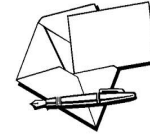


Newsletter



St. John's Methodist Church
Whitchurch
September 2024

Message from the Manse



Hello all,

I was watching a television show this week and on came an episode that was set during the covid pandemic. It's not all that long ago but as I watched I kept thinking 'oh my goodness I'd forgotten that!' Or 'I remember how awful that felt' and so on. Somehow those life changing events and ways of living are slipping into history already.

Good riddance! you might cry and I quite agree, I hope and pray that we don't ever have to live in such isolation from those we love and those who need us again nor see so many suffer pain and grief.

There is though, a flip side. In those horrific early lock downs, communities rediscovered each other; many of us decided that there were things about the rush of 'normal' life that we didn't want to return to. Yet I know those commitments to slow down and to change have been lost as the world opened up, or at least they have by me!

So, I dug out a journal from that time and thought about which of those resolutions I would still like to make reality, it was fascinating to see what was most important to me in a time of crisis. Some things are no longer applicable but there were real gems there. Which is how I came across a piece of paper with the alternative 'Rule of Six'. It came from the Diocese of Oxford and it goes like this:

Cont. overleaf

Cont.,

SIX DAYS TO WORK AND A SABBATH TO REST

Try and reclaim the gift of one day each week for rest and recreation.

SIX PEOPLE TO JOURNEY WITH

Rediscover being together in small groups of people supporting one another. Who are you six go to friends and family who support you? – especially in your Christian journey.

SIX WAYS TO BE SALT AND LIGHT

Identify the people and community organisations you can support. Being present and alongside others in the community helps us to see opportunities where we can share Gods love.

SIX PEOPLE TO PRAY FOR

Praying for six people over a longer period of time and not just because they are sick and unwell is a huge benefit and blessing not only to them but to us too, as we build on that relationship with God.

September is notorious for being busy. It's the start of the new Methodist year and we seem to have the need to start the year off with having 1 million meetings! And it can be so easy to just get lost amongst agendas and to do lists, and forget what and why we do what we do. We can forget God, we can forget ourselves, and we can forget the relationships and people are called to walk alongside. And it can be costly, not only to our mental health but also to our enthusiasm and energy we bring to the missional work we do in God's name as a church.

Cont. overleaf

Cont.,

As a minister and mum, I am never off duty, and there is part of that I like, however, if I don't give myself time for rest and self-care, to do the activities and hobbies that I like and which restore my energy levels; well then, the ability to do my work is compromised. It easy to think this in the summer months, but when September comes and we are all back to school and work, and new routines, and endless meetings; well, it can be easy to forget about self-care. All of us need downtime. All of us need to take time to reflect, think and just be. I hope amongst the business and busyness of September you find that quiet time to rest and restore.

Wishing you all a lovely September,

With blessings Donna

Preachers for September

Sept. 1st—Mr Peter Robertshaw

Sept. 8th—Dr. Geoff Dickenson

Sept. 15th—Rev. Donna Broadbent-Kelly

Sept. 22nd—Rev. Jenny Arthurs

Sept. 29th—L.A.

October 6th—Rev Donna Broadbent –Kelly - Harvest Festival

Stewards Letter

The holiday season is all but passed again and our thoughts are with our younger family members who are embarking on new horizons and new experiences in pursuit of the next academic year.

A few weeks ago we said goodbye to my brother and his family who were returning to the United States after their annual visit sharing time with friends and family in Europe as well as the UK.

As a way of spending some time together before their return, and to celebrate my mother's birthday we decided to take a day trip on a canal boat near Norbury. I have to say I wasn't entirely convinced that being cooped up in a long boat with several energetic teenagers was the greatest idea, especially when the forecast promised rain.

But in the event it turned out to be a truly rewarding experience, not only because we were right in the heart of rural Cheshire, but because we were more inclined to chat to each other than if we'd been able to get up and wander around all day.

As I look back after our final embraces and farewells for another twelve months it's clearer than ever that every single one of us, however bold we may think we are, holds our own unique set of hopes, fears, and concerns for our future; of course that's part of being human. But time and again when we look far enough back and recall what our worries used to be, we invariably find that many never even came close to being a problem.

I think we do well to remember that when going about our daily routines; optimism and happiness are never far apart.

