

Dear Friends

*Figs are beginning to ripen; the air is  
fragrant with blossoming vines. Come then,  
my love; my darling, come with me.*

*Song of Solomon 2:13*



As I write this I am looking out at the last few honeysuckle flowers of this year. One of my earliest memories as a child is the fragrance from the honeysuckle that used to grow along the wall just outside my bedroom window. On a warm summer evening when the window was open that heady, luxurious, fragrance would permeate the room and it felt like peace and bliss all rolled into one. Over the years the sweet fragrance of the honeysuckle has seemed like an anchor so that whenever I smell it, it takes me back to that blissful, secure, innocence of childhood. Since those days I have always sought to grow honeysuckle in places where I live, if none is growing there already. Its perfume has never ceased to be one of my favourites of all time.

Earlier this year as I watched the tiny buds begin to form on the one that grows along the garden wall, I could hardly wait to enjoy that heady scent once again. Day by day I would go into the garden to check how close to flowering those tiny buds were.

As they grew, each day I would get close and breathe in deeply to see if I could catch an early waft of that heavenly fragrance, even though I knew there would be none until the flower fully blossomed.

Watching and waiting, I was struck by how the sun draws each tiny, gravity defying honeysuckle bud to fullness when inner wisdom declares the time is right. And so too is this true with the blossoming of the human soul. Hidden as it is, gently tended by the heavenly gardener - we are drawn ever closer to our full blossoming according to all that God intended us to be.

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There is no point in forcing the journey. If we would only take a leaf (no pun intended) out of the honeysuckle's book we would simply learn to just be...in the present moment...allowing God to place us where we are called to be, using our gifts as they were intended to be used.

Instead we fret and worry about all sorts of things, which most often never come to pass. We try to control and direct things that are not ours to control in the first place; and in this modern technological world we are all subjected to time pressures that leave us stressed and anxious and so not able to access the wisdom of the present moment.

How much wiser the honeysuckle seems compared to us humans!

And all it takes is for us to become still and present, to let go of the need to control and simply trust in that gardener who knows us better than we know our own self and indeed is considerably closer than we are to our own self.

Yet regardless of our struggle, our resistance and our down right refusal to let go we are nevertheless in the hands of the one who constantly draws all of creation to all it was intended to be. Which means that one day we *will* know what the great mystic Julian of Norwich really meant when she spoke these words of eternal wisdom;

'All shall be well, and all shall be well and all manner of things shall be well.'

Every blessing,

Jayne



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August 2024

Dear Friends

Welcome to a packed edition of the Autumn Crosspoint. It's great to have further contributions from John and Andrew – they're always a joy to read! Also a welcome to Martyn Smith who will be providing reflections from Winchcombe in future.

For our winter edition out in November we will be welcoming St John's contribution. It was lovely to meet up with several members from St John's at our section afternoon tea party in August – we had about 75 people join us for a very enjoyable afternoon catching up with old – and making new – friends. Definitely to be repeated!

It is sad to hear of the death of Dave Moss. I'll miss Dave, not least because he was one of our Sunday readers whom I could always rely on to step up when desperate to find readers! You'll be missed Dave.

We continue with our new "Recipe Corner" in this edition. Please let me have your favourites to include in future editions.

So that is summer over! But let's hope for an Indian summer with some lovely September days. Do please keep your contributions coming – favourite poems, bible passages or reflections, or anything you would like to share. Your input makes this magazine.

Have a beautiful autumn.

All blessings  
Jean



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## **Church Family News from Tewkesbury**



We remember and send our love to all the members of our church families and particularly those who live in Residential Homes: Joan Bottrell, Joyce Sanders and Pat Taylor.

Sadly we have lost two members of our church family in recent days. Dave Moss, who lost his long and brave battle against cancer on 21<sup>st</sup> August and Mick Ballinger who had been housebound for a long time. We send our love and prayers to Pat and to Janice and their families for their loss.

We continue to remember all those who suffer with ill health and mobility issues and hold them in our prayers. And we also remember those who struggle silently with their own personal problems. Many of us have been there, and hope that it is some comfort and support to know you are cared for and held in our prayers. We particularly think of Rosemary Bainbridge, currently in Cirencester Hospital after a fall and hope she will soon be home.

It was lovely to have news from Pat Manning recently (later in the magazine) after her mammoth trip down-under and back! Adrian and Gill have also recently visited the Isle of Man and visited Pat and found her looking well and in good spirits despite ongoing health issues.

