

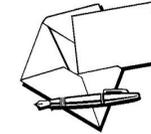


Jesus is Risen

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

**April 2026
Newsletter**

Message from the Manse



Hello Friends

As April unfolds around us, there is a quiet but unmistakable sense of change in the air. The days grow longer, the light lingers, and signs of new life appear all around—buds on trees, birdsong in the morning, and the gentle warmth of spring returning. It is a season that invites us to pause, to notice, and to reflect.

At the heart of April this year is the celebration of Easter—a message that sits at the very centre of our faith, but also speaks far beyond the walls of the church. Easter tells a story of hope: that even in the darkest moments, light can break through; that even when things feel lost, new life is possible.

This message is not only for one day. It is something we are invited to carry with us into our everyday lives.

For many of us, life can feel uncertain or heavy at times. We carry worries about family, work, health, or the wider world. Easter does not ignore these realities—but it gently reminds us that they are not the end of the story. Just as spring follows winter, hope can grow in places we did not expect.

April gives us small, everyday reminders of this truth. A flower pushing through the soil. A brighter

morning after a grey day. A kind word shared between neighbours. These moments may seem simple, but they speak of renewal, resilience, and quiet joy.

As a church community, we are thankful to be part of this shared journey with you—whether you are a regular member of the congregation, someone who comes to BBT, More or one of the others groups that we have, a visitor, or someone simply passing by. You are always welcome here. More importantly, you are valued and held in our prayers.

This month, perhaps we can each take a little time to notice the signs of new life around us—and within us. To hold onto hope, even in small ways. To offer kindness where we can. And to remember that we do not walk this path alone.

May this April bring you moments of peace, glimpses of joy, and a renewed sense of hope.
With every blessing,

Rev'd Donna

The spiritual journey can be a lonely road in the beginning. Later God will give us new friends.
God does not take anything away except to give us something better.

Thomas Keating

The Return of the Fron—advance notice

The Welsh Male Voice Choir are coming back to Whitchurch on 16th May – 7.30pm at St Alkmunds Church. In addition to the choir, Dylan Cernyw will perform on the harp.

Tickets priced at £15 are now available from Mike Nimmo.

The concert has once again been arranged by Whitchurch Rotary Club and all proceeds are will be channelled to the prostate screening night later in the year.

This is an ideal opportunity to have both a wonderful evening and support a worthy cause.



STEWARD'S LETTER



Dear Friends

Memories of Easter

As a child, and the youngest of five children, I remember us having one Easter egg each and my mother would line them up on the top shelf of the dresser in our front room—my mother always called it the parlour. I remember going in and looking at the Easter eggs with my sisters. “That one’s yours,” we would say, “and that one’s mine”. I liked the ones with coloured sugar flowers stuck on the chocolate but you don’t see them now. We couldn’t have them until Easter Sunday and then we were told not to eat it all at once as we’d make ourselves sick. I’m sure the eggs were bigger then!

Years later my eldest sister Joy liked to celebrate her special birthdays with an outing or holiday together and when she was seventy the three of us, Joy, Ann and I went to Edinburgh for the Easter Weekend. Joys birthday is on the 5th April and this year she’ll be eighty-six so it must have been in 2010. On the Easter Sunday we visited Kelvingrove museum and gallery and I was astounded by Salvadore Dali’s painting of the crucifixion called St. John of the cross. It was at the top of a flight of stairs and it really took my breath away. I bought a postcard of the picture and I kept it on my kitchen windowsill for years.

When I retired and took up art I often thought of painting my own crucifixion picture but it wasn't until 2020 that I started to attempt it. By Christmas 2022 after many stops, starts and changes I was almost happy with it and I really wanted to finish it for Easter 2023. By Lent 2023 it was finished except for the crown of thorns which I wanted to stand proud from the picture and be quite prominent. I tried sticks from the garden and bits of wire and I just couldn't get it right. Then it was Easter Sunday. That year Rev. Donna was our preacher and I, as steward on duty, hid a number of small eggs for her with something inside each one. It was a lovely service and Rev. Donna told the Easter story through various things found in the little eggs. The last one was opened and it contained a crown of thorns, just the right size for my picture. When we had coffee afterwards, I spoke to Rev. Donna and she gave me the crown to use in my picture. I still like to think of it as divine intervention. The picture now hangs high on the wall opposite the church entrance and the crown is prominent and sometimes catches the light from the window.

Happy Easter All.
Dot Charlesworth



An advert from Cheshire South Circuit

Nantwich Methodist Church are looking to recruit two experienced joint Team Leaders for Drop 'n' Shop our childcare facility which currently opens twice-monthly Saturdays 10am – 12 noon for primary school age children.

Drop 'n' Shop is an inclusive childcare provision therefore all candidates need to have understanding and experience of working with children, including children with SEND needs, and a passion for inclusion.

