



**St. John's Methodist Church  
Whitchurch  
June 2023  
Newsletter**

## *Message from the Manse*



Hello friends,

Often June is the time of year when we start thinking about going on holiday, visiting family and day trips. Having three children I know the joys and challenges that car journeys can be. The question “are we there yet?” begins as you just emerge out of the village; the fighting in the back seats over who has the most room; the cry of “I need a wee!” as you just pull back onto the motorway after an hours stop at the services and having asked 3 times if anyone needs to go to the toilet! And that’s not to mention the traffic jams in the heat of the day and the Satnav that navigates you to a river and expects you to drive across it.

Often I have thought about that journey that Noah and his family (and a whole host of animals) went on. I’m sure on that boat there were cries of “are we there yet?” and an argument or two, and I bet Noah too doubted the journey God was sending him on. The Noah’s Ark story reminds us that we are all on a journey; a life journey, a journey that will be both physical and mentally challenging. Noah was mocked for building an Ark, yet it was those on the Ark that survived the great flood. Noah had to keep his wits about him and navigate his way through some very tricky paths no doubt, and the journey ahead wasn’t very clear.

I often comment that the inside of St Johns looks like an upside down boat – or ark, and with the tree branch growing out of the steeple the analogy continues! God has placed us in Whitchurch, we are on dry land, and he is encouraging us to step out of our ark and into the community we are in, and invite them into our space too. With determination and prayer we have some really fantastic things going on and we are a place of welcome and hospitality for others. Our mother and toddler group (BBT) is thriving; More on Mondays has a nice group of people coming; we have various community groups using the building and our relationship with the churches together and the food bank remain strong. And we are developing a good relationship with the local schools.

But things are also a struggle at times. The cost of running the building, especially the heating bills are a real strain; and the available space is not always big enough or accommodating enough for the missional work we want to do. We are also limited in numbers with those who are able to volunteer their time reducing due to us being an aging congregation. Yet our faith in God remains and so does our willingness to continue to serve him and share his love.

Looking to the future, as a church we are going to have to make further changes and make decisions to enable us to continue what we do. This is all part of the journey we are on, and like Noah, the path ahead isn't very clear yet.

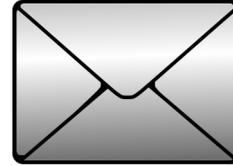
Often journeys though can lead us to unexpected places, and we can find ourselves somewhere where we didn't think we would end up. Sometimes we know the place that we are journeying to, but often the path that we take to get there isn't what we expected as there are diversions and other distractions! My mum is notorious for going off route when she sees a sign for a garden centre; as a child this often resulted in me and brother having plants sat on our laps the rest of the car journey...but these plants still grow in her garden today and she remembers the journey that we were on when we found them.

Enjoy the journeys that you take this month wherever they may lead you.

With blessings

Donna

## Stewards Letter



Dear Friends,

As June heralds in the summer, after the mixed spring we've had, I'm still trying to tidy the garden! However the fresh greens of the trees are spectacular now and many flowers are coming through too. I'm busy, busy every week these days but this morning I'm taking a little time to sip my coffee in the garden and enjoy God's wonderful world.

I'm looking forward to the Church Summer Fair with Strawberry Teas on the 24th of June. I really want to go strawberry picking as its an experience I've never had. I do hope you all have a think about what you can contribute to this event and have a word with Sue or myself.

I have a little pebble on my kitchen window ledge and it says, 'Be still' on one side and, 'and know that I am God' on the other. I often look at it and it always gives me the moments I crave. I hope you too find some still moments to enjoy this glorious month.

Dot Charlesworth

### *Services & Preachers*

4th June	Rev Donna Broadbent-Kelly
11th June	Deacon Jill Henderson
18th June	LA
25th June	Rev Donna Broadbent-Kelly



### *TEA & COFFEE ROTA*

<b>JUNE</b>	4th	Marion and Tony Griffin
	11th	Linda Weston and Linda Jenkins
	18th	Elizabeth and Pete Shingler
	25th	Avril Bradfield and Hazel Nimmo
<b>JULY</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Elizabeth and Pete
	9 <sup>th</sup>	Hazel and Mike
	16 <sup>th</sup>	Sarah and Avril
	22 <sup>nd</sup>	Briony and Dot
	29 <sup>th</sup>	Linda Weston and Linda Jenkins



Please could you provide milk and biscuits, taking the biscuits home if they are not needed.  
Tea and coffee are provided.

**Please also take the tea towels and towel home, wash and return.  
If the dates above are not convenient, please let me know either by email or by telephone.**

## *Cheshire South—Circuit News - Spring 2023*



Rob Hilton's letter in Circuit News is well worth reading. It sets out where Methodism is currently placed ; recognises the challenges ahead and asks us all to seek new ways to resolve the challenges.

I have made up a number of copies of the letter and they are at the back of the church. Please take one. If we run out let me know and I'll produce more. If you receive this Newsletter online or by email I'll send it to you via email

Mike Nimmo

## *Hub News*



Quite recently we were commenting that we used to have close contact with the other churches and chapels in the then small circuit. I have fond memories of events and services at Brown Knowl, Aston and Crewe—by— Farndon. In what could be a first step towards bringing us together, Donna has produced a Hub News with articles from our fellow churches. She also asks for a contribution from St Johns by 1st September for the next one.

