



Encouraging Discipleship

*SOMERSET MENDIP CIRCUIT
THE METHODIST CHURCH*

**September-November
2022**

Charity Registration No. 1134237



Superintendent Minister: Reverend Tina Swire
Chairman of Bristol District: Reverend Dr Jonathan Pye
President of Conference: Reverend Graham Thompson
Vice-President of Conference: Anthony Boateng
2022 to 2023

<http://www.somersetmendipmethodists.com>

Also on Facebook

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Thank you for your contributions to this magazine.

Please send articles to:
The Circuit Administrator at the Circuit Office,
Wells Methodist Church, Southover. Wells BA5 1UG
Email: smcwells2019@outlook.com, phone 01749 677106

Articles need to be in by:
MONDAY 24th October 2022



*Please note that -
The Stream is uploaded onto the SMC website.
If you **do not** want your article to appear online,
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your article.*



Encouraging Discipleship

The Somerset Mendip Circuit

Mission Statement



OUR VISION

*Our vision is of a circuit
where people experience and share
God's love, justice and joy*



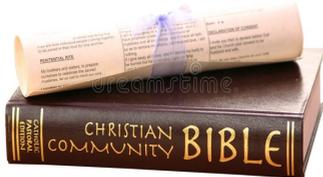
OUR PURPOSE

*Our purpose is to
encourage, support and challenge
one another in fulfilling our vision.*

*Somerset Mendip Circuit of the Methodist Church
Charity Registration No. 1134237*

Pastoral Letter

Rev Meg Slingo



Hello Everyone,

I have been asked to write an article for the circuit magazine. Below is my offering.

I pray you will be blessed.

I realise I have shared some reflections around Martha and Mary before. I am also aware that some of you, if not all, would have heard some thoughts about the sisters as Luke 10:38-42 was one of the Lectionary readings in recent weeks.

Martha and Mary. What can we learn?

I would say in a sentence. Listening to the Lord Jesus and having that quiet time with Him.

I do not believe it's so much about what we do for the Lord but about the time where we come, sit, and listen. Remember the words of Jesus in John 15. All about abiding. We may well have a passion to work for God, here in this place. Rightly so. Having said that. I pray we will take time to come, listen and pray. Is this what you want me to do right now Lord? We remember in the gospels, we read Jesus often withdrew to pray.

Mary had chosen the better part and it was not going to be taken

away from her. I am going to write that again because I feel its so important. Mary had chosen the better part and it was not going to be taken away from her. We of course need to be Martha's as well. With the Holy Spirits guidance lets pray we can hold both in tension.

I believe it's the quiet time, the special place, spending time with our Lord Jesus, that equips us for the mission and witness we are called to do and be.

Some of you in the churches that I have pastoral charge have heard this before. So, if you want, skip this paragraph!

Many years ago, we had a dog who sorry to say from a young age suffered with arthritis. As such, because of this, our walks were se-date and in quiet places. I, called this my secret place. Away from housework, the phone, cleaning the bath!

I took my mp3, my Bible and this was my time with the Lord.

On this occasion. After my worship time. After reading some verses from the Bible. I began to pray. At this time, someone I knew was in a very difficult place. So, I told the Lord all about it! When I finished. The Holy Spirit said to me "Why don't you pray Thy Kingdom Come"

Of course, the Lord hears and answers all our prayers from our hearts. I offer this as an encouragement to you, in your life faith journey and if ever there is a time when you may not know what to pray.

May Gods Kingdom keep on coming in this place. Amen.

Rev Meg Slingo



NEW

RECIPE PAGE

NEW

Thought it might be nice to trial a recipe page, with contributions from around the circuit. I'm sure we have some fabulous cooks and bakers, that could share a recipe or two.

Cheesecake jars with Rhubarb, Kiwi, and Raspberry

One packet of ginger biscuits 3 teaspoons of ground ginger

Crush biscuits add to melted butter and mix with the ground ginger

750 grams of Mascarpone cheese

250 grams of Double cream

100 grams of icing sugar.

Whipped together

Crush some Raspberries and stir them into the mixture.

A large quantity of Rhubarb slowly boiled adding sugar to taste keeping it on the tart side. Blend until smooth.

Kiwi mashed with a fork, makeup gelatine, and mix, cool, and place in the fridge until required.

Use jam jars that have been sterilised. Place ingredients in layers as you would for any cheesecake.

Biscuit mixture at the bottom followed by the cheese and cream mixture.

Add the cooled Rhubarb and top with Kiwi jelly. Chill until needed and enjoy with friends.

Rev Graham Slings



Circuit Members Pilgrimage, to Iona



The Abbey

To say that our Pilgrimage was also an adventure, would not be an untruth. I have loads of funny stories I could recount, but it is the real spirit of the pilgrimage I want to write about. Here are some highlights!

The Abbey was awesome for worship. It was so good to be with fellow Christians morning and evening to worship. The candles and the feeling that songs and prayers had resounded in that place for so many years pulled at your heart. It was encouraging to have so many young people leading our prayers. The singing lifted your spirits.

