

Dear Friends

As I write this I am preparing to take my annual leave. This year I will be going to Torquay for some rest, retreat, relaxation and possibly even some sunshine - but that remains to be seen. I can hardly believe that it is almost a year since I returned from my sabbatical and it does rather seem to have been a busy year, having taken on pastoral care for a further church, but it has been a blessing to get to know new people, explore new ways of doing things and to work with new ecumenical colleges.



A time of rest is important for us all, whether it is in the form of a sabbatical, annual leave, a day off each week or even a few hours each day. Indeed such an imperative is written into the story of creation as God takes the 7th day as a day of rest and later deems this to be practice that all should follow. For the church, Sunday was deemed the day set aside for God, when worldly work should be kept to a minimum. And it's not been so very long ago when this was part of the structure of society. Shops and other places of work didn't open on Sunday's. This was a special day of the week set aside for worship, for family/friends time, and for rest; in other words sacred time.

Today no such boundaries exist as working life goes on 24/7, yet the principle of the sabbath does not have to disappear as secular life takes over. Being intentional about carving out sacred time, perhaps for an hour a day, a day each week and a few weeks each year is vital for our spiritual well being, indeed God prescribes it!

So as the days and weeks and months continue to unfold, in this increasingly secular world, please remember the importance of sacred time and perhaps heed these words by Wendell Berry:

"Sabbath observance invites us to stop. It invites us to rest. It asks us to notice that while we rest, the world continues without our help."

Blessings,
Jayne

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August 2023

Dear Friends – so here we are with our summer edition of Crosspoint. It's not been the best of summers for weather with July being one of the wettest on record and August not much better as I write. I feel for those families in caravans and tents hoping for some time on the beach..... maybe the latter part of August will improve before the schools start again in September.

This morning when I was out very early it was a murky, misty, humid morning and the field was covered in tiny cobwebs – a very autumnal scene! I did marvel at the cobwebs though – so intricate and delicate like gossamer. And one thing about the mix of rain and sunshine is that everything has grown at a terrific rate and is looking very green – quite a contrast to last summer which was the hottest on record in the UK and the driest since 1976! Whatever the weather we can still stand in awe of God's creation around us!

In this edition I am delighted to welcome our sister church at Bishop's Cleeve with their contribution from David Aldred. It's great to hear your news, David, and we look forward to your regular column.

We also have the last instalment of John's experiences leading up to 1980. I've so looked forward to reading these – they are both humorous and moving. I'm hoping John will continue to put pen to paper for Crosspoint.

A plug now for the Tewkesbury Chamber Choir who are performing at our church on Saturday 9th September. There is no charge but donations would be appreciated, which the Choir have kindly offered to church funds. Please come along if you are able and tell friends and family. They have a lovely programme planned and we are very fortunate to have them performing in our church.

All blessings

Jean (Davies)

Church Family News from Tewkesbury



We are sorry to advise you of the death of Alan Cooper. Alan was a member of the Evesham Circuit but he and his late wife Joyce, worshipped at our church and supported us for many years. He was a lay preacher in

the Evesham Circuit and was a highly respected member. Alan had been ill for some time, and we shall miss him but he is now reunited with Joyce and resting in peace. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family at this time.

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

We remember all those who suffer with ill health and mobility issues and hold them in our prayers.

I have heard from Chris Lester who moved to Hook about 12 months ago, and she tells me she has settled into her flat and has started volunteering at the Foodbank and also with the local Care Group helping provide lifts to doctors, hospitals etc. She sends her best wishes to all who remember her.



BIG BIRTHDAYS!

Thank you to all those who attended our Big Birthday party in July, and to those who made cakes and helped set up and clear away. We shared a lovely afternoon of fellowship. There are photos in the centre pages.



HARVEST FESTIVAL

The service of Harvest Festival will be on Sunday 8th October and will be followed by a Harvest lunch. Please look out in notices for more details and do be sure to pre-book a space on the list that will be up in the vestibule.



