

# SUMMER

a time to reach  
your neighbours

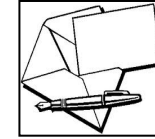
Matthew 22:39



**St. John's Methodist Church  
Whitchurch**

**July/August 2018 Newsletter**

## Message from the Manse



Dear Friends,

Coming up in July we've got a Testimony Service. We might think of Testimony as how someone became a Christian, but in a lot of ways it can be a lot simpler than that: in a way, it's an answer to the question "What's God doing in your life at the moment?" I'm looking for people who would be prepared to give an answer to that question on Sunday July 15th.

At the same time, one thing to recognise is that God works and speaks to us in many different ways, including some that we might only recognise much later. We had a meeting of Pray Think Act recently, and one of the things that came up was how what works for one person might not work for another. So while for some, a Small Group Meeting might be what gives you spiritual nourishment, for others it might be looking at the Bible in private. Elsewhere in this Magazine you'll find Jenny Marston asking if anyone wants to read a book; others may look at resources online, or find that actually they would prefer something more like some Bible Meditations.

It can be the same with prayer. Some like to meet up and pray together; Briony shared at Church Council how a church she was a member of had "Prayer Triplets". Some find that praying out loud is helpful; others find it difficult, especially if they feel they have to "take their turn". Some have a regular Prayer Time; others pray as and when the opportunity arises through the day.

Over the summer, I'd like to challenge you to think. What sort of prayer works for you? Where do you find spiritual nourishment? And what might you be prepared to try?

God Bless

*Rob*

## Steward's Letter



Dear Friends,

Even as I write this there is a slight sense of things beginning to wind down for the summer holidays. Thank you to all those who have run special events and to all those who keep things running Sunday to Sunday.

At Church Council Dorothy reported that for the first time she is having trouble filling her tea and coffee rota. This sociable time after the service is enjoyed by many. If you are not already on the rota please consider if you could fill a slot. It would be greatly appreciated.

The plans for the Disabled Access are continuing. This week two electricians were scheduled to come to see the site so they can put in formal tenders. Hopefully some more will appear as the deadline is very close. Thanks to all those who are involved for the time you have been putting in, not to mention the amount of frustration you have experienced. Lots more prayer needed if we are to get the right people involved to tender and if we are to discern who should be chosen.

If you did not come to the Churches Together AGM you missed a fascinating talk by Shrewsbury Street Pastors. I had no idea that the church was approached by the police because they were concerned for the safety of young people in Shrewsbury on Friday and Saturday nights and in particular about the number of river deaths. The volunteers are trained by the Fire Brigade so they can make rescues both safely and effectively. All their patrols begin with prayer and with prayer back up at their base. It was so encouraging to hear how many times a patrol 'just happened' to be near the place where their help was needed. They have recently been awarded the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service for their efforts.

I hope you will all have very enjoyable holidays. For those who feel they may have space to do something a little different may I suggest you take up Jennie Marsden's idea in her article? We need not just the church building prepared but church people prepared and ready to go!  
God bless,

*Avril*

## *Services at St John's in July & August 2018*

1st July 2018: Rev'd. Rob Weir (Holy Communion)

8th July 2018: Rev'd. Jenny Arthurs

15th July 2018: Rev'd Rob Weir (Testimony Service)

22nd July 2018: Rev'd. Helen Stubbs

29th July 2018: Rev'd. Rob Weir (Baptism Service)

5th August 2018: RS (Reader's Service)

12th August 2018: Mr Michael Valentine

19th August 2018: Rev'd Rob Weir (Holy Communion)

26th August 2018: Mrs Janet Lees



## **Smiling**

Smiling is infectious, You catch it like the flu  
When someone smiled at me today, I started smiling too  
I walked around the corner, And someone saw me grin  
When he smiled I realised, I'd passed it on to him  
I thought about the smile, And then realised its worth  
A single smile like mine, Could travel round the earth  
So if you feel a smile begin, Don't leave it undetected  
Start an epidemic, And get the world infected.

Submitted by Pete Shingler

## **CIRCUIT MEETING**

The June Circuit Meeting was held much closer to home, being at Malpas.

A good number attended, including Maurice Latham (Steward) and Chris Crowther (Church Council Rep). I was in attendance as a Circuit Rep to Synod.

