

Dear Friends

During this summer plan we arrive at Ordinary Time. It carries none of the drama of Advent longing or Easter proclamation, and yet it is here that the deeper work of God so often takes root.



What we call “ordinary” is, of course, anything but. The term simply means “ordered” time—the steady, faithful unfolding of life with God beyond the great festivals. It is the season in which discipleship is lived out in the gentle, repeated rhythms of prayer, service, conversation, and presence. If the great seasons of the Church year are like mountain peaks, then Ordinary Time is the landscape in which we actually dwell, the fields and paths we walk day by day.

June, July, and August bring with them a different pace. There is a softening at the edges of our life together. Congregations thin as holidays begin, diaries loosen their grip, and something of the urgency that often drives us through the year begins, quite naturally, to ease. Rather than resisting this, there may be wisdom in receiving it as a gift.

This final quarter before the new connexional year offers us a kind of threshold space, a breathing space. Isn't an ending as such, but neither is it yet the beginning of what lies ahead. It is a time to stand, as it were, on the in-between ground. To look back with gratitude. To notice where life has been stirring beneath the surface. And to listen, gently and without pressure, for the quiet promptings of the Spirit.

In a culture that so often equates fruitfulness with activity, Ordinary Time reminds us that growth is frequently hidden, slow, and organic.

Seeds germinate beneath the soil long before anything is visible. Roots deepen in unseen ways. And so too in the life of the Church: this can be a season of abiding rather than striving.

August, in particular, may offer a slightly wider space for this. As the tempo of church life slows, there is an invitation. This may be to allow space for contemplation, for deeper noticing, perhaps even for rest that is more than simply the absence of work, but a returning to what truly sustains us.

And then, almost quietly, September approaches. The connexional year begins again, and with it the call to renewed energy, vision, and engagement in mission. But how we enter that season is important. If we arrive already depleted, we simply carry forward the same patterns. If, however, we have allowed this “ordinary” time to do its gentle work within us, to restore, to clarify and to ground, then we may find ourselves stepping forward from presence rather than pressure.

So perhaps these summer months are not so much a gap in the life of the Church, but rather a necessary rhythm within it. A time to breathe, to listen, and to dwell more deeply in the God who is both present in the extraordinary moments, and also quietly at home in the ordinary. And in that, there is grace enough for all that lies ahead.

With Blessings for a restful summer -

Jayne Webb



szo0353 www.fotosearch.com

Summer 2026

Dear Friends

Welcome to our summer edition of Crosspoint.

We have some interesting articles this time – with exciting news from Winchcombe, a lovely tribute to 100 years-old Jean from Bishop’s Cleeve and more from our geriatric lay pastor! (His description – not mine!) And more adventures from Ebony and Ivy!...

I have started up my “Chat with ?????” again and this time I’ve been talking to Bette Usher from Tewkesbury who has worshipped here since the early 1990’s.

Revd Tony Windsor was our minister at that time and I too, joined our church in 1990. Tony died recently at the age of 92 and I was able to go to his thanksgiving service in Orpington and meet up with Margaret and their daughters again. It was a wonderful happy, uplifting tribute to Tony. Margaret sends love to all those who remember her and greetings to the church members.

Jayne speaks of this “ordinary” time over the summer months – a time to be thankful and a time of contemplation before the busyness of a new connexional year. We are all no doubt looking forward to spending time with friends and family and enjoying some fine weather to be outdoors – may you have a blessed and happy summertime with time to relax.

Jean Davies (Editor)

God, the Port of Peace (*adopted from John Walton, about 1410*)

Now come all, you who have been brought
In bondage full of busy bitterness,
Earthly desire abiding in your thought!
Here is the rest from all your busyness,
Here is the port of peace and restfulness
To those who stand in storms and in dis-ease,
Open refuge to wretches in distress,
And all comfort from trouble and mis-ease.

PASTORAL CARE - Tewkesbury

Please remember to let me or Jan Hoskins know if you are aware of anyone who may be in need of some support – whether it be practical help or just a meet-up for a chat. Jan will always be pleased to hear from you. Her email is outreach.Tewkesbury@glosccircuit.co.uk and work telephone no is 07713 880853.