Dave Amies' daughter Lowri, husband James and their two daughters moved to Hertford Heath in June. Cerys was three in August and Elin will turn one in September. They all love village life, the extra space, and views of the countryside from their terrace.

Pat Taylor continues to give updates on how grandson Sam is getting on. Sam was christened at our church and attended Junior Church and various church activities until his diagnosis with a brain tumor in his final year at Primary School which, following treatment, left him severely disabled. Pat is

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so proud – rightly so – of his resilience and is grateful for the support and prayers of the church both here and abroad. Sam is a student at the National Star College where he has been campaigning nationwide to improve the blue disability badge logo to be more inclusive for those whose disabilities are not necessarily visible.

He is also enjoying the Work Outcomes Programme which helps Sam gain skills to enable him to get a job after college.

Pat tells me that Sam has recently been admitted to hospital with an infection which, sadly, he is prone to, and often needs hospitalisation. We all wish Sam well and hope he is soon discharged.

## **DONATIONS FOR UKRAINE**

Thank you for your continued support to the local charity which sends items to war zones in Ukraine. There continues to be a need for the following: toiletries, Paracetamol, Ibruprofen, medical equipment and in-date medication. Toys, colouring books, pens, pencils, crayons, art and craft materials or sweets for the children. For the soldiers, socks are always welcome, plus things like Cup-A-Soup, Pot Noodles, packet rice and playing cards.

Avril also mentioned items to celebrate Christmas would be wonderful to send out in November – appropriate gifts and treats, for both soldiers and children.

Clothing is not required except for very heavy winter coats.

Items can be left at church clearly marked – or give to me personally. If you are unsure of any items do have a word with me. Thank you again.

Jean Davies

# **High-pitched Hymns and Marrows - Some thoughts on Harvest Festivals by John Beardsley**

Have you ever wondered why we have a Harvest Festival?

Well, in one sense we are continuing ancient celebrations - the Israelites' "Feast of Harvest", when they offered the first fruits of their labours to the Lord, and the "Feast of Ingathering" at the end of the year, when they offered the fruits of all their work on the land that year.

However, the Harvest Festival as we know it didn't appear until 1843. In that year the Revd, Robert Hawker, incumbent of the North Devon parish of Morwenstow, decided to do something about the "beer and tumult" of the annual Harvest Supper (such occasions could become pretty riotous!) and introduced a service in a church decorated for the occasion to give thanks for the harvest. Don't get too enthusiastic about Hawker however, for he was a very complex character who did much for the poor parishioners of Morwenstow, but who had a violent dislike of many things, Methodists amongst them!

The Harvest Festival spread like wildfire, and soon became one of the most popular services in the Church Year, attended by folk who didn't normally grace a place of worship by their presence. John Betjeman poked gentle fun at this in the poem "Diary of a Church Mouse". The resident mouse is very grateful for the extra food available, but is puzzled by the presence of creatures he doesn't normally see.

*A large and most unfriendly rat  
Comes in to see what we are at.  
He says he thinks there is no God  
And yet he comes - it's rather odd.*

That Harvest Festivals no longer draw the crowds is just one of the many changes from the Harvest Homes that I remember as a boy in the North Yorkshire Moors villages in the Danby Circuit, where my father was minister in the early 1950's. Every chapel had a 2-day Harvest Festival, with an event

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on the Monday evening (a service with a visiting preacher or perhaps a concert) that was followed by a supper and the auction of the produce for church funds. In some cases the sum raised represented a considerable part of the annual income, for regular Sunday offerings tended to be small. In my first appointment in Washington, Co. Durham, where there were 4 working pits, there would always be a large piece of coal amongst the fruit and vegetables. Those were the days before the dangers of fossil fuels were recognised!

Harvest hymns have changed quite a lot also. The traditional ones - (*Come, ye thankful people come, To thee, O Lord, our hearts we raise* etc) tend to begin on earth and end in heaven with golden fields, crystal rivers, final reaping, and so on, though *We plough the fields and scatter* is an exception to this rule. More recent hymns tend to concentrate on this world. *God, whose farm is all creation* by the famous cricket commentator John Arlott, for instance, is a song of gratitude for *All our labour, all our watching, all our calendar of care*. Fred Pratt Green's *For the fruits of all creation* offers thanks not only for the harvest of the fields, but also for the harvests of the Spirit. His *God in his love for us lent us the planet* doesn't appear amongst the Harvest hymns in *Singing the Faith*, but its theme of our stewardship of creation is one that should feature largely in any Harvest Festival service today.

