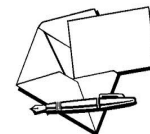




**St. John's Methodist Church
Whitchurch**

**November 2025
Newsletter**

Message from the Manse



Hello Friends

November is a month of remembrance — a time when we honour those who gave their lives in war, and when we also look around our world today and long for peace.

As I write this the news has just been shared that a ceasefire agreement between Israel and Hamas has happened. For now, brings a halt to the immediate hostilities in the middle east. Humanitarian access is being scaled up, aid convoys are preparing to enter and processes for hostage and prisoner exchanges are underway.

While this is deeply welcome news for many, we must remember that ceasefires can be fragile; the pause in violence does not immediately resolve the root causes of suffering, displacement, grief, injustice, or trauma. Even in a truce, civilians bear the scars of conflict — loss of homes, infrastructure, health, and community. The work of rebuilding trust, reconciliation, law, protection, and dignity is long, risky, and dependent on both political will and human compassion.

My prayer is that as you read this, some two weeks after writing that things have continued to remain calm and as the people and communities rebuild themselves, lasting peace is feeling much more achievable.

The situation in Gaza reminds us that while

wars may pause, the pain and rebuilding carry on. Innocent lives — in the past and in the present — are always at the heart of conflict.

As we enter November, our hearts are drawn to the theme of peace — not simply as a wish, but as a calling. In a world torn by conflict, uncertainty, and suffering, we are reminded again of Christ's work as the "Prince of Peace" (Isaiah 9:6) and His invitation to live peacefully with all (Romans 12:18).

As followers of Jesus we aren't just to pray for peace but to embody it, every day. And this isn't always easy I know, but if we hold onto those virtues of Christ — love, compassion, understanding and forgiveness, then we can resolve issues much more calmly and peacefully. That does not mean of course that we don't stand up for what is right. Just because we are Christians doesn't mean that we should allow mistreatment or unjust situations to happen. We are not called to offer complacent peace but rather we are to be courageous peacemakers.

So, what can we do as a community?

1. Remember with Gratitude

Let's honour the past not just with silence, but with action: by being people who value peace, understanding, and compassion in our everyday lives.

2. Stay Informed and Open

Conflicts around the world are complex — including the situation in Gaza and Israel. Taking time to listen, learn, and understand helps us move beyond division and towards empathy.

3. Support Relief Efforts

Give, if you can, to trusted aid organisations deliver-

ing food, shelter, and medical care to those in need.

4. Come Together

This year we again join as churches together at the war memorial and then with our friends at St Alkmunds for a service to mark the Remembrance Sunday reflections.

“Peace is not something you wish for; it’s something you make” — *John Lennon*

As we wear our poppies, light candles, and gather this month, let’s carry that message with us — that peace begins in how we treat each other, care for the vulnerable, and respond to the world around us.

With blessings,
Rev. Donna

Remembrance Sunday 9th November

The proceedings start at the War Memorial at 10.45am with members of the Beacon Church representing Whitchurch Churches Together leading a short service including two minutes silence. This is followed by the parade to St. Alkmund’s for the Remembrance Service at 11.30am. This is followed by a parade to the Cemetery War Graves up Mile Bank.

STEWARD'S LETTER



Dear Friends

Good News and Wide Smiles!

We recently had some good news about the tower clock working again but unfortunately as I am writing we are having more problems with the clock stopping and starting. I hope we can have a more permanent solution soon but I'll keep you posted on that.

On the theme of good news, I attended the Inner Wheel International Rally at Lilleshall recently and I'd like to share with you a little bit about the charities the Inner Wheel is supporting around the world. We arrived at around 10am and enjoyed a coffee and browsed the stalls before the presentations began at 11 am. Here's a brief overview;

Glads House: Mombasa, Kenya. This charity supports the street kids of Mombasa through 'safe spaces'. Protecting the kids and often their families and providing educational support and an opportunity to engage in sport, often football or boxing. This encourages their physical and psychological wellbeing. Lovely wide smiles from these children playing football on screen were such a joy to see.

ChildAid: A charity based in London. They support children in Moldova, Belarus and Ukraine. Providing education, healthcare and reunit-

ing families who have been misplaced.

Teams4U: Annual Christmas Shoeboxes distribution program. They distribute to, Georgia, Moldova, Belarus, Romania & Bosnia, 60,000 Christmas Shoe Boxes were handed out in 2024. The wide smiles on the faces of these children as they opened their shoeboxes from the UK were just lovely.

Intercare: Helps to redirect unused medical supplies to Africa where they are needed. These go to schools, hospitals, health centres and orphanages. They send only what is needed so constant liaising with different areas in Africa takes place before shipment. Examples of the achievements were shown on film.