Jean Davies – Pastoral secretary

Church Family News from Tewkesbury

We remember and send our love to all the members of our church families and particularly those who live in Residential Homes. We especially remember our friends Pat, Geoff and Kath.

We continue to remember all those who suffer with ill health and mobility issues and hold them in our prayers. We particularly think of our friends who are embarking on further treatment and wish them the best possible outcome. Sadly several of our church family have had hospital stays during the last few months and we particularly wish them speedy recoveries.



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.

CHURCH FLOWERS

Unfortunately whilst Wendy is unwell she is unable to do flower arrangements in memory or celebration of loved ones. We all wish Wendy a speedy recovery from her treatment and we will let everyone know when the arrangements can recommence.

MORE TALES (TAILS?) FROM EBONY AND IVY

(To be Posted As low as possible..)

Dear Ebony and Ivy, please take note.

The dishes with paw prints are yours and contain your food. The other dishes are mine and contain my food. Please note, placing a paw print in the middle of my plate of food does not stake a claim for it becoming yours. Nor do I find it aesthetically pleasing in the slightest.

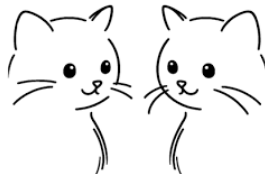
The hallway is not a racetrack. Beating me to the bedroom is not the object. Tripping me does not help because I fall faster than you can run.

I cannot buy anything bigger than a king sized bed. I am very sorry about this. Do not think I will continue to sleep on the sofa to ensure your comfort. Believe it or not cats can actually curl into a ball when they sleep. It is not necessary to sleep perpendicular to each other stretched out to the fullest extent possible. I also know that sticking your tails straight out and having your tongues hanging out the other end to maximise space is nothing but sarcasm.

For the last time, there is no secret exit from the bathroom. If by some miracle I beat you there and manage to get the door shut, it is not necessary to claw, whine or meow, try to turn the knob or get your paws under the edge to pull the door open. I must exit through the same door I entered. I have been using the bathroom for years and have managed perfectly well - feline attendance is not required.

And finally, the proper order is to kiss me, then wash yourselves. I cannot stress this enough.

Your loving owner
Wendy



BALANCE SHEET OF LIFE

The most destructive habitWorry

The greatest joy Giving

The greatest loss Loss of Self-respect

The most satisfying work Helping Others

The ugliest personality trait Selfishness

The greatest "shot in the arm" Encouragement

The greatest problem to overcome Fear

The most effective sleeping pill Peace of Mind

The most crippling failure disease Excuses

The most powerful force in life Love

The most dangerous act A Gossip

The world's most incredible computer The Brain

The worst thing to be without Hope

The deadliest weapon The Tongue

The two most power-filled words "I Can"

The greatest asset Faith

The most worthless emotion Selp-pity

The most beautiful attire Smile!

The most prized possession Integrity

The most powerful channel of communication .. Prayer

The most contagious spirit Enthusiasm

LIFE ends, when you stop DREAMING. HOPE ends, when you stop BELIEVING. LOVE ends, when you stop CARING.

So, please share this BALANCE SHEET OF LIFE.

CROSSPOINT MAGAZINE

The next issue of Crosspoint will be produced early September – please send copy for the next edition to Jean Davies (Tel: 01684 772178) no later than Sunday 30th August.

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.

Smile-lines Hymns for professionals

Dentist:	Crown Him with many crowns.
Contractor:	The church's one foundation
Obstetrician:	Come, labour on.
Golfer:	There is a green hill far away.
Politician:	Standing on the promises.
Librarian:	Let all mortal flesh keep silence.
Barrister:	In the hour of trial.
Dry Cleaner:	O for a faith that will not shrink.
Census taker:	All people that on earth do dwell.
Tax officer:	We give thee but thine own.
Traffic patrol:	Where cross the crowded ways of life.
Credit card user:	A charge to keep have I.

WINCHCOMBE METHODIST CHURCH

The Methodist Church family in Winchcombe has moved 200 yards down the road into the Abbey Fields Community Centre. Car parking, finance and storage have necessitated a re-think.