Some of us are very glad that the modern Harvest hymns are not so high-pitched and exhausting for smaller congregations to sing!

Long live the Harvest Festival - for its message must continue to be heard!



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## PASTORAL CARE - Tewkesbury

This is the same message as in the summer magazine but bears repeating. I do hope that most of you are able to interact with your pastoral visitor when this magazine is delivered but please be understanding if you do not receive regular visits or contact – if you are a regular attendee then all of us are hopefully interacting with you and checking you are “ok”. A piece of good news – you may be aware that there is an advert out at the moment for a lay worker to assist Jayne and part of this role will be to support Jayne’s pastoral work which I’m sure will be welcomed. Please pray about this post as we endeavour to find the ideal person to fill this role.

Please do get in touch with me, if you would like to talk to someone – I’m well aware some people carry a burden that we won’t necessarily know about. And do continue to pass on news of anyone who is unwell or struggling. And of course we continue to support all our members and friends through prayer.

Jean Davies (Pastoral Secretary)

### CROSSPOINT MAGAZINE COSTS

I do hope you enjoy receiving your copy of Crosspoint. We do appreciate your continued financial support towards the production of Crosspoint, which costs about 80p a copy to prepare. There is a box in the church porch for donations or you can pop an envelope in with your regular giving. The suggested donation is 80p per copy or £3.20 for the year. Thank you for your support.



### **BREAKFAST CLUB - WILD GREEN CHURCH!**

Wild Green Church happens the first Sunday of the month at 9.15am in the hall. Yummy Bacon baps, cereal, toast and juices are available to all. Please join us! All are welcome.

Revd Jayne Webb

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## **News from Pat Manning after her recent visit to Australia -**

'I am now settled back at home from my Australian trip - spending a wonderful 5 weeks with my family in Sydney. It has been the most amazing time - first of all it was cold!! Their houses do not have any central heating - everything is cold. The family made me so at home - flannelette sheets, duvet, blankets and heaters in the lounge and dining room - not forgetting the wheat bag at night.

I had taken all the wrong clothes and for the first few days I was wearing Robert's sweaters!

Caryn and I travelled out Premium Economy - much roomier for sitting and leg room. Coming home I was business class so much better - you could actually stretch right out! It was good to see my grandsons and also be with my great-grandson Isaac -15 months full of fun and very adventurous!

Looking back I seem to have done so much, been to so many places - especially Manly - which is special to both Frank and me, not forgetting the fish and chips and avoiding the seagulls!

One day we took the ferry into the City, which we considered the best way in, went under the Harbour Bridge and saw the Opera House and the tall office buildings. We had afternoon tea at the Tea Cosy at the Rocks - just so good!! It felt strange visiting Sydney without Frank this time but my family were so kind and thoughtful they really helped me settle in.

Phil, Jill and great-granddaughter Rosie met me at Ronaldsway which was so good but no baggage!!! It arrived days later by Taxi!!

Just before my trip I was diagnosed with Lung Cancer and now await varying tests to see what, if anything, they can do. I was determined

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to go on the trip no matter what and it was really a wonderful time. It will help me through whatever is ahead.

I send love to all my lovely friends at TMC and look forwards to Gill and Ad arriving later today.

God Bless  
Pat xx

## CHURCH FLOWERS

Wendy Allen continues to do flower arrangements in memory or celebration of loved ones for a small donation (suggested minimum £10). We will provide flowers and endeavour to meet your specific requests if possible. There is a clipboard in the vestibule for you to sign up for dates through to 2025.

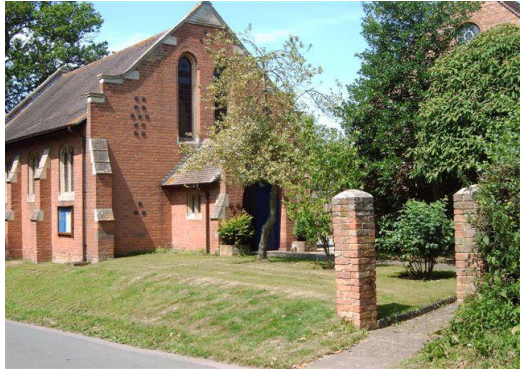
The next issue of Crosspoint will be produced in November – please send copy for the next edition to Jean Davies (Tel: 01684 772178) by Monday 11<sup>th</sup> November please – a little early but I'm away the following week.