Many items of business were on the agenda, I bring to you a few that may be of interest.

The Circuit Constitution was altered, to allow members to attend and participate from when they are appointed by the relevant Church Councils. To vote, the person must have signed up as a Trustee of the Circuit.

One of the Lay Workers shared some of the work that is taking place in Primary Schools using 'The Hope Journey'.

Members were given up-to-date information on the Data that is to kept by churches with a meeting arranged for a member of each Church to receive further advice.

The Circuit appointed a new Safeguarding Officer – David Maidment.

The budget for the next year had been sent out to members of the Circuit Meeting, this included a decrease in Assessment of 19% for some Churches and for others, including St. John's, an increase of 5%. Although St. John's expressed our disappointment at this above inflation rise, this was to no avail.

The Circuit Web site is to be updated. Churches were encouraged to send in up to date photographs and information.

A Circuit Day of Prayer will take place on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> July, led by the Rev. Peter Barber (Chair).

Rev. Rob Hilton gave a brief report on his time in the Circuit so far, reminding us all that we are a Connexional Church where we support one another. He also reminded us that each church should by now have a:

End of Life Plan or a

Plan for Growth.

Most Churches were presented with a Fair Trade Certificate.

Next Meeting is the 13<sup>th</sup> September at Brown Knowl.

Brian Faulkner.

#### **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY IN JULY 2018**

Monday 2nd July: Events Committee at 3pm

Monday 2nd July: Worship Committee at 7.30pm

Tuesday 10th July: Property & Finance Committee at 7pm

Wednesday 11th July Midweek Bible Study at 2pm (not August)

Tuesday 24th July: Network visit to Wyndhurst

Friday 27th & Saturday 28th July: Art Exhibition

## **Passionate About the Bible**

I love coming across people who are passionate about the Bible. I recently came across the American Bible teacher, Chuck Missler. Chuck served for many years in the American Airforce. When he retired from the airforce, he became an IT trouble-shooter, going into companies and sorting out their IT problems.

During all this time his ‘hobby’ was the Bible. He loved to study it in order to understand as much as he could about its message – and he loved to share what he had learned with family and friends. They suggested that he should have a wider audience and start teaching others what he himself had learned so Chuck wrote the first ever online Bible Study materials.

He particularly enjoys studying those parts of the Bible which are prophetic in nature. When people ask him what his ‘favourite’ prophecy is, he replies, rather tongue in cheek, Genesis 5. Look up Genesis 5 and you will find it comprises a rather long genealogy – from Adam to Noah! In Old Testament times, names were considered to be very important as they often conveyed something of the ‘essence’ of a person. When Chuck Missler studied the meanings of the names in the Genesis 5 genealogy, he discovered something very intriguing, as the table shows:

<b>Hebrew name</b>	<b>English meaning</b>
Adam	man
Seth	appointed

Enosh	mortal, frail
Canaan	sorrow
<b>Hebrew name</b>	<b>English meaning</b>
Mahalalel	Blessed God
Jared	come down
Enoch	teaching
Lamech	despairing
Noah	comfort, rest

When the English meanings are put together to make sentence, you get:

*Man is appointed mortal sorrow, but the Blessed God shall come down teaching that his death shall bring the despairing comfort and rest.*

This is the gospel message in a nutshell – how amazing that it is ‘hidden away’ in Genesis 5, right near the beginning of the Bible, written centuries before Jesus was born! It surely can not be some kind of coincidence.

You might be thinking ‘So what!’ I think it is exciting! The Bible is full of such ‘gems’ if you take the time to look.

These gems, alongside the overarching Biblical story of human rebellion and God’s plan of redemption, convince me that the Bible is truly the word of God. In the words of Paul :



*All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness (2 Tim 3:16)*

*Janet Lees*



### **PRAYER REQUESTS**



Thank God for the many ways He continues to bless and encourage us at St John's.

Pray for those known to us personally who are in any kind of need: particularly members of St John's who are ill, housebound, in care, lonely or bereaved.

#### **St John's**

At the recent Pray-Think-Act meeting, we talked about discipleship, and how it doesn't happen accidentally – but has to be intentional and strategic. Pray that we, as a church, may help each of our members to grow in their love for and knowledge of the Lord.