The very first meeting of the church family in our new premises was a very happy and successful day. The atmosphere was warm, as pointed out by a number of the congregation and no regrets whatsoever about doing the 'Abraham' thing. Just one slight hitch was a 'naughty' microphone but that will be sorted!

Deacon Sue Peat led a very poignant worship time and emphasised the most important gift of new beginnings and God centred past, present and future.

Rev Martyn has previously expressed his personal view as follows:---For thousands of years God's people have been called to be a pilgrim people ... ready to move on, if and when God so prompts. Abraham is a good example of someone who very much lived a 'pilgrim life' while the Israelites also learned about this way of living, with its many uncertainties, as they made their long trek to the Promised Land. When Pharaoh asked Jacob how old he was, the answer was most interesting, because Jacob replied: 'The years of my PILGRIMAGE are 130'.

Although many Christians have perhaps lost sight of the concept of pilgrimage, with the need to travel 'lightly' through life and to trust completely in God's provision for our needs and His Guidance ... I do believe that each of us - both individually and collectively - are called to live as pilgrims during our time on this planet.

The whole process has run so very smoothly and thanks must be given to a tight, friendly team of stewards, gone are the conflicts of the distant past as quiet, effective discussion takes place; running 'lightly' has certainly brought it home to us that we do not need countless trappings and 'things' around us - this is a church family who 'care'.

It is heartening when, at the Annual Meeting there were favourable comments from the congregation and a 100 percent vote from the Church Council members present.

God is with us - who can fail!!! –
All good wishes - Geoff (Onions)

Summer 2026

REFLECTIONS FROM WINCHCOMBE – Revd Martyn Smith

CALLED TO BE A PILGRIM? Recalling my junior school's daily assemblies, I remember that one of the most frequently sung hymns was John Bunyan's '*Who would true valour see*'. I'm not sure what the younger children, back in the early 1960s, made of the 'hobgoblin' and 'foul fiend' which appear in third verse of this 17th Century hymn! Yet there is no doubt about this Hymn's major theme ... namely the call '*to be a pilgrim*'.

So what exactly is the meaning of this word '*pilgrim*'? Why have Winchcombe Methodists been thinking about the concept of pilgrimage in recent months? Are Christians today still called to be pilgrims? These are some of the fascinating questions that this article will now try to answer.

'*Pilgrim*' comes from the Latin word '*peregrinus*' which literally means a foreigner, stranger or traveller. In the early centuries following the Church's birth, '*peregrinus*' was increasingly used to define a Christian in terms of a person who was a temporary earthly resident whose true home was Heaven. This idea is prominent in Hebrews Chapter 11 where the writer commends the individual faith of many Old Testament figures. These 'heroes of faith' are called '*aliens and strangers on earth*' [v. 13] who '*were longing for a better country - a heavenly one*' [v. 16]. Of course, human life on earth has frequently been depicted as a journey with a clear starting point, an ending ... yet featuring many ups and downs, twists and turns, in between! Winchcombe Methodists rightly feel that they have been on quite a journey over the last four years! We reluctantly left our town centre church premises in October 2022 because the regular building repair bills and heating costs were becoming increasingly hard to meet.

The Winchcombe Day Centre then became our new 'home' for Sunday Worship ... a venue which initially proved to be very popular with both our congregations and visiting Preachers. Earlier this year however, the potential benefits of considering another move became apparent. The result of the ensuing prayerful discussions

was that on May 17th Deacon Sue Peat superbly led the opening Service in our new Sunday Morning venue - the Cleeve Room at Abbey Fields Community Centre ... which offers generous adjacent parking among other benefits. I'm delighted to report that the early signs suggest we'll be just as happy in our new meeting place as we were in the previous buildings!

There have been some difficult decisions that have needed to be made prior to each move however. Storage space has understandably been limited in the new venues which has forced us to think carefully about the furniture and other items that we've been able to bring with us. As a church congregation, we've been forced to prioritise what is really important and then to try and find 'good homes' for what has then become surplus to our essential requirements!

