

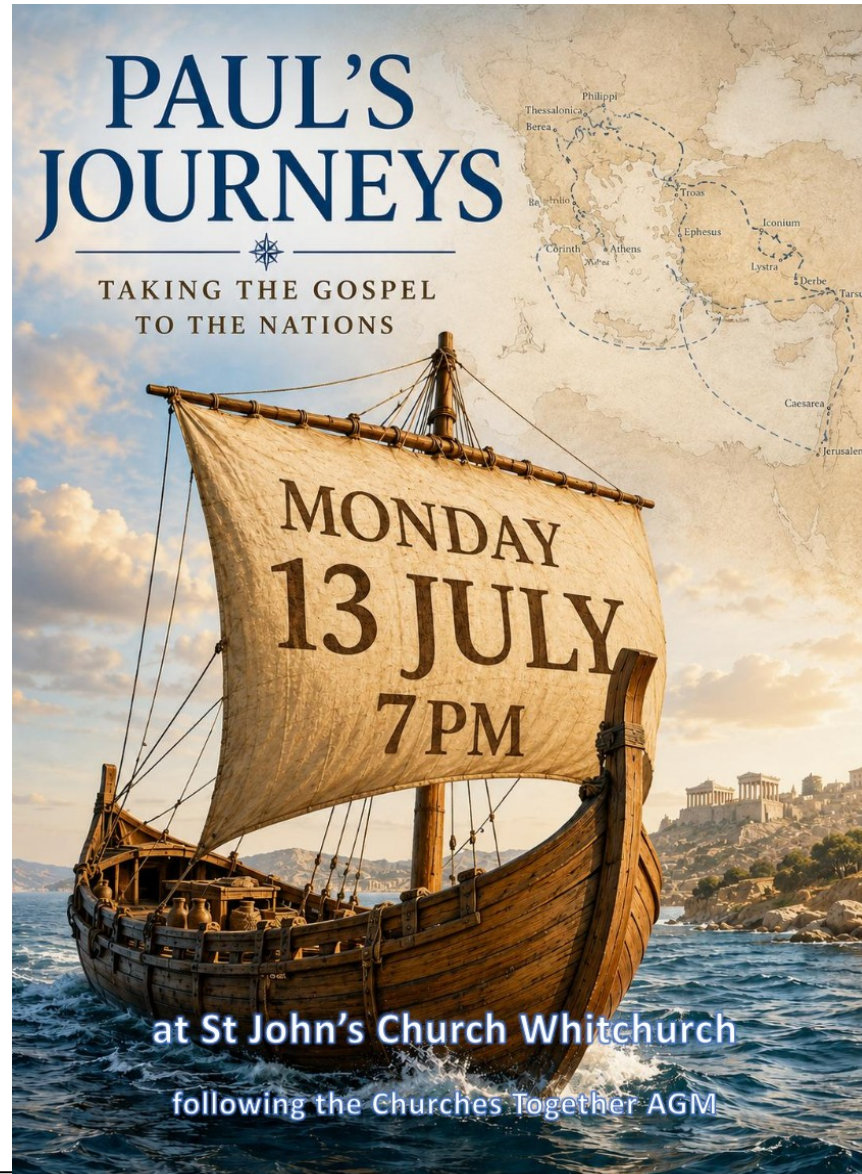


**St. John's Methodist Church
Whitchurch**

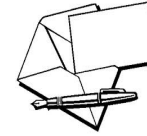
**July/August 2026
Newsletter**

**CHURCHES TOGETHER IN WHITCHURCH
LEARNING FROM SAINT PAUL**

Presentation and discussion led by Rev Bev Jameson on
'Working Together: Paul's Missionary Journeys - what
they teach us about working together today'



Message from the Manse
Summer Reflections: Harvest, Memories
and New Beginnings



Dear friends,

As we move through July and August, many of us look forward to a slower pace of life.

School holidays, family gatherings, days out with friends, holidays near and far, and evenings spent enjoying the garden all help to create memories that we will treasure for years to come.

Summer invites us to pause and appreciate God's gifts around us. Gardens are bursting with colour, vegetables are ripening, and across our countryside farmers are beginning to bring in the harvest. It is a season of abundance, reminding us of God's faithfulness and provision.

