

September 2021 Newsletter



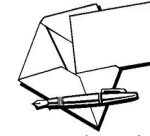
**St. John's Methodist Church
Whitchurch**

Sept. 2021 Newsletter

Message from Rev. Brian Acty

September 2021

Dear Friends,



As students, of all ages, and their teachers know, September is the month when all things start again! After weeks of recess, it is back to the hard work of learning and preparing for the exams which will go some way to establishing the future of their lives.

In the same way, September usually is the restart of activities and programmes in the church which reflect the nature of our mission and outreach to the community. I say ‘usually’ because we are not restarting after a 4 – 6 week break, no this year we are coming back after a prolonged break of nearly 18 months, thanks to the pandemic! It is like we are starting afresh with a clear sheet of paper, ready to write a new chapter of the church’s story. What an opportunity this is – to start again, building on the past without it being a millstone round our necks. Also, this month we welcome a new minister to help guide and shape a different future and we look forward to her, and her family, as they join us and take their place as part of our church family.

Recently I had the privilege of leading worship here and I talked about the vision of ‘community’ that Paul shared with the folk from Ephesus. (Ephesians 4:25-5:2) Paul seems to be giving out several snippets of advice for how-to live-in community with one another. Don’t lie, speak the truth, because we are members of one another. Be angry, sure, but don’t let your anger cause you to sin - resolve your anger before the sun sets. Everyone should work hard, in order to be able to serve the needy. Don’t let harmful words come out of your mouth, but make sure everything you say is about building up, so that your words are grace to your hearers. Be kind to one another and tender-hearted, *a word which literally means to be knotted up in your stomach with care for each other*, and forgive, just like God forgives you. Imitate God, and live in love, like Christ loves us – sacrificially.

Continued overleaf,

Cont.,

Paul, I think, tries to give us a clear foundation for this way of being with one another. I don't think he thinks it is easy. But he thinks it is necessary for the Church to be just that – the representative of Christ in the world. We are meant to speak truth to one another *because* we are members of one another, part of each other in Christ, so a lack of honesty is a lack of honesty with ourselves and with God. We're called to speak with love because our words are carriers of the good news of Jesus – *or not* – depending on how we speak to one another. Your words are the gospel that others hear. We're meant to live with kindness and tenderness because God has forgiven us, and we, created in God's image, show that best when we imitate God, our Creator.

I love this vision of community. Paul's words seem so simple and straightforward. They lay the foundation for a church that seeks to be imitators of God, which is no small goal. So as we set out on a new journey together, acting with purpose, mission and vision – let these words of Paul underpin all that we do.

From your friend,

Brian Acty



Hello friends,

It is with much joy and excitement that I write my first newsletter article. It feels only right in this first letter to introduce ourselves to you, but of course this is only a snippet!

Both Dave and myself are from Birmingham. I grew up in Sutton Coldfield and he in Solihull. It will be no surprise to say that my faith is very important to me. I grew up in an Anglican church which joined with the Methodists when I was a teenager; both influences have shaped the ministry that I offer. Before training to be a Methodist Minister I worked for over 12 years in the Birmingham Methodist Circuit as a lay worker in inner city churches, and my first appointment was in the Vale of Aylesbury Circuit working in rural village chapels. For the last 4 years I have explored further my passion for rural ministry; making strong connections with the farming community as well as a number of village schools. God calls us to be in relationship not only with him but with each other, and so building relationships in the community, and being alongside you, is at the heart of the ministry I offer.

Cont,

In my free time I do like to do a bit of craft. There is always some sewing, embroidery or some form of paper craft going on. During the past year I have really enjoyed Bible journaling and doing jigsaws. I also bake and do like to swim.

Dave is an IT Systems Engineer. I have no idea what that is to be honest but he is really happy in his job, he works hard and is always on hand when I need something technical for church. Dave is a big film fan, especially Star Wars and Marvel films. He and William both share this passion, alongside one for Lego.

Our eldest son is Joseph who is 18. Joseph is going to take a year out of study for this next year whilst he decides the next steps and will find work locally. Our daughter Hannah is 13 and is hoping to join the local Guides. She loves dancing, yoga and skate boarding. Our youngest is William who is 10. He loves to ride his bike and to be out and about. He is often found climbing trees and paddling in streams. He is a huge Lego fan and enjoys playing on the Xbox.

The last member of the family, is Woody our 3-year-old Border Collie. Woody loves lots of fuss and his ball.