Yet didn't Jesus regularly recommended His followers and disciples to travel 'lightly' through life, taking with them only that which was necessary to serve God? [eg. Mt. 6: 19-20; Lk. 9: 1-3; Lk. 18: 18-24]. I think it is fair to say that most of us do not relish change! Yet it can sometimes be for the better - especially when it is God who prompts the change.

Pilgrims are asked to go where God leads them and to please and serve God as He so calls. Winchcombe Methodists have now moved on to a new place for their Sunday Worship. As a congregation and as individual Christians we will need to continue trusting in God's provision for our needs and carry on serving Him in daily life, according to our gifts, abilities, time, health and so forth. Trusting God, travelling 'light' and going where He leads us ... should surely be at the centre of our calling '*to be a pilgrim*', while our time on earth continues.

Who knows what God has in mind for each of us next - both as churches and individuals - given His ongoing call for us '*to be a pilgrim*'.

God Bless –
Martyn Smith

HOLLAND HOUSE SECTION AWAY-DAY

Wednesday 22nd July -10am to 4.30pm

Not long now to our Away-Day! The day will be largely unstructured giving you all the opportunity to enjoy the peace and serenity the House and gardens offer. Please arrive for 10.30am when we will share coffee together and enjoy a chat. There will then be an hour or two before lunch at 1pm. We are welcome to join the House for Holy Communion in the chapel at 12.00. (Several of us attended last year and enjoyed this service). Our outreach worker, Jan, will bring some stuff (!) for those that wish to do some gentle craft or colouring. Following lunch coffee can be taken in the garden if weather permits or in various areas of the House. Those that wish to can meet in the sitting room about 2.30pm for sharing amongst ourselves inspiring stories of faith. Perhaps you might like to bring along a photo or a poem, a bible passage or even just a recalled memory of something that made you think that God was truly present in that moment.

Tea will be served about 3.30pm following which we will meet up in the chapel for a round-up of the day and prayers. We leave the House at 4.30pm. If the weather is kind don't forget to leave time for the garden where there are plenty of paths and seats. (Paths can be a bit uneven so take care and use a stick if necessary).

I hope I have received all your dietary requirements where needed and as mentioned payments are non-refundable.

A reminder of the House's website – it is worth a look.
<https://hollandhouse.org/>

Jean Davies jed0606@yahoo.com or 01684 772178

The diary of a Geriatric Lay Pastor

J. John a Canon, the famous author and Evangelist with the Anglican Church, tells a story about a conversation he had with a lady on an aeroplane at Heathrow Airport. After exchanging details of their respective destinations, they then talked about their respective occupations. When she asked J. John the question "What do you do?" The conversation continued like this:-

J. John "Well I work for a global enterprise".

She said, "Do you?"

J. John said "Yes I do. I said We've got outlets in nearly every country in the World".

She said, "Have you?"

J. John said "Yes we have. We've got homeless shelters, We've got orphanages. We have feeding programs. We do marriage works. We've got schools. We've got colleges. We do justice work. We do reconciliation work. I (J. John) said basically we look after people from birth to death, and we deal in the area of behavioral alteration".

She said "WOW".

Her "Wow" was so loud that people turned around and looked at us,

She said "What's it called?"

J. John said "It's called the Church, have you heard of it?"

I thought of that conversation this week. On Sunday 14 June we have the "Bishop's Cleeve Street Fair". When I started my role as an Outreach Worker, this event was earmarked as the 'Biggie' event of the Outreach year. This is an event at which the Methodist Church had

previously had a presence, and I was invited to think of some 'creative' ideas for the stall.

Creativity was not very high on any (short) list of talents I may have. I had previously come up with a number of great ideas, which didn't really work, but church members were too kind to say, "I did wonder if that would work", or "I told you so!", the latter being a phrase reserved for and much spoken to me by my wife. This year, I felt bereft of any ideas, and frustrated at my inability to fill the church with people I had met previously and spoken to when on the stall! I was relying on others to provide the inspiration for me. After all, this is my fourth such event, and although I have always shared the view of the Church, that they should have a presence there, I had wondered how effective I had personally been, in my being involved on the stall. (At this point I want to reinforce something I have said, or thought, many times. I am so grateful for the tremendous support I have always had from the church members at Bishop's Cleeve),

Anyway, it is now Friday, and the Street Fair is 2 days away. On Wednesday, 2 days ago, I woke up with the thought I might wear one of my football tee shirts at the Street Fair. It might just attract some interest/conversation from other football fans attending the event. It always seems to have that effect when I go anywhere with my long-suffering wife and wear them, much to her annoyance. (She has been known to cynically accuse me of wearing them just so I can have a conversation with someone about football)! I shared this thought with a church member, partly to provoke a reaction and I was utterly amazed when she reminded me of the Church's involvement in starting so many football teams around the world.

