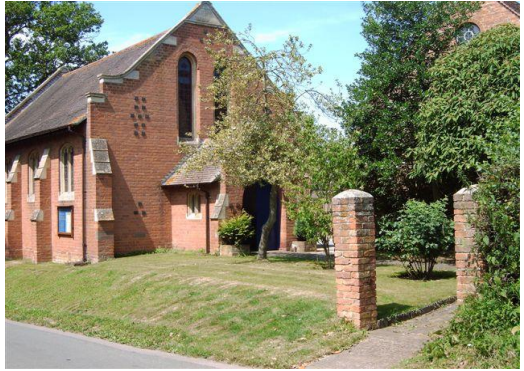
I found myself asking the question "When is a DBS Certificate, not an acceptable DBS Certificate"? The surprising answer is "When it not for the organisation, you are representing at the time!"

I went with the (I can't believe this madness) flow, as I was enjoying working with the children. There was soon, however, to be a further 'unbelievable' twist in this crazy saga. Having just returned to working with Jaffa, after receiving my second (Anglican) DBS Certificate, I then had to stop again, as the school decided they wanted us all to obtain a DBS on their behalf. And that is how I managed to obtain 3 DBS Certificates in the space of just over a year, to enable me to work as a volunteer, for another church, with school children, once every 2 or 3 weeks on my former day off! But it was well worth it.

The irony now is that Judith has moved Jaffa to a Tuesday, (my substitute day off in place of a Thursday) where it is now an after-school club. I was able to go to their Christmas party, where we had a lot of fun, but have otherwise been unable to help during the current school year.

Next time, we will continue with the fun of having both school children and preschool children at our Exhibitions.

NEWS FROM APPERLEY



From Peter Stych

As I write this short article winter does seem to be on the way out – but we cannot be too sure just yet!

Our Christmas Carols by Candlelight gave us a very welcome uplift this year, record attendances seeming to help us to forget the covid years. As a result a very pleasing donation was able to be sent to Action for Children to help with their invaluable work with children and young people.

Services in January and February continued to serve the congregations well despite the very wet and wintry weather. The worst deterrents were once again the ever present expanses of surface water spanning verge to verge across the village roads hiding the unseen and ever-growing potholes.

We were asked recently to write a brief history of our Chapel and the former Moravian Chapel in Apperley for our local parish magazine. I thought our own readers of Crosspoint may be interested and so it is included with this issue.

So as we head towards Easter we already see the new life as daffodils and crocuses excite us with their rich colours and we look forward to the coming of another spring and summer.



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WINCHCOMBE METHODIST CHURCH REFLECTIONS

Growing up in the Potteries during the 1960s was an interesting experience - especially as it was in a household where my father was an Anglican Rector. It soon became very apparent that, unlike most of my school-friends, my Dad's 'working hours' were far less predictable than those of most working parents ... with his weekends being particularly busy!



Yet it was not just his long and unusual hours of work that struck me as a youngster. It was the range of roles that he seemed to have besides all the local leadership roles in his two churches and in the community where some most valuable Christian contributions would be made, during his thirty year stay.

Looking back now, however, I believe that there were several demanding jobs that he was regularly doing which should really have been left to others. Should he really have been spending hours on church and rectory roofs to repair or replace cracked slates ... or lighting the coke-fired boiler on Saturday nights which supplied winter-time heat for one of his churches? Should he really have been responsible for writing, printing and initially distributing the monthly Parish Magazine? In those days, there was an unfortunate belief and expectation that, whatever the job, 'The Rector will do it!' You may not be surprised to learn that, in the mid 1960s, Dad suffered a breakdown in his health which resulted in a long hospital stay and many weeks off work!

Compared to the expectations of my Father's congregations over fifty years ago, Methodists have had a long tradition of 'getting on with

things', without feeling the need to have their hard-pressed appointed minister involved in such initiatives. Most of the Methodist involvement with the Winchcombe community is led by Church Members and has proved to be most rewarding for those so involved, if occasionally challenging!

Like other churches, we are so grateful to the Local Preachers and retired clergy who between them lead the majority of the Sunday Services for us. With an increasing number of 'Local Arrangement' entries on the Plan, it has certainly created extra opportunities for local congregations to participate in leading worship. Last Sunday about a dozen ladies from our congregation used material from this year's World Day of Prayer handbook to lead the congregation in a most meaningful act of worship. We were all greatly inspired by hearing some stories of Cook Island Christians, some of whom had put this year's special service together.

