



**St. John's Methodist Church**

**Whitchurch**

**Newsletter**

**October 2024**

## Message from the Manse



Dear friends,

Summer is clearly over. The nights are drawing in, the leaves are changing colour and beginning to fall. And if you are like me, you are having that internal debate whether to put the heating on or not.

Many people find this time of year sad and difficult; others revel in the darker nights, fires being lit and the cosiness of snuggling up on the sofa as you have “battered down the hatches” and everything has been “safely gathered in” for the winter.

Seasons are so integral to our way of life, without them there would be no clearing away of the old to make room for the new. This isn't just about the seasons, Spring, Summer, Autumn and Winter. But the seasons of life. Growing older isn't just about entropy and inevitable decline, (thankfully!). As we grow older and into new seasons of life, we come across new opportunities that lead us on different paths; it can bring new blessings and new things to do and see. As we age, we can begin to see life differently and perhaps we do so with a little bit more grace and understanding. Many of our relationships are often seasonal too. People come into our lives for a time and then we may go our separate ways, perhaps when we look back though we realise that those people came to us for just a season but also for a reason.

The ancient Greeks had two words for time. Chronos meaning clock time and Kyros meaning the right time. Perhaps they were on to something!

At this time of year, Harvest, we are called to reflect on our thankfulness for the blessings in our lives. Let us also be thankful for the seasons we experience; the ebb and flow of the year that brings about new growth and reminds us that life and death are part of our existence. Let's be thankful for our ageing and the various seasons of our life; when we grow in understanding and approach the world and one another in different ways, and the coming and going of people in and out of our lives. May we give thanks for the journeys we have undertaken and the experiences we have had together.

We will all go through seasons of our lives that are more challenging than others. The harvest isn't always plentiful and abundant. But the biggest blessing we have is that we know God is with us through it all.

When I look back over the seasons of my life, some were certainly more joyful than others, and I'm not alone in that, I am sure. But there have always been people who have journeyed through those seasons with me. And each one of those friends has left a mark in my heart. They have helped me to grow in confidence or in character or have given me a new way of looking at life or helped to restore my faith in God and human nature. Each only for a season but always for a reason.

This thankfulness for the seasons we experience helps us to see the good we receive from them and in turn, helps us to embrace the new and let go of the old as we continue our own journeys through life.

With blessings this harvest time,

*Rev Donna*

## **Preachers for October**

**6th Rev. Donna Broadbent-Kelly  
(Harvest—gifts to Foodbank)**



**13th Pat Maidment**

**20th Rev. Donna Broadbent-Kelly  
(Café Church and Communion)**

**27th** Local Mission Area service 10.45 at Tallarn Green. Cars leaving St. John's at 10.15am. St John's will be open at 10.30am for private prayer for those who are not able to travel to Tallarn Green.

## Ride & Stride 2024 Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> September

Setting out at 10.20am from St. John's our first stop was St. Mary's, Whixall. The church was open but unmanned. We spent some time looking at the well-cared for church and graveyard and recognised some of the names on the gravestones.

From Whixall, crossing Dobson's Bridge, we made for Lyneal and Colemere, passing Northwood Methodist Church, where Elaine spent many enjoyable hours at the Wem Circuit Young Peoples Club. We arrived at Lyneal church which was a little distance from the centre of the village and again we found no one there but looked around. We noticed their "kitchen in a cupboard". Lyneal & Colemere church is dedicated to St. John the Evangelist. It seemed a large church for the area it was serving!

Making a small detour so that we could go through English Frankton, where Sarah's ancestors had lived, we arrived at St. Simon & St. Jude's, Cockshutt - again open for us to look round but unmanned.

By now we were in need of a cup of tea, so we think the Lord guided us to Weston Lullingford! We were warmly welcomed by four of the congregation, who offered us tea or coffee and home-made cakes. When they discovered we were Whitchurch people they proudly showed us their Joyce turret clock which was in good working order.

We next visited St. Raphael & St. Isadore, Petton, which was approached by a narrow track over a field. We decided to have our picnic lunch as the weather was lovely and we could sit on a bench with a lovely view. The interior of the church was very interesting with box pews and a minstrel's gallery and outside a mounting block and a working earth closet! The latter was decorated with flowers and pictures and a notice saying that it was twinned with an earth closet in Nepal! During our stay there the car had been inspected and well-licked by a small herd of young cows that were roaming about in the field. There were

two grassy mounds in the field and we found out that they had been ice houses for the local Petton Hall.