As a child growing up in Liverpool in the 1950's and 1960's, I was acutely aware that there were 2 very good teams in Liverpool - Everton and Everton reserves. God blessed (?) me by calling me to support both of these teams. I went to my first game at the age of 10, my son was 4 and my eldest grandson was 5 when they were "blessed" at being taken to their first game by me. A quick question for Google resulted in the known confirmation that Everton Football Club was

"Created by boys from the Bible class at St. Domingo's Methodist Chapel in 1878". Is there a more compelling reason for my support of this team, than to remind myself of their Methodist roots?

I also discovered from Google that Birmingham City, Manchester City, Tottenham Hotspur, Queens Park Rangers, Aston Villa, Barnsley, Wolverhampton Wanderers, Swindon Town, Fulham, Southampton and Bolton Wanderers all began their lives in a church. So as the razzamatazz of the World Cup gets into full swing, I shall be trying from a Street Fair stall, to convince people that without the influence of the Church, many of the football teams we so irrationally "worship", would not exist today. I need to remind myself and others, not only that the church is the only organisation which exists for its non-Members, but also is and has been a very powerful force for good, in so many different ways.

Perhaps next time J. John is explaining to people what he does for a living, he could include the Global Enterprise he works for, as also being responsible for the creation of many football clubs around the World, that entertain and bring so much pleasure to their adherents!

With every blessing
Andrew



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. There are simple craft activities and some time reflecting on God's creation and our care of it. Everyone is welcome! (Please note there is not Breakfast Club in August).

A CHAT WITH BETTE USHER

Bette has been a member of our church since the early 1990's and has supported and contributed such a lot over the years.

Bette was born in Shropshire, in a village called Stanwardine, in 1928. It was January and the snow was knee-deep but Bette's dad insisted on wrapping his new born up in a blanket to proudly show her to the local community.

They were a farming family and worked hard on their smallholding. Bette's family were devout Christians, with fairly strict Methodist values and she felt she had a good upbringing which led to her life-long unswerving faith. The family attended the local Methodist chapel. Bettie's uncle was a local preacher and her cousin married a Methodist minister.

Bette went to the local village school and after passing the 11+ went to the High School for Girls in Wellington. Due to a freak shooting accident her younger brother John, was killed when he was only 10, an event which traumatised the whole family and which her parents struggled to come to terms with.

Bette wasn't particularly academic and didn't enjoy school and was glad to leave at 15. There was little work for her on their farm so she went to live with farming friends and worked with them.

She married young in 1947, another member of the farming community, but sadly the marriage did not work out, so then moved to Southampton to stay with an aunt. Her divorce settlement was a snazzy Triumph TR2 sports car!!

She started with MAFF (Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food) and worked for them for 37 years as a scientific laboratory assistant, mainly in Worcester, though when she was about to retire she was persuaded to travel to Luddington, to help set up a new laboratory there for 6 months. She received the Imperial Service Order for long service.

Bette was not short of admirers in her heyday (I wonder if the car was an added attraction!) but when she met David, she knew he was the one for her and they married in the late 1950's and lived in Malvern. Bette was particularly close to her mother-in-law Margaret, a very devout Christian, who lived at Twynning where she and David later moved. It was a very happy

marriage of nearly 40 years when David sadly died with myeloma. During this time Bette's mother, Violet, moved from Shropshire (her father having died some time before) to live in sheltered accommodation by the river in Tewkesbury with her dog where she spent a happy 10 years or so until her death in the early 1990's.

Whilst Bette was living in Twyning she looked around for a church where she would feel welcome and at home and a friend who was also looking for a Methodist church suggested Tewkesbury. And the rest is history as they say.....