Like so many other churches across our large Circuit, Winchcombe needs new church stewards, readers, activity conveners, greeters and Communion stewards. Of course, not everyone feels comfortable to have an 'upfront role' in church ... and that is absolutely fine. Yet I strongly believe that we can ALL make a positive contribution to God's work through our kindnesses, encouragement, friendship and prayers for others. As Paul told his readers in Rome [Chapter 12; Verses 6-8]: 'We have different gifts ... serving, teaching, encouraging, contributing, leading, showing mercy ...' We ALL really do have our part to play in God's Work here on earth and so according to our health, skills and personalities ... let's do what can, with His Help! For when each of us take our part in His Work in and through our churches, I feel sure that our presence as Methodists in our local communities will not simply survive – it can then thrive!

God Bless –
Martyn Smith



News from St John's, Northgate

It has been a relatively quiet start to the new year at St John's following the Christmas activities. The Christmas tree festival and the carol service went well and we took advantage of a 'Local Arrangement' on the Sunday following Christmas to do something slightly different. Arranging the chairs in a circle instead of the usual rows, we talked informally, sharing experiences and giving people the opportunity to introduce

themselves – something we often don't have time for in the few minutes over coffee at the end of a service.

There have been a number of new faces at St John's over the last couple of years, many from around the world; we have welcomed friends from Hong Kong, India, the Philippines, Ghana, South Africa and most recently two students from Kenya. We are very blessed to have them with us.

At the moment we are enjoying the spring sunshine as we look forward to Easter events. This year The Way of the Cross will take place in Gloucester on Good Friday, starting at the Cathedral at 11.00am. A re-enactment of Jesus' last hours from sentencing by Pontius Pilate to the Crucifixion, this will be played out in the streets by members of the local community and everyone is invited to be part of the crowd, to walk with Jesus. The events of Good Friday did not take place behind closed doors, inside a building. They happened on the streets of Jerusalem and it is important that we bear witness to that. Members of St John's will be there and we hope to see friends from around the Circuit. All are welcome.

Do enjoy the springtime and we all wish you a very happy Easter.

Christine and Peter Gardner

Spring 2025

BISHOPS CLEEVE METHODIST CHURCH

Greetings and
Blessings
from Bishops
Cleeve –



Our Christmas Services and Events seem a long time ago now!

Our Angel Exhibition was beautiful with contributions of Angels both large and small, made from various materials, from individuals and Community Groups. It was especially enjoyed by the school children from classes at Bishops Cleeve Academy whose sessions were ably led by Andrew Maxwell. At other times during the week the Exhibition was open for anyone from the community who might like to spend some quiet time away from the rush of Christmas preparations.

Our Carol Service was a little different as we decided to have a Local Arrangement Songs of Praise style for a change. We asked the congregation to choose their favourite carols or songs especially ones they thought don't get sung as often as others. We managed to include ten of them so we all had a very good sing! Our Christmas Day Service was led by Jayne and was much appreciated by all those who attended.

By the time this is printed we will have held our latest Coffee Morning in aid of The Lightbeam Project which enhances education for children in a school in India through video links to volunteers who teach them fun things to do. One of our members is one of their volunteers.

Andrew and others will be running a Lent Group on Thursday afternoons, Meet Up Mondays continues to be very popular as does

the monthly Film Club.

Several members with the skills needed have been working on completing necessary tasks which have been flagged up by our latest quinquennial inspection, including making checks on areas in the building which might be a fire risk. It is good to have these issues brought to the fore at times.

We send our blessings for the Lent and Easter Season to all the Churches in the Section.

