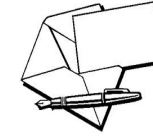


Newsletter



St. John's Methodist Church
Whitchurch
September 2025

Message from the Manse



Rev. Donna is away on holiday in Scotland with her family as I print this Newsletter . Therefore I will put the September message from the manse in the first Pew News of September.

Dot Charlesworth

Preachers for September

Sunday 7th September—Mr. Malcolm Crook

Sunday 14th September—LA

Sunday 21st September—Rev. Rob Hilton H.C.

**Sunday 28th September—Rev. Donna Broadbent –Kelly
Baptism**

Sunday 5th October—Rev. Donna Broadbent-Kelly

Stewards Letter

It was purely by chance that a couple of weeks ago I had the opportunity to visit my old boarding school while attending a meeting on a development project I'd been invited to tender for.

The meeting went very well and the prospect of returning to my old school on a regular basis appealed to me.

Just as I was about to take my leave the staff member in charge, knowing that I was a past pupil, asked if I would care to have a look round the old stomping ground, and of course I said that I'd love to!

The time that followed was unsurprisingly filled with vivid recollections of my teenage years that were at the time so closely intertwined with the lives of maybe ten or a dozen other boys of similar age who for a period of around five years were all but brothers to me. When the time eventually came when we had to say our final farewells to the school, as well as each other, there was of course great jubilation for some, but to me and others a huge sense of sadness that to this day still lingers

Cont.,

I had been back to the school over the years for the odd sporting event etc but only as a member of the general public. On this occasion I was given an in-depth tour of an establishment that fifty years ago was my whole world. I enjoyed every minute.

When I finally did leave the premises my mind returned time and again to a moment in the sports centre archives where I proudly pointed myself out to my guide on an old team photo from the late 70's displayed on a wall along with maybe a hundred other similar photos, of different teams, different sports, different eras. Having gone through each player of my team for what was probably the seventh time it suddenly struck me how diverse our lives had become. Tragically several had died, through motorcycles, cars, even suicide; several divorced and re-married, at least two emigrated, and they were only the few I'd kept in touch with.

I think most of us probably feel that our lives are far from perfect. But occasionally it serves us well to consider the lives of some of our peers, and then look at our own, and then count the many

Blessings
Andrew Fawcett

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 around 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.

Cont.,

Anyone who is interested in being sponsored to walking or riding (a bike, a horse, or in a car) around as many open churches/chapels as they can, please ask Chris Crowther for more information either at church or on 667282.

You can also access information on which churches are open by going on the Shropshire Historic Churches website and following the link.

We are looking for sponsors as we drive/walk round as many churches/chapels as possible. A sponsor sheet will be at the back of church for you to sign up. Also, as we are opening the church up for Heritage Saturday, we will need volunteers to be in the church all day. We are intending to provide refreshments for all visitors. Another list will be at the back of church for you to volunteer at a time to suit you.

Many Thanks,

Chris, Elaine, Sarah and anyone else who wants to take part.

Action for Children

It is with grateful thanks I wish to let the Action for Children box holders know that they have collected £184.55 for the cause this year. This is much appreciated.

Edna

Stewards Rota September 2025

7th – Andrew

14th—Mike

21st –Dot

28th—Hazel

6th October—Andrew

TEA AND COFFEE ROTA – SEPTEMBER 2025

7th Hazel & Linda Jenkins

14th Chris and Elaine

21st Avril and Nancy

28th Brenda and Sarah

**If the date you have been allocated doesn't suit please arrange to "swop" with someone.
Thank you - Hazel.**



Sound for September

7th Mike

14th Andrew

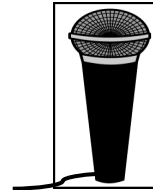
21st Sarah

28th Mike

If the allocated date doesn't suit please arrange a swop.

We need new volunteers to do sound. Training will be given.

Please speak to Mike if you can help



All the Dates for September and beyond

September

Tuesday 2nd September —Churches Together in Whitchurch Meeting 7.45 at St. Alkmunds

Monday 8th September—BBT resumes

Saturday 13th September—Ride & Stride and Heritage Open Day

Tuesday 16th September—Circuit meeting 7pm

Friday 19th September— Fair Trade Coffee Morning in the market hall begins Fair Trade Fortnight

Sunday 21st September—Zoom Service

Wednesday 24th September—Church Council 7pm

Friday 26th September—Deadline for October Newsletter

Saturday 27th September—Recycled Sewing Bee

October

Saturday October 4th—Blackberry Fair Day: Textile Exhibition & Recycled Fashion Show at St. John's

Sunday October 5th—Harvest Festival

Regular Activities

BBT—Mondays in termtime 9.30– 11.30 am.

MORE—Mondays 12-4pm & Thursdays 1-4pm

Zoom Service

The next Zoom service will be on Sunday 21st September at 4pm.

Please ask Avril for the link.