#### **The Persecuted Church**

Pray for Christians who are being persecuted for their faith in Jesus Christ. Pray especially for:

**Pakistan** – it is estimated that there are up to five million Christians in rural areas with no church to go to. Pastor Samuel (age 83) is one of the few people reaching isolated Christians – he wants them to discover that true hope can be found in Jesus. Pray for stamina for Samuel and ask God to raise up others to help him. Pakistan's blasphemy laws are often used to target Christians, with accusations leading to Christians being imprisoned or killed. Ask God to give Pakistan's leaders courage and wisdom to reform these laws.

Pakistani converts from Muslim backgrounds suffer the brunt of persecution. Radical Islamist groups see them as apostates. Family, friends and neighbours see their conversion as shaming the community. Pray for strength for these converts, that they may hold fast to Jesus.

**India** – persecution is increasing across India, with many reports of Christians being beaten and killed. Ask God to equip His people to stay faithful to Jesus in the midst of growing opposition.

Pray for the family of Ashani, a 19 year old Christian girl from a Hindu background who was raped and murdered by her Hindu

fiancé after her parents told him he must respect her Christian faith. Pray for wisdom for those giving the family advocacy support, and pray that justice will be done.

**Give Thanks for Answered Prayer**

Iranian Christian Maryam Naghash Zargaran (age 39) was recently released after spending four years in prison for her faith. Her struggle isn't over yet and it isn't safe for her to share too much of her story, but she wants to say thank you to the Christians around the world who have been faithfully praying for her: "It feels like a miracle that so many have been praying for me. It is a big source of strength for me. I would like to thank you all."

Many Christians prayed for the North Korean Church during Lent and gave generously to the North Korea appeal from Open Doors. A group of underground believers who received Christian materials and urgent aid said; "We thank you who support our underground believers. Your encouragement and support is our foundation and power. We pray that God may pour abundant blessings upon you."

**MUSICIANS WANTED!**

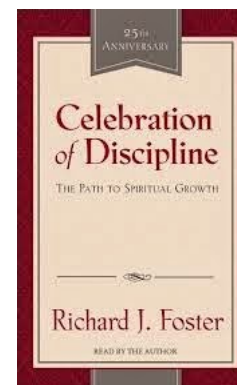


Music group are looking for more people to join the team. If anyone is skilled in playing a musical instrument and would like to join the music group on a Sunday morning, enhancing the worship experience for us all, please do get in touch with Lucy who will give you more information.

Matthew 5 v 16 tells us to "let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in Heaven." Don't be afraid to let others see what you are capable of. If God's gifted you to play a musical instrument, use it for Him!

## WILL YOU JOIN ME?

One of the objectives of our newly updated mission statement is to “develop our spiritual life through teaching and prayer”. We often talk about our “spiritual life” in the church, but are we all sure we know what this means? I’m not always sure I do! Perhaps some of us have different ideas about what it means and how we can develop ourselves both individually and corporately as a community of believers.



When I was at Spring Harvest in 2012, I bought a book called “Celebration of Discipline: The Path to Spiritual Growth” by Richard Foster – mainly on the recommendation of Mum! It has sat on my book shelf at home for the last 6 years and I haven’t read it.

Recently I have wanted (or rather recognised my need) to draw closer to God, to go deeper in my daily walk with God. To pray more, listen to God and be sensitive to the leading of the Holy Spirit. To me this is part of being a disciple – to continually develop and grow as a Christian. When I was at home one day I picked up the book and began reading the introduction – it was just what I had been looking for!

The summary on the back of the book states the following:

“Praised by many as the most important contemporary book on Christian spirituality, this timeless classic has helped well over a million people discover a richer spiritual life infused with joy, peace and a deeper understanding of God. This book explores the ‘classic disciplines’ of the Christian faith: the inward disciplines of meditation, prayer, fasting and study; the outward disciplines of simplicity, solitude, submission and service; and the corporate disciplines of confession, worship, guidance and celebration.”

The book includes a quote from Donald Coggan (former Archbishop of Canterbury) which I can identify with: “I go through life as a transient on his way to eternity, made in the image of God but with that image debased, needing to be taught how to meditate, to worship and to think.”