Purple Community Fund: They run their own education and mentoring, livelihood and skills training in the very poor areas of the Philippines. They had an amazing display of recycled jewellery, bags and purses on their stall, all using ring pulls from drinks cans. They also recycle tyres into footwear and wellingtons. They showed a lot of what they do on film, accompanied a joyful children's choir.

The Inner Wheel also helps a lot of groups in the local community in and around Whitchurch but too many for this letter.

I'm proud to play a very small part in this support as a member of the Inner Wheel and I know that in serving the community, both near and far, I'm serving the Lord.

Yours in Friendship
Dot Charlesworth

A poem for the season of Remembrance contributed by the Griffins, written by their daughter when she was at school many years ago:

The Attack

In the east a bright light slowly rises
The sun is awake
Its rays shine through,
A cockerel is calling
Far, far away.
Dawn has broken
Waiting in a deadly silence
Among the dirt, dead and desperate.
Awaiting the formidable call
From the commander below.
Who knows when that will be?
Five minutes, ten twenty, thirty,
Now!

The orders are given,
The bombs are thrown.
Men arm themselves
Leap up and go
Not knowing who will return, not knowing who won't.
Bellows of, 'Charge',
Show the attack has begun.

Jumping in and out of trenches,
Firing at anything that moves,
Only one care left in the world
To win, win for the country.
Five men lie dead
Spots of blood dripping from their injury.
Others continue to charge
Not realizing the pain and agony yet.
The enemy retaliates
Completely bewildered
Shouting and panic
Not ready for it yet.

The worst is over
If that is ever possible
One man struggles between
Attempting to escape.
A prisoner
The key to everything.

A soldier limps behind
Calling for help
Shouting to wait.
'Only a few more steps to go',
He tells himself.
Twenty yards and safe at last
The others are safe -all out of sight.
Suddenly a nearby bomb explodes,
He feels a sharp pain in his back,
A heavy trickle follows.
'It's raining hard,' he thinks,
But no! it's blood,

The next thing he knows
People shout at him to hurry,
No-one can help
Not even his friends.
He falls in slow motion
The darkness closes round.
His end has arrived,
Peace at last.

In the east a bright light slowly rises
The sun is awake,
Its rays shine through.
A cockerel is calling,
Dawn has broken,
Life must go on.

Alison Ruth Griffin

A Thank you Message from Whitchurch Foodbank

Please accept our sincere thanks to the members of St. John's Methodist Church for their wonderful generosity this Harvest. The harvest donations from St John's weighed 54.5kg and we are truly most appreciative!

Thanks to all the support we have received this Harvest from all our Schools, Churches and Chapels - WE WILL be able to fulfil our commitments to those who are sent to us for help, when they are at their wits end, wondering where their next meal will come from this Winter, and dare I say it— Christmas !

Bless you all!



Come to our Christmas Fayre

on Saturday 13th December 10am-2 pm
at St. John's Church, Whitchurch

We'll have;

Cakes Tombola Raffle Craft Stall
Bric a brac Christmas Stall
Tea/Coffee, Cake and Warm Mince Pies

We'll have a Christmas Singalong at 1pm
and we may have a visit from Father
Christmas??



[This Photo](#) by

Thank you to everyone who attended the Coffee Morning at Bargates on 25th October. A total of £130 was raised for Christian Aid and £200 of Fairtrade gifts and Christmas cards were sold.



Advance Notice:

*Lights of Love Service at Severn Hospice, Bicton
Sunday 7 Dec 4pm*

Quiz Evening/ Supper 14th November

We are holding a Quiz + supper on Friday 14th November here at church. It will start at 7.00pm and Mike Nimmo will be the question master. The cost is £10 per person, and this will include nibbles on the table and supper. Don't be put off if you don't have a team of 4 - just turn up on the night and teams will be created.

Please sign the sheet in the Long Room and tick your choice of supper **OR** phone Chris Crowther to let us know how many are coming in your group. Pay on the night.



Perennial

The world is full of miracles
And not the least of these
Are bulbs I plant in Autumn
Beneath the drifting leaves.

I feel a strange excitement
As I place them in the sod-
Committing them, in dark and cold,
To do the will of God.

The sunny days are shorter now
November's breath is chill.
My faith by definition is—
Bulb equals daffodil!



BBT@St Johns

Monday from 9.30-11.30am in term time

Please join us for coffee chat craft songs & stories

Bumps Babies and Toddlers have been looking at The Creation Story this Autumn.