Once again, since the content runs to 4 x A4 sheets, copies are at the back of the church.

Mike Nimmo

**Pinched from “Eavesdroppings”**  
**by Nigel Rees**



Overhead between two women in an Oxford store.

“You know the day I mean, dear. The one after Christmas Eve.”

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Overheard while looking at the Taj Mahal by moonlight, having gone at this time expressly to catch the magical moment.

“If this had been in America it would have been floodlit”

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A tourist visiting Windsor Castle was annoyed by the sound of aircraft taking off from Heathrow nearby and remarked.

“What a pity they built the castleso near the airport.”

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This is a very old one which might have been repeated recently.

Two women discussing the TV coverage of the Coronation (1953)

“Wasn’t it beautiful! Said one.

“Yes what a pity the King didn’t live to see it!”



## **Small Actions Make a Big Difference**

Thank you to everyone who attended our joint service for Christian Aid week hosted at the Beacon at the Watergate Centre. £500 was collected. The service was based around the parable of the Mustard Seed and the story of Esther, a Farmer in Malawi, who helps her family and wider community by growing pigeon peas. The speaker was Mike Burns from Rising Generation Music. He kindly gave us some of his cds so please ask if you would like to listen to new worship songs.

Briony went into Whitchurch Junior School with Celia Churchill from St Alkmunds to lead an assembly around this theme. You can watch a short film about Esther and her pigeon peas on [www.christianaid.org.uk/resources](http://www.christianaid.org.uk/resources).

Thank you to everyone who has made a donation. We will let you know how much was raised next month.

# BBT@St Johns



Bumps Babies and Toddlers will take place each Monday in June from 9.30-11.30am. Any mums, dads, nanas, grandpas and other carers and their children are welcome to join us for craft, toys and coffee in the long room and guild room and singing, stories and prayers in the church. We are keen for more people in church to join our rota of helpers so if you would like to help or just want to come and say hello, please speak to someone on the rota.

	Leader	Setting up	General & Craft	Tea	Open up
5 <sup>th</sup> June	Donna/ Briony	Mike	Sarah	Hazel	Mike
12 <sup>th</sup> June	Kathryn	Briony	Brenda	Sarah	Briony
19 <sup>th</sup> June	Kathryn	Briony	Dot	Sarah	Briony
26 <sup>th</sup> June	Kathryn	Briony	Dot	Bren-da	Briony
3 <sup>rd</sup> July	Kathryn	Mike	Brenda	Hazel	Mike

## *Prayers*



We all pray in different ways and at different times. Rather than produce set words which you may not find fits with your thoughts, I am highlighting events and situations across the spectrum from global to local and personal which reflection and prayer.

The war in Ukraine rumbles on with millions affected and thousands dying

Natural disasters such as flooding and earthquakes bring devastation and loss of life to so many places and people across our world. Remember the aid workers in these situations. Think of climate change and the governments who need to respond to tackling it in time.

Across the world there is so much repression and fighting—some situations we rarely hear about

In our own country many are struggling to make ends meet and there is considerable industrial unrest. Solutions need to be found.

Our community reflects the national picture and its response through the various agencies and charities should be remembered. We know people of Whitchurch prove to be ever generous through the FOOD-BANK

Our church has a mission in Whitchurch and all our activities are centred on being in the community through BBT, More+ on Monday which continue for the present.

Lastly ourselves, families and friends - whether joyful or sad we are aware of our needs and those of others.

Bringing all this to Jesus .

**A Poem by a nineteenth century poet**

**William Hurd Hillyer**

**Christ like**

No pictured likeness of my Lord

I have;

He carved no record

of his ministry

on wood or stone,

He left no sculptured tomb

nor parchment dim

but trusted for all memory of him

the heart alone.

Who sees the face but sees in part;

Who reads the spirit which it hides,

sees all;

He needs no more.

Thy life is my life, Lord,

give thou to me;

And then, in truth,

I may for ever see

My Master's face!

### **Stewards**

4th June	Andrew Fawcett
11th June	Mike Nimmo
18th June	Dot Charlesworth
25th June	Avril Bradfield



### **Sound**

4th June	Andrew Fawcett
11th June	Mike Nimmo
18th June	Brian Acty
25th June	Sarah Lunt



### **Spick and Spanners**

Week Commencing

12th June	Nancy Millington & Gwen Reeves
26th June	Helen Thompson & Brenda Aumeer



## Taxi



The following drivers are willing to provide a lift to church. Please telephone before 9.30am on that day.

Please note also that trying to predict in advance is not easy, so some changes may be necessary.

4th June	Hazel Nimmo
11th June	Hazel Nimmo
18th June	Pete Shingler
25th June	Pete Shingler
2nd July	Pete Shingler

## *All the dates for June*

4th June	Annual Church Meeting (following service)
5th June	More + 1.00pm to 4.00pm
12th June	More + 1.00pm to 4.00pm
19th June	More + 1.00pm to 4.00pm
25th June	Recycled Sewing Bee 12noon to 4.00pm
26th June	More + 1.00pm to 4.00pm

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**July/August 2023 Newsletter**

Please let Dot Charlesworth have all your submissions for the next Newsletter by Tuesday 18th June

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## **WALKERS**