The introduction of the book makes it clear that we must not be led to believe that the Disciplines are only for spiritual giants and hence beyond our reach, or only for contemplatives who devote all their time to

prayer and meditation. Far from it. God intends the Disciplines of the spiritual life to be for ordinary human beings: people who have jobs, who care for children, who wash dishes and mow lawns. I believe the book is important for me to read to develop my own spiritual life, but I also believe the content of the book is important for us corporately as a church.

Do you remember the recent sermon from our new Superintendant Minister Rev. Rob Hilton? He explained that at a previous church they had a soft play area which attracted many young families. The church had a lay worker who spent time with the people who visited, but every time they tried to engage people in talking about “faith” the conversation shut down. They then tried a different approach to engage people in talking about “spirituality” and that is something people were happy to talk about. This also reflects my experience amongst my friends and people of my age group – there is a real interest in spirituality, which I think we need to be ready to respond to as a church.

I would like to invite you to join me in reading the book for yourselves. With two small children I don’t have a lot of time to read, so I won’t be reading at any great speed! It would be wonderful to share this experience with some of you. I am happy to order and pay for a copy of the book for every person who would like to read it – I see it as part of my giving to St. John’s. Please do speak to me if you would like to join me – I would love to be ordering lots of copies! Perhaps we can also chat about it during coffee time after Sunday morning services.

It will require a lot of effort on my part to read this book – I am not a great reader, I have little time to myself with two small children and I will need to avoid watching TV and scrolling through social media to make time to do this, but I am determined! Now that I have committed to do this to all of you, I do hope you will help me be accountable! It would be brilliant if you would join me too.

The book is split into 3 parts and I intend to write articles for the newsletter as I go along, sharing my reflections on each part – one in September, October and November. Even if you don’t join me in reading the book, I do hope that you will read these articles and that they will be of interest to you.

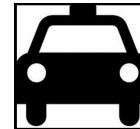
*Jenny Marston*

## **Rotas for July & August 2018**

### **Taxi Drivers for July & August 2018**

July 1st 2018: Brian Faulkner  
July 8th 2018: Sheila Latham  
July 15th 2018: Hazel Nimmo  
July 22nd 2018: David Whiteley  
July 29th 2018: Jim Walwyn

August 5th 2018: Brian Faulkner  
August 12th 2018: Hazel Nimmo  
August 19th 2018: Sheila Latham  
August 26th 2018: David Whiteley



### **Spick and Spanners for July & August 2018**

5th July: Einwen Kelly, Ruth Dawson & Sheila Latham

19th July: Nancy Millington, Beryl Posniak, Brenda Dudley

2nd August: Elizabeth Shingler, Briony Miles-Hook & Linda Jenkins

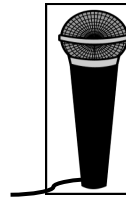
16th August: Mike Nimmo, Vic Trigg & Dorothy Faulkner



### **Sound System for July & August 2018**

July 1st 2018: Jim Walwyn  
July 8th 2018: Andrew Fawcett  
July 15th 2018: Mike Nimmo  
July 22nd 2018: David Whiteley  
July 29th 2018: Wendy Proffitt

August 5th 2018: Jim Walwyn  
August 12th 2018: Gordon Davidson  
August 19th 2018: Mike Nimmo  
August 26th 2018: David Whiteley



### **Stewards for July & August 2018**

1st July 2018: Maurice Latham  
8th July 2018: Avril Bradfield  
15th July 2018: Pete Shingler  
22nd July 2018: Robert Hewson  
29th July 2018: Avril Bradfield

5th August 2018: Avril Bradfield  
12th August 2018: Pete Shingler  
19th August 2018: Maurice Latham  
26th August 2018: Robert Hewson

### Flower Rota for July & August 2018

*1st July 2018: Sheila Latham*  
*8th July 2018: Brenda Dudley*  
*15th July 2018: Sue Davies*  
*22nd July 2018: Jean Fisher*  
*29th July 2018: Hazel Burlton*

*5th August 2018: Sheila Jones*  
*12th August 2018: Gwen Reeves*  
*19th August 2018: Brenda Aumeer*  
*26th August 2018: Dorothy Faulkner*

*2nd September 2018: Nancy Millington*



### **Exercise for People over 60.**

Begin by standing on a comfortable surface where you have plenty of room each side.