Salary £16 per hour (£2,412.80 per year) fixed term of 12 months for 5.8 hours twice per month. (Contract initially for 26 weeks per year with the potential to rise to 39 weeks per year on project review.) Minimum of 4 hours 9.00am – 1.00pm, which includes the Drop 'n' Shop sessions 10 – 12 noon twice per month Saturday mornings. Additional time which gives an average of 5.8 hours per fortnight over the 12 months to cover all job role and responsibilities, including training, planning and administration is included in the yearly salary above. See job description and person specification for further details. The closing date for applications is Thursday 9 April 12 noon. Interviews week beginning 20 April 2026, posts to start asap.

If you would like an informal chat about this role please contact

Lorraine Evans

Please request application packs and submit completed applications

via 1108info.cheshiresouth@gmail.com

Circuit Meeting at St. John's Saturday 18th April
10.00 to 11.30am + coffee and biscuits!

Anyone in the congregation is invited to attend this meeting to discuss the way forward for the circuit. Mr Geoff Dickinson has produced an opening document raising all sorts of issues, questions and options, a copy of which is on the Church noticeboard (copies can be made if wished).

Come to this meeting to have your views heard and to listen to others as to how Methodism and in particular our circuit should move forward.

You are invited to an event being held at Beacon Church.

“She Sharpens” women’s conference based on Proverbs 27 v. 17

Contact: office@tbcw.org as soon as possible to book a place

Date: Saturday 18th April 2026

Time: 9.00am – 4pm

Cost: £10-You can pay on the day. If the cost is an issue, please feel free to get in touch. We want to make sure everyone has the chance to attend.

What’s Provided: Pastries and fruit on arrival, along with refreshments, cakes, and scones.

Please bring your own lunch, or feel free to pop out to the nearby cafes and shops.

If you have any dietary preferences or restrictions, we kindly ask that you bring your own refreshments to ensure your needs are fully met.

Kilvert's Diary (extract)

Palm Sunday, 24th March, 1872

A snowy Palm Sunday. Mr Venables went to Bettws in a dense snow storm. In the afternoon I had the happiness to have all the poor people to myself. None of the grand people were at church by reason of the snow. So of course I could speak much better and more freely.

After service I went up to the Bird's Nest to see old Meredith. Further up I stopped and turned to look at the view. I saw what I thought was a long dazzling white and golden cloud up in the sky. Suddenly I found that I had been gazing at the great snow slopes of the Black Mountains lit up by the setting sun and looking through dark storm clouds. It was a sublime spectacle, the long white rampart dazzling in its brilliancy and warmed by a golden tinge standing high up above the clear dark line of the nearer hills taking the sunshine, and bathed in glory. Then in the silence the Hay Church bell for evensong boomed suddenly out across the valley.

Call My Bluff evening and Fish & Chip Supper

Fri. 17th April 7pm

We are hoping to arrange a fish & chip supper evening in April but with a Call My Bluff not a Quiz.

I'm sure you all remember this game show with Robert Robinson, Frank Muir and Patrick Campbell with his stutter. We have a couple of volunteers to be on the panel reading out the 3 definitions (1 true and 2 false). Everybody else will be in groups of 3 or 4 trying to guess which is the right definition. The team with the most correct will be the winners. Next week a sheet will be put out for you to sign up if you are interested in joining us.



Christian Aid Lent Lunches



Thank you to everyone who helped or supported the Lent Lunch we (St. John's) hosted at the Watergate Centre this year.

Over 50 people attended and a total of £193 was raised for Christian Aid.

These have now come to an end—until next year!

The next event is the Christian Aid Service at St. John's on Sunday May 10th.

A Repair Café for Whitchurch?

Too many things are thrown away because they are broken and we don't know how to fix them. We are looking the possibility of starting a Repair Café at St John's.

It would be open once a month on a Saturday afternoon and people would bring along their items from home to see if they can be repaired. They could also have a chat over a cup of tea.

If you are interested in helping with this, or if you know anyone who may be able to spend a few hours a month repairing items and passing on their skills, please let us know.

There are currently Repair Cafes in Oswestry and Shrewsbury and more information can be found on

www.repaircafe.org/en



Briony, Dot, Elaine, Chris and others.

Written in Early Spring

I heard a thousand blended notes
While in a grove I sate reclined,
In that sweet mood when pleasant thoughts
Bring sad thoughts to the mind.

To her fair works did Nature link
The human soul that through me ran;
And much it grieved my heart to think
What Man had made of Man.

Through primrose tufts, in that sweet bower,
The periwinkle trail'd its wreaths;
And 'tis my belief that every flower
Enjoys the air it breathes.

The birds around me hopp'd and play'd,
Their thoughts I cannot measure, -
But the least motion which I made
It seem'd a thrill of pleasure.

The budding twigs spread out their fan
To catch the breezy air;
And I must think, do all I can,
That there was pleasure there.

If this belief from heaven be sent,
If such be Nature's holy plan,
Have I not reason to lament
What Man has made of Man?