On to Myddle and Loppington, again unmanned, but left out for us lovely home-made cakes and squash. We sampled the cakes and, as time was pressing, made for Edstaston, bypassing Wem and taking the by-roads. We were lucky that a member of Edstaston church turned up and told us a lot about its history. He pointed out the lovely Norman doorway and the wall paintings which they were obliged to preserve.

We then went over to St. Chad's, Prees for a brief visit, as they were locking up and then to St. Alkmund's in Whitchurch. The last three churches we visited were a bit rushed, but we arrived back at St. John's at 5.20pm.

It had been a very enjoyable and interesting day, and we plan to revisit some of the churches.

Sarah & Elaine



### Christian Aid Christmas Cards Coffee Morning



Saturday 26th October 10am—12 noon at Bargates Hall



### **Cleaning Rota**

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

*Chris Crowther*



"Listen! the wind is rising,  
and the air is wild with leaves,  
We have had our summer evenings,  
now for October eves!"

- *Humbert Wolfe* (1885-1940) Italian-born British poet, man of letters, civil servant and Jewish convert to Christianity



*Feel the Love at our,*

# Art Exhibition & Recycled Fashion Show



**on**

**5<sup>th</sup> October 2024 12 – 4 p.m.**  
**(Fashion Show 2pm)**

**At**

**St. John's Methodist Church, Whitechurch**



**FREE ENTRY/ Refreshments available**

## 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 are looking at The Scarecrow Trail this Autumn. You can see what we have been doing as we update the display board in the Guild Room. We will be celebrating **Harvest on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> October** and all are welcome to join us for a short service at 10am and look at the lovely harvest displays in the Church.

The Rota for October is below. :

	Leader	Open- ing up	General & Craft	Kitchen
7 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Rev Donna Harvest	Mike	Chris & Elaine	Hazel
14 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Kathryn	Briony	Dot & Chris	Sarah
21 <sup>st</sup> Oct	Kathryn	Mike	Dot & Brenda	Hazel
28 <sup>th</sup> Oct	<i>No BBT Half term School Holiday</i>			

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



## Stewards Letter October 2024

I can't remember a month going as fast as this September, it seems like it's just whizzed by, is that a sign of age? Who knows? I took part in the Ride & Stride again this year on the 14<sup>th</sup> September, it was a lovely sunny day and I enjoyed it so much that I thought I would share it with you. My friend Daphne and I set off from Whitchurch around 11am, after singing in Plum Tree Square with Whitchurch Singers, and our first port of call was The Holy Trinity Church, Bronington. A very peaceful church by a lake. Then on to St. John the Baptist, Bettisfield where the tomb of Lord and Lady Hanmer is to be found. Next to the tomb is a bench with a permanent sign on it saying reserved. Could it be for them we thought? We also visited the Primitive Methodist Ebenezer Chapel at Bettisfield. Built in the same year as St. John's 1879. It was closed but it's a lovely building. We went on to Welshampton, St. Michael and All Angels. They are holders of the best kept churchyard Gold award 2022, and Silver 2023. Also to be found there is the grave of an African prince. Then onto Colemere, St. John the Evangelist. They also have a number of awards for best kept churchyard. We had delicious coffee and cake there and they have a very clever foldaway kitchen at the back of the church.

On we went to Ellesmere and parked up at Ellesmere Methodist Church but it was closed. We had a late lunch in Ellesmere and then went to St. Mary's Church. A fine building in an elevated position with a fine view overlooking the mere. The tower was open but, after speaking to some people who had just descended the staircase, we decided against the climb. On our way back to the car we passed a lovely congregational chapel with a bright yellow door and just as I was taking a photo a man came out of it. He told us he lived there and it had been turned into apartments. On the way home we visited St. Simon & St. Jude at Cockshutt. They had an impressive bug hotel in the churchyard and they were advertising for people to make knitted/crocheted poppies for the church clocktower. That will be a lovely sight to see—I do hope they get enough! On we went finishing with St. Michael & All Angels at Loppington. They had a very fine collection of tapestries. We both enjoyed our adventure very much.

So on we go into October. We have the Art Exhibition and Recycled Fashion Show on the 5<sup>th</sup> and The Harvest Festival with Rev. Donna on the 6<sup>th</sup>. I'm looking forward to the first weekend.