With a 5lb potato bag in each hand extend your arms straight out from your side & hold for as long as you can. Try to reach a full minute & then release.

Each day you find that you can hold the position a bit longer.

After a couple of weeks move up to 10lb potato bags. Then try 50lb potato bags & eventually try to get to where you can lift 100lb potato bag in each hand & hold for one minute.

After you feel confident on that level try putting a potato in each bag.

Submitted by Pete Shingler

### **TEA & COFFEE ROTA for July & August 2018**

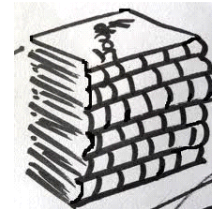
July 1st: Wendy Proffitt, Beryl Posniak & Fiona Weir  
July 8th: Sue Davies & Jane Cliffe  
July 15th: Nancy Millington & Chris Crowther  
July 22nd: Hazel & Mike Nimmo  
July 29th: Linda Jenkins. Sarah Lunt & Dorothy Faulkner



August 5th: Brenda Aumeer & Helen Trigg  
August 12th: Eileen Grunner & Lynn Fowler  
August 19th: Briony Myles-Hook & Jim Walwyn  
August 26th: Chris Crowther & Dorothy Faulkner

### ***Book Stewards for July & August 2018***

1st July 2018: Beryl Posniak  
8th July 2018: Mary Scott  
15th July 2018: May Arthan  
22nd July 2018: Sue Davies  
29th July 2018: Gwen Reeves



5th August 2018: Nancy Millington  
12th August 2018: Mary Scott  
19th August 2018: Sheila Walwyn  
26th August 2018: Sue Davies



## The joys of family

One of the most complete joys in life is that of our families.



Yes, they may annoy us intensely at times we all know that, but when the chips are down, our family will always be there like a solid wall around us protecting us from the outside world.

It is hard when we lose parents, it is the cord that has held the family together finally broken. Now, after many years of coming to terms with this loss my only closest connection is my sister and we have grown even closer because of it.

Sisters! Well in my case I was eight years old before my sister appeared, and boy was it a shock! I had had things my own way for so long and now I had to share with this crying annoying child! Through the years we had many fights and squabbles mainly because as I became a teenager she became more of a nuisance!

She says now that she was so jealous of me going out on my own and starting out on life that was the root cause of it, whilst she had to stay in with our parents. I did teach her to read and we had lots of fun really, sisters are so special and a bond that can never be broken. We have such a strong relationship now and she is so loved!

Now she is a Grandmother and her children are like my children, now they too have offspring and as I look into my great nephew George's blue, blue eyes I see the eyes of my father looking out! He would have been so proud of his namesake George and also his lovely great grand-daughter Violet.

Sadly, no children for us, but I have had such a close relationship with these little ones it has helped so much to heal the disappointment of childlessness.

Of course, I realise that some families are not like this, with disputes that last for years. It is all so sad and pointless, and a waste of lives to hold grudges for so long.

Jesus supported family life with all its values as it prepares us for a better Christian faith based on love. After all, the first love that we feel is from our families.

Cherish every moment with your family– I am sure that you do- every minute is precious whilst our children are growing and learning from us.

It is lovely to see the little families in our morning worship – truly inspiring and a hope for our church and for the future.

*Sheila Walwyn*

### **Pain in all its forms.**



Well yes, a rather strange thing to write about I agree and maybe not so uplifting, but something that affects us all from time to time throughout our lives.

When we emerge from the first pains of childbirth we can experience our first pain – the sheer shock of arriving on this earth must be quite a blow to the system which has been protected for nine long months safe and sound!

All types of pain – both physical and mental all are equal in terms of suffering. Our surgeries and hospitals are under great pressures these days with folks living longer, and pain being more and more of a problem.

We all have issues with hips, knees and most joints as we reach a certain age. My Dad used to say to me 'When you are old you will have pain where you never thought you could have pain' I thought he was talking nonsense – now I know differently!

We now have pain clinics to help people cope with their lives, indeed both Jim and I have attended these sessions, they certainly can help, but consequently one has to learn to live with our pain – a bonus of

living longer I fear!

Many therapies are now used to help with pain, and as all pain is related to the brain then transfers down to our nervous systems it makes sense to tackle the mental issues too.