As a family we are very much looking forward to joining you at St Johns and being amongst you in this place as we work together to build God's Kingdom and most importantly share His love with each other and the community. Looking forward to getting to know you all,

With blessings

Rev. Donna

Stewards Letter

Dear All.

I am sure you will all join me in saying " Welcome " to our new Minister. the Rev Donna Maria Broadbent-Kelly and her family as she begins her ministry in Whitchurch and the South Cheshire Circuit. The Stewards of St John's will do our utmost to make sure The Rev Donna as she wishes to be addressed has a smooth and stress free start to the huge task of looking after eight Churches.

As we move into Autumn this year we will hopefully be able to return to "Normal" what ever normal is. We have began by starting our tea and coffee following Sunday morning service. We will have to take great care as the virus is still in town.

2021 has been an unusual year in many ways not only because of covid but the weather has not been normal. This spring we had a cold wet March and April was dry for the whole month with many night frosts and then May was another cold wet month. Hence all the farm crops are two or three weeks late being harvested. Its no wonder that my tomato's are late the dahlia's are not up to their usual standard .We are lucky that we have not experienced the severe heat and rainfall that those on the Continent have.

Our House Martin's did not return from their journey to their winter quarters this year,we always look forward to their return.
Our Canadian geese together with their youngsters, have returned from their summer nesting grounds. Last week Sheila and I were in Ellesmere walking around the town and we passed an old Methodist chapel and noticed it had been converted into
4 apartment's. No 1 Matthew.
 No 2 Mark.
 No 3 Luke.
 No 4 John.

How appropriate.

God bless you all

Maurice Latham.



Preachers for September

5th September Rev. Jenny Arthurs.

12th September Rev. Donna Broadbent-Kelly, Holy Communion.

19th September Dr. Peter Watkins.

26th September Local Arrangement.

3rd October Rev. Donna Broadbent-Kelly, Harvest Festival.

Stewards for September.

5th. September. Brian Faulkner.

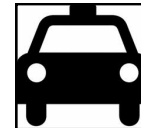
12th. September Maurice Latham.

19th. September Andrew Fawcett.

26th. September Peter Shingler.

TAXI

5 th September	Hazel
12 th September	David
19 th September	Sheila
26 th September	Brian



SPICK & SPANNERS ROTA



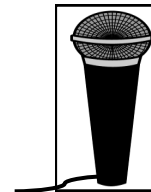
2nd September Helen Trigg, Brenda Aumeer & Rachel Dimelow

16th September Einwen Kelly, Ruth Dawson & Sheila Latham

Sound

5th Sept
12th Sept
19th Sept
26th Sept

Mike Nimmo
Norman Gollins
Brian Acty
Sarah Lunt



Welcome Service

Cheshire South Methodist Circuit will be holding a service to welcome Revd Sarah Butcher & Revd Donna-Marie Broadbent-Kelly into our Circuit. The service will take place at Nantwich Methodist Church on Sunday 5th September at 5pm. If you would like to attend please give your name to one of our stewards so that a seat can be reserved for you.

Meet & Greet

Our new Minister, Rev. Donna.
Thursday 2nd September 10am – 12 noon.

Call in and say Hello.
Stay for coffee and chat.

Please come along -You are all invited

Mission Meeting Update

10 people attended the Mission Meeting on 18th August

Review of Church Activities

Hazel summarised the feedback from the 16 questionnaires that were returned. There was most support for relaunching **Toddler Group** (see article elsewhere in Newsletter), **Musical Activities** and a coffee/lunchtime session providing **activities and a frugal meal** for those who seek company so we decided to focus on these areas. Please consider if you could be involved with developing any of these ideas and if you can help speak to Briony or Mike.

Eco Church

Helen has completed the Eco Church form with help from others and will now submit it. Possible Next Steps we have identified so far include **toilet twinning** and **developing the outdoor space** with an area for reflection, possibly based on Psalm 23 inspired by the Bible Study Garden at Chelsea and a Community Bench by the main Church door. If you are interested in looking at ways we can use our outdoor space for Mission, please speak to Helen.

Our next meeting will be on **Wednesday 29th September at 7.30pm** and **All are welcome.**



Bumps, Babes & Tots

Bumps, Babes & Tots will be launching at St John's from Monday 20th September. The sessions will be led by Circuit lay worker Kathryn Davies each Monday from 9.30am to 11am and will include Bible Stories, Singing and Craft. Everyone who is interested in helping to set up, do craft, serve drinks or chat to those who come is invited to meet Kathryn at the Church on Monday 13th September at 10am.

