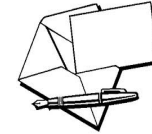




**St. John's Methodist Church
Whitchurch**

**July/August 2025
Newsletter**

Message from the Manse



Hello friends,

It's great to be back amongst you all and catching up with what has been happening. A huge thank you to those who have supported the continuing ministry in my churches whilst I have been away.

I thought I would share with you a little bit about my sabbatical. I'll share more I'm sure over the weeks and months ahead but thought I would give you the

highlights as such!

My sabbatical began with a bit of bump to be honest, just a few days before it began, I tripped over in the front garden, falling on my left knee and hitting my face against the wall. The bruising was quite extensive and I had pulled my back. This meant I started my sabbatical having no choice but to rest and recover. As frustrating as I found this, it was certainly what I needed both because of the fall but also because it was only when I stopped, I realised just how tired I was.

After recovering and resting, my sabbatical real-

ly truly began. The highlight was my trip to Ireland. I started off in Belfast and then travelled around the coast following the Wild Atlantic coastline. I travelled all the way round, finishing off in Dublin. The views and landscape are stunning, and I immersed myself in the local culture and history. I visited pilgrim sites, Celtic burial places and monuments, and many spiritual and holy places. Visiting the book of Kells in Dublin was a fascinating experience, and Glendalough in County Wicklow felt like a very thin place and spiritual.

My theme for the sabbatical was to look at communion, and in particular Celtic worship styles, and having opportunities to explore this has been beneficial. God though had ideas too, and I found myself led to discovering more about the Irish famine and the stories of emigration. A strong theme of what it means to be in community and communion with others came to mind, and I reflected on biblical stories that held the same theme. My own family ancestry comes from Ireland so the stories of migration did resonate with me. I will certainly be exploring this in worship in the coming months.

I also had a really inspiring visit to Liverpool Cathedral to see the Threads through the Bible exhibition by Jacqui Parkinson; a trip to York Minister to look at the stained-glass window displays and an amazing two week stay in Northumbria, with a weekend stay on Lindisfarne Island at Easter.

Having the time to rest, travel, be creative and spend time with my family has really been a blessing. Coming back, I feel I have gained some inspiration and knowledge to enhance worship as well as

my ministry. I am also determined to ensure a better work life balance and to stop and notice the every-day blessings we have. I really hope I can hold onto some of the things that have really strengthened me during this time.

Summer is a time when most of us have a bit of a break and a time of rest, holidays and lazy days. But before we know it September is here and things can soon get very busy, especially in church life. When the To-do list is ever growing it can be hard to ensure that we have a balance between the things we have to do and the things that we want to do. And it can feel like we are always in a rush.

Believe it or not, I ended my sabbatical having another fall – I tripped over on the cobbles in York, and ended up having to take a few days rest again. Both times I fell over because I was rushing. Rushing to get things done and rushing to fit everything in. Rushing gets us nowhere really. We can miss things and, in many ways, life passes by even quicker and we

Churches Together

The AGM of Churches Together is set for Tuesday July 1st at 7 30pm in the Beacon Centre, when the business part of the meeting will take place. At 8pm there will be a presentation based on **"The Sacred Thread: weaving story into Ministry"**, the use of story telling in Ministry, with discussion led by Simon Airey. All are invited. *See poster*

STEWARD'S LETTER



Hello Friends,

I'm finding it increasingly hard to watch the news these days with all the vivid images of war, destruction and hardship. It's so much worse on the bigger TV's we have nowadays than it was years ago when the screen was much smaller. There is often little good news in the world on the BBC, and I find it so upsetting. So, whilst Bob watches (often shouting at the TV), I sit in the corner looking out over the garden where I can't see the TV, or I go away into another room.

I'm sure I'm not on my own in this as I've seen more than one post on Facebook with advice to 'turn off the news and go out and walk amongst the trees' or something similar. Good advice indeed.

Recently Bob had some very good news, and I would like to share it with you. As Many of you will know Bob and I are both keen amateur artists and have both sold work. Bob has entered the summer competition at MOMA Wales, the Museum of Modern Art in Machynlleth, several times and always been accepted to exhibit (not all pictures are). Last week he heard he'd won first prize this year so we're both delighted. The presentation is this Saturday.

I don't think we share our good news often enough so if you have any good news please share it. I think we all need some good news. Let us all pray for those caught up in war, and suffering devas-

tation and hardship, but let us also share good news both from our own lives and the news we share in church each week. That God loves us all and is with us always.

Amen

Your friend and steward,
Dot

Circuit Farewell Service Sunday 6th July

4pm at Broomhall & Sound

A service of thanks and farewell to Rev Robin Fox and Rev Sarah Butcher. This service will be outdoors. Bring a picnic and a chair! Again all are welcome to join in this celebration.

Whitchurch Amateur Dramatics & Operatic Society

Present an unforgettable evening of iconic **James Bond themes** brought to life by the brilliant **Alveley Village Band** with Musical Direction by the fabulous **Garry Bailey**. From *Goldfinger* to *Skyfall*, enjoy the music that made 007 legendary.