I myself have taken many drugs to help me with all sorts of ailments but I am very sensitive to medicines and, if I can, will find another less invasive route to take. I sometimes look at others and wonder why they too are not in pain, but obviously that is not the case, and maybe they are just stronger minded and better at coping than I am!

Our hospitals are wonderful when it comes to pain relief and my own dear mother who died in the Macmillan hospice was given such care and treatment which eased her through the last pains of her life – they are a truly wonderful organization!

Our Lord himself suffered such pain and cried out to his Father for relief from it all, we too cry out so often and feel our prayers are not heard, but if we keep on faithfully trying we then have a rock to cling to in our darkest hours. The bible tells us that 'through our pains we are made strong'- hard to accept when pain hits so hard that we feel we cannot take any more.

Mental pain is the curse of our society, one that is not talked about enough, but this affects everyone, and we must never reject this as weakness, indeed it is a sensitivity in people that makes them suffer so.

Actually, the weakest people are sometimes stronger as they have had to battle mental issues – something that cannot be seen like a physical illness but equally important.

Also, the pain of losing someone. Someone you have loved whether for a short time or long. Love takes no account of time both are equal in sadness. We have to remember that love never ends and

we hold these people in our hearts forever.

Prayer can help us even when we pray and feel nobody is there to answer us, our subconscious mind can be soothed by the very act of acknowledging our pain to a higher being and asking for help. Hymns too have such healing words giving calm during hours of pain. It is hard though when we are in pain in hours of darkness to be strong willed.

Life is hard, and as we get older life gets harder, but we must try to be strong and endure things as much as we can with the help of course of modern drugs and therapies as needed.

Yes, medicine, therapies and prayer can all work together to help us get through the pains of this life. We should be glad that we are still here and can feel pain – it tells us that we are still alive!

*Sheila Walwyn*

### **Network**

**As has become a regular event, for our July meeting we will be visiting Norman & Elaine Gollins' beautiful garden at Wollerton. There will be a list at the back of Church, nearer the time, to sign up if you would like to go. More information will appear in Pew News.**

**Dates for your Diary:**

**Mon. 2nd 3pm    Events Committee**

**Weds. 11th      Ladies Coffee meeting at Caru Coffi  
(opposite the Factory Shop)**

**Tues. 24th      Network visit to Wyndhurst  
Meet at church at 2pm**

## **Shropshire Historic Churches Trust Ride & Stride Event**

Once again, we have registered St John's with the SHCT fund raising event, **Ride & Stride** which this year takes place on **Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> September**, as part of Heritage Weekend.



This is a 3-pronged event.

- 1.) The church opens to visitors from 10am to 6pm with people manning it through the day. Visitors will come from across the county (and neighbouring ones) either walking, cycling, or riding horses **or in a car**, to as many churches/chapels as they can manage.
- 2.) Members of the church can Ride or Stride between as many churches/chapels as they are able in the time.
- 3.) Participants (Riders, Striders and church sitters etc.) obtain as much sponsorship as possible. It is possible to Gift Aid which is a valued extra.

As usual we are also planning to hold a coffee morning between 10am and 12 noon and hopefully a sponsored Hymn sing between 2 and 3pm. There will be a display of our heritage information and we are listed as a place to visit. As we could have more visitors than usual it would be helpful to have volunteers on a rota to steward the Church.

The organisers have now agreed that people **can use cars** to help them visit churches as the ones that are participating are often scattered. So, if you would like a morning or afternoon driving round beautiful Shropshire countryside, and raising funds from sponsorship at the same time, then this is your chance.

After the event, all the Sponsor money is collected up and sent to the SHCT. The treasurer will then send 50% back to the nominated church/chapel ie. St. John's.

Anyone who is interested in being sponsored for walking or riding (a bike, a horse or in a car) round as many open churches/chapels as they can, please ask Chris Crowther for more information either at church or telephone. You can also access information on which Churches are open by going on the Shropshire Historic Churches website and following the link.

