



**St. John's Methodist Church  
Whitchurch  
June 2025  
Newsletter**

### *Message from the Manse*

Although a bit later than usual, Pentecost is now upon us in June. It's a day when we traditionally celebrate the beginnings of the Church and the empowerment of it's people by the Holy Spirit. There's a sense too that we've come through all the seasons of the Church from Advent through to Lent and Easter, and now finally (with the exception of Trinity Sunday) there's a sense of completion; we can relax a bit, take time and space to reflect on what's happened in the past year, and then get ready for it all to start again in the autumn with harvest!

The feast of Pentecost in Jesus' time was also a celebration of harvest. It was held fifty days after the Passover Festival and was the culmination of a number of other feasts and festivals during that time. Finally on the day of Pentecost thanksgiving was offered for all of the harvest gathered in, and praise given to God for the giving of the Law and God's faithfulness to the people. It was a Harvest in every sense of the word, and what a perfect festival for the Holy Spirit to invade! Frightened disciples became bold as the Spirit descended in wind and fire upon them, and something extraordinary happened which meant everyone present from the four corners of the world could understand the disciples' message. It was the biggest translation service ever known!

Perhaps we ought to think of our celebration of Pentecost as a Harvest of the Spirit's work in our lives and Church community; what have we done in the past to sow the seeds of God's love? How have we nurtured them? What fruit has come to bear? Sometimes we can feel downhearted, that our efforts seem to have led nowhere, but then, unexpectedly we discover that something we have done or

said, or an activity we have put on at Church has touched people's lives and we see that the Spirit is indeed at work. Ultimately the sign that the Holy Spirit is working through us is not in dramatic or charismatic manifestations (though they have their place), but in the steady work of being faithful to Christ and the call he has placed on our lives.

With warmest regards to you all in this season of Pentecost.

Rev Frances Biseker.

*(While we at St John's have had Rev Jon Chesworth covering for Rev Donna during her sabbatical, Rev Frances was also part of the overall cover for Donna's churches. Editor)*



**Methodist Women  
in Britain**

for women, for justice, for Christ

*Many thanks to  
everyone who  
donated to the  
Easter Offering  
this year. We  
sent  
£75 (including  
Gift Aid) from  
St Johns.*

## Steward's Letter



As many of you will know, I love the sunshine and have done since I was a little girl. My friends would go out to play whether it was sunny or “raining cats and dogs” as we would say in Scotland but not me! Well - I haven’t changed – I still love the sunshine and can be out in it for hours but when it rains I am huddled up in the living room with a book. I had just finished the tome which I had been reading for weeks called Dictator and wanted something a bit more light hearted. Looking in one of our various book shelves I found a little pile of books – which I hadn’t looked at previously. One was by Brian Johnston (I Say, I Say, I Say), another called Moving On was written by the Falklands hero, Simon Weston, who, as you will remember, was horrifically burnt in the Falklands conflict of 1982. In the end I came across a book called Life, Love and Laughter, written by The Very Rev Dr Simpson, who was for many years the minister of Dornoch Cathedral. He was also Chaplain to the Queen when she visited Scotland. In this book Dr Simpson, as in many of his previous books, uses kindly humour and many unforgettable stories to shed light on the meaning of life and love and laughter.

The following are examples of the contents:

1 A church matched these songs with Biblical characters:  
Raindrops Keep Falling on my Head - Noah I have  
got the right to sing the blues - Job Stayin’ Alive -  
Methuselah The Lady is a Tramp - Jezebel  
When you wish upon a Star - The Three Wise Men

2 The following intimation appeared in an American church newsletter: “Six new choir robes are needed due to the addition of new choir members, and the deterioration of some of the old ones”

3 A sermon helps people in different ways. Some rise from it greatly strengthened, others wake from it greatly refreshed,

4 A little boy was listening to his grandfather relate stores of his time as a soldier in the Gordon Highlanders, “I fought in Africa, in Italy and Germany. I fought with Montgomery, I fought with Wavell and I fought with Alexander”. The wee lad, more than slightly puzzled by what he had heard said “Grandad could you not get on with anyone?”

If anyone would like to borrow the book – just ask me.

**Hazel**

### **Services & Preachers**

1st June Local Arrangement

8th June Rev. Jenny Arthurs

15th June \* P Jackson

22nd June Rev Donna (baptism)

29th June Local Arrangement

- The next ZOOM Service is at 4pm on 15th June . Please see Avril for the link



### **Afternoon Teas at Brown Knowl Methodist Church**

Saturdays - 21st June

19th July

16th August

Only 50 bookings per tea so please book with either

Wendy OR  
Brenda

### **TEA & COFFEE ROTA**

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



the  
fee

8th June Hazel and Avril

15th June Nancy and Linda Jenkins

22nd June Brenda and Sarah

29th June Briony and Linda Weston

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

**Hazel**

**River Quiz :- All the answers are names of rivers both UK and world wide (clues, anagrams or hidden words)**

1. Bonnie's mate
2. One in the customer's eye.
3. Musically blue
4. Same as them
5. Woollen cloth
6. Minor examination
7. Sounds rather coarse
8. Site of 1879 rail disaster
9. 1950 John Wayne movie
10. Golfing gadgets
11. Runs through Wimbledon Common perhaps
12. Patron saint of libraries (died AD 258)
13. Livingstone saw it heading for a fall
14. And he has no alternative
15. Just missed the Olympic medal

## Christian Aid Week 11<sup>th</sup>=17<sup>th</sup> May



Thank you to everyone who supported Christian Aid Week this year. We will let you know the total collected as the envelopes and donations from the collection at the joint Christian Aid service held this year at St Alkmunds have yet to be counted. The coffee morning in the Market Hall raised £315. Unfortunately the street collection did not take place but we hope to hold one on another date during the year.,. Last year £915.17 was raised.