Rev Margaret Crawshaw celebrated communion at the Sunday morning service. There were many people there, some of whom were islanders. Our group did not sit together, everyone was so friendly and you felt the warmth of the Holy Spirit holding you.

We were ably led during the week. We found out about the real Saint Columba, wrote Eco Psalms, not to mention discussions on inclusiveness. Rosemary, our resident historian for the week was a great academic, with a stunning personality.

I was humbled to meet so many interesting people whilst there. There were quite a few Methodists there. We became known as the group from Somerset! We talked and learned from a young lady from Nantucket. She was just about to become a pastor on her return to the States. It was interesting to listen to Edward a Methodist minister

originally from the Cameroon. It was a busy time, but there was also time for becoming a Mary and sitting at the feet of Jesus.



In the Chapter House for Discussion and reflection.

The island scenery and walking was magical. I can understand why people return many times.

We were so sad that Liz Rankin was unable to join us at the last minute. We remembered you many times Liz. We all held Helen Cotton in our hearts as she was to have been with us. I remembered her family when I lit a candle for her in the Abbey.

All of us are indebted to Margaret and Gerard Crawshaw for all the hard work they did to enable us to make this Pilgrimage. We cannot say thank you enough. As for all the funny stories I will tell you about them in person.

Our spirits were never daunted , and I know we were all encouraged in our journey of faith.



Off to Staffa

Gwyneth Phillips

Coleford Chapel closed a long time ago.



With a couple of chapels closing in the circuit I thought that I would give you Coleford's story.

John Wesley visited Coleford 22 times and saw that there was a lot of poverty in this mining community. John Wesley never used a chapel in Coleford, but we have a housing estate named Preacher's Vale, and that is probably where he held his meetings.

Coleford is a large sprawling village built partly at the top and partly at the bottom of a steep hill, with the Anglican church halfway up. Most of the village has very poor parking. We have a primary school, doctor, pharmacy, village branch of Radstock Co-op and a bus service.

We have a lot of elderly people, and quite a few families with teenagers. Houses are relatively cheap to rent or buy but are very scarce. So, we have a few families who have three generations in one house because there just is no other option. The Parish Council give a good grant to CAB every year as Coleford Village is one of their largest customers.

must leave the village for work. We would love to have some 'affordable' small houses built in the village, but the only ones planned are large four bed one's courtesy of Gladmans.

Whilst we have a good primary school in the village, some parents send their children to other nearby primary schools. We are on the edge of Frome and Midsomer Norton Secondary catchment areas, so I assume that this is a factor when parents are choosing the school. So, we have at least four school coaches bringing children back from different secondary schools every afternoon, and the children identify more with their school friends rather than with the children in the next street. This was a problem in lockdown, when many teenagers felt very isolated. If anyone is reading this, Coleford Youth Club would benefit from a Christian youth worker.

The Church of England and Methodists have always had a very good relationship, and we still use the Church for Methodist funerals. We also support each other's social events.

So why bother with a separate Methodist presence in the village? Well choice is always a good thing. Also, there are some in the village who think that Christians are always asking for money, never giving it away. They don't realise that the jumble sales and coffee mornings are to raise money for their assessment and building upkeep.

The Anglican services are at 9.00 am and that is too early for some elderly to toil down the hill on a cold Sunday Morning in the winter. Whereas the Methodist Services are at 2.00 pm in the warm and comfortable communal lounge of a housing scheme, at the top of the hill, and we throw in a 'free' lunch too! Our costs are rent of £10 on the occasions when we meet.

So why don't Coleford Methodists just go to a nearby town for

are an alternative.

We meet approximately twice a month with Communion at one service.

We also meet on a Tuesday afternoon for something called GUILD. I think that it started way back in the mists of time as Ladies Afternoon Guild. Maybe then there was an evening guild, and maybe even a men's guild? I remember my mum telling me that Guild started as a follow on from Youth Club. Our meetings are attended by people from 70 to 90 years young! The attendance can vary from four to ten, but the speakers always say that they are happy to come as they always feel at home in Coleford.

Guild also meets about twice a month. The speakers are always Christian, but don't always talk on a Christian theme. We draw on Somerset Mendip Local Preachers and friends from the local area too. Occasionally we visit other Methodist Churches, Pilton and Rode have made us welcome recently.

Guild meetings also offer some Christian witness for those who spend Sunday with family, or who are 'just looking'.

If you have managed to read for this long, let me tell you how we have arrived at our meeting on August 16th.

Many years ago, now, I was attending a Methodist Sunday Service in Bere Alston Devon. After the service I started chatting to the gentleman in front of me in the Tea Queue. He told me how he and his wife were visiting friends and that they came from the Odd Down side of Bath.

I obviously asked him if they would come to speak at our guild, and when he found that I meant in Coleford, he readily agreed. Peter and Dawn have been speakers and firm friends ever

since.

At their last visit I invited them to our Christmas Party that we would be having on 19th July. When it became obvious that 19th July was going to be far too hot for a meeting, I cancelled it. But forgot to tell Peter and Dawn. So, they emailed to make sure that it was cancelled and now we are planning to hold Christmas in August when Peter will be our speaker.

Strains of Jingle Bells will echo all over the village on August 16th after we have consumed prawns, avocados and pavlova.