Equally, summer marks a time of transition for many young people. In our own family, Hannah has just completed her A Levels. Like so many students, she now waits to receive the results that reflect the hard work and commitment she has shown over the past two years. Depending on those results, she hopes to go on to university. The year ahead will be one of new experiences: earning some money, passing her driving test, travelling, and discovering where life may lead before embarking on university or whatever adventure God has in store for her.

As parents, these moments are both exciting and poignant. We realise that for many years we have been planting seeds—of love, encouragement, guidance,

faith and support. Now comes the time to step back a little and trust that those seeds will continue to grow and bear fruit. Our hope and prayer is that Hannah will flourish, becoming the person God created her to be. In many ways, that is God's desire for each one of us. Jesus came that we might have life in all its fullness, and God delights in seeing His children grow, mature and flourish in His love.

In our gardens, we know that growth does not happen by accident. Seeds must be planted, watered and nurtured. We rejoice when plants flourish and fruits appear, but we also recognise the need for pruning, weeding and preparing the ground for future growth. The same is true in the life of the Church.

The summer months are often a quieter time in the church calendar. While many activities take a break, this quieter season gives us an opportunity to reflect on the year that has passed. We can give thanks for the blessings we have received, the friendships that have grown, the ministries that have flourished, and the ways in which God has been at work among us.

At the same time, summer is an opportunity to look ahead. As gardeners review what has grown well and what needs attention, we too can ask ourselves some important questions:

Where is God calling us to serve?
What is our mission in this community?
What new opportunities is God placing before us?
What needs to be pruned so that healthier growth can

emerge?

What seeds do we need to sow now for the harvest of the future?

These are not questions for church leaders alone, but for all of us as disciples of Christ. Every act of kindness, every conversation, every invitation, every prayer and every moment of service plants seeds in God's kingdom.

As we enjoy the blessings of summer, may we take time to rest, to make precious memories with family and friends, and to delight in the beauty of God's creation. May we also use this season to listen carefully for God's voice, giving thanks for the harvest that has been gathered while preparing faithfully for the work that lies ahead.

May God grant us wisdom to discern His calling, courage to follow where He leads, and faith to sow generously for the seasons yet to come.

"Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up." (Galatians 6:9)

With blessings,

Rev'd Donna

**You are invited to Our Covenant Service
Sunday 6th September 2026 at 10.30am**



As summer draws to a close and a new season begins, we warmly invite you to join us for our annual Methodist Covenant Service on Sunday 6th September at 10.30am.

The Covenant Service marks the start of the new Connexional Year, making it a particularly fitting time to pause, reflect, and renew our commitment to God. Just as many people make a fresh start in January, Methodists have long used this special service as an opportunity to begin the church year by dedicating ourselves afresh to God's service and guidance.

If you've never attended a Covenant Service before, don't worry – there are no membership tests, contracts to sign, or homework assignments! The service centres on the Covenant Prayer, a much-loved Methodist tradition that encourages us to place our trust in God and be open to wherever He may lead us in the year ahead.

While there is a thoughtful and reflective side to the service, it is also a celebration of God's faithfulness and a reminder that we journey together as a church family. It's a chance to look back with gratitude, look forward with hope, and renew our relationship with God and one another.

Whether you've worshipped here for many years, are new to church, or are simply curious about Methodist traditions, you will be made very welcome.

So why not come along and join us as we begin the new Connexional Year together? We look forward to welcoming you on Sunday 6th September at 10.30am.

Rev'd Donna

Steward's Letter

I found it very difficult this month to find something to write about for the Newsletter. At the last moment, I came across a book in one of our bookcases and reading through a number of the poems I thought I would share the following one with you. It is entitled "The World's All Right" and it has a number of passages but I have only written three of them: Hazel

*The World's All Right
Be honest, kindly, simple, true;
Seek good in all, scorn but pretence;
Whatever sorrow come to you
Believe in Life's Beneficence!*

The World's all right; serene I sit;
And cease to puzzle over it
There's much that's mighty strange, no doubt;
But nature knows what she's about
And in a million years or so
We'll know more than to-day we know.
Old Evolution's under way
What ho! The World's all right, I say.

