

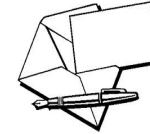
Newsletter



St. John's Methodist Church
Whitchurch
June 2026

Message from the Manse

June Newsletter Reflection 2026



Hello friends

As June arrives, the days stretch longer and the world around us seems to slow into the gentleness of early summer. Gardens begin to bloom more fully, birdsong fills the mornings, and many of us find ourselves spending more time outdoors, enjoying light evenings and warmer days.

Summer has a way of reminding us to pause. In the midst of busy lives, responsibilities, worries, and endless lists of things to do, the words of Jesus feel especially important: “Come away and rest awhile.”

Rest is not laziness. Rest is holy. From the very beginning of creation, God built rhythms of work and rest into the fabric of life itself. Even Jesus stepped away from crowds and demands to pray, breathe, and simply be still in God’s presence.

Yet many people today struggle to rest. We can feel guilty for slowing down. We fill every quiet moment with activity, noise, or screens. Some carry burdens that make true rest feel impossible — anxiety about the future, loneliness, financial pressures, grief, or caring responsibilities.

Summer invites us gently to rediscover small moments of peace.

Cont. overleaf

Cont.,

Perhaps rest looks like sitting in the garden with a cup of tea. Perhaps it means walking slowly and noticing creation all around us. Perhaps it is spending time with family, reading a good book, sharing laughter with friends, or simply allowing ourselves time to breathe.

And rest is not only for ourselves. As a church community, we are also called to become places of rest for others — communities of welcome, kindness, and compassion in a weary world.

In a society that often values people only for what they achieve or produce, the Gospel reminds us that our worth comes simply from being loved by God.

This June, may we hear Christ's invitation afresh: Come away. Rest awhile. Be renewed.

May our homes know peace. May our hearts know stillness. May our church continue to be a place of encouragement and grace for all who enter.

And may we find God not only in the extraordinary moments, but also in sunshine, shared meals, quiet evenings, and the beauty of ordinary summer days.

With every blessing for June and the coming summer season.

Rev'd Donna

Stewards Letter for June

Many years ago when the NHS wasn't quite so strapped for cash, together with my wife I recall with fond memories attending parent craft courses at Shrewsbury Hospital, in the period leading up to the birth of our first child.

It goes without saying that it was a very special time in our lives because along with twenty or so other attendees of the classes who over the course of a few weeks we got to know really quite well, we were essentially preparing for something that was going to change the course of our lives for ever.

In the fullness of time then, when the big day came and went, and those endless nights of broken sleep showed the first signs of abating, one or two of the mums-to-be from the parenting classes found themselves sharing company once more with the very same people at the mums and toddlers groups.

This was a wonderful environment for young mums to build lasting relationships with other mums sharing experiences, exchanging thoughts, seeking advice etc, which is precisely what my wife did.

Recently my family was invited to share in the celebrations of the 70th birthday of one of those very first parents-to-be with whom we had formed a lifelong friendship. With great food, drink and laughter in equal measure it proved to be a spectacular evening for the whole family.

What a blessing it is to be able to share memories of the highs, and the lows, with those most precious to us, that nothing, or nobody can take away. *Andrew*

A submission from Edna Perry

On the first day of May we had the sad news that our next door neighbour had died while in recovery at Oswestry hospital from a fall at home a week or so earlier. John was our neighbour to greet us when we came to live at Sandringham Close in 2011. We helped one another when his wife was alive and Ivan and I were good friends with John (Jack) and Joan his wife. The house and garden are silent now while his daughters arrange his funeral and decide what to do with the house. When he was a widower we would share treats with him like cake I had baked or a portion of liver and onions which we all enjoyed. John was 91 and his sister kindly visited him three times a week to do things like his washing. He was always fretful about the fact that he couldn't keep the garden as Joan would have liked as age made that hard. Throughout his life he was a hard worker. The house and garden are silent now. We must cherish our friends while we can. Be good to neighbours and all people as a smile, a kind word can mean so much especially if a person lives alone.

Edna Perry

Rota's for Tea & Coffee and for Sound have been delayed but will be announced in Pew News.

Dot



Preachers for June

June 7th—Rev. Helen Kirk

June 14th—Mrs Pat Maidment

June 21st —L.A.

June 28th—Mr. Graham Dimelow

Stewards Rota for June

June 7th—Dot

June 14th—Hazel

June 21st—Mike

June 28th—Andrew



Summer Fayre with Strawberry Teas

On Saturday 20th June
from 2.30-4.30pm

At St. John's Methodist Church,
'Free Entry'

Featuring Whitchurch Singers



Strawberry Teas



Tombola, Bric-a-Brac, Cake Stall
Raffle and Crafts

Join us for a great afternoon

All the Dates for June

Saturday 20th June: Summer Fayre with strawberry teas

Sunday 21st June: The next Zoom Service

Tuesday 23rd June: The last Spring Concert

Wednesday 24th June: Submissions to July/August Newsletter

Saturday 27th June: Recycled Sewing Bee

Saturday 27th June: Afternoon Tea at Brown Knowl

Sunday 28th June: Cream Teas at Prees Green Church 2.30-4.30



St. John's Methodist Church
Whitchurch
Present one more FREE Midday Concert

Don't miss this last concert on,

Tuesday 23rd June: Featuring,
The Tither Recorder Ensemble
followed by,
The Trigelows, Helen Rachel & Vic.