We hope that Bumps, Babes & Tots will become an important part of our church family and that you will support this great opportunity to welcome non-church goers to St Johns and show that God is for All.

Briony Myles-Hook

Ride & Stride

This annual event is taking place on Saturday 11th September this year between 10am and 6pm. I am hoping our church will be open during that time to welcome any visitors and possibly offer refreshments. To that end, I am putting out a plea for helpers to be at church for an hour or two. A sheet will be in the Long Room for anyone who can help to sign in for the hours suiting them.

I am planning to drive round as many churches as I can during the day. If anyone would like to join me please let me know. A sponsor sheet will also be in the Long Room.

Any money raised is split equally between St. John's and Shropshire Historic Churches Trust.

Chris Crowther



Justice & Peace: Praying for the Climate Emergency

New Weekly Zoom prayer

Thank you to everyone who continues to pray for those affected by the Climate Emergency. As COP26 approaches, we will be joining with others from the Churches in Whitchurch to pray on zoom each Monday at 2pm. We will take it in turns to lead each session and share a short film to help us bring to life the issues the world is facing. The sessions start on Monday 20th September and will continue for the 6 weeks up to the start of COP26. If you would like to join us, please email Briony for the link.

Christian Aid: Standing together for Climate Justice

Write to your MP

Christian Aid are encouraging everyone to write to their MP to ask them to make sure that the UK government fulfils its promises to ***Build Back Better*** after the pandemic and to ensure that no one is left behind as we move towards a greener, healthier, safer future. If you prefer, you could write directly to the Prime Minister and send a copy of your letter to Owen Paterson. To paraphrase Gordon Brown in his recent talk to Methodists at the launch of Walking with Micah, *If people don't write to their MP, how does he/she know which issues are important to them?*

There is a template for a letter on our website under the Justice & Peace section.

Save the Date Saturday 6th November

Although we won't be travelling to Glasgow during COP26 we are planning an activity in Whitchurch to share with others how important it is for Global Leaders to make real commitments towards Climate Justice. More information to follow

Briony & Helen

Justice & Peace

Prayer for Afghanistan

O God of mercy and of peace,
We hold before you the peoples of Afghanistan.
Be living bread to those who are hungry each day
Be healing and wholeness to those who have no access to health
care amidst the ravages of pandemic
Be their true home to all who have been displaced
Be open arms of loving acceptance to those who fear because of
their gender, ethnicity, religious or political views
Be peace to those engaged in armed conflict and those who live
within its shadow.
Turn our hearts and minds to your ways of just and gentle peace,
Open our eyes to see you in all acts of compassionate care
Strengthen our hearts to step out in solidarity with your suffering
people and
Hold us all in your unfailing love.
We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, who emptied himself of all but
love in order to bring life in all its fullness.

Amen

*This prayer was written by Ramani Leathard, Christian Aid's Head
of Region for South East Asia and Afghanistan.*

Autumn

Yellow the bracken,
Golden the sheaves,
Rosy the apples,
Crimson the leaves;
Mist on the hillside,
Clouds grey and white.
Autumn, good morning!
Summer, good night!

PRESIDENTIAL VISIT

The President of the Conference Rev. Sonia Hicks and Vice President of Conference Barbara Easton will be visiting our District the weekend of 18- 20 September. As part of this visit, there will be a District Service on Sunday 19th September at 6pm in the Stoke area, further details will be in Pew News.

Monthly Coffee Morning Resumes

The monthly coffee morning will resume on Thursday 7th October at 10.30am. Venue to be announced in Pew News nearer the time.

All welcome
Dot Charlesworth

October 2021 Newsletter

Please let Chris Crowther have all your submissions for the next Newsletter by 26th September.

Dates for your Diary

2nd September Meet & Greet Coffee 10am – 12 noon
5th September Circuit Welcome Service 5pm Nantwich.
8th September Worship Committee 7.30pm
11th September Ride & Stride Heritage Day
19th September Presidential District Service 6pm
29th September Mission Meeting 7.30pm

Advance Notice.

Harvest Festival Weekend

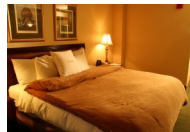
Sunday 3rd October 10:30am Preacher: Rev. Donna.
Further details in Pew News nearer the time.

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

May Angelou

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