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"It shouldn't happen to a .. (No, not Vet, but Minister)"

or

Some of the funny, sad or strange experiences during my years of Ministry

It was in the summer of 1975 that we moved to our third (yes!) Manse in the Sunderland North Circuit and I became minister of Fulwell Methodist Church, just a few hundred yards from the North Sea and some of the finest beaches in the country.

However, being so near the sea wasn't always an advantage! The local cemetery was no more than two hundred yards from it, and on one occasion as I stood facing the sea at the head of the grave and reading the service a sleet shower blew in. A church member was so concerned when my face turned blue that, as soon as the committal was over, she rushed me to her house for a hot cup of tea. Just as a postscript to this - the deceased had a reputation for being a rather awkward character. Kept it up to the end!

On one of the rare fine and sunny evenings I would have loved to be by the sea, but at 6.30 that Monday evening I was booked to address the Sisterhood at a nearby chapel (in those parts and those days midweek activities tended to be on a Monday so that the chapel didn't have to be heated twice in the week). My mood was not improved when the lady chairing the meeting prayed rather sanctimoniously for "those out enjoying the sunshine instead of being here giving thanks for it ". Grrr!

Our experiences on holiday in the 1970s were such that church members were asking us to let them know when we would be away, so that they could avoid those dates - and the weather that went with them. It was not just the weather, though. In June 1975 friends gave us the use for a week of their caravan in a field near Jedburgh, in the Scottish Borders. Well, it snowed: our elder daughter Helen developed German Measles: and half way through the week the son and daughter of a church member that I had spent a lot of time with due to his depression turned up to say that dad had died, and that the funeral (that of course I was to take) was on Saturday morning. So, an early end to the holiday on the Friday morning.

There were times when I thought I had really "blown it"! One such was on Young People's Sunday, when, as Secretary of the Circuit Youth Committee, I

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found myself listening to a group of teenagers from another denomination, who had been invited to sing, play guitars and speak to our young people at a Sunday evening gathering. When one of these teenagers said something to the effect of "You had better take a good look at most of the folk in your churches now, because when you get to heaven you won't see them," I thought of all the lovely people I knew in our churches, jumped up and shouted "That's rubbish!"

The response? He said, "No it's not my word it's God's word" and proceeded to unplug all the guitars and storm out. I had destroyed an event and been rude to guests, apart from anything else. It was some relief, but not enough to avoid a sleepless night, that when I called on the Circuit Superintendent to confess my sin he thought I had been very brave.

It was perhaps not wise, when preaching on the text from Psalms *Justice and Peace shall kiss one another* to make reference to the dispute that had arisen between the government and the Fire Brigades Union. Even less wise to suggest that Justice was on the side of the FBU! Our Norwegian dentist, a member of the congregation who very generously looked after the family's teeth free of charge for the whole of our time in Sunderland, certainly thought so. Shortly before my next appointment he 'phoned to say that he had booked a double session so the he could discuss the matter with me. So, with my mouth gummed up with some plasticine-like substance, I had to try and defend myself. None of this, however, affected our friendship and our gratitude to him.

In 1978 I was privileged to be one of just two Methodist ministers on the month-long Mid-Service Clergy Course at St. George's House, Windsor Castle. (St. George's House had been founded by the Duke of Edinburgh as an in-service training facility for clergy, and as a place where Church and Society could meet). It was there that I had my one and only conversation with a former Prime Minister - he was Sir Alec Douglas Home - who had come to speak to us about International Relations. What did we talk about? Football!!! I mentioned that our local team, Sunderland, were considering appointing Brian Clough as Manager. "Shouldn't touch him with a barge pole!" was his response.

One of my great mistakes was to try and make small talk at breakfast with the former Archbishop of Canterbury, Michael Ramsey. When I referred to

the funeral of the Duke of Windsor and suggested that it must have been a very difficult one for him to conduct, the only response was "No, not difficult", and then silence.