Bette joined Tewkesbury Methodist Church and has supported the church in so many ways since then. She and her friend Betty Martin regularly hosted the Saturday coffee mornings and also the Open Church days in the time when we were able to open the church every day. A supporter of all church events over the years, Bette has always been relied upon when help was needed.

Bette moved from Twyning to Shephard's Mead in Tewkesbury 10 years ago – where there is quite a community of Methodists!

Always a warm and welcoming person, Bette stills “works” as our official welcomer to Sunday worship – a role which stewards are very grateful for on busy Sunday mornings. We all wish her continued good health – and look forward to celebrating the next (nearly big!) birthday with her!



Mrs. Jean Ward (of Bishops Cleeve) - Born 10th April 1926 - 100 years ago!

Jean was born in Fleckney Leicestershire and a few years later the family moved to Harborough Road Oadby. Jean therefore went to the New School Gartree, Harborough Rd. which is where a nursery is now situated.

Jean eventually left school, during WW11 where she volunteered for the ARP, and took employment at the Imperial Typewriter Company in Leicester where they were making small parts for submarines to aid the war effort.

Later Jean answered an advert and went to serve an apprenticeship at Boots Chemist shop next to the London Road Railway station.

During the war a Young man in RAF uniform came home on leave, Ernie Ward. Jean had known the Ward family from Trinity Chapel - Ernie was on leave and they met at a fete on Oadby Ellis park. In 1947 Jean and Ernie were married at Trinity Methodist Church in Oadby. Rev. Harcup (the Baptist minister at the time) took the service.

Jean had been very ill, and recovered fully to start building a home together in a small flat in Stoughton Road, both continuing their full support for the Church. They both took part in many activities - Choirs, Troubadour Concerts, Festivals, Allotment society events.

Eventually a Council House was available (new build) and Jean concentrated on home making. Along came Chris in 1949 then Sally in 1952 - both were brought up in the Sunday School, Boy Scouts and Girl Guides.

Jean & Ernest worked very hard - making ends meet was not easy. But savings were made enough to be able to put a deposit down on a new home in Kendrick Drive, Oadby. The home was extremely well looked after by Jean as were Dad, Chris & Sally. Family relatives all around the village were regularly visited by Mum, keeping the family tradition alive and thriving. Later on Chris and Sally were both married at Trinity and went on to successful lives.

Mum & Dad stayed in Oadby right until Ernie passed away. After a few years Jean decided to move to Gloucestershire to be nearer Sally. Jean has been a part of the Tewkesbury & Bishops Cleeve Methodist Churches, as well having flowers placed once a year in memory of Ernie in Oadby Trinity.

Jean has been a solid churchgoer and believer all her grown up life. Now at 100 years old in 2026 she has celebrated with all her family around her. A wonderful couple of days were spent together with all the family around and visiting. King Charles sent a special delivery

BOOK REVIEW

My Story – a spiritual and intellectual autobiography By John C Lennox, SPCK, £24.99

John C. Lennox is widely regarded as one of the greatest Christian apologists of modern times, having devoted a lifetime to showing how faith in God and faith in reason can stand together.

In *My Story*, he invites readers into his remarkable journey: growing up in Northern Ireland, studying at Oxford and Cambridge, teaching mathematics at the highest level, and boldly defending the Christian faith in lecture halls, debates and the public square for more than sixty years.

With warmth, wit and disarming honesty, Lennox reflects on the ideas, people and pivotal moments that shaped his life - from the hunger for Bibles in Soviet Russia to encounters with Richard Dawkins and Christopher Hitchens, to his ongoing belief that rigorous science and deep faith are not enemies but allies.

Part memoir, part intellectual adventure, *My Story* is a must-read for anyone curious how a brilliant mathematical mind can hold fast to the gospel - and how one man's faith has helped millions find a reason to believe in an age of doubt.