Articles including family news are welcomed. It helps if you are able to send via email. Send to Jean Davies: [jed0606@yahoo.com](mailto:jed0606@yahoo.com)

**Please note that articles reflect the views of the writer and not necessarily those of Tewkesbury Methodist Church.**

# NEWS FROM APPERLEY

*From Peter Stych*



The wedding day at the end of June finally arrived. The weather that the meteorologist pundits glibly call summer had not been looking very much like summer at all until suddenly, as though switched on by human

hand, at midday the sun showed herself in a blaze of light and heat to provide the idyllic setting for this summertime celebration! At the end of the service we were treated to the bride and groom emerging from the Chapel doorway to a truly rural archway of pitchforks lifted high by friends in white smocks. Finally, as if by more human intervention, an ice cream van drew up to cool the lips of the crowd enjoying the beautiful occasion and surroundings.

Since then excitement has given way to a more normal pace of life! Our services have continued to be well supported even with folks taking summer holidays and we look forward to moving into the new connexional year by the time you are reading this issue.

Unfortunately Rosemary has been hospitalised in recent weeks following a fall at her home but is making a steady recovery in Cirencester hospital. It is hoped that she will be well enough to return home in the next week or two. She would welcome a call from you who know her and I can provide her telephone number if you would like to speak with her.

On September 8<sup>th</sup> we shall celebrate the 120<sup>th</sup> Chapel Anniversary and our Harvest Festival will take place on October 13<sup>th</sup>. We would be most pleased to welcome any visitors to those or any of our services.

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# WINCHCOMBE METHODIST CHURCH REFLECTIONS

Let me begin these 'Reflections' by paying tribute to my predecessor Geoff who has faithfully reported on news at Winchcombe for many years - in addition to all his decades of service as a Church Steward.

By comparison, I have only been worshipping at Winchcombe for the five years since my 2019 retirement, following Methodist Church ministerial appointments in the Cornwall District. As regular readers of this column know, our congregation has had to face some huge challenges in recent

years. Thankfully the transfer to the Town's Day Centre has proved to be far smoother than many people had thought possible, enabling the congregation's time and finances to focus more on people rather than on property.

Years ago the term 'friendship evangelism' was often referred to as a key part of a congregation's mission. Although other ideas have largely replaced this, in terms of popularity, it does seem to me that reaching out in friendship and care continues to be a vital way in which a congregation can grow. This has certainly been true for us at Winchcombe where two different community buildings are used each week for both coffee mornings and indoor board game afternoons. We are so grateful to those from our Church who regularly give up their time so freely to provide opportunities where local people can experience the Christian hospitality, friendship, kindness and care that is provided by Church Members and other helpers. For it is surely in reaching out into the surrounding community, that our church congregations are most likely to grow.

God Bless –  
Martyn Smith

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# BISHOPS CLEEVE METHODIST CHURCH

Greetings and  
Blessings from  
Bishops Cleeve –



We hope you have enjoyed the summer months. A highlight for those of us who attended was the tea party for the congregations of Jayne's churches. What a wonderful occasion! It was so good to catch up with friends we hadn't seen for a long time and to get to know other people better in such a relaxed atmosphere. Thank you very much for all who worked so diligently at Tewkesbury to make it happen and for being so welcoming.

We are delighted that one of our members at Bishops Cleeve, Islay Roberts, has been selected to be the new Mission Enabler at St. Johns Methodist Church in Gloucester. I am sure you will be pleased to join us in wishing Islay well in his new role and that he would very much appreciate your prayers at this time. Perhaps he could be persuaded to contribute an article to Crosspoint in the future to tell us more about it! *(I totally agree Ruth!)*

We are going to be opening the Methodist Church in Bishops Cleeve for the Ride and Stride event on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> September so if you know of anyone who is taking part, please encourage them to pop in and say hello to us! We send our love and blessings to you all and especially hold Jayne in our prayers as she gets to grips with her new role as Superintendent ably supported by Michelle Ireland of course. May God bless them in their endeavours.

Ruth Whiting

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## Do Less

by Donna Ashworth

When you stand at the threshold of a messy room  
and you are rendered motionless,  
Unable to begin, so large is the task facing you, *sit down*.  
Do not view the scene as one, but focus in on a single  
thing.

A shoe, missing it's partner perhaps. Complete  
the pair, return them to where they live and then sit  
down.