*Chris Crowther*

#### **From the Editors**

As we come to the end of this Methodist Year, I would like to thank our editors of our Newsletter, namely Vic Trigg, Mike Nimmo, Chris Crowther and yours truly. Without them, we would not have a monthly Publication

I would also like to thank all the regular contributors - whether the contributions be serious or light hearted. It makes the producing of the Newsletter so much easier if lots of people are willing to contribute

Our thanks also go to the local firms in Whitchurch who help to support our church.

They are: *Barlows, Electrical Services in the High Street*

*Galaxy Computers for all your computer requirements*

*Walkers, makers of bread and cakes*

*Splish Splash for new bathrooms & showers*

*Benjamin's Café & delicatessen for coffee & chat*

*Whitchurch Photographers for all your photographs*

**They are supporting us. Please support them if you can!**

*JRW*

## Matters Financial



At our recent Church Council, there was quite a bit of discussion about the Assessment - the money that St. Johns pays to the Circuit to support its work. This was partly because this year, St. Johns is facing quite a large increase - the formula used for dividing up the assessment (which is a large part of the Circuit's budget) has been tweaked to make it more about a church's income and less about the number of members, and as our offerings are holding up quite well we've been handed a bigger increase than we were expecting or hoping for!

To give you a rough idea - for 2018/9, St. Johns will be paying about £500 per week in assessment. This is an increase of about £25 per week on 2017/18, although we did pay less that year than the one before - we're actually paying about £5 a week more next year than we did two years ago! That helps pay for the Ministers and other Staff, Manses, and money paid to the District (and then to the Connexion) covering all the work the Methodist Church does.

Other running costs are currently about £350 per week - including gas and electricity, insurance, and all the other bills we pay. Currently our regular collections bring in (including Gift Aid) about £500 per week. The rest of the money comes from fundraising, one-off donations, use of the building for Funerals and Weddings etc. In addition, this year we've had to dip into reserves to cover some essential work in terms of the heating and electrical work needed to keep the building safe and hopefully warm!

Thank you to all of you who contribute week by week, and all who help fundraise; we might not always want to talk about money, but without it the work of this church - and the Methodist Church as a whole - could not continue.

*Rev Rob Weir and Jane Cliffe (Treasurer)*

## From Our Man in Tilstock

Dear All

I am sure that you will all want to join me in congratulating our very own Brian Faulkner in reaching a total of 100 pints of blood given over a period of 50 years, at a rate of 2 pints per year. This is the maximum donors are allowed to give - unless your name was Ken Bourne!

Ken passed away about 10 years ago, but he gave blood with a difference. He lives in Wales with a Shropshire Post Code which meant he gave blood in Wrexham and he also gave blood in Wrexham because he resided in Wales. This meant he was able to donate four pints per year! What a character he was! I'm not sure how many donations he managed to give. Many of you will remember him as a local preacher. Perhaps you remember the live props he used in his sermons - chickens, hens, cockerels, lambs and even a piglet!

On Monday 18th June, at the third attempt, we met with representatives of the two firms dealing with our heating problems in church, Worcester Boilers and Coppercroft soon identified why we were having these problems, but the big issue now is who pays to have the work put right? We put our position forward that the current situation was not fit for purpose and that they need to find a way of correcting the faults.

We await the outcome of the meeting with great interest.

*ML*



**Donate your  
blood and  
make a  
difference**

## Anyone for Golf?

Tallarn Green are having their annual Golf Day on Thursday 5th July at Aldersley Green Golf Club— between Whitchurch and Chester off the A41. The cost is £100 for a team of four to include a light meal. If you want to enter a team or offer to play as part of another team, please contact Alan Evens.





## Relax - and Smile!

### Canterbury monks

My boyfriend was working as an attendant in Canterbury Cathedral when one afternoon he was approached by two American tourists. "Are you a monk?" one of the women asked eagerly.

"No," he replied, "I wear this robe as part of my job, but I'm not a member of any religious order."

"Then where are the monks?" asked the woman, looking around.

My boyfriend explained: 'Oh, there haven't been any monks here since 1415.'

Hearing this, the woman looked at her watch and announced to her friend, 'Betty, we missed the monks.'

### *Some miscellaneous one-liners ...*

The Church: under the same management for over 2000 years.

Don't give up on yourself. Even Moses was once a basket case.

Satan subtracts and divides. God adds and multiplies.

What he lacked in depth as a preacher he made up for in length. *Mark Twain*

Was Noah's wife called Joan of Ark?