I can take my telescope and look millions of miles into space; but I can go away to my room and in prayer get nearer to God and heaven than I can when assisted by all the telescopes of earth. – *Isaac Newton*

A Christian is never in a state of completion but always in a process of becoming. – *Martin Luther*

BISHOPS CLEEVE METHODIST CHURCH

Greetings from
Bishops Cleeve – on
the 9th May we
hosted a Coffee
Morning in support
of Christian Aid



which was very well attended. One of our members collects a huge supply of plants from Gotherington Nurseries who kindly let us have half the proceeds from the sales for the charity. Along with the proceeds from the refreshments , book sales ,cake stall , plus other stalls and donations we raised the magnificent sum of £600 ,which was very gratifying indeed , especially as all the plants were sold !

As I write we are looking forward to having a wedding in the church on June 6th. Two of our members John and Val are getting married and the forthcoming occasion is being anticipated with much joy and excitement! Jayne is conducting the ceremony and church members are going to be involved too. We are planning to make their special day as perfect as it can be for them and their families.

A few of us went to Evesham Methodist Church on the 21st June to see the Knitted Bible Exhibition as we will be hosting nearer the end of the year ! You will hear more about it nearer the time! We received a very warm welcome and enjoyed a pleasant time wandering round the exhibition and having coffee and chat afterwards.

Enjoy the Summer days and all the attendant events you may be involved with .

Blessings to you.

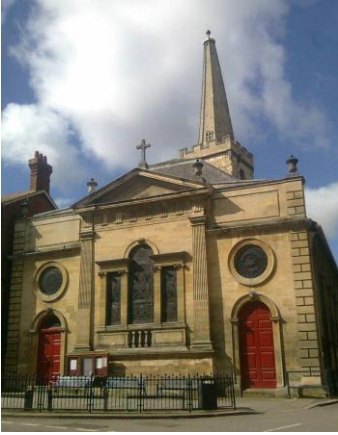
Ruth Whiting

On the next page are two photos from Bishops Cleeve – the occasion of the 67th anniversary of the church with Sue Peat and the Christian Aid coffee morning and plant sale.



Summer 2026

NEWS FROM ST JOHN, NORTHGATE



At present we are still part of the Tewkesbury section of churches with Jayne as our minister, although that could change depending on circuit staffing arrangements in the future. Much is uncertain but we look forward to the challenges as we continue to witness in the city centre of Gloucester.

It's not only Methodists who worship at St John's - the premises are also home to other Christian and community groups who are effective in their outreach to the

people of the city. Alongside us on a Sunday morning an Indian Pentecostal Church meet in the hall and in the afternoon Gloucester Vineyard Church use our church and hall for worship. Vineyard also hold a toddler session during the week and run GrowBaby to supply baby clothes and equipment.

Once a week Community Kitchen provide free home-cooked meals to over 80 clients. Two other charities use the hall for their work; Caring for the Community organise art and cooking activities for adults with complex needs, and Building Circles support adults with learning disabilities in Gloucestershire. Various Scout groups all meet in the hall and three different choirs use the Church for rehearsals at various times of the year.

Meanwhile our monthly informal afternoon services at Tibberton, Together @ 3, continue to be well supported. In July we will welcome the District Chair, Revd Dr Marcus Torchon, to Tibberton and also to St John's in the morning and we look forward to that.

We send our greetings to everyone across the section, with our best wishes for all your summer activities.

FROM OUR ECO GROUP AT TEWKESBURY

Does not flying make a difference?

A conversation came up recently about how we as individuals can make a difference. The person said they fly to their annual holiday in France, because "one holiday flight isn't going to make any difference, is it? It's the business flights that need to stop."

It's a common misconception, and it's easy to see why. The image we have of frequent flyers is business people hopping between meetings all the time.

But the reality is very different. The majority of flights from the UK are for holidays, and the most common places we go are France, Spain and Italy. These destinations are easily reachable without flying, either by coach, car, train or ferry.

So actually, swapping out those holiday flights DOES make a difference, especially if we do it together. Not only can you save upwards of 90% on your emissions by avoiding a flight, travelling overland is a joyous experience, with interesting views, time to read/think/sleep, leg room, comfort, and no airport stress.

And when we choose not to fly, we start to normalise it, and that has a ripple effect with those around us. Your individual choice is never just an individual choice.