The daily worship in St. George's Chapel, Morning Prayer and Evensong, was one of the highlights of the course - but we only got to sing one hymn a week at Evensong. You couldn't have a congregation spoiling the beauty of the choir's singing!

So, 1980 saw the end of our time in the North East, as we moved to Cottingham, near Hull. "Mr. Beardsley's going to live in the south", somebody said.

An appropriate point, I think, to close this mini-series.

John Beardsley

WORSHIP FORUM – we regularly meet to discuss how we can contribute and/or take part in locally arranged and special services. Everyone is welcome at these meetings - it is good to share ideas and suggestions as to how we can best get our message across in an interesting and meaningful way. Our next LA (Locally Arranged) service is on 17th September so if you would like to be involved in the planning of this please let a steward know or check the notices for the date of the next planning meeting.

CROSSPOINT MAGAZINE COSTS

We would appreciate your continued financial support for the production of Crosspoint, which costs about 80p a copy to prepare. There is a box in the church porch for donations. The suggested donation is 80p per copy or £3.20 for the year. Thank you for your support.

The next issue of Crosspoint will be produced in November – please send copy for the next edition to Jean Davies (Tel: 01684 772178) by Sunday 5th November please.

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

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As planned we expect that work on our project will be starting later in the year and we are excited at the future prospects for our church. More information will follow as and when needed.

If you want to chat to anyone about the project, or have any suggestions as to how the “new” space can be used, do see any of the Welcome Space team.

CHURCH FLOWERS



A reminder that for a small donation (suggested minimum £10) we will provide flowers for the church in memory of someone or in celebration of an event. There is a clipboard in the vestry for you to sign up for a specific date and leave details of your dedication.

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A collection of autumn-themed illustrations including various leaves in shades of orange, yellow, and brown, some with spots, and a branch with small round berries. The illustrations are scattered around the text.

September Songs

Saturday 9th September
7pm

Tewkesbury Methodist Church
Proceeds to the church

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NEWS FROM APPERLEY



No updates from Peter this edition. A reminder that the 119th Anniversary of the church will be on Sunday 10th September at 11am.

We send love and very best wishes for the marriage of Glyn and Graham on 1st September. May the sun shine and it be a joyous occasion!

WINCHCOMBE METHODIST CHURCH

From Geoff Onions

Life of Methodism in Winchcombe

The months speed by and here we are at the end of another Methodist year – do many folk think about the treasurer at this juncture?

Every single penny received and spent has to be accounted for across the whole 12 month period, schedules need to be entered and carefully collated, not the easiest of tasks ---- in true Methodist style!

The appointed auditor needs to do their job and then the Church Council are faced---- what will be queried this year, and who will do it – almost always the same individual will ask about ... the misc column, why is it so high this year,



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why is the assessment increasing so much and so on???

Our rule book says that we must have a treasurer so please take pity on that 'lovely person' who struggles so valiantly. Most of them are not accounting types BUT shop assistants, office workers or brickies or whatever, so please be gentle and kind to them..... would you want to do it???

.....

Venue

The new home in Langley Road has altered many concepts of our work and witness to Jesus Christ: releasing a lot of the burden of maintaining an edifice of 137 years of age has proved to be a blessing already.

Worship is much more free, intimate and rewarding

The normal searches, extreme paperwork, legalities etc are currently being worked upon by all parties concerned and the day that the contracts are exchanged cannot come too soon! The life of the treasurer, as indicated above, should become a whole lot easier.

The recently formed Winchcombe Arts and Community Group, which now has in excess of 500 members, had their recent bid accepted by the Church Council for the vacated premises, with guidance from the Circuit Property team.

PS

Due to become homeless shortly 95 of us !!!

YOU CAN ASSIST

Just take one or as many as you like **FREE**

Call 07779 678807- **Please tell your friends**



BISHOPS CLEEVE METHODIST CHURCH

Greetings from Bishop's Cleeve

It's good to be able to share with you for the first time news about the witness and work of our church.