Rev Donna led a harvest worship on 6 th October and we looked around the colourful harvest displays in Church. We will be celebrating Christmas on Monday 15 th December and all are welcome to join us for a short service with dressing up at 10am and look at the lovely decorations in the Church.

The Rota for November is below.

	Leader	Open up	General & Craft	Tea
10th Nov	Kathryn	Briony	Chris/Sarah	Elaine
17th Nov	Kathryn	Mike	Dot/Brenda	Hazel
24th Nov	Kathryn	Briony	Dot/Chris	Sarah

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

Preachers for November

2nd	LA
9th	at St. Alkmunds 11.30am
16th	Mrs S. Tyson
23rd	Rev Donna
30th	LMA at St. John's Rev Donna HC

Stewards for November

2nd	LA Dot & Andrew
9th	n/a
16th	Mike
23rd	Andrew
30th	Dot

Tea & Coffee Rota for November

2nd	Elizabeth & Peter
9th	n/a
16th	Brenda & Sarah
23rd	Hazel & Linda J.
30th	Briony & Linda W.



Zoom Services

The next Zoom services will be on Sundays 23rd Nov and 21st Dec. at 4.00pm. Everyone is welcome for a short service and time of fellowship.

Contact Avril for the link.

Watching and Waiting in Advent

A Quiet Day led by Revd Helen Kirk

Saturday 6 December 2025
10:00am to 3:30pm
at The Oblate Retreat Centre
Wistaston Hall, Crewe, CW2 8JS



Lunch will be provided
Retreat cost £10 per person

Please book with Rob via
chester.stoke@btconnect.com
stating any special dietary requirements or
access needs

More from Kilvert's Diaries:-

1870

From Wye Cliff to Pont Faen. Miss Child in great force. She showed me her clever drawings of horses and told me the adventures of the brown wood owl 'Ruth' which she took home from here (*Clyro, Herefordshire*) last year. She wanted to call the owl 'Eve' but Mrs Bridge said it should be called 'Ruth'.

She and her sister stranded in London at night went to London Bridge hotel (having missed the last train) with little money and no luggage except the owl in a basket. The owl hooted all night in spite of putting it up the chimney, before the looking glass, under the bedclothes, and in a circle of lighted candles which they hoped it would mistake for the sun.

The owl went on hooting, upset the basket, got out and flew about the room. The chambermaid almost frightened to death dared not come inside the door. Miss Child asked the waiter to get some mice for 'Ruth' but none could be got!

Advertisement in the Situations Vacant column of a newspaper:-

Wanted: Woman to run up curtains!

PRAYER REQUESTS



Pray for those known to us who are ill, housebound, in care, lonely, bereaved or in any other kind of need.

St John's

Help us to be a loving, caring community and to respect differing viewpoints. Allow God to guide our thoughts, speech and decisions.

Our Town

Pray for our town as we remember the sacrifice of so many in protecting us over the years.

Our Nation

Pray for wisdom for our leaders as they make decisions on our behalf in the current world-wide crises. Help them to be respectful of one another even if they disagree with each others policies.

Our World

Give thanks for the fragile peace situation in Gaza and pray that it may become a more permanent solution.

As we approach Remembrance Day help us to remember the sacrifices made so that we could live in a more hopeful world.

Dates for your Diary—November

Regular Activities

Mon's. 10th, 17th, 24th 9.30—11.30am BBT

Mon's. 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th 12 -4.00pm MORE

Thurs. 6th, 13th, 20th, 27th 1 -4.00pm MORE

Sun. 9th 10.45am Remembrance at the War Memorial
11.30am at St Alkmund's Church

Fri. 14th 7pm Quiz/Fish & Chip Supper

Future events

Fri 12th Dec Hope Christmas Journey

Sat 13th Dec Christmas Fayre 10am—2pm

Sun 14th Candlelit Carol Service 6.30pm

The Saltmine Theatre Company will be performing Jack & the Beanstalk at the Watergate Centre on Friday 12th and Saturday 13th December

The 'Mangled Yarn' theatre group will be rehearsing a new version of 'A Christmas Carol' at St John's. There should be performances in the community, but there are no further details as yet.

An elderly woman visited an art gallery showing abstract paintings. "What does that represent?" she asked the attendant.

"That's the painter."

"And that?"

"The painter's wife."

"Well", the woman commented, "I hope they're not planning to have any children!"



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Taxi Service

If you are in need of a lift to church on a Sunday morning, phone either Hazel or Pete and, if one of them is able to, they will give you a lift. Please phone by 9.30am on Sunday morning.

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December 2025/January 2026 Newsletter

Please let Mike Nimmo have all your submissions for
the next Newsletter by 23rd November