**Just make your Heaven here today – What ho! The
World's all right, I say**
Remember! in Creation's swing
The Race and not the man's the thing
There's battle, murder, sudden death
And pestilence, with poisoned breath.
Yet quick forgotten are such woes
On, on the stream of Being flows,
Truth, Beauty, Love uphold their sway –
What ho! The World's all right, I say

The World's all right; serene I sit,
And Joy that I am part of it;
And put my trust in Nature's plan,
And try to aid her all I can
Content to pass, if in my place
I've served the uplift of the Race
Truth! Beauty! Love! O Radiant Day
What ho! The World's all right, I say

So clearly Robert Service had a positive view that, despite all the troubles of the World, there were hopes and aspirations for the future of the world.

Hazel.

15th July

St. Swithin's Day , if thou dost rain,
For forty days it will remain;
St. Swithin's Day, if thou be fair,
For forty days 'twill rain nae mair.

St. Swithin was a bishop of Winchester and the weather lore associated with his name is one of the most popular quoted beliefs. In the mis-nineteenth century, records were kept at Greenwich in an attempt to prove or disprove the theory. It was found that, at that time (1841-60), the greatest number of rainy days after St. Swithin's Day took place when St. Swithin's was dry! However, statistically, in seven or eight years out of ten, the pattern of our summer weather established by early to mid July tends to persist for the next few weeks.

Kilvert's Diary (extract)

Contributed by Elaine

Thursday, 20th June 1872

At ten o'clock Mr., Mrs., Miss Gwatkin and I went down to the Landing Stage and embarked on board a steam-boat for New Brighton on the Cheshire side of the Mersey, a suburb of Birkenhead. The morning was lovely, all was fresh and new, the salt air and the wind exhilarating and I was in dancing spirits. The Mersey was gay and almost crowded with vessels of all sorts moving up and down the river, ship, barques, brigs, brigantines, schooners, cutters, colliers, tugs, steam boats, lighters, 'flats', everything from the huge emigrant liner steamship with four masts to the tiny sailing and rowing boats. From the river one sees to advantage the miles of docks which line the Mersey side, and the forests of masts which crowd the quays, 'the pine forest of the sea, mast and spar.'

At New Brighton there are beautiful sands stretching for miles along the coast and the woods wave green down to the water's edge. The sands were covered with middle class Liverpool folks and children out for a holiday, digging in the sand, riding on horses and donkeys, having their photographs taken, and enjoying themselves generally. Some of the lady and gentlemen riders upon the hired horses were pitiable objects, bumping up and down upon their saddles like flour sacks, and even requiring their horses to be led for them. The ladies as a rule rode without riding habits and with crinolines the effect was striking.

As we came down the river this morning several

large emigrant ships lay in the river getting up steam and the Blue Peter, the signal for sailing, flying at the fore. They were going down the river this afternoon. They seemed crowded with Irish and German emigrants and small steam-boats kept bringing fresh loads of passengers alongside the big ships. One could not help thinking of the hundreds of sorrowful hearts on board and ashore and the farewells and partings for ever, so many of them, on this side of the grave.

Eventually we came back to Liverpool, got Lunch-eon and went to see the Docks. Nothing gives one so vivid an idea of the vast commerce of the country as these docks, quays and immense warehouses, piled and cumbered with hides, cotton, tallow, corn, oilcake, wood and wine, oranges and other fruit and merchandise of all kinds from all corners of the world. I admired the dray horses very much, huge creatures 17 or 18 hands high, more like elephants than horses. Liverpool boasts the finest breed of Flemish draught horses in the world.

Mrs. Gwatkin said that 15, 10 and even 5 years ago there was much more trade and wealth in Liverpool and much larger fortunes more rapidly made than now. There has been of late and there still is a stagnation of trade, a depression and deterioration of credit. Formerly the streets were blocked by the enormous business and the mountains of merchandise passing about but there is plenty of room now.



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 12th 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 either at church or by phone. 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

BBT@St Johns

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

Rota for July

Date	Leader	Open up	General + Craft	Kitchen
6th July	Briony	Mike	Brenda/Sarah	Hazel
13th	Kathryn	Chris	Dot/Brenda	Elaine
20th	Clothes Swap	Briony	Anyone No craft	Sarah

There will be no BBT over the summer holidays but we will let you know of any activities taking place on the WhatsApp group BBT@ST John's. Have a great summer and we look forward to seeing you on

Monday 7th September

Clothing Swap

On 20th July 10-11am we will be holding a Clothing Swap instead of our usual session. Please bring along your spare Baby & Children clothes and swap them for others.