Gifts will help fund vital tools and training so farmers can support their communities as they struggle with the effects of our Changing Climate.

If you would still like to make a donation, please use one of the envelopes in Church and put it in the collection.

### **A Prayer from the Joint Service for Christian Aid Week**

*Lord, you are faithful to your promises.  
Through the Spirit you bless us with abounding hope.  
When power seeks to silence justice,  
give us the courage to raise our voice.  
When an end to poverty seems far off,  
renew our faith in your kingdom come on earth.  
When our neighbour reaches out,  
inspire us to respond with overflowing love.*

*In Jesus's name*

*Amen*



### **OYEZ! OYEZ! Volunteers Still Needed!**

With the departure of Vic Trigg the editors for the Newsletter has dropped from four to three. In the past we had five volunteers producing the ten Newsletters each year and ideally we would like to get back to that level.

You do not need to be a whizz kid to do it. "Publisher" does most of the work and almost all of the contents are given by other members etc. The photocopier has a program to print it off.

So, please think about giving two occasions a year to help keep the members well informed. Chris, Dot and I will happily give you "training".

**Mike**

### ***Go On Smile!***

How do you disperse an angry Scottish mob?  
Take up a collection

Jock was only five feet tall. He attributed his lack of height to the fact that as a lad in Scotland he was fed a lot of condensed milk and shortbread

Sandy and Jock dined together and after the meal Jock was heard to call for the bill for both of them. Next day the newspapers carried the headline: *Ventriloquist found murdered*

# **Jumble Sale**

*at*

**St John's Methodist  
Church**

**On**

**Saturday 7th June**

**10 am - 12 noon**

**Raffle,**

**Cake Stall,**

**Bric-a-brac**

**Refreshments**

## **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 has now lasted three years and thousands died and Gaza , Israel and Yemen are other areas of great concern. Pray for just solutions

Natural disasters such as flooding, fires, earthquakes and climate extremes. 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. 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 and Thursday. Our Church Council as trustees have responsibilities in making decisions for our church.

And finally, let us pray for Donna as she returns from her sabbatical. Pray that she has achieved her goals and returns to us with strengthened in her faith and ministry

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

Bringing all this to Jesus



## BBT@St Johns

Bumps Babies and Toddlers continues to provide a friendly welcome to children and their families and new children are coming along each week. They enjoy craft, toys and toast with singing, stories and prayers. If you would like to help or just want to come and say hello, please speak to someone on the rota.. Here is the rota for June and July

	Leader	Open up	General & Craft	Kitchen
2 <sup>nd</sup> June	Kathryn	Mike	Dot Chris	Elaine
9 <sup>th</sup> June	Kathryn	Briony	Brenda	Sarah
16 <sup>th</sup> June	Kathryn	Briony	Chris	Elaine
23 <sup>rd</sup> June	Kathryn	Mike	Dot	Hazel
30 <sup>th</sup> June	Kathryn	Brenda	Chris	Elaine
7 <sup>th</sup> July	Kathryn	Mike	Dot Brenda	Hazel
14 <sup>th</sup> July	Kathryn	Briony	Chris Elaine	Sarah
21 <sup>st</sup> July	<i>No BBT/ Last BBT to be confirmed</i>			

**To All Newsletter Contributors:**

Please remember that the next Newsletter covers two months - July and August.

**Circuit News**

Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> July at 4pm at Broomhall & Sound.  
A service of thanks and farewell to Rev'd Robin Fox and Rev'd Sarah Butcher. This service will be outdoors.  
Bring a picnic and a chair. All are welcome to join in this celebration

**The Three Words That Mattered**

A number of years ago an experiment was tried in which young offenders shared a camp with children with learning difficulties. One day the physically strong offenders helped their weaker companions climb a nearby hill. On arriving back a youngster with Downs Syndrome put his arms round the older lad who had accompanied him and said "I love you". The young offender burst into tears. Later the camp leader discovered that no one had ever before said that to him.

Many factors contribute to and shape young people, but of these caring love is by far the most important. If children are not loved during their growing years, they are more likely to become unlovely and unhappy adults

(Gleaned from "Life, Love and Laughter" by Rev. James A Simpson - former Moderator of the Church of Scotland)

### **More & More!**

With all the other dates being mentioned throughout the Newsletter, let's not forget

More on Monday 12 noon to 4 pm

And More on Thursday 12.30 pm to 4.00 pm

Come along for the fellowship!

### **Taxi**

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

### **Stewards**

1st June      Hazel

8th June      Andrew

15th June     Dot

22nd June     Mike

29th June     Andrew

## BARLOWS

YOUR LOCAL ELECTRICAL  
RETAILER  
EST IN 1948 BY  
THOMAS CLIFFORD BARLOW

WE PRIDE OURSELVES ON  
GREAT CUSTOMER SERVICE

HIGH STREET  
WHITCHURCH  
01948662453  
Www.barlows-  
electrical.co.uk



WHITCHURCH  
PHOTOGRAPHY

FOR ALL YOUR  
PHOTOGRAPHIC NEEDS!

01948 664 664

Weddings, Passports,  
Studio Photoshoots,  
Printing, Framing and  
Canvases

whitchurchphoto@gmail.com

### **July/August 2025 Newsletter**

Please let Chris Crowther have all your submissions  
for the next Newsletter by Friday 20th June.