Whatever you do in October I hope you enjoy the lovely mellow fruitfulness of the season.

Love to All.

*Dot Charlesworth*

## **Baby Loss Awareness Week -**

### **Wave of Light.**

Each year, the 9th to 15th October is Baby Loss Awareness Week. Encompassing both pregnancy and baby loss, it is an opportunity to join with bereaved parents, families and friends around the globe to commemorate all babies who sadly died too soon.

The week culminates on **15th October with the "Wave of Light"**. **From 7pm-8pm**, people are invited to light a candle to remember all the babies who have died too soon. This can be done individually or in a group. This is a global event, so as one hour ends in one time-zone, it starts in the next, hence the wave. See <https://babyloss-awareness.org/wave-of-light/> for more details.

This year, Wells Green Methodist Church will be open on 15th October from 7pm for the Wave of Light. Anyone is welcome to come and sit quietly, light a candle, pray and/or offer a name for prayer.

## **Taxi**



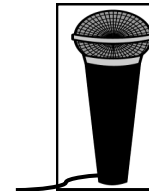
**For anyone requiring a lift to church please contact either Pete Shingler or Hazel and if they are able to one of them will bring you to church.**

## **Stewards Rota for October**

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

## **Sound for October**

**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 Nimmo if you can help**

## **Tea & Coffee for October**

**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.*

## **Dates for your diary**

### **October**

Saturday 5th: Art & Craft Exhibition & Recycled Fashion Show

Sunday 6th: Harvest Festival with Rev. Donna

Thursday 17th: Ladies' Coffee 2pm at Jones'

Sunday 20th: Zoom Service 4pm—contact Avril for a link.

Saturday 26th: Christian Aid Christmas Cards Coffee Morning 10-12 at Bargates  
Recycled Sewing Bee 12noon at St. John's

### **November**

Friday 1st : Quiz & Fish & Chip Supper 7pm at St. John's

Saturday 9th November—Jumble Sale 10am

Sunday 17th: Zoom Service 4pm—contact Avril for a link

Thursday 21st: Ladies Coffee 2pm at Jones'

Saturday 30th: Recycled Sewing Bee 12noon at St. John's

### **December**

Saturday 7th: Christmas Fair 10am

Saturday 21st: Recycled Sewing Bee 12 noon at St. John's

### **Regular Activities**

BBT—Mondays in termtime 9.30– 11.30 am.

MORE—Mondays 12-4pm & Thursdays 1-4pm

Prayer Meeting at Elizabeth Jennings' house Fridays 10.15—11.15am

Drawing Room: Thursdays at 10am

## **Churches Together in Whitchurch Coffee Morning**

Friday 11<sup>th</sup> October

9.30am-12noon

Whitchurch Sports Hall

Coffee Cake Stall Raffle

Please join us

## PRAYER REQUESTS



Pray for wisdom for our country's new leaders.

Pray for those hardest hit by the cost of living rises and inflation

Pray for Binyamin Netanyahu, the leaders of Hezbollah and Hamas, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei of Iran, and members of the UN, especially Joe Biden, that short and long-term solutions may be found to the Israel/Lebanon/Gaza war.

Pray for those trying to deal with the destruction and death in Gaza, Lebanon and Israel.

Pray for the people of Ukraine as they continue to try to live amongst the chaos and heartbreak of invasion by Russia.

Pray for a change of heart for Vladimir Putin, Benyamin Netanyahu and Hamas and Hezbollah leaders.

## **Harvest Gifts for the Foodbank**

We will be collecting tins and packets for Whitchurch Foodbank as part of our harvest festival. They are particularly short of:

Small jars of coffee  
Small packets of porridge oats  
Tins or small cartons of custard  
Sponge puddings  
Boxes of 40 tea bags

Tins of soup, fish, meat, fruit & vegetables and long life fruit juice are also needed.

Thank you for your generosity.

*Briony*

## **BARLOWS**

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the team.

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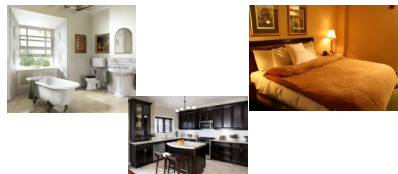
Top of the High Street  
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## **SPLISH SPLASH**

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**November 2024 Newsletter**

Please let Mike Nimmo have all your submissions for the next Newsletter by 21st October.