Tea/ coffee & Colouring will be provided

The Annual Puppets & Picnic will take place
on Tuesday 18th August
at Broomhall & Sound Chapel

Preachers for July

5th	Rev Donna	Church AGM hc
12th	Rev Jon	Chesworth
19th	Rev Donna	
26th	Rev Rob	Hilton

Stewards for July

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

Tea & Coffee Rota for July

5th	Hazel & Linda J.
12th	Elizabeth & Pete
19th	Briony & Chris
26th	Chris & Elaine



Zoom Services

The next Zoom services will be on Sundays July 19th and August 23rd at 4.00pm. Everyone is welcome for a short service and time of fellowship.

Contact Avril for the link.

Preachers for August

2nd	LA
9th	Rev Jenny Arthurs hc
16th	Mr Jackson
23rd	Mrs Sue Tyson
30th	LMA at Tallarn Green

Stewards for August

2nd	Dot Charlesworth
9th	Hazel Nimmo
16th	Mike Nimmo
23rd	Andrew Fawcett
30th	N/A LMA

Tea & Coffee Rota for August

2nd	Chris & Elaine
9th	Avril & Nancy
16th	Brenda & Sarah
23rd	Hazel & Linda J.
30th	N/A LMA
Sept 6th	Elizabeth & Pete



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.

Dates for your Diary—July/August

Regular Activities

Mon's. 6th, 13th 9.30—11.30am **BBT**

July—Mon's. 6th, 13th, 20th, 27th, 12 -4.00pm **MORE**

July -Thurs. 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd, 30th 1 -4.00pm**MORE**

Aug—Mon's. 3rd, 10th, 18th, 24th 12-4pm **MORE**

Aug.— Thurs. 6th, 13th, 20th, 27th, 1-4pm **MORE**

MORE is open as a COOL Space during the summer

Sun. 5th 11.30am Church AGM

Mon. **July** 12th —7pm Churches Together AGM St. John's

Sun. **July** 19th 4pm Zoom Service

Sat. **July** 25th 2.30pm Brown Knowl tea

Sat. **August** 22nd 2.30pm Brown Knowl tea

Sun. **August** 23rd 4pm Zoom Service

Future events

Sept Sat. 12th 10am -6pm Ride & Stride/Heritage

TODAY 2.30-4.30pm Prees Green Chapel cream tea

September 2026 Newsletter

Please let Mike Nimmo have all your submissions for the next Newsletter by 25th August.

Prayer Corner



I am finding it difficult to write prayers for the newsletter as there seem to be so many things that are troubling at present, the most recent being the terrible earthquake in Venezuela and the resignation of Sir Keir Starmer .

Father God, we pray for our world today. We pray for peace and hope to abound. Many are affected by natural disasters; floods, droughts, forest fires, earthquakes. Many are struggling with conflict, poverty and the global food crisis. O Lord, we pray for your provision, peace and protection.

While we pray let us thank God for listening to us, and for knowing all our needs and the needs of those we pray for.

Father , hear the prayer we offer:
Not for ease that prayer shall be,
But for strength that we may ever
Live our lives courageously.

Whitchurch Churches Together

Everyone is invited to the annual general meeting of Churches Together, on Monday 13 July at 7.00. Please note this is a meeting for all churchgoers (and others!) not just those on the committee. This year it's being held at St John's Church, who have kindly agreed to provide refreshments.

Following the formal AGM meeting there will be a talk and discussion led by Rev Bev Jameson on 'Working Together: Paul's Missionary Journeys - what they teach us about working together today'. We hope you will find this of interest."

See poster on Page 2

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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.

Some holiday pictures:-
Tebay Services on the M6— a favourite stopping place on the road north



Bodnant Gardens near Llandudno





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A short Natural History Quiz

Birds, beasts, bugs, butterflies and a few other things!

1. Medieval weapon
2. President Johnson's wife
3. Flying toy
4. Sounds like a pin for holding meat
5. English summer game
6. Communist naval officer
7. Coloured liquid container
8. Blackberry picking
9. Shade of pink
10. Bird tiptoes round the wood
11. Lived in a teapot
12. Spare time occupation
13. Pay when it arrives
14. A little bit of sunshine
15. Too much makeup

Answers next time