Think of where you bought that shoe and how  
your life unfolded that day and smile for the memory,  
no matter how plain.

Then focus in on something else  
and repeat.

It is better to make small steps than to  
drown in overwhelm, and your mind is like that too.

When your brain holds too much chaos, *sit down*.  
Take one thought at a time, look at it, spin it with  
your actual inner voice and not your inner critic,  
and place it gently where it should be.

When you  
want to achieve more, *sit down, do less.*"

Contributed by  
Helen Cochran from Bishops Cleeve

# **A CHAT WITH -**

## **Jean Potter**

Our guest interviewee for this edition is a relatively new member of our church family. It was a pleasure to meet with Jean at her flat in the Maltings where she has lived for the past three years after moving up from Teignmouth.

Teignmouth was Jean's place of birth in 1933 – born into a Christian family and remaining a lifelong Christian. Jean's grandfather was a Congregational Minister at Buckfastleigh. Jean was 9 when bombs began to fall on Teignmouth and she was evacuated to her grandparent's home for 2 years, whilst her parents stayed in Teignmouth, which alongside Plymouth' major bombing suffered some damage. Jean's father was an electrician so he had a key role in checking sites were safe and power switched off after the bombs had fallen.

Following the war Jean attended university in London reading History at King's – quickly changed to History and Theology in which her interest was growing. It was here that she met her future husband David and they were married in 1956. They both became teachers and it was always David's ambition to work abroad and they moved to Nyasaland (now Malawi) where David took up the role of Geography teacher at an African boys' boarding school. Though Jean did a little supply teaching when the need arose, it wasn't long before they started a family and Anne was born in 1958, followed by Keith, Ian and Ruth.

After nearly 10 years of living in Nyasaland, the country gained full independence in July 1964 and in 1966 the country became the Republic of Malawi, a republic within the Commonwealth. In 1967 the Potter family returned to the UK with baby Ruth just a few months old. Ruth, Ian and Anne have all returned to the land of their birth at some

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time to visit.

They settled in Warwick where David had a teaching post and working in Education Administration. However he was always very interested in Economics and the family moved to London where David embarked on a post-graduate course in Economics at the LSE – this was around 1970. Jean began getting very active in Guiding – and some years later was to serve on the National Committee for Guiding.

Sadly, David and Jean lost their eldest son Keith, in a tragic road accident at the age of 14.

Following David's course, he worked for the Civil Service in Whitehall and the family lived in Muswell Hill until his work took him to Bristol where they lived in a beautiful spacious house in the village of Claverham. Jean was heavily involved in Guiding now, running her own Guide Company and arranging an exchange visit for guides to Los Angeles.

David's work as an economist also took him to Tonga for a year, where Jean joined him and worked with the Guides there. As a result she was asked to return to the South Pacific to attend a conference in the Cook Islands and then visit Vanuatu, Tuvalu and Kiribati (pronounced Kiri-bass) to work with the guides there.

They both served on the World Council of Churches as representatives so this too involved some travelling overseas.

David's passion was steam trains so they spent a lot of time travelling seeking out trains at home and abroad including to New Zealand, Australia, Singapore and others. A favourite was the Tallylyn narrow gauge railway in North Wales, and he and Jean would regularly take a week's holiday there so they could volunteer on the railway – David as a guard and Jean in the buffet!

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In the early 1990's the time came for David to retire and they decided to go to Teignmouth, Jean's hometown. They were involved in the United Reformed Church there and Jean was a lay preacher at the church for many years. They still enjoyed steam railways – in particular the South Devon Railway which runs from Buckfastleigh to Totnes.

David died in 2019 after many happy years in retirement and as Jean had moved to stay with her daughter Ruth in Tewkesbury during lockdown, Ruth persuaded her to move to Tewkesbury to be closer to family. Jean's other daughter, Anne, is an Anglican priest in Worcestershire, with responsibility for 5 churches (Jayne will empathise!). Jean's son, Ian lives in Hampshire and until retirement, was a teacher at Gosport. She has 6 grandchildren and 9 great-grandchildren.

We are blessed that Jean decided to join our church after she had settled in her new home in 2021. She is a loyal, supportive member of our church family and an interesting lady to chat to!