'Church' does not need a building or even need to be on a Sunday. So take heart from Coleford. This is not the end for you, just a fresh start.

Mary Pearce



MY TIME ON THE CIRCUIT

Our little family moved to Shepton Mallet in 2000, when my late husband was the Methodist Prison Chaplain and part-time Lay Minister in the old West Mendip Circuit. We had been very happily involved in Church life at Keynsham and our daughter well settled into infant school, but I confess to very reluctantly obeying the call to be a supportive wife and move here. If anyone had told me at that time what I would find myself doing over the next 22 years, I would have hotly refuted the very notion.

But after my husband died of cancer in 2005, someone sent me a card that said *“now you are left to carry the flame”* - and those words jumped out at me powerfully like a motivating bolt of lightning. A few months later I was invited to become a circuit lay employee, to fill a gap and provide some continuity to a somewhat depleted staff team.

Initially I was employed part time on community and ecumenical projects in Shepton and Wells, assisting Revd Roly Sims, who set me on the path to becoming a Local Preacher – something else I was most reluctant to do, but ran out of ungodly excuses.

With the amalgamation of three circuits into one, my work gradually increased to full time, passing on all responsibility at Street and pastoral care at Glastonbury for a while, supporting Revd Nick Lakin and covering for the late Revd Gwynne Brindley, who was inactive in post due to ill health, retired then died in 2019. Over this time, I had gradually morphed from being Outreach Worker to Lay Pastor. I also worked with Somerton on the formation of their LEP with the URC, which was a most interesting challenge.

“Circuit Polyfilla” is how someone once described my role. In sharing God's love, grace and hope with each community I have found loving acceptance, encouragement and inspiration; working alongside some wonderfully supportive people across the Circuit, many of whom are no longer with us.

Several of our projects were fruitful for a season, then came to a natural ending. There were disappointments, failures and a lot of grief along the way, but also much joy and laughter. Together we planted many seeds of faith, which we may not see grow in our lifetime, but we trust in the hidden work of God through others who follow.

At Street we have been through a most wearying time of heavy pruning and loss, and if the Circuit is to find any way forward in that place, it needs fresh energy and motivation to encourage new vision and direction. So the time has come for me to let go and step away.

I am not moving away from the area yet, but I am taking a break from circuit responsibilities and just want to concentrate on my chaplaincy role at the moment.

Over the years my focus shifted from work with children and schools, to the other end of the age spectrum, responding to the need to take worship out of the church building into local care homes, one of which was Torrwood (mha), on the outskirts of Wells. In recent years I have been employed by mha as Chaplain to Torrwood. Little did I know when I reduced my circuit hours for that purpose, that Covid was on its way, with all its extraordinary and fully absorbing challenges.

As I reflect on my somewhat haphazard journey of faith, I am so very thankful for the opportunities and responsibilities that working for this Circuit has offered and entrusted to me over the years. To those who have consistently loved, supported, encouraged and prayed for me, a huge and sincere THANKYOU. And of course I thank our faithful God who has sustained and provided for me every step of the way, and with whom every journey's end is a new beginning.

I hope and pray all involved in the future of the Circuit will find new ways to serve and be fruitful as you move forward in seeking God's plan for the future.

***“Just as we received Christ Jesus as Lord,
May we continue to live in him,
Rooted and built up in him
Strengthened in the faith as we were taught
And overflowing with thankfulness “***

(Colossians 2:6)



Janet Day

Ecclesiastes 3 (Modern English Version)

A Time for Everything

To everything there is a season, a time for every purpose under heaven: a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to uproot what is planted; a time to kill, and a time to heal.

A time to break down, and a time to build up; a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance; a time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing; a time to gain, and a time to lose.

A time to keep, and a time to cast away; a time to tear, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak; a time to love, and a time to hate; a time of war, and a time of peace.

In the last seven years I think we have probably experienced almost everything mentioned in that piece of scripture. I remember the baptisms, weddings, funerals, coffee mornings, talks, church meals, path sales, marmalade sales, harvest auctions, Lenten study groups, Christmas and Easter celebrations, school worship, Nativity plays, singing, praying, preaching, fellowship, and friendship.

I remember all these things in our section and circuit. There has been humour, like breaking up a fight between two of the three wise men in a nativity play in front of the Altar! Wrestling with the process and act of milking sheep.... Being served chips at the Community Christmas lunch and having to share.....

There was some tearing down of old ideas and some planting of new ones. There were some disagreements and some

resolutions, some remembering and some forgiving. We have collected and supported many charitable acts for our communities both here and overseas.

We have laughed together and cried together, grieved, and danced together, and too many big breakfasts but not enough chips. In the years of Covid I have said goodbye and grieved for many loved members. I have also said goodbye to those who have moved on but also welcomed new people to our churches as well. We acquired a new lift, a new floor, bought new hymn books. We have embraced and grown new mediums of worship, and sadly closed other places of worship.

Throughout it all, we have united and grown in some wonderful ways while experiencing a great deal of God's mercy, grace, joy, and love! The Lord has blessed us in more ways than we can ever remember. The Lord has certainly been with us and has shown us that what we think is impossible, God can also make possible.