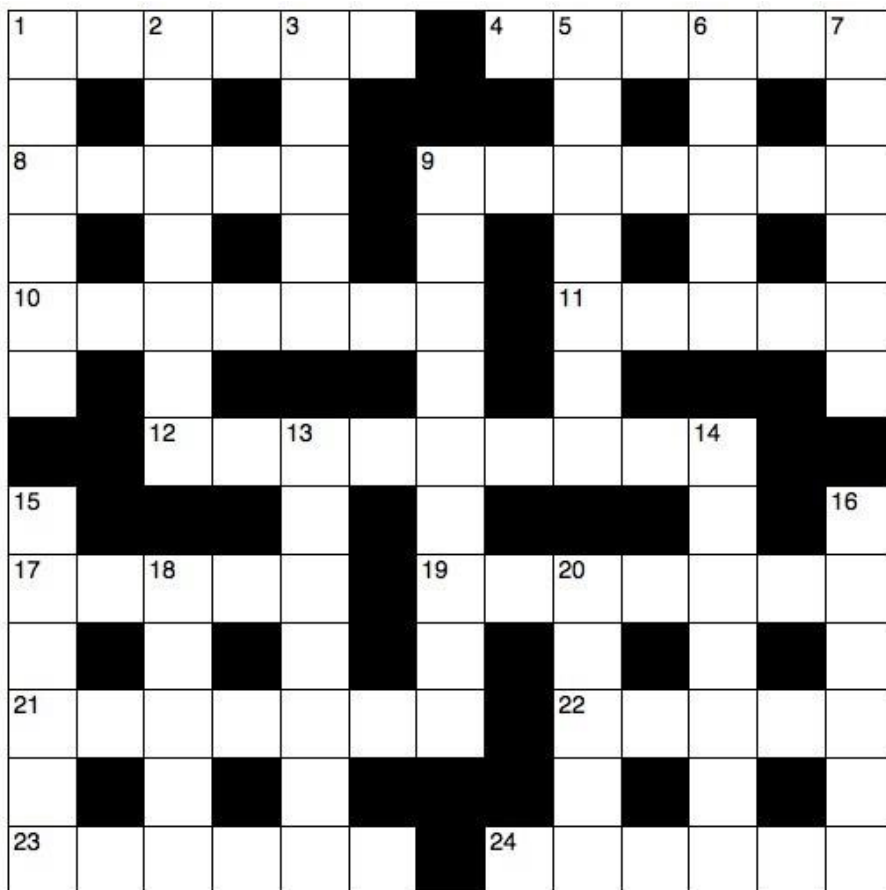
Ruth Whiting

Bishop's Cleeve's Thinking Day service for the church's brownies and rainbows on 23 February. Andrew led the worship.



Spring 2025

QUICK CROSSWORD – (answers at the back)



Across

- 1 Relating to the whole universe (6)
- 4 The disciple who made the remark in 8 Across (John 20:24) (6)
- 8 ‘Unless I see the nail marks — — hands, I will not believe it’ (John 20:25) (2,3)
- 9 He urged King Jehoiakim not to burn the scroll containing Jeremiah’s message (Jeremiah 36:25) (7)
- 10 Baptist minister and controversial founder of America’s Moral Majority, Jerry — (7)

- 11 'Look, here is — . Why shouldn't I be baptized?' (Acts 8:36) (5)
 12 Repossessed (Genesis 14:16) (9)
 17 Port from which Paul sailed on his last journey to Rome
 (Acts 27:3–4) (5)
 19 'Moses was not aware that his face was — because he had spoken with the
 Lord' (Exodus 34:29) (7)
 21 Roonwit, C.S. Lewis's half-man, half-horse (7)
 22 Grill (Luke 24:42) (5)
 23 'The lot fell to Matthias; so he was added to the — apostles' (Acts 1:26) (6)
 24 'I was sick and you looked after me, I was in — and you came to visit me'
 (Matthew 25:36) (6)

Down

- 1 Coastal rockfaces (Psalm 141:6) (6)
 2 Academic (1 Corinthians 1:20) (7)
 3 Publish (Daniel 6:26) (5)
 5 For example, the Crusades (4,3)
 6 11 Across is certainly this (5)
 7 He reps (anag.) (6)
 9 Liberator (Psalm 18:2) (9)
 13 Man who asked the question in 11 Across was in charge of all her treasury
 (Acts 8:27) (7)
 14 They must be 'worthy of respect, sincere, not indulging in much wine' (1
 Timothy 3:8) (7)
 15 The human mind or soul (6)
 16 'O Lord, while precious children starve, the tools of war increase; their bread
 is — ' (Graham Kendrick) (6)
 18 'We played the flute for you, and you did not — ' (Matthew 11:17) (5)
 20 Bared (anag.) (5)



BREAKFAST CLUB - WILD GREEN CHURCH!

Wild Green Church happens the first Sunday of the month at 9.15am in the hall. Yummy Bacon baps, cereal, toast and juices are available to all. Please join us! All are welcome.

A brief history of The Methodist Church in Apperley

To the right of the present Apperley Methodist Church in School Road stands a building with an interesting history. Today it is a private house but since the mid 18th century it has been home to various Church activities.