So if your friends or family question your decision not to fly, it might be helpful to share those stats (and you can find many more [on our website!](#)).

Let's choose holidays that don't harm the earth, using the extensive low-carbon network across Europe, or exploring the wonders that the UK has to offer. Thank you for pledging to stay grounded this year and have a great Spring!

Summer 2026

Tewkesbury Methodist Players



Present - "Memories Are Made of This"



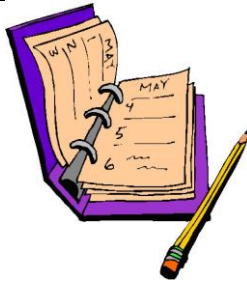
An Evening of Songs and Sketches
at
Tewkesbury Methodist Church
on
Saturday 3rd October 7pm



Light Refreshments
All Proceeds to Charity
Tickets £3 available on the door

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

JUNE

Tuesday 23rd – Church Council Meeting

Saturday 27th – Book Club

Saturday 27th – Camerata concert

JULY

Sunday 5th – Wild Green Breakfast Club

Sunday 5th – Private baptism

Wednesday 15th – Safeguarding training

Saturday 18th – Summer Fete

Tuesday 21st – Property/finance/Welcome Space meeting

Wednesday 22nd – Section Church Away-Day

AUGUST

Saturday 22nd – Book Club

Saturday 29th – Church vow renewal

SEPTEMBER

Wednesday 2nd – Mid-week communion

Sunday 6th – Wild Green Breakfast Club

Wednesday 16th – Mid-week communion

Saturday 19th – Book Club

Sunday 20th – Harvest Festival service and lunch

Saturday 26th – Camerata Concert

CHURCH SERVICES – Tewkesbury

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 (TEWKESBURY)

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

Church Council

Worship Forum

Welcome Space

Finance/Property

Stewards

Tewkesbury Churches Together

Pastoral

Publicity

Green group

Wives and Friends

Book Club

Men Allowed

Be ^{THE} REASON
SOMEONE
Smiles
TODAY

Adrian Stock | 0192341821

Summer 2026

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, Bishop's Cleeve Methodist Church and St Johns, Northgate

Apperley Senior Steward – Peter Stych
Tewkesbury Senior Steward - Linda Sallis
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, Bishop's Cleeve and St John's, Northgate

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 Clues

Across

- 1 Proverbs describes her as being ‘of noble character’ (Proverbs 31:10) (4)
- 3 ‘Shall we go up again — — against the Benjamites, our brothers?’ (Judges 20:23) (2,6)
- 8 A descendant of Shem (Genesis 10:28) (4)
- 9 ‘Anyone who does not carry his cross and follow me cannot be my — ’ (Luke 14:27) (8)
- 11 Resentment(Ephesians 4:31)(10)
- 14 In Cain(anag.)(6)
- 15 ‘Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too lofty for me to—’ (Psalm 139:6) (6)
- 17 Intense (1 Thessalonians 4:5)(10)
- 20 Third Order of the Roman Catholic Church(8)
- 21 ‘At midnight the cry rang out, “Here’s the bridegroom!Come out to — him”’ (Matthew 25:6) (4)
- 22 ‘My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in — ’ (2 Corinthians 12:9) (8)
- 23 ‘As the — pants for streams of water,so my soul pants for you, O God’ (Psalm 42:1) (4)

Down

- 1 Nickname of popular First World War chaplain, the Revd G.A. Studdert Kennedy, — Willie (8)
- 2 Occasion of religious joy (Lamentations 2:22) (5,3)
- 4 ‘We three kings of — are’ (6)
- 5 Allegation or charge (Jude 9) (10)
- 6 Kind (1 Chronicles 12:33) (4)
- 7 ‘Open your — and look at the fields!’ (John 4:35) (4)
- 10 Also known as the Feast of Lights (John10:22)(10)
- 12 Area that saw the healing of two demon - possessed men and a herd of pigs stampeding to their deaths (Matthew 8:28) (8)
- 13 Forebear(James2:21)(8)
- 16 Name given to the first two books of the Apocrypha(6)
- 18 Esau sold his birthright for this (Genesis25:34)(4)
- 19 Rear(anag.)(4)