William Wordsworth(1770-1850)

BBT@St Johns

Monday from 9.30-11.30am in term time
 Please join us at Bumps Babies & Toddlers from 9.30-11.30am for craft, toys, singing, stories, coffee and chat. A children's clothing hub is also available so come and find some new outfits for your growing children.
 We are keen for more people 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.

Rota for April & May

Date	Leader	Open up	General & Craft	Kitchen
6th April	No BBT	Easter		
13th April	Kathryn	Briony	Chris/Dot	Elaine
20th April	Kathryn	Mike	Brenda/Elaine	Hazel
27th April	Kathryn	Mike	Chris/Dot	Sarah
4th May	No BBT	Bank Holiday		
11th May	Kathryn	Mike	Brenda/Chris	Hazel
18th May	Kathryn	Briony	Elaine/Dot	Sarah
25th May	No BBT			

Hope Journey for Easter Friday 13th March

Thank you to everyone who helped with the Hope Journey on Friday 13th March. It was lovely to welcome 90 Year 4 children from Whitchurch Junior Academy to learn more about the Easter Story through story telling, craft, music and prayer.

Preachers for April

5th Mr Geoff Dickinson Easter
12th Mr Ivan Perry
19th Rev Donna
26th Rev Jenny Arthurs

Stewards for April

5th Dot Charlesworth
12th Hazel Nimmo
19th Andrew Fawcett
26th Mike Nimmo

Tea & Coffee Rota for April

5th Elizabeth & Pete
12th Hazel & Linda Jenkins
19th Elaine & Chris
26th Avril & Nancy



Zoom Services

The next Zoom services will be on Sundays 12th April and 17th May at 4.00pm. Everyone is welcome for a short service and time of fellowship.

Contact Avril for the link.

FILM NIGHT

AT ST JOHN'S METHODIST CHURCH



SEE THE EPIC FILM

RISEN

TUESDAY 31ST MARCH 2026

AT 7:00PM

ST JOHN'S METHODIST CHURCH

FREE ENTRY • ALL WELCOME!

Donations gratefully received

📍 St John's Methodist Church, Whitchurch

📅 Tuesday 31st March 2026

🕒 7:00pm Start

JOIN US FOR AN INSPIRING EVENING!

**Home-Thoughts from Abroad
(part)**

Oh, to be in England
Now that April's there,
And whoever wakes in England
Sees, some morning, unaware,
That the lowest boughs and the brushwood sheaf
Round the elm-tree bole are in tiny leaf,
While the chaffinch sings in the orchard bough
In England—now!

Robert Browning (1812-89)



More Quotes from contemplative spiritual-ists

Enlightenment is something you fall into when you get out of the way.

Richard Rohr

To see everything in God and to see God in everything normally takes a lifetime to practice.

Thomas Keating

PRAYER REQUESTS



After the visit of Rev. Obeth Thevanesan recently, I was requested by a member of the congregation to include his prayer which we all read together entitled Leading Your Church into Growth:

“God of Mission, who alone brings growth to our Church, send your Holy Spirit to give -

Vision to our planning,
Wisdom to our actions,
Joy to our worship and
Power to our witness.

Help our church to grow in numbers, in spiritual commitment to you, and in service to our local community, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen

We remember in our prayers all the disasters in the world, both manmade and natural, too many to name. Those in the headlines are War in Iran and the Ukraine (which seems to have been pushed to one side at present and famine in the Sudan We hold up all those affected by such events to you, O Lord.

We also remember all those in this area who are mourning or suffering from illness or poverty and

Piloting Faith

Prayer is not asking. It is a longing of the Soul. It is daily admission of one's weakness. It is better in prayer to have a heart without words than words without heart.

Mahatma Ghandi

Dates for your Diary—April

Regular Activities

Mon's. 13th, 20th, 27th 9.30—11.30am BBT
Mon's. 13th, 20th, 27th, 12 -4.00pm MORE
Thurs. 9th, 17th, 23rd, 30th 1 -4.00pm MORE
Tues. 31st MARCH 7pm Film Night "Risen"
Fri. 3rd Walk of Witness
Sun. 12th 4pm Zoom service
Fri. 17th 7pm Call My Bluff, Fish+chip supper
Sat. 18th Circuit meeting at St. John's All welcome.
Weds, 22nd 2.30-4.00 Organ group visit, audience welcome
Tues. 28th 10am Events meeting

Future events

Sun. 10th May Christian Aid service at St. John's
Sat. 16th May 7.30pm Fron Male Voice Choir at St. Alkmund's
Tuesdays in May Midday Concerts—details later

Churches Together Totals for Lent lunches

St George's, 6 March 2026	£191.59
St John's, 11 March 2026	£193.10
St Alkmund's, 18 March 2026	£131.60
Beacon, 25 March 2026	£135.00

Total: Lent Lunches £651.2

Thank you to everyone who helped or attended or contributed in anyway.



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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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May 2026 Newsletter

Please let Mike Nimmo have all your submissions for the next Newsletter by 22nd April.