It was built in about 1750 and started life as a Moravian Chapel and may have had an attached cottage to house its Minister. The Moravian sect has its roots in the 15th century Reformation in what is now the Czech Republic, and established branches of its movement in England, The Netherlands and America. John Wesley encountered them whilst on his travels in America and was much influenced by their simple faith and piety.

The origins of the Moravian Society here in Apperley are a little hazy, but by the middle of the 18th century they were established in the village. Their cause here waned in the 1790's and the Wesleyan Methodists subsequently leased the building eventually buying the premises for their own use in 1845.

The Methodist society flourished and in 1904 the 'new' church building was opened for worship. The old Chapel continued in limited use for Sunday school and other weekday activities but by the 1990's had become derelict and was in urgent need of serious repair. At that time the managing trustees took the decision to sell the old Chapel and its attached cottage and use the proceeds to update the current Chapel. By 2004, the centenary of the 1904 opening, the premises had been extended and refurbished to provide up to date facilities.

In the 21st century the Methodists in Apperley have been joined by others from Coombe Hill, Tirley, and most recently Hartpury as their Chapels had become unsustainable.

In the present day Apperley Methodist Church, as part of the Gloucestershire Circuit, serves a large rural area reaching from Bredon to Hatherley and Hartpury and enjoys close links with Tewkesbury Methodist Church..

A contribution from Pat Taylor (Tewkesbury)

LIFE IS CONFUSING SOMETIMES!

Just a line to say I'm living: that I'm not among the dead
Though I'm getting more forgetful; and mixed up in my head.
I've got used to my arthritis; to my dentures I'm resigned
I can manage my bi-focals; but dear God I miss my mind!
Sometimes I can't remember, when I'm standing by the stairs
If I should be going up for something;
Or if I've just come down from there.
And before the fridge so often; my mind is filled with doubt
Now did I put some food away; or come to take it out?
Sometimes when its night-time; with my nightcap on my head,
I don't know if I'm retiring; or just getting out of bed.
If it's not my turn to write dear; I hope you won't get sore
I think I may have written; and don't want to be a bore.
So remember I do love you; and wish that you lived near
But now it's time to mail this; and say goodbye, my dear.
At last I stood before the mailbox; my face it sure is red
Instead of mailing this to you; I opened it instead!

Anon

Joseph's tomb

Pontius Pilate: "Joseph, I really don't understand you. You're one of the richest men in the region, and you've just spent a fortune on that new tomb for you and your family - and now you want to suddenly give it to this man Jesus?"

Joseph: "Well it's just for the weekend."

Why Easter

A Sunday School teacher had been explaining why Easter should matter to us, and wanted to make sure her group understood. So she asked, "Can anyone tell me what you must do before you can obtain forgiveness of sin?"

There was a short pause and then, from the back of the room, a small boy spoke up. "Sin?"

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Editor: Canon Paul Hardingham considers the effect of Easter...

The Real Easter

In CS Lewis's *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*, the lion Aslan is put to death by the White Witch. The stone table on which He is killed cracks in two, but Aslan meets with Lucy and Susan alive again. He explains the Witch's failure:

'her knowledge goes back only to the dawn of time. But if she could have looked a little further back, she would have known that when a willing victim who had committed no treachery was killed in a traitor's stead, the Table would crack, and Death itself would start working backwards.'

This is a great picture of what Jesus' cross and His resurrection has achieved. As Paul writes, *'I want to know Christ, to know the power of His resurrection'* (Philippians 3:10). To understand the real Easter, we should experience the same power that raised Jesus from the dead!

New Hope: Like the girls in the story, Easter highlights the sadness and confusion that loss brings. Yet the resurrection of Jesus brings new hope, as it demonstrates the victory secured by the cross over sin, Satan and death. We can face life's difficulties knowing that Jesus walks beside us.

New Love: Our relationships are often characterised by a lack of forgiveness, hurt and betrayal. Yet Jesus' resurrection opens the possibility of new love, as His power enables us to accept others and forgive them.

New Life: When we are trying to make sense of life, like the girls in the story, Jesus offers us a living relationship with Himself. It's a friendship with God through Jesus that can begin today and continue for eternity.

When Lucy met Aslan again, she cried: *'Oh, you're real, you're real!'* We too can find the real Easter through a life changing encounter with the living Christ.