I have always believed that trusting God in all things, that I was called to a particular place, for a particular period of time, *God's time*. I was blessed with God's particular purpose for a particular community. Together we may have not accomplished exactly everything that we wished for or even hoped for. But together in love and faith we have accomplished so much.

The time has come *to uproot what was planted*, as we leave to be planted elsewhere. To enjoy the challenges that such a move will undoubtedly bring to both Elizabeth and me. To trust in God together.

I hope that God's Spirit continues to burn brightly within you and that you all receive the blessing of Christ's peace. Remember that you all will still be a part of me, and I will always be a part of you. We both thank you for the patience, kindness, en-

you begin *a new journey*, may you continue to grow in faith, hope and love, worshipping the Lord your God in heart, mind, body, and soul. And as we part, the usual reflective story..... A man fell over a cliff and, as he tumbled down the sheer drop, managed to grab on to a scrubby bush growing from the side of the rock. Terrified, he hung in space, his life flashing before him. In desperation, he shouted toward heaven, ‘Is there anyone up there?’

To his astonished delight, a voice floated down: ‘*I am the Lord God, and I am here.*’ ‘What should I do?’ called the man. The voice replied, ‘*Let go of the branch and, with my protection, you will float harmlessly down to the beach below.*’ The man glanced under his feet to the jagged rocks at the foot of the cliff, hundreds of metres below. He gulped and looked back toward heaven. ‘**Well... is there anyone else up there?**’

May you trust and let go of the tricky branches of life with faith. God go with you, Craig and Elizabeth.



FLEXERCISE

'I am beginning a class of Flexercise, which is a chair based fun activity at GLASTONBURY METHODIST CHURCH (GMC) - it will be helpful in keeping us a little more flexible and using our body, right down to our toes!

Sessions will be £3 each time.

A 'taster session' will happen on Thursday 11th August at 2.30pm in the church hall. This is being run under the umbrella of Age UK and I have attended training from them recently.

Anyone is welcome to come along; so if you fancy a trip over to Glastonbury, either turn up at the taster session, or let me know in advance. You will be very welcome.' Helen Wade (01458 210885)



Started session 11/8/22
Starting 18th August '22



**Flexercise
Everyone welcome!**

Gentle and fun chair-based activity session.
For improved muscle strength and flexibility.

**Thursdays
2:30pm – 3:30pm**

PRE-BOOKING ESSENTIAL

Cost: £3

To book your place or for more information
please call the Ageing Well team
at Age UK Somerset on

01823 345626

email: ageingwell@ageuksomerset.org.uk

visit our website: www.ageuksomerset.org.uk

This class is held at:
Glastonbury Methodist Church
Lambrook Street
Glastonbury
BA6 8BY

flexercise



We hope you are enjoying the summer despite the excessive heat of recent days, part of climate change induced by human activity. We look forward to The Season of Creation during which many of our harvest thanksgivings take place.

The season starts 1 September, the Day of Prayer for Creation, and ends 4 October, the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of ecology beloved by many Christian denominations. It is a time to renew our relationship with our Creator and all creation through celebration, conversion, and commitment together. During the Season of Creation, we join our sisters and brothers in the ecumenical family in prayer and action for our common home.

Goodbye and Hello

Rev Noel Sharp has led the District Eco Group since its inception in January 2020 but is now heading for a new presbyteral appointment in the Wirral peninsula. The District owes a huge amount to Noel for his dedication in bringing the climate crisis to the attention of all the Circuits and to moving the District towards Eco District status. Under his guidance we have adopted a District Environmental Policy and have encouraged many churches to Eco Church awards both bronze and silver. In his place as the representative of Gloucestershire Circuit we welcome Rev John Kime, and Rev Ian Souter takes over as convenor of the District Eco Group. We also say goodbye and thanks to Graham Stockill as he leaves the District Eco Group and moves from the District.

Webinar

We are putting together a series of webinars which are intended to generate discussion on topics which are really important as churches progress towards Eco Church status. The first in the series is on progress towards Eco Church status. The first in the series is on [Monday 19th September at 7.30pm: Calculating your Church's Carbon Footprint](#). This is an area relevant to all churches. The speaker will be Adrian Frost from Climate Stewards. This will be the first get-together

since our workshop in October 2020, and we look forward to welcoming as many of you as possible. Details of how to join the Zoomed webinar will be sent out shortly.

Good News



Many congratulations to Frome Wesley Methodist Church, Somerset Mendip Circuit and Brean Methodist Church in the Weston and Burnham Methodist

Circuit which have recently been awarded Bronze Eco Church awards. Somerset Mendip Circuit has registered its commitment to work towards an Eco Circuit award, and in that circuit Glastonbury Methodist Church has attained a Bronze Eco Church award and is working towards silver.