Andrew Fawcett

Stewards Rota for September/October

September 1st—Andrew
September 8th—Dot
September 15th—Andrew
September 22nd—Mike
September 29th—Dot

October 6th—Mike
October 13th—Andrew
October 20th—Hazel
October 27th—Dot

Coffee Morning 27th September

World's Biggest Coffee Morning, on Friday Sept.27th at the Sports Hall, Civic Centre from 9-30 till 12-0. Proceeds in aid of Macmillan.

Tea & Coffee for September/ October



Sept. 1st—Brenda & Sarah

Sept. 8th—Briony & Linda Weston

Sept. 15th—Chris & Elaine

Sept. 22nd—Hazel & Mike

Sept. 29th— Dot & Bronwen

Oct. 6th—Elizabeth & Pete

Oct. 13th—Hazel & Linda Jenkins

Oct. 20th—Avril & Nancy

Oct. 27th—Brenda & Sarah

If the date you have been allocated doesn't suit please arrange to "swop" with someone.

Thank you - Hazel.

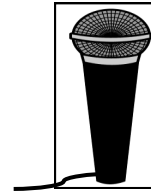
Ladies Coffee at Jones's

Ladies Coffee will resume on Friday 27th September at 10am. If you haven't been before do come along and join us. We aim to meet on the last Friday of each month at 10am. We usually sit on the big table behind the fireplace but we haven't booked for September so we'll just see how it goes.

Hope to see you there

Dot

Sound for September



**Sept. 1st—Andrew
Sept. 8th—Sarah
Sept. 15th—Andrew
Sept. 22nd—Mike
Sept. 29th— Sarah**

**Oct. 6th—Andrew
Oct 13th—Sarah
Oct. 20th—Mike
Oct. 27th—Mike**

If the allocated date doesn't suit please arrange a swop.

We need new volunteers to do sound. Training will be given.

— Please speak to Mike if you can help

All the Dates for September and beyond

September

Tuesday 3rd September—Churches Together at St. Alkmunds

Monday 9th September—BBT starts again

Saturday 14th September—Ride and Stride

Saturday 21st September—Wedding at St. John's

Wednesday 25th September—Church Council meeting

Friday 27th September—Ladies Coffee at Jones's 10am

Saturday 28th September—Recycled Sewing Bee

October

Saturday 5th October—Art & Craft Exhibition & Recycled Fashion Show (Don't Miss it!)

Sunday 6th October—Harvest Festival with Rev. Donna

November

Friday 1st November—Quiz & Fish & Chip Supper

Saturday 9th November—Jumble Sale

December

Saturday 7th December—Christmas Fair

Regular Activities

BBT—Mondays in temtime 9.30– 11.30 am.

MORE—Mondays 12-4pm & Thursdays 1-4pm

Prayer Meeting at Elizabeth Jennings house 10 Queens Road Fri-
days 10.15—11.15

Ride & Stride Saturday 14th September

This event is fast approaching. Thank you to those who have already signed the sponsorship form for my drive round chapels and churches hopefully with one or two others for company.

This is a very worthwhile event as, although the money goes to Shropshire Historic Churches Trust initially, we then get half of it back for our church to go in the St. John's Heritage Fund.

As this event takes place over several hours, we need volunteers to help serve refreshments and register visitors from 10am to 6pm

There are forms at the back of church for you to volunteer for a time that suits you.

Please sponsor and/or help.

Let me know if you would like to join me on my trip round the county's places of worship **OR** would like to arrange your own tour.

Chris Crowther

BBT@St Johns



Monday from 9.30-11.30am in term time



Please join us for coffee chat craft songs & stories

Bumps Babies and Toddlers is back again on Monday 9th September after the Summer Holidays. We look forward to seeing familiar faces and welcoming new Mums, Dads, Grandparents and carers with their Babies and Toddlers and we send our love and blessings to everyone starting at a new nursery or school this September.

The Rota for September is below. :

	Leader	Open- ing up	General & Craft	Kitchen
9 th Sept	Kathryn	Briony	Chris & Elaine	Sarah
16 th Sept	Kathryn	Briony	Dot & Sarah	Brenda
23 rd Sept	Kathryn	Mike	Brenda	Hazel
30 th Sept	Kathryn	Briony	Dot & Elaine	Sarah

If you would like to help or just want to come and say hello, please speak to someone on the rota.