CROSSPOINT MAGAZINE

I do hope you enjoy receiving your copy of Crosspoint. It is our pleasure to send it out to those friends who have either moved away or are unable to attend church. We do appreciate your continued financial support towards the production of Crosspoint, which costs about 80p a copy to prepare. There is a box in the church porch for donations or you can pop an envelope in with your regular giving. The suggested donation is £1 per copy or £4 for the year.

If you would prefer to receive your copy online if you provide me with an email address I can do this. This will help us with distribution costs but I do appreciate that many prefer to have a paper copy to browse (me included!) Thank you for your support.

The next issue of Crosspoint will be produced mid-June – please send copy for the next edition to Jean Davies (Tel: 01684 772178) no later than Friday 6th June.

Articles including family news are welcomed. **(Please ensure you have the permission of those you write about before submitting)**. It helps if you are able to send via email. Send to Jean Davies: jed0606@yahoo.com

Please note that articles reflect the views of the writer and not necessarily those of Tewkesbury Methodist Church.



BREAKFAST CLUB - WILD GREEN CHURCH!

Wild Green Church happens the first Sunday of the month at 9.15am in the hall. Yummy Bacon baps, cereal, toast and juices are available to all. Please join us! All are welcome.

Revd Jayne Webb

Tewkesbury Methodist Players

Present



Aspects of Love



An Evening of songs and sketches

at

Tewkesbury Methodist Church

Saturday 31st May 2025 at 7pm

Light Refreshments



All proceeds to Charity



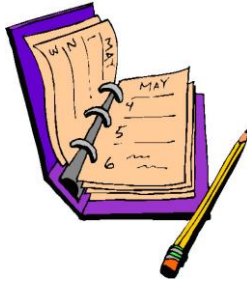
Tickets £3 available on the door



Spring 2025

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Please check the weekly notices or our website for any alterations to dates/times and more detailed information about events



Coffee mornings every Saturday between 10.30am and 12.30pm

MARCH

Saturday 22nd – 2pm Jubilate Chamber Choir Concert (free)

Saturday 29th – 10am Book Club

Sunday 30th – Mothering Sunday

APRIL

Tuesday 1st – 2.30pm Wives and Friends

Sunday 6th – 9.15am Wild Green Breakfast Club

Sunday 6th – 10.30am service – NO Holy Communion

Sunday 13th – Palm Sunday

Tuesday 15th – Dinner Ladies lunch

Thursday 17th – 10am Holy Communion

Friday 18th – 10am Good Friday Reflection

Sunday 20th – 10.30am Easter Day Holy Communion

Saturday 26th – 10am Book Club

- 7.30pm Camerata concert

MAY

Saturday 3rd – 10am Bible Class with Jayne

Sunday 4th – 9.15am Wild Green Breakfast Club

Thursday 8th – 80th Anniversary of VE Day

Sunday 18th – 10.30am Easter Offering Dedication Service (LA)

Saturday 24th – 10am Book Club

Saturday 31st – 7pm Methodist Church Players concert



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. We also hold a short service of Holy Communion on the first and third Wednesday of each month at 10.30am followed by coffee.*

Wild Green Church with breakfast 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 Wild Green Church Breakfast Club.

CHURCH GROUPS AND MEETINGS

Please see weekly notices for dates of meetings as they are arranged

Church Council

Worship Forum

Welcome Space and Finance meeting

Finance/Property

Stewards

Tewkesbury Churches Together

Pastoral

Publicity

Green Group

Wives and Friends

Book Club

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 and Bishop's Cleeve Methodist Church

Apperley Senior Steward – Peter Stych Tel: 01452 780508

Tewkesbury Senior Steward - Linda Sallis Tel: 01684 294169

Registered Charity No: 1179000

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

Web site for Apperley and Tewkesbury Methodist Churches with links to our sister churches, Winchcombe and Bishop's Cleeve
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, Andrew May email tmcroombookings@btinternet.com (or contact Jean Davies 01684 772178 jed0606@yahoo.com)



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CROSSWORD ANSWERS –

ACROSS: 1, Cosmic. 4, Thomas. 8, In his. 9, Delaiah. 10, Falwell.
11, Water. 12, Recovered. 17, Sidon. 19, Radiant. 21, Centaur.
22, Broil. 23, Eleven. 24, Prison.

DOWN: 1, Cliffs. 2, Scholar. 3, Issue. 5, Holy war. 6, Moist.
7, Sphere. 9, Deliverer. 13, Candace. 14, Deacons. 15, Psyche.
16, Stolen. 18, Dance. 20, Debar.