I asked Jean if her faith had ever faltered, despite some dark periods in her life, and she said emphatically not. The bible passage she returns to in times of joy and sorrow is from Paul's first letter to the Corinthians chapter 13 verses 12-13 – "For now we see through a glass darkly: but then shall we see face to face. Now I know in part: but then shall I know even as I am known. And now abideth faith, hope and love, even these three: but the chiefest of these is love."

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FAITH FAMILY

FRIENDS 

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We have a new feature for the magazine which is a favourite recipe slot. We need more suggestions please – do send them in!

Our second contribution is from Di Jones. This is a great recipe for any gardeners with a glut of courgettes and can be served hot with roast lamb/pork or cold with a salad.

## ZUCCHINI (Courgette) SLICE

### **INGREDIENTS**

375gr courgette

1 large onion

3 rashers bacon (smoked gives a better flavour)

1 cup cheddar cheese (or any hard cheese you want to use up!)

1 cup self-raising flour

½ cup oil

5 eggs

Salt and pepper

(Any cup size can be used providing same size is used throughout).

### **METHOD**

Coarsely grate unpeeled courgettes.

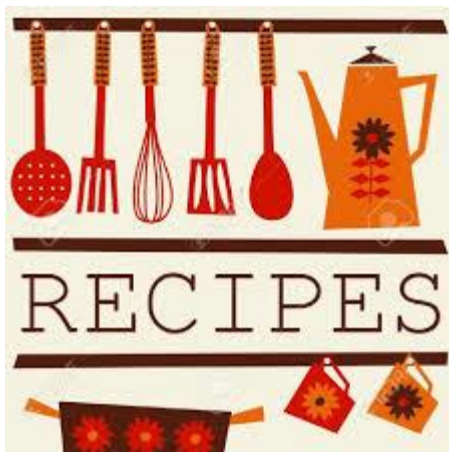
Finely chop onion and bacon, grate cheese. Add to courgettes and mix well.

Sift in flour.

Beat eggs. Add eggs and oil to mixture, season with salt and pepper, mix well. Pour mixture into a well-greased tin (16cm x 26cm).

Bake in moderate oven for 30-40 minutes until golden brown.

*Vegetarian version – omit bacon and use smoked cheese instead, using approximately a quarter cup more cheese.*



*Andrew is the Lay Community Outreach Worker at Bishops Cleeve and here he continues his diary to share his thoughts, joys and trials and tribulations of his vocation.*

## **The diary of a Geriatric Lay Worker**

### **Chapter 3**

My first few months as a Lay Worker involved a journey of discovery. I had to get to know Bishop's Cleeve, meet the spiritual celebrities, meet up with other Lay Workers, both past and present, and try and work out what projects I should be engaging with.

Almost from day one, I had been encouraged to start thinking about the annual "street fair" in June, where the church had enjoyed a presence in the past. My head was whirling with a mixture of excitement and utter panic. What was expected of me, of the church, and would I be able to deliver and manage my personal, and other people's expectations.

Whilst I gave voice to my insecurities, I was greatly helped by members of the church who contributed ideas and support for the planning of our stall. After all, the church members had been successfully running a stall at this event, before I had ever been thought of.

What I needed more than anything was a distraction, something that would give us an alternative project, which could hopefully make a statement and bring people into the church. It was about this time that I became aware of an Exhibition which was being put on at my home church in Dursley. They had planned a Banner Exhibition, through the Christian Arts Festival(CAF), dealing with Climate Change and the preservation of our planet.

I was envious of the opportunity they had and thought we could explore the possibility of doing something similar. I was so thrilled, therefore, when meeting Liz Robertson, from the CAF, to discover that she was not only open

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to the idea of our church hosting the Exhibition, but enthusiastic that we should do it.

Arrangements were hurriedly made and a date was set for a week long Exhibition in the church from 23 May. I could not, at my age, have been more excited. The banners were tapestries displaying the creative skills of various groups reflecting various aspects of global warming, pollution and Climate Changes. They were stunning, colourful and needed to be shown off publicly.

Provisionally, contact was made with local schools and arrangements were made for several groups to come from the local Primary school, to both hear about Climate Change and to see all the banners. The church was to be open at other times for the public to view these wonderful, and well crafted exhibits.

On 8 May, two weeks before the Exhibition, I was at church in Bishop's Cleeve attending worship, as part of my contractual commitment. I had enjoyed the service and fellowship afterwards. I was just preparing to leave, when I switched on my mobile phone. Within a minute or so, it started ringing. It was a Carer from the Care Home, where mum had been resident for several months in Liverpool. Sadly, mum had passed away, and although resuscitation enabled a pulse to be found, she was pronounced dead later at the hospital. In a state of numb surrealism, I drove home to Dursley to pack a bag and then head back to Liverpool. The next few days were a bit of a blur. Arrangements had to be made for mum's funeral etc, whilst also the last minute planning was required for the Exhibition.