We celebrate with Hazelnut Community Farm, as they become the first church in the Bristol Diocese – and the wider Southwest region – of any denomination to receive a Gold Eco Church Award-

from A Rocha. Revd John White, leader of Hazelnut Community Farm, said: *“We are over the moon to announce that we are the first Church in the diocese of Bristol to receive a Gold Eco church award from A Rocha UK! We are, at our core, a church rooted in nature; a sacred space that engages deeply with the climate emergency. For us, the Gold award isn’t the end of the road, it’s just the beginning. We aim to grow from here, as we seek to honour God through honouring his creation.”*

Community and Creation Care in Southdown Whiteway, Bath

If you go down to the woods today you’re sure of a big surprise... so it might not always be the woods, but every 3rd weekend of the month you will find Southdown Muddy Church meeting in one of the many beautiful outdoor environments. Southdown Whiteway Churches and Community Partnership, Horizon Methodist Church and St Barnabas Church work together to encourage families to discover and connect with God in na-



ture around us, explore creation themes and care for our planet. With a tag line of Wander and Wonder, we're using the environment, natural or recycled resources and let the families and their ponderings guide the time.



Previous months have seen us fly kites up the Roundhill on Pentecost, walk along the river in Englishcombe thinking about water in the Bible, make seed bombs to see hope grow, exploring harvest around Bath City Farm and even spending time with Shep the Shepherd with the sheep

and goats as we explored Christmas. Initially a response to Covid-guidelines and the benefits of meeting outside, this session is now a family favourite and is here to stay. We would encourage others to explore worshiping outdoors and found www.muddychurch.co.uk a great source of inspiration.

Hanna Bevan

Thornbury Methodist Church's Eco Journey.

Our journey began in 2019 when I was asked to take on the role of getting the church "Eco" status. Two of us attended the training session and our work began. I was surprised at the numbers of area that we had to look at. Then began the process of finding out who did



what within the church and asking them the relevant questions. We gradually built up a picture and learnt which areas we need to work on. Lockdown then came with no meetings or church attendance. The weekly "Lockdown Notices" gave an opportunity to reach all of the congregation on a regular basis, so a weekly Green tip was included. We learnt to use zoom which drastically cut the use of cars for meetings. We have been left a legacy to install solar panels. The bureaucracy to

be overcome is amazing, two years and still not there.

COP 26 gave us a focus for a Climate Sunday Service, another tick on the list. As we met up again we looked at the list of requirements and chose a few priorities to work on. Again it became a case of who actually implements changes, like LED light bulbs, eco-friendly wash-

ing up liquid. Most difficult of all is the “Land” we only own a small garden onto the High Street. The land surrounding the back of the church halls is all owned and managed by the council. Composting toilet? Pond? Wildlife area? Wildlife feeding stations? Highly commendable actions but hardly appropriate in the middle of town on a tiny patch of land. We will try to work with the local council, but they struggle to change mowing regimes to encourage butterflies and other wildlife. However, we are gradually replacing the plants in our garden with pollinator friendly ones and have lined up the brownies to build a bug hotel. A couple of walks have been organised suitable for rollators and walking sticks as many of our congregation are elderly. We are looking forward to more changes and our next award.

Cilla Farquhar

Future Events

1 September – 4 October 2022. Resources are available to observe the Season of Creation and Creation Time in 2022 are available from the Churches Together in Britain and Ireland website <https://ctbi.org.uk/season-of-creation-2022/>

Saturday 10th September: Synod of the Bristol Methodist District at Kingswood School when the District’s Environmental Policy is due to be reviewed. Please pray for all their deliberations.

Monday 19th September at 7.30pm: Calculating your Church’s Carbon Footprint. Webinar

Saturday 24th September 10am -12. Horfield Methodist Church in Bristol are holding an **Eco Coffee Morning and Photographic Exhibition.** Admission free.

Finally.....

‘The cheapest form of energy is the energy we don’t use’ – Katharine Heyhoe, Christian Environmental Scientist

Pauline and Mike Culshaw

culshaw@strawberryvision.co.uk

1932 and all that!



Now, why is 1932 such an important date in Methodist hymnology? Let me share something with you.



It is over 60 years since I first attended worship at a Methodist church in East London. The church had a thriving youth club which we all wanted to join. But there was a condition - you had to attend Sunday worship. Having been grounded in a Pentecostal Sunday school, this was no hardship and a small price to pay in order to attend a few hours on a Friday evening amongst boys and girls, a number of whom I still have contact with to this day.

That first service was wonderful, led as it was by the youth club leader and I recall entering a note in my diary which read..."if this is what going to church is all about, I'm going to go more often!" And I did - the rest is history.

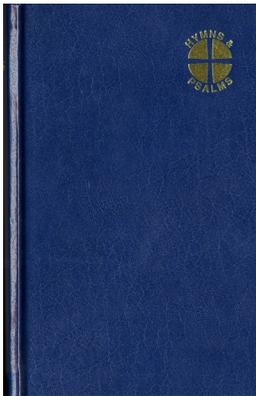
One of the major reasons that my young mind was challenged was the singing and the superb hymns - especially the ones that went with a beat, chorus, and harmonies. Can you imagine 50-60 young people singing their hearts out alongside more senior members of the church? It did happen, I promise you.