In recent months, like so many churches, the letters LA have appeared by our name on the plan. What has resulted from this has been the unveiling of hidden talents, enthusiasm and a desire to deepen our understanding and faith amongst the members of our congregation. Jenny Hartley has played a pivotal rôle in encouraging so many of us to contribute. She presented a two part history of church music and then worked with Ruth Whiting to present 'Can you hear me?', a thoughtful challenging service from the internet about physical and spiritual deafness, which involved a large number of the congregation taking part. We are aware that many churches find the LA appointment difficult to deal with but it has enriched our worship. The provisional theme for our next LA is a Songs of Praise singing familiar hymns not included in *Singing the Faith*.

In addition to our Sunday morning worship, we hold an ecumenical service of Holy Communion every Wednesday morning and on the third Sunday an informal café church at either 4pm or 6.30pm depending on the change of the clocks. Whoever leads it has complete freedom to select the style of worship and the content but we try to emphasise it is a time of quiet reflection and discussion, helped, of course, by the refreshments! At the time of writing we are looking forward to the annual Churches Together Songs of Praise which we will be hosting this year at 4pm on 8 October.

Andrew our outreach worker is very busy taking the gospel into the village. He organises a weekly prayer meeting and Friendship club on Monday afternoons and a new film club once a month on Thursdays. He also works with the local care home and school. He organised a stall at the village summer street fair and is at present planning two stalls, one of which will be for Churches Together, for the village bank holiday Funday at the end of August. He's always very busy!

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I put together our weekly What's On news sheet which is also placed on our website. You'd be made very welcome at any of our activities or services which don't clash with your own.

David Aldred

www.methodistbishopsleeve.co.uk



Andrew, Val and Pam at the stall at the street fair in June

Bishop's Cleeve stall at last year's Village Fun Day



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BREAKFAST CLUB

Next Breakfast Club is Sunday 3rd September at 9.15am. Everyone is welcome at this informal gathering and to share breakfast cereals, toast and bacon baps together with some activities and an enjoyable time of fellowship.

OPEN THE BOOK

The Open the Book team will be recommencing their regular visits to Tirlbrook school on alternate Thursday mornings in the autumn term. Unfortunately they are still somewhat understaffed, so if you are able to help out either by taking part or helping with costumes and props you will be very welcome. Please see Gill Shelley for more information.

To make you smile.....

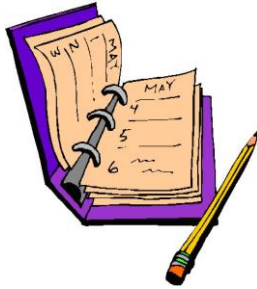
The secret of a good sermon is to have a good beginning and a good ending and have the two as close together as possible. George Burns

A Sunday school teacher asked her class why it was necessary to be quiet in church. One bright little girl answered, "Because people are sleeping?"

Dear God – so far today I've done alright. I haven't gossiped, and I haven't lost my temper. I haven't been grumpy, nasty or selfish, and I'm really glad of that. But in a few moments, Lord, I'm going to get out of bed, and from then on, I'm probably going to need a lot of help. Thank you! Amen

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

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



AUGUST

- Saturday 26th - Book Club 10am
- Pastoral meeting 11am

SEPTEMBER

- Tuesday 29th - 10.30am Stewards' meeting (off site)
- Saturday 2nd – 10.15am Coffee morning
- Sunday 3rd – 9.15am Breakfast Club
- Sunday 3rd – 10.30am Revd Jayne Webb – Holy Communion
- Tuesday 5th – Church booked all day – (Jayne)
- Saturday 9th – 10.15am – Coffee morning
- Saturday 9th – Tewkesbury Chamber Choir concert 7pm
- Sunday 10th – 10.30am Ian Yates
- Thursday 14th -7pm Tewkesbury MC Players rehearsals begin
- Saturday 16th - 10.15am Coffee morning
- Sunday 17th – 10.30 am – Local Arrangement
- Saturday 23rd- 10am Book Club
- Sunday 24th – 10.30am Robert Carr
- Saturday 30th - 10.15am Coffee morning
- Saturday 30th - 10am Camerata rehearsal – Hall and church
- 7.30pm Camerata concert