I was able to return to Bishop's Cleeve in time to receive the banners a few days before the Exhibition was due to start. I had amazing help in preparing the church for the hanging of the banners, as well as hosting the Exhibition during the week we were privileged to have the banners.

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It was an exciting week, it was a tiring week, it was a week of learning, it was a week for sharing, it was a week with some disappointments, it was a week of some great conversations, but above all it was a wonderful week.

I had completed my first real challenge in the most challenging of circumstances emotionally. I felt God's hand at work, I felt God's handiwork and I felt the backing of the church. What a wonderful combination. With this teamwork going forward, the future had to be bright. Now for that Street Fair...

Andrew Maxwell

*Autumn Fires*

*In the other gardens  
And all up in the vale,  
From the autumn bonfires  
See the smoke trail!*

*Pleasant summer over,  
And all the summer flowers,  
The red fire blazes,  
The grey smoke towers.*

*Sing a song of seasons!  
Something bright in all!  
Flowers in the summer,  
Fires in the fall!*

*By Robert Louis Stevenson*

Jean mentioned during our chat that she and David had been representatives of the WCC - I checked out their website and this prayer popped up. I thought it was worth sharing with you all.

## Prayer for Peace for the World Council of Churches 76th anniversary - 23 August 2024

Gracious God, We thank you on this day for all the blessings in our lives. We especially thank you for the World Council of Churches on its 76th birthday. You have blessed the world with so many devoted people who have lived its mission of unity and reconciliation. Continue to spread your love to the world through such devoted witnesses of your love.

We come to you on this day with sorrow in our hearts. Sorrow about so many places in the world where people are yearning for peace – but there is no peace. We bring before you suffering in all places where the cycle of violence is going on and on and there seems to be no end.

In the refugee camps in Sudan, in the ruins of Gaza, in the villages and cities of Ukraine, in the hills of eastern Congo, in the rainforests of Colombia, in the mountains of Myanmar.

We bring before you the children who lose their fathers in war. The mothers who desperately stand before the dead bodies of their children under the rubble of their bombed homes.

Through your son Jesus Christ you know the suffering they experience, you know the forsakenness they feel, you know their despair. We trust you are present amongst them now.

We ask you to move the hearts of those who are suffering. That they  
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may feel your love, your comfort, your power.

We ask you to move the hearts of those who cause their suffering. That they may feel empathy. That they may repent. That they may be liberated from the darkness of death into the brightness of life.

We pray for all of us that we may see the suffering not only on our side but also on the other side. That we may become instruments of peace.

Gracious God, on the birthday of the World Council of Churches we ask you to fill our hearts with your spirit so that we may be witnesses of your son Jesus Christ's love which moves the world to reconciliation and unity.

God, we lay our own future and the future of the world in your hands. In you we trust. You are our creator, our sustainer, our redeemer. You will open the door for peace.

Amen



# World Council of Churches

A worldwide fellowship of churches seeking unity, a common witness and Christian service

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# CHURCH FETES

Thank you to everyone who supported our Summer Fete back in July. Thanks to a generous “top-up” the following day, a grand total of £1000 was raised. We all felt that moving the chairs out of the church gave us a much better space to display stalls and to move around. On this occasion we invited some external crafters to display their work, and this proved very successful.

In a few weeks we will be turning our thoughts to our Christmas Fair planned for 16<sup>th</sup> November. We will probably run this on similar lines to the summer one, but if you have any suggestions for stalls then do let the stewards know. On this occasion we might be able to offer light lunches and maybe have more crafters set up in the hall.....

Early days but if you have any books, jewellery, crafts or new items, (plus items for the tombola) which could be sold **please keep these for us** (we don't want these yet!) or perhaps you could think about a contribution to a Christmas hamper we can raffle? No bric-a-brac please. Thank you again for your continued support.