*Advance Notice! We will be celebrating **Harvest on Monday 7th October** and all are welcome to join us for a short service at 10am.*



Taxi

For anyone requiring a lift to church please contact either Pete Shingler or Hazel and if they are able to one of them will bring you to church.

October Newsletter

Please let Vic Trigg have all your submissions for the next Newsletter by Friday 24th September



Feel the Love at our,
Art Exhibition & Recycled Fashion Show



on
Saturday 5th October 2023 12 – 4 p.m.
(Fashion Show 2pm)

At
St. John's Methodist Church,
Whitchurch



Refreshments available
FREE ENTRY

Cleaning Rota

Thank you to all those who have volunteered to join the cleaning rota. I have drawn up a rota for cleaning fortnightly. Here is the suggested rota for the next few weeks. If the dates are not suitable for you please try to arrange a swap. You decide between you which day in the week/fortnight you can manage.

Please would you bring your own dusters and polish for the Church. There are cleaning products for the toilets and kitchen under the sink

Week beginning:

September 1st	Mike & Hazel Nimmo + Brenda Aumeer
September 15th	Pete & Elizabeth Shingler + Gwen Reeves
September 29th	Chris Crowther, Elaine Gollins, Sarah Lunt
October 13th	Briony Myles-Hook, Peter Langley, Edna & Ivan Perry

After this I expect we will be in the Guild Room so the church itself won't need cleaning. However, at the end of November the church will need cleaning ready for the Carol Service

Thanks again
Chris Crowther



The Drawing Room Group

We resume on Thursday 4th September after the summer break. We meet every Thursday morning at St. John's Methodist Church 10am to 12.30pm.

If you already enjoy drawing or if you want to learn please come and join us. Materials are provided if you have none.

Just come and try it the first session is free!

It's the best couple of hours of the week according to Mark, one of our members.

Contact me for more information.

Bob Charlesworth

First Day at School

A millionbillionwillion miles from home
Waiting for the bell to go. (to go where?)
Why are they all so big, the other children?
So noisy? So much at home they
Must have been born in uniform.
Lived all their lives in playgrounds.
Spent the years inventing games
That don't let me in. Games
That are rough, that swallow you up.

And the railings.
All around, the railings.
Are they to keep out wolves and monsters?
Things that carry off and eat children?
Things you don't take sweets from?
Perhaps they're to stop us getting out.
Running away from the lessins. Lessin.
What does a lessin look like?
Sounds small and slimy.
They keep them in classrooms.
Whole rooms made out of glass. Imagine.

PTO

Cont.,

I wish I could remember my name.

Mummy said it would come in useful.

Like wellies. When there's puddles.

Yellowwellies. I wish she was here.

I think my name is sewn on somewhere.

Perhaps the teacher will read it for me.

Tea-cher. The one who makes the tea.

Roger McGough

***“people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did,
but people will never forget how you made them feel.”***

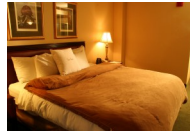
May Angelou

SPLISH SPLASH

“Olde Worlde Charm”

A Family run
Bathrooms Bedrooms &
Kitchens Business based at 46a High
Street Whitchurch

Speak to Vincent about your new
project! Or re-vamp your existing
kitchen, bathroom or bedroom



*W*HITCHURCH
*P*HOTOGRAPHY

**FOR ALL YOUR
PHOTOGRAPHIC NEEDS!**

01948 664 664

**Weddings, Passports,
Studio Photoshoots,
Printing, Framing and
Canvases**

whitchurchphoto@gmail.com

Replacement Batteries now available at the library stand

Replacement hearing aid batteries are now available from the Library Stand in the Market Hall on Mondays, 09.30-12.30, 13.30 - 16.30. It is only a battery replacement service, for anything else you still have to go elsewhere.

BARLOWS
Your local electrical retailer

Est. in 1948 By
Thomas Clifford Barlow,
We pride ourselves on great customer service

HIGH STREET
WHITCHURCH
01948 662463
www.barlows-electrical.co.uk

BENJAMIN'S CAFÉ & DELI



Delicious Breakfasts, Lunches
& Brunches at good prices.

We offer freshly prepared food from
our deli, to eat in our café or to take
out.

3 High Street, Whitchurch, SY13 1AW

Tel: 01948 664726

**The Most Famous Bread
& Cake Makers in
Whitchurch!**

WALKERS