I've always been interested in the hymn books that Methodism embraces today. "Hymns and Psalms" came onto the scene in 1983, to be followed by "Singing the Faith" in 2011. "Mission Praise" has been around since 1990 and all of these quite rightly contain newer material reflecting changes that we have seen in our spiritual and communal life. The "Methodist Hymn Book"

I am delighted to find that many of those hymns that touched me in 1960 have not fallen off the agenda. "To God be the Glory," "I need thee every hour," thrive and rightly so. Mind you, I'm disappointed that "Whosoever will" has dropped off the edge with its almost Chas 'n' Dave chorus!! Singing the Faith" hymns 544 - 567 under "Covenant, Commitment and Dedication" are more that worth reading and reflecting on.

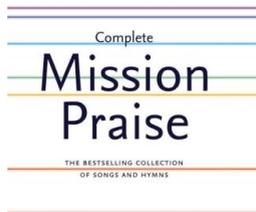
But what I have found is that I still turn to my 1932 book and take on board the truth of the hymns 311 to 338 under the section of "The Gospel Call." They brought me to a deeper understanding of my faith - and continue to do so. Hymns are not just for singing - they are personal testimonies of the writers and able to clarify and focus our faith in wonderful ways. Try it and see.

1932 and all that? Yes, please!



By Steve Derby

C. Collins



WELLS PLATINUM JUBILEE TREE PLANTING

Wells Methodist Church garden has had a face-lift! It is only small with four useable beds so they were dug over, composted and re-planted for this year with some annuals and biennials, with plans for spring bulbs and perennials for ease of maintenance in the future. An old tree was removed and while Liz and John (who have volunteered their time to care for the garden) were working, passers-by commented on its removal – which set us thinking! Would it be a good idea to plant another tree? This was the Queen’s Jubilee year – it could commemorate that occasion. We could make an occasion of it and invite someone special to do the honours..... and so the idea grew and took hold.



On Saturday, July 30th Michael Eavis came and “planted” a small maple tree, and a plaque of commemoration. 40 or 50 people watched the short ceremony and heard Rev. Tina thank God for his creation, before enjoying a cream tea in the church afterwards. Friends from the local community joined us and we were pleased to meet them.

Thanks must go to Liz and John, but also to Ruth who donated and cares for one planter on the side of the building where there is no open soil. And thanks to the congregation who got behind the idea and made it possible by their donations for the project



With best wishes
Liz Turley

REGULAR WEEKLY/MONTHLY EVENTS



Mondays

At Churchill - Bible study 7.30pm in the Oasis Room - If you are interested in attending during August please contact Jeanette in advance. (Jeanette 01934 852500) **(Not yet restarted)**

At Churchill (During Term Time) - **Baby & Toddler Group** 9.00-10.30am, 10.30-11.30pm & 13.00-2.-30pm in the School Room. (Jacqueline 01934 844134)

Wells Methodist Church -1st & 3rd mornings **Crafty Hands** 10-12 noon

Wells Methodist Church - 1st & 3rd afternoon in the month, **Bible Study** with Bethan Foister, in the church 2.30pm - 4pm

Keinton Mandeville - (During Term Time) - **Knit & Natter** 2-4pm

Glastonbury Methodist Church - open on Monday mornings from 10.00am-12noon for prayer for the Ukraine. Please join us if you are able, for however long or short a time as you would like, to pray for our brothers and sisters in the Ukraine and surrounding areas. If you cannot come in person, please share with us in prayer wherever you are.

Tuesdays

Keinton Mandeville - (During Term Time) - **Chapel Toddlers** 10-12 noon

Keinton Mandeville - **Breeze and Flow** 6.30pm

Congresbury Methodist Church - Coffee Morning every other Tuesday, drop in 9.30-12 noon in the hall. (Mary Krawczenko 01934 832356)

Sandford & Churchill - Fellowship Group 2.45pm. (Ann 01934 823234)

Churchill Methodist Church (During Term Time) - **Tuesday Jam** 6.15-7.30pm ages 8-13yrs (Jacqueline 01934 844134) Help required.

Wesley Frome (During Term Time) - **Little Rascals Toddler Group** 10-12pm

Pilton Methodist Church - Village Voices, a fun choir 7.30pm at the Chapel

Coleford Methodists - Afternoon Guild 2pm for 2.30pm start.

Wednesdays

Norton Down Methodist Church - Coffee Morning 10.30-12 noon

Churchill (During Term Time) - **Guides** 6.45pm (Ruth Beadle 01934 852910)

Churchill - Choir Practice 7.30pm (Paul Beechey 01934 514363)

Wells Methodist Church - 2nd & 4th Wednesday's, **Southover Bible Study Group**, meet in the church 2.00-4.00pm

Wells Methodist Church - 3rd afternoon in the month **Memory Café** 2pm-4pm, a relaxed drop-in for people with memory problems and their carers/family

Cheddar Methodist Church - 1st Wednesday in the month 12am **Prayer Meeting** (monthly) **Not yet restarted**

Cheddar Fellowship Club - 3rd Wednesday in the month 2.30pm with various speakers (monthly)

Cheddar - Knitting for Charity Group 10am - open to all **Not yet restarted**

Cheddar - Cornerstone Coffee Morning - free coffee and cake for all (Not yet restarted)



Thursdays

Churchill Methodist Church - Lunches, soup & a pudding, 12.30pm in the hall (Janet Brown 01934 852197)