Show date: Saturday 12th July, 7.30pm

Venue: St. John's Methodist Church, Whitchurch

Tickets: £10 online or from the Town Hall & Community Hub (Old Police Station)

River Quiz ; - Here are the answers for the quiz in last month's issue

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



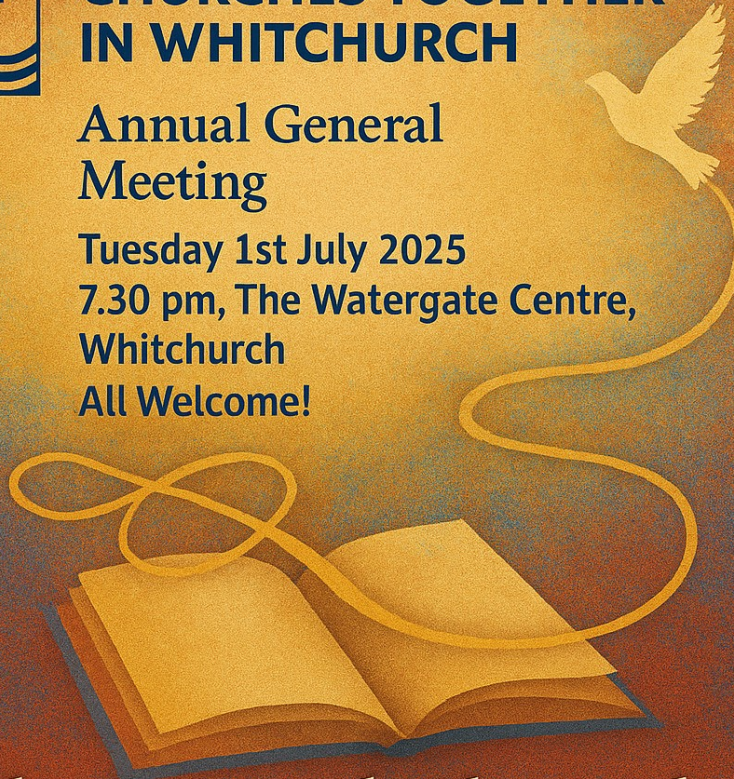
CHURCHES TOGETHER IN WHITCHURCH

Annual General Meeting

Tuesday 1st July 2025

7.30 pm, The Watergate Centre,
Whitchurch

All Welcome!



The Sacred Thread Weaving Story into Ministry

Following the AGM, there will be a talk by
Simon Airey, Anglican priest and professional storyteller

Simon has spent years weaving together the power of sacred and secular stories, showing how storytelling can breathe fresh life into ministry. As Jesus so often taught in parables, story remains the most natural and transformative way to share the gospel.

*- Whenever Christians rediscover this art, the message
of the gospel finds wings.*

Rev Donna has received the following from Caroline Ellison at the Chester Tourist Office:

Hello Reverend

I hope you don't mind me contacting you– I have had an email enquiry. I was wondering if any of your parishioners could throw light on:

The Bebbington brothers of Raw Head Farm

Any mentions on any church monuments re WW1

Is there another local Methodist Church?

Does anyone know the present owners of the farm and maybe willing to contact them in order that I may speak to them?

I thought it would be a nice thing to assist the couple.

This is the information Caroline received from the couple.

My wife Linda's father, James Bebbington, was born in 1900 at Raw Head Farm. I would like very much to surprise my wife with a visit to her father's birth place. All our relative contacts are long gone. We are 77 and 78. This is our last chance to visit. Linda's cousin, Philip Bebbington wrote an historical novel "Raw Head" about the 5 Bebbington brothers who served in World War 1. It would mean so much to us. Joe Tucker, Cabot, Arkansas, USA

Can anyone send any information to Caroline?

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 13th 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.

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 .

You can also access information on which Churches are open by going on the Shropshire Historic Churches web-site and following the link.

More details in Pew News nearer the time.

Circuit Welcome Service Sunday 31st August ...

4pm at Hospital Street, Nantwich.

A service to welcome our new Ministers, Rev Obeth Thevanesan: serving in Nantwich, Audlem, Hankelow and Woore; and Rev Jo Mulliner serving in Crewe and Rope Green, into our Circuit. Coffee and cake to follow!

All are welcome to join in this celebration. Donations of cake are welcome—please let Dot Milner, Circuit Administrator know if you can help.

Nota Bene for Musicians

*definitions for musical terms contributed by Elaine
who has a couple of tea towels with them on!*

B natural -something you try to be on stage

Cor Anglais - Cockney

Coda - served with chipsa

Con Moto - I have a car

Allegro - a little motor car

Maestro - a bigger motor car

Interval - time to meet the players in the bar

Perfect Interval - when drinks are on the house

Metronome - person small enough to fit in a mini.

Quaver - stage fright

Heavy Metal- a Harp

Karaoke- Japanese for 'bedlam'

BBT @ St. John's

Bumps, Babies and Toddlers provides a friendly welcome to children and their carers. Between 15 and 20 attend each week for craft, toys and coffee with singing, stories and prayers in the church when it's warm enough! If you would like to help or just want to come and say hello, please speak to someone on the rota.