Lead me not into temptation. I can find it myself.

Always keep your words soft and sweet, just in case you have to eat them.

If you lend someone £20, and never see that person again, it was probably worth it.

*The American evangelist Billy Graham died in late February. Here we look back on some of his notable quotes...*

**Some of Billy Graham's notable quotes**

I've read the last page of the Bible, it's all going to turn out all right.

It is the Holy Spirit's job to convict, God's job to judge and my job to love.

My home is in Heaven. I'm just traveling through this world.

God proved His love on the Cross. When Christ hung, and bled, and died, it was God saying to the world, 'I love you.'

Suppose you could gain everything in the whole world, and lost your soul. Was it worth it?

There is nothing wrong with men possessing riches. The wrong comes when riches possess men.

The only time my prayers are never answered is on the golf course.

Take one day at a time. Today, after all, is the tomorrow you worried about yesterday.

World events are moving very rapidly now. I pick up the Bible in one hand, and I pick up the newspaper in the other. And I read almost the same words in the newspaper as I read in the Bible. It's being fulfilled every day round about us.

Someone asked me recently if I didn't think God was unfair, allowing me to have Parkinson's and other medical problems when I have tried to serve Him faithfully. I replied that I did not see it that way at all. Suffering is part of the human condition, and it comes to us all. The key is how we react to it, either turning away from God in anger and bitterness or growing closer to Him in trust and confidence.

**St John's Methodist Church  
Is Delighted to Welcome Back to  
Whitchurch**

**The Winterley Brass Band  
at their Disabled Access Concert  
on Saturday 6th October 2018 at**



**7.30pm  
Entrance and Refreshments are  
free! Donations welcome.**

### **Winterley Brass Band Concert**

We have been trying to book Winterley Brass Band for two years now, but they have been booked up until this Autumn.

We hope you will come and support us as we raise funds for Disabled Access.

As usual, entrance is completely free, as are the refreshments. We just hope that you can feel that you would like to make a donation.

Thank you! *JRW*

### **Night of Worship**

**12th July 2018 at 7.30pm.**

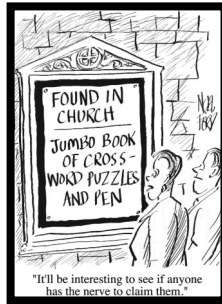
**Held in Church**

**Please come and share worship with us**

### **Café Church**

Has now finished for the Summer  
We will resume in September





### **Regular Church Activities**

Mondays 9:30-11:30am Parents & Toddlers (Term time)

Thursdays 7pm: Music Group Practice

1st/3rd Tuesdays at 7.30pm: Bible Study at 7 Queen's Road

1st/3rd Thursdays at 7:30pm - Prayer Meeting at St. John's

2nd Wednesday of the month - 2pm: Bible Study at St. John's

4th Thursday of the month - 7:30pm: Cafe Church

### **September 2018 Newsletter**

Please let Vic Trigg have all your submissions for the next Newsletter by 26th August.

*This magazine costs 25p to produce.*

*Contributions towards the costs incurred will be gratefully received.*

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**Disabled Access**

Everything is on schedule and is going to plan.

Contractors have visited the church to look at the work involved.

The chosen Contractor should be appointed by the end of July.

A special Church Council Meeting will be held soon afterwards to ratify the appointment of the Contractor.

Then, hopefully, work will start sometime in September.

It is anticipated that there may be some disruption to the regular activities of the church. Appropriate plans will be made accordingly.

## **BARLOWS**

**Your local electrical  
store**



**High Street  
Whitchurch**

Call in and talk to one of  
the team.

## **Galaxy Computer Services**

**Your local computer  
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and repair



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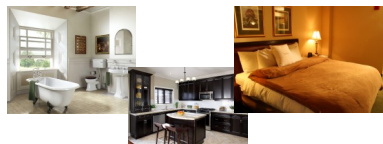
Top of the High Street  
Whitchurch

## **SPLISH SPLASH**

**“Olde Worlde Charm”**

A Family run  
Bathrooms Bedrooms &  
Kitchens Business based at 46a  
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Speak to Vincent about your new  
project! Or re-vamp your existing  
kitchen, bathroom or bedroom



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

## **WALKERS**