Street Methodist Church - Knit & Knatter at Leigh Road, 2-4pm. Bring any craft work or just come for a natter and cup of tea. (Sally 01458 441870)

Wells Methodist Church - weekly **Time for Prayer & Quiet Reflection** in the church, 2.30pm-3.30pm with Bethan Foister

Wells Methodist Church - 1st Thursday in the month, 2.45pm in the hall - **A chance to meet new & familiar friends for tea/coffee & cake** with Bethan Foister

Somerton - (During Term Time), **Rainbow Rascals, Toddler Group** 9-11.30am in the Schoolroom

Keinton Mandeville (During Term Time) - **Chapel Toddlers** 10-12 noon (Not yet restarted)

Fridays

Wedmore Methodist Church - 3rd Friday in the month - (Not during August) - **Coffee for All**, in the Methodist School room 10.30-12 noon. Pop in for a quick cuppa or stay longer, Tea, coffee & biscuits will be served. Bring along a craft to do whilst chatting if you wish. 'Well behaved pets welcome' (Not yet restarted)

Churchill - Rainbows 6.00-7.15pm (Lucy Cowgill)

[Saturdays](#)

Wells Methodist Church - 2nd Saturday in the month, Coffee Morning 10-12 noon

Street Methodist Church - 3rd Saturday each month (except in December), Coffee Morning and stalls 10-12 noon

Cheddar Methodist Church - 2nd Saturday each month , Coffee Morning with a Lite Bite Lunch (Not yet restarted)

[Sundays](#)

Churchill - Create Sunday, 3rd Sunday in the month, 4.00-6.00pm.

Nature inspired family faith activities with free buffet tea. (Jacqueline Seel 01934 844134)

[Mondays - Saturdays](#)

Pilton New Room Community Coffee Shop - 10.00am - 12.30pm. Follow the signs for the Methodist Church from the main road through the village.



PRAYER PAGE



THEME - CELEBRATING THE CHURCH

It is easy to criticize the Church and its structures. The Constitutional Practice and Discipline of the Methodist Church is not always helpful or practical. Every denomination says the same about its *modus operandi*. At its best The Methodist Church occupies a sweet reasonableness at the Centre of theological spectra which places us in a great position to be healers and reconcilers.

PRAY for those engaged in full time ministry, that their gifts may be discerned and used to the full; for their well-being in all areas of life.

PRAY for all members of your church family. We are all engaged in ministry. The hymn says,

“Let me be as Christ to you”

PRAY for new callings to ordained ministry and local preaching - and not just because we have shortages!

PRAY for those who have retired from active ministry. We value their wisdom and experience.

Amen

Rob Haskins

LECTIONARY READINGS — Year C

4th September - 23rd in Ordinary Time

Jeremiah 18:1-11 Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18 Philemon 1-21 Luke 14:25-33

11th September - 24th in Ordinary Time

Jeremiah 4:11-12, 22-28 Psalm 14 1 Timothy 1:12-17 Luke 15:1-10

18th September - 25th in Ordinary Time

Jeremiah 8:18 - 9:1 psalm 79:1-9 1 Timothy 2:1-7 Luke 16:1-13

25th September - 26th in Ordinary Time

Jeremiah 32:1-3a, 6-15 Psalm 91:1-6, 14-16 1 Timothy 6:6-19 Luke 16:19-31

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### 2nd October - 27th in Ordinary Time

Lamentations 1:1-6 *Canticle*: Lamentations 3:19-26 or Psalm 137  
2 Timothy 1:1-14 Luke 17:5-10

### 9th October - 28th in Ordinary Time

Jeremiah 29:1, 4-7 Psalm 66:1-12 2 Timothy 2:8-15 Luke 17:11-19

### 16th October - 29th in Ordinary Time

Jeremiah 31:27-34 Psalm 119:97-104 2 Timothy 3:14 - 4:5 Luke 18:1-8

### 23rd October - 30th in Ordinary Time

Joel 2:23-32 Psalm 65 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18 Luke 18:9-14

### 30th October - 31st in Ordinary Time

Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4 Psalm 119:137-144 2 Thessalonians 1:1-4, 11-12  
Luke 19:1-10

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6th November - 32nd in Ordinary Time

Haggai 1:15b - 2:9 Psalm 145:1-5, 17-21 *or* Psalm 98
2 Thessalonians 2:1-5, 13-17 Luke 20:27-38

13th November - 33rd in Ordinary Time

Isaiah 65:17-25 *Canticle*: Isaiah 12:1-6 Thessalonians 3:6-13 Luke 21:5-19

20th November - Sunday before Advent

Jeremiah 23:1-6 Psalm 46 *or Canticle*: Benedictus (Luke 1:69-79)
Colossians 1:11-20 Luke 23:33-43

27th November - Advent Sunday Year A

Isaiah 2:1-5 Psalm 122 Romans 13:11-14 Matthew 24:36-44

***‘PRAY WITHOUT CEASING’
AND QUIET REFLECTION***

***REGULAR TIMES FOR PRAYER AROUND THE
CIRCUIT***

*As part of our ongoing Prayer Pilgrimage, we encourage folk to visit
and support one another in prayer, whenever and wherever...*

AXBRIDGE

After worship and coffee on the third Sunday of the month

CASTLE CARY

Every Wednesday 9.30 to 10am, in the church

CONGRESBURY

First Wednesday of the month, 10.30am to 12 noon

FROME WESLEY

Every Wednesday, 9.30am in the church, or vestry if cold

GLASTONBURY

Monday mornings from 10.00am - 12noon for prayer for the Ukraine.