BBT Rota for July/August

Date /Leader	Open up	Gen & Craft	Kitch- en
7th Kathryn	Mike	Dot/Brenda	Hazel
14th Kathryn	Briony	Chris/ Elaine	Sarah
21st Kathryn	?	?	?
28th Kathryn?	?	?	?

There will be BBT during August run by the Mums. There needs to be a rota of 2 people (volunteers please) at each session from St. John's who will be there to assist when necessary and cover safeguarding. The dates are 4th, 11th, and 18th. No session on 25th (Bank Holiday) but everyone is invited to the puppets and picnic at Broomhall & Sound on Tuesday 26th August. BBT resumes as normal on September 8th.

Preachers for July

6th Ivan Perry
13th Rev Donna HC
20th Mrs J M Jackson
27th LA

Stewards for July

6th Andrew Fawcett
13th Hazel Nimmo
20th Dot Charlesworth
27th Andrew Fawcett

Sound for July

6th Andrew Fawcett
13th Sarah Lunt
20th Mike Nimmo
27th Andrew Fawcett

Tea & Coffee Rota for July

6th Brenda Aumeer & Sarah Lunt
13th Hazel & Linda Jenkins
20th Briony Myles Hook & Linda
Weston
27th Chris Crowther & Elaine Gollins



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

Hazel

Preachers for August

3rd Mrs P Maidment
10th Graham Dimelow
17th LA
24th Rev J Chesworth
31st Hub Service @ Brown Knowl

Stewards for August

3rd Mike Nimmo
10th Hazel Nimmo
17th Mike Nimmo
24th Dot Charlesworth
31st Andrew Fawcett

Sound for August

3rd Sarah Lunt
10th Mike Nimmo
17th Andrew Fawcett
24th Sarah Lunt
31st Mike Nimmo

Tea & Coffee Rota for August

3rd Avril & Nancy
10th Elizabeth & Pete
17th Brenda & Sarah
24th Briony & Linda Weston
31st Hazel & 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

Hazel

Summer Foyre with Strawberry Teas

On Saturday 19th July from 12-4pm

At St. John's Methodist Church, Whitchurch

'Free Entry'

Whitchurch Singers!

Strawberry Teas

Tombola Bric-a-Brac Cake Stall Raffle

Including a Flower Fairy Colouring Competition for all ages with prizes to be awarded to the winner of each category, under 7's, over 7's and adults. Entries to be handed in by 2pm. Entries available at Church or at Refill Your Boots on the High Street.



PRAYER REQUESTS



Please pray for any members who are ill or bereaved or suffering in any way.

Please pray for our town and community and the several projects which are run to help people in need.

Please pray for the various dire situations around the world.

Please give thanks for the goodness that God shows to us all.

Afternoon Teas at Brown Knowl.

Saturdays 19th July and 16th August

2-4pm £10

**Booking necessary with either:
Wendy OR
Brenda**

Zoom services for July & August...

Sunday 20th July and Sunday 17th August at 4pm.
Please let Avril know if you would like to join in and she will send you the link.

Dates for your Diary

July Tues 1st 7pm Churches Together AGM Watergate Centre

Sun 6th 4pm Circuit Farewell @Broomhall & Sound

Sat 12th 7.30pm WAODS James Bond evening @St John's

Sun 13th 4pm Zoom service

Sat. 19th 12 noon –4pm Summer Fayre @ St John's

Sat. 19th Brown Knowl Teas 2-4pm £10

Sat. 26th Recycled Sewing Bee

August Sat. 16th Brown Knowl Teas 2-4pm £10

Sun 18th 4pm Zoom service

Sat. 30th Recycled Sewing Bee

Sun 31st 4pm Circuit Welcome Hospital St. Nantwich

Regular Activities

Mon. 7th, 14th, 21st, 28th July 9.30—11.30am BBT

Mon. 4th, 11th, 18th August 9.30-11.30am BBT

Mondays 12 –4.00pm MORE

Mon 7th July Canal trip MORE (*pre-bookings only*)

Thursdays 1-4pm MORE

Advance notice:

Sat. Sept. 13th 10am—6pm Ride & Stride, Heritage weekend

Other activities during the week held in our church: -

Mondays 7-8.30pm Whitchurch Choir

Tuesdays 9.45-10.45am Yoga

Wednesdays 12 noon—2.30pm Daily Reflections

Thursdays: 10am—12.30pm Art Group



Taxi! for July & August

Taxi service **may** be available. Phone either Hazel **OR** Pete before 9.30am and, if they are able to, one of them will bring you to church.

More Nota Bene for Musicians

Accidental - A wrong note
Inner Rhythms - Hunger pains
Lute - preferred to a cheque
Overture - Chat-up
Obbligato - being forced to practise
Largo - brewed in Germany
(Hence Handel's Largo reaches parts other beers cannot reach)

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September 2025 Newsletter

Please let Dot Charlesworth have all your submissions for the next Newsletter by 24th August.