Sewing Bee Afternoon Tea at Brown Knowl

Seven sewing bee ladies enjoyed a lovely afternoon tea at Brown Knowl on Saturday 16th August. We all wore , or carried, something we'd made ourselves. We had a lovely afternoon and a delicious tea.



BBT@St Johns

Monday from 9.30-11.30am in term
time



Bumps Babies and Toddlers is back again on Monday 8th September after the Summer Holidays. We look forward to seeing familiar faces and welcoming new Mums, Dads, Grandparents and carers with their Babies and Toddlers and we send our love and blessings to everyone starting at a new nursery or school this September. There will be no BBT on 1st September, a sorting & cleaning day, or 27th October as this will be half term.

	Leader	Open- ing up	General & Craft	Kitchen
8th Sept	Kathryn	Mike	Dot & Chris	Hazel
15th Sept	Kathryn	Briony	Brenda	Sarah
22nd Sept	Kathryn	Mike	Chris & Elaine	Hazel
29th Sept	Kathryn	Briony	Brenda	Sarah

If you would like to help or just want to come and say hello, please speak to someone on the rota.

On 29th September we will be creating a fabric art work for the exhibition at church for the Blackberry Fair.

Advance Notice! We will be celebrating Harvest on Monday 6th October and all are welcome to join us for a short service at 10am



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.

June Newsletter

Please let Mike Nimmo have all your submissions for the next Newsletter by Friday 26th September

Please Help Support the Foodbank this Harvest

We will be collecting donations for the foodbank as part of the season of Harvest .

Unfortunately the needs of our local community are as great if not greater than ever.

Any items of food are welcome but the following are in particularly short supply.

- Coffee (small jars)
- Long-life juice
- Tinned fruit
- Custard
- Cereal
- Tinned peas and carrots
- Biscuits
- UHT semi-skimmed milk
- Sponge Puddings.

There is a box in church for your donations

Many thanks

**Fairtrade Fortnight will take place from
22 September to 5 October this year.**

We will be launching it with a

Coffee Morning in the Market Hall

Friday 19th September

9.30am – 12 noon

Tea & Coffee

Raffle / cake stall/ bric a brac/

fairtrade food & craft

Please let Briony or Brenda know if you can help on the day or by making a cake or donating a raffle prize or coming along to help make a positive impact on people's lives.



The Drawing Room Group

We meet every Thursday morning at St. John's Methodist Church 10am to 12.30pm beginning again on Thursday 4th September.

If you already enjoy drawing or if you want to learn please come and join us. Materials are provided if you have none.

Just come and try it the first session is free!

It's the best couple of hours of the week according to Mark, one of our members.

Contact me for more information.

Bob Charlesworth

Taken from Kilverts Diary

Whitsun Tuesday 26th May 1874

This afternoon the Rural Dean, Mr. Gray Lawson, came to visit and inspect our church. I met the church wardens there at 2.30, and while we were waiting for the Rural Dean Farmer John Bryant and I cut down with a penknife a young elm which was growing at the foot of the chancel wall beneath the east window and thrust the tree hurriedly into the great laurel bush in the corner which is the receptacle for all rubbish and withered decorations. The dead ivy which had been lately cut has been falling from the church walls in great dusty rubbishy flakes, but churchwarden, Jacob Knight went to the church with Ema Halliday yesterday and tidied up a bit..

Presently the Rural Dean came and asked many questions, examined the church within and without narrowly, looked behind the doors and into the books and stamped upon the wooden flooring by the Langley house pew til I feared he might go down to the vaults beneath. He asked about the state of the tower roof and I offered to go up the shaky old ladder with him but he wisely and hastily declined. As he was walking backwards looking up at the tower he stumbled backwards among the graves and might have dashed out his brains against the great alter tombs had I not seized him by the arm and help him up. He said our church was a singular instance of the morning congregation being larger than the afternoon one. Finally he said he had no fault to find and could not pick a hole in our coats.

Croquet , tea and supper at Langley Green

Submitted by Elaine Gollins

Heritage Open Day 13th September 2025

Our Church will be open from 10am to 6pm on Saturday 13th September to coincide with Ride & Stride.

The entry on the website heritageopendays.org.uk says

Full access to a Victorian Gothic Revival Methodist Church

A chance to view the interior of this church, opened in 1879. It includes two WWI memorial plaques, one of which came from Castle Hill Methodist when it closed. The organ was originally by Brindley & Foster but rebuilt around 1989 by Charles Whiteley of Chester. Beautiful stained glass windows include ones dedicated to parishioners Mary Beckett, Joseph Savage, William Smith, Joseph Walford, Thomas Lythgoe and Samuel Venables.

We will be offering tea, coffee and cakes throughout the day and welcoming people to look around our lovely church.

If you are able to help please let Briony know. There will be a sign up sheet at the back of the church.

All donations from visitors will be sent to Shropshire Historic Churches along with the money raised by those taking part in Ride & Stride. Half the money will then be donated back to St Johns to spend on your heritage building.



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