Please join us if you are able, for however long or short a time as you
would like, to pray for our brothers and sisters in the Ukraine and
surrounding areas.

If you cannot come in person, please share with us in prayer wherever
you are.

RODE

Ecumenical Prayer Group Meeting on 1st and 3rd Wednesday evening
of the month 7.45 for 8pm

Contact Bill Jackson on 01373 830411 for further details.
The Group becomes a Study Group which meets weekly
during Lent (6 weeks) and Advent (4 weeks)

SOMERTON

Every Tuesday, 10.30 to 11am

STREET

Last Tuesday of the month, 1.30pm

WELLS

Every Thursday 2.30 to 3.30pm in the church



*If there are any changes, omissions or additions to make to this list, please
let The Circuit Administrator at the Circuit Office in Wells know, to include
in the next edition of The Stream.*

*All opinions expressed in 'The Stream'
are those of the author*

JOB VACANCIES ON THE CIRCUIT

Trainers - for local preachers/leaders of worship - 2 vacancies

Eco Champion - to chair the circuit group and be a representative at district level.

Lay Pastoral & Community Workers - 2 vacancies. 1 in the Frome area, and one in the west side of the circuit (Meg's area). Job adverts will be out soon.

If you would like to discuss any of these vacancies, then please get in touch with Rev Tina Swire, Superintendent on 01749 595759 or tina.swire@methodist.org.uk

Circuit Representative for Connexional Interests

Action for Children (formerly NCH) - promote the awareness, organise the Worship Sunday, normally the 2nd Sunday in July, and fundraising.

Methodist Women in Britain (MWIB) - meeting together for worship, activities, events and fundraising. Representing the circuit at district level.

Mission Link -

World church -

World Development -

Youth Support -

Mission in Britain -

For more information please look at the Methodist website for all the roles above. Any questions please contact Rev Tina Swire, details above.

[https://www.methodist.org.uk/role you wish to look at](https://www.methodist.org.uk/role%20you%20wish%20to%20look%20at) or use your search engine, Methodist church [role you wish to look at](#)



ADVERTISING

To advertise please can you send the details into the office,

Deborah Towner

Circuit Office
Wells Methodist Church
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Wells
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Email: smcwells2019@outlook.com

Many Thanks

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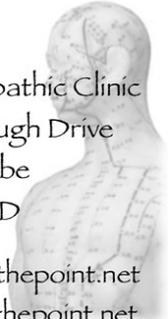
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Iwood Lane
N Somerset
BS40 5NU

Hampden Osteopathic Clinic
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on **01934 842945** or mail@cvgower.co.uk



CARING FOR THE EARTH

The Environmental Policy of the Methodist Church

Christian mission includes caring for God's earth and sharing in God's creation

God's way, revealed in Christ, is a generous sharing of the divine love



Methodists are encouraged to: conserve resources in the Church and at home, develop more sustainable lifestyles and become involved in local, national and global environmental issues.

ENVIRONMENTAL OBJECTIVES

To promote awareness within the Methodist community of the issues and to ensure commitment on the part of office holders to them.

To ensure efficient use of energy and to avoid the pollution of water.

To reduce waste and ensure of its responsible disposal.

To use sustainable materials and locally-made goods wherever possible, to offer electronic communication where appropriate, to maximize the use of recycled resources, and to show concern for the environment in food production and distribution.

To conserve and enhance the natural and the built environment, and to be aware of the impact of church activities on the local environment.

To make every effort to reduce air pollution and energy consumption by reducing and sharing car travel and by supporting public transport.

Submitted by Barry Speddings and the working party.

PROTECTING OUR PLANET STARTS WITH YOU

- BIKE MORE DRIVE LESS**: Encourages using bicycles for transport.
- reduce REUSE recycle**: Cut down on what you throw away. Follow the three "R"s to conserve natural resources and landfill space.
- choose sustainable seafood**: Learn how to make smart seafood choices at www.FishWatch.gov.
- PLANT A TREE**: Trees provide food and oxygen. They help save energy, clean the air, and help combat climate change.
- EDUCATE**: When you further your own education, you can help others understand the importance and value of our natural resources.
- CONSERVE WATER**: The less water you use, the less runoff and wastewater that eventually end up in the ocean.
- SHOP-WISELY**: Buy less plastic and bring a reusable shopping bag.
- Don't send chemicals into our waterways.**: Choose nontoxic chemicals in the home and office.
- Volunteer!**: Volunteer for cleanups in your community. You can get involved in protecting your watershed too!
- Long-lasting light bulbs - ARE A BRIGHT IDEA**: Energy efficient light bulbs reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Also flip the light switch off when you leave the room!

oceanservice.noaa.gov