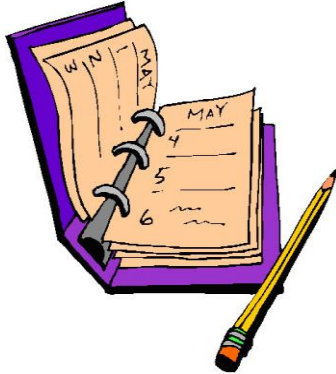


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## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Please check the weekly notices or our website for any alterations to dates/times and more detailed information about events



**Coffee mornings every Saturday between 10.30am and 12.30pm**

### **SEPTEMBER**

- Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> – The Wild Green Breakfast Club 9.15am  
- 10.30am – Service with Holy Communion
- Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> – 2.30pm Wives and Friends
- Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> – 9.15am Praise and Worship  
- 10.30am Service with Holy Communion
- Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> – 2.15pm – 2.45pm Jubilate concert followed by refreshments
- Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> – Camerata Concert
- Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> – 6.30pm Joint service at Sycamore Chapel

### **OCTOBER**

- Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> - 2.30pm Wives and Friends  
- Property and Finance meeting
- Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> - 9.15am Wild Green Church  
10.30am – Service with Holy Communion

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Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> – Mop Fair  
Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> - Mop Fair  
Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> - Harvest Festival and lunch

## **NOVEMBER**

Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> – 9.15am Wild Green Church  
- 10.30am Service with Holy Communion  
Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> - 2.30pm Wives and Friends  
Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> – Choral group concert – time tbc  
Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> – Remembrance Sunday – service 11.15am preceded by coffee and croissants from 10am  
Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> – Church Council meeting  
Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> – Christmas Fair  
Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> – 10.30am service – Commissioning Service  
Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> – Tewkesbury Methodist Players concert

## **FUTURE DATES TO NOTE –**

Information about December events and services will be in the next issue of Crosspoint due mid/end of November.



## **CHURCH SERVICES –**

Any alteration to dates and or times will be shown in the weekly notices (also available on our website). The church is generally also open to visitors on Saturday mornings (coffee morning).

*A service is held every Sunday at Tewkesbury at 10.30am service (with occasional changes to times as per the notices).*

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10.30am service **with** Holy Communion is the first Sunday of each month.  
Wild Green Church with breakfast takes place on the first Sunday of the month at 9.15am.  
We do not have a Junior Church as such, but all families and children are welcome to any of our services though there will be particular emphasis on involving children in our 9.15am Wild Green Church Breakfast Club.

## **CHURCH GROUPS AND MEETINGS**

**Please see weekly notices for dates of meetings as they are arranged**

**Church Council**  
**Worship Forum**  
**Welcome Space and Finance meeting**  
**Finance/Property**  
**Stewards**  
**Tewkesbury Churches Together**  
**Pastoral**  
**Publicity**  
**Green Group**  
**Wives and Friends**  
**Book Club**

*Peace*  
**JOY** *Hope*  
*Love*

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# THE METHODIST CHURCH

## Priorities for the Methodist Church

To proclaim and affirm our conviction of God's love in Christ, for us and for all the world; and renew confidence in God's presence and action in the world and in the church.

### Main contacts for Apperley and Tewkesbury Methodist Churches

Minister: The Revd Jayne Webb

Tel: 01684 298650

*Who also has pastoral responsibility for Winchcombe Methodist Church and Bishop's Cleeve Methodist Church*

Apperley Senior Steward – Peter Stych Tel: 01452 780508

Tewkesbury Senior Steward - Linda Sallis Tel: 01684 294169

Registered Charity No: 1136205

***We are in the Methodist Circuit of Gloucestershire, part of the Bristol Methodist District***

***Web site for Apperley and Tewkesbury Methodist Churches with links to our sister churches, Winchcombe and Bishop's Cleeve***  
[www.tewkesburymethodistchurch.org.uk](http://www.tewkesburymethodistchurch.org.uk)

**Tewkesbury Church phone:** 01684 291101 This is situated in the vestry with an extension to the vestibule kitchen and is intended primarily for use by church officials and for emergency use.



### **IMPORTANT Booking rooms and events**

If you are arranging any event on the church premises of Tewkesbury Methodist Church, the room and time must be arranged with the bookings secretary, Andrew May 01684 291457 or email [ajrm34@btinternet.com](mailto:ajrm34@btinternet.com) (or contact Jean Davies 01684 772178 [jed0606@yahoo.com](mailto:jed0606@yahoo.com))



**CROSSPOINT** is planned by the Tewkesbury Methodist Church Publicity and Editorial Group. Colour section and cover design by Adrian Shelley. Photographs as credited. Crosspoint is printed on recycled paper. We are members of the Association of Church Editors (ACE)

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