**Following the concert your donations will
be gratefully accepted and a ploughman's
lunch will be served in the guild room.**

Christian Aid Week 10th-16th May

Thank you to everyone who supported Christian Aid Week this year.

Your gifts are helping women in Kenya grow food, earn an income and care for their children in the face of hunger and rising living costs.

The Coffee Morning in the Market Hall raised £234.

Donations including those from the Joint Churches Together Christian Aid Service at St Johns and the Coffee Morning totalled £394.97.

This gives a total of £628.97 so far.

If you would still like to make a donation, please use one of the envelopes in Church and put it in the collection or donate online via the Christian Aid website www.christianaid.org.uk.

A Prayer from the Resources for Christian Aid Week

Almighty God, we love one another because you first loved us.

Send us out to act in loving service,

strengthened by the knowledge that the one who calls us is faithful.

We give thanks for the vital work of Christian Aid and for all those who pour themselves out for the cause of justice.

May our actions and offerings plant seeds of change that grow and flourish. Guide us as we seek a world where every person can live a full life, free from poverty.

Amen

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

	Leader	Open- ing up	General & Craft	Kitchen
1st June	Kathryn	Briony	Chris & Elaine	Sarah
8th Jun	Kathryn	Briony	Brenda & Dot	Elaine
15th June	Kathryn	Mike	Brenda & Sarah	Hazel
22nd June	Kathryn	Mike	Dot & Chris	Hazel
29th June	Kathryn	Briony	Chris & Dot	Elaine

Zoom Service

*The next Zoom service will be on Sunday 21st June at 4pm.
Please ask Avril for the link.*



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.

July/August Newsletter

Please let Chris Crowther have all your submissions for the next Newsletter by Wednesday 24th June

Reflexions

Let me do my work each day;
and if the darkened hours
of despair overcome me, may I
not forget the strength
that comforted me in the
desolation of other times. May I
still remember the bright
hours that found me walking
over the silent hills of my
childhood, or dreaming on the
margin of the quiet river,
when a light glowed within me,
and I promised my early God
to have the courage amid the
tempests of the changing years.
Spare me from bitterness
and from the sharp passions of
unguarded moments. May
I not forget that poverty and
riches are of the spirit.
Though the world know me not,
may my thought and actions
be such as shall keep me friendly
with myself. Lift my eyes
from the earth, and let me not
forget the uses of the stars.

cont.,

Forbid that I should judge others
lest I condemn myself.
Let me not follow the clamour of
the world, but walk calmly
in my path. Give me a few friends
who will love me for what
I am; and keep ever burning
before my vagrant steps
the kindly light of hope. And
though age and infirmity overtake
me, and I come not within
sight of the castle of my dreams,
teach me still to be thankful
for life, and for time's olden
memories that are good and
sweet; and may the evening's
twilight find me gentle still.

Max Ehrmann

Pew News

I started editing and printing Pew News weekly thirteen years ago. I took it over from Jim Walwyn who had become very busy with other church related tasks. Back in 2013 I was printing forty five copies weekly and I had so many submissions that I often had difficulty fitting them all in and some had to wait until the next issue.

Times have changed. I print between twenty and twenty five copies now and get very little 'news' sent to me. I, like Jim back then, have become so busy with other church related tasks that I have decided that it's time for me to step down from Pew News. Traditionally I edit and print every week of the year except for the month of August and two weeks at Christmas. I will edit and print until the end of July but I won't be resuming Pew News for the new year in September.

As I look at it there are two options,

- 1) Would you like to edit and print Pew News Weekly and give it a fresh new look? It is a weekly commitment but could be shared by two people, maybe a couple or two friends, with one to edit and one to print.
- 2) We finish Pew News Weekly and just have our monthly newsletter with the duty steward reading out any news weekly on a Sunday morning.

What do you think? If you have any helpful comments or suggestions I would be glad to print them in the July Pew News.

Thank You,
Dot

Afternoon Teas at Brown Knowl

There will be an afternoon tea at Brown Knowl on Saturday 27th June from 2.30 to 4.30. Please book with,

Brenda or Wendy

“June is the pearl of summer, shining with warmth and joy.”

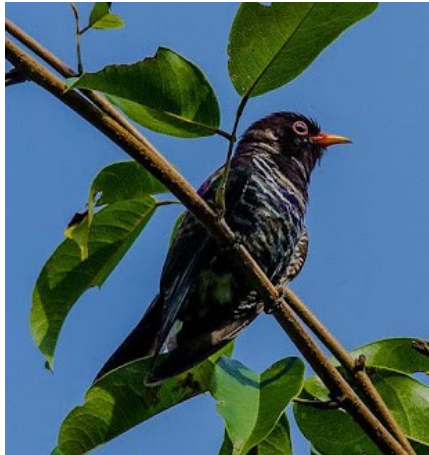
L.M. Montgomery

The Cuckoo on the front cover

Bob suggested I give the cuckoo a turn on the cover as,

‘He was but as the cuckoo is in June, heard but not regarded’

Henry the fourth Pt. 1
W. Shakespeare





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