OCTOBER

- Sunday 1st - 9.15am Breakfast Club
- 10.30am Revd Jayne Webb – Holy Communion

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Saturday 7th - Lunch prepping – Hall and kitchen
Sunday 8th - 10.30am Harvest Festival – Revd Carrie Seaton
12.30pm - Harvest lunch in the hall
Saturday 14th - Coffee morning – church or hall to be confirmed.
Sunday 15th - 10.30am Local Arrangement
Tuesday 17th - 7.30pm Property and Finance meeting - Guildroom
Saturday 21st - 10.30am Coffee morning
-10am – Book Club
Sunday 22nd - 10.30am Islay Roberts

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).

*10.30am service **with** Holy Communion is the first Sunday of each month.*

Breakfast Club 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 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

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PRAYING THROUGH THE CELTIC YEAR

Lughnasadh marked the beginning of the harvest season, the ripening of first fruits, and was traditionally a time of community gatherings, market festivals, horse races and reunions with distant family and friends. On mainland Europe and in Ireland many people continue to celebrate the holiday with bonfires and dancing. The Christian church has established the ritual of blessing the fields on this day and in some English-speaking countries in the Northern Hemisphere, August 1st is Lammas Day (loaf-mass day), the festival of the first wheat harvest of the year. On this day it was customary to bring to church a loaf made from the new crop.

In many parts of England, tenants were bound to present freshly harvested wheat to their landlords on or before the first day of August. In the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle, where it is referred to regularly, it is called "the feast of first fruits". The blessing of new fruits was performed annually in both the Eastern and Western Churches on the first, or the sixth, of August.

Lammastide was also the traditional time of year for craft festivals. The medieval guilds would create elaborate displays of their wares, decorating their shops and themselves in bright colors and ribbons, marching in parades, and performing strange, ceremonial plays and dances for the entranced onlookers.

(source Wikipedia)

In Christian communities, the celebration of harvest has shifted to the end of the harvest gathering rather than the beginning, and therefore toward September.

The modern British tradition of celebrating Harvest Festival in churches began in 1843, when the Reverend Robert Hawker invited parishioners to a special thanksgiving service at his church at Morwenstow in Cornwall.

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Victorian hymns such as "We plough the fields and scatter", "Come ye thankful people, come" and "All things bright and beautiful" but also Dutch and German harvest hymns in translation helped popularise his idea of harvest festival and spread the annual custom of decorating churches with home-grown produce for the Harvest Festival service.

In looking to create a liturgy that reflects some of the character of both Lughnasadh and Lammas, with of course the celebration of harvest. I have tried to include creativity as well as fruitfulness as themes.



A Christian Liturgy for Lughnasadh

The earth is the Lord's
And all that is upon it

Created and creative things
Fruit and Fruitfulness

Springtime and Summer
Seedtime and harvest

For the promise of harvest
contained within a seed
we thank you.
For the oak tree
within an acorn
The bread
within a grain
The apple
within a pip
The mystery of nature
gift wrapped
for us to sow
we thank you.

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'As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will never cease.'
(Gen 8:22)

We see signs of summer's passing in golden leaves,
shortening days, misty mornings, autumn glow.
We sense its passing in rain that dampens,
winds that chill, Harvest's bounty placed on show.
Creator God, who brings forth
both green shoot and hoar frost,
sunrise and sunset,
we bring our thanks
for seeds that have grown,
harvests gathered,
storehouses filled,
mouths fed.
And, as your good earth rests
through winter's cold embrace,
we look forward to its re-awakening
when kissed by Spring's first touch.

John Birch



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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

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 (or contact Jean Davies 01684 772178 jed0606@yahoo.com)



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