

LYNDON MAGAZINE



**MAY &
JUNE 2025**



Lyndon Methodist Church



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The opinions expressed in this magazine are not necessarily those of the Ministerial team or the Editor

MINISTER'S LETTER

Dear Friends

As we continue to navigate a world marked by uncertainty and challenge—be it conflict abroad, pressures at home, or quiet personal struggles—May arrives with its own quiet grace. In the Church calendar, we are journeying through the Easter season, still holding onto the hope of the Resurrection, and looking ahead to Pentecost. And in the world around us, signs of new life are everywhere.



Here in the UK, May brings us longer days, blooming gardens, and the gentle hum of life returning to the land. Bluebells carpet our woods, birdsong fills the early mornings, and everything seems to whisper a message we so need to hear: life endures, and God is still at work.

It's a month rich in tradition - beginning with May Day, historically a time of celebrating the land and its rhythms, and marked today by rest, reflection, and a pause from our daily routines. There are two Bank Holidays offering moments to breathe, to gather, and to reconnect.

In many communities, this is also the season for community gatherings—fairs, teas, and garden openings. These moments, though small, carry great significance. They are acts of faith in their own way: expressions of fellowship, hospitality, and shared joy. After all, Jesus often chose the ordinary, a shared meal, a walk through the fields, a conversation by a well, to reveal something extraordinary.

May is also traditionally the month of Mary in many Christian traditions, especially in Catholic and Anglican churches. She is honoured not just as the mother of Jesus, but as a symbol of quiet strength, faithfulness, and hope. In Mary, we see the beauty of a life attuned to God's purposes, even when the path is uncertain.

In these troubled times, May invites us to remember who we are as Easter people. People of hope. People of light. People rooted in the truth that Christ is risen, and that even the darkest seasons are not the end of the story. Just as the land revives, so can our spirits. Just as nature blooms again, so too can our faith be renewed.

May we see this month as a time to pray, to rest, to reach out to those who are struggling, and to take joy in the gifts God is still giving each day. Let us trust that even when we cannot see the whole path ahead, the One who made the seasons is still guiding our steps.

Go Well, Karen

New Minister from September

In September we will welcome a new minister, Joseph Ribeiro. Joseph will have pastoral oversight of Lyndon, South Yardley, Castle Bromwich and Saltley. We are hoping to have an introductory letter from Joseph for our next Newsletter (July/August). In the meantime however, please pray for Joseph and his family as they make preparations to leave their current circuit and move to Birmingham.



Thought for the Month

Stay Silent

10 Places you should stay silent at all costs:

- Be silent if you don't know the full story.
- Be silent if you feel unable to control your emotions.
- Be silent in the heat of anger.
- Be silent if your words can destroy an amazing friendship or relationship.
- Be silent if you are unsure about the topic or lack knowledge.
- Be silent when someone is sharing their struggles and vulnerability.
- Be silent if you can't talk without yelling.
- Be silent if your silence can save your bonds.
- Be silent if speaking will only serve to boost your ego or seek validation.
- Be silent if your words can betray someone's trust.

@BeHumanBeKind

The Children of Israel and the twelve tribes of Israel

In the Old Testament we frequently read the above words and accept them without question. On consideration of the various passages of scripture, a number of questions arise which we shall consider in this article

When God called Abraham, he promised him that his descendants would become a great nation. (Genesis 12 v1 and 17 v1-8).

Progress was slow, Abraham had to wait 25 years before the birth of his only true son, Isaac. Isaac was 40 years old when he married Rebekah who 20 years later gave birth to twin boys, Esau and Jacob. Although Esau was the first born, he sold his birthright to his twin brother Jacob who took over the position of being the first in the line of succession.

Jehovah is frequently referred to in the bible as being the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. This highlighted the covenantal relationship of these three patriarchs.

Although Esau had voluntarily sold his birthright to Jacob, he was deprived of his father's death bed blessing by a deceitful plot connived by Rebekah and Jacob. (Gen chapter 27). When Esau discovered what had taken place, he was furious and vowed to kill his brother Jacob (Genesis 27 v41).

Rebekah then sent Jacob from Canaan to take refuge with her brother Laban, at Haran (Gen 27 v43). Uncle Laban had two daughters, Leah and Rachel. Jacob immediately fell in love with Rachel. As he had nothing to offer as a dowry he agreed to work 7 years for Laban in lieu of a dowry. When the seven years had expired, Laban gave a feast, but when the evening came, he presented his elder daughter, Leah, to Jacob on the pretence that it was customary not to offer a younger daughter in marriage before the elder daughter. Jacob then worked another 7 years for Rachel. (Gen 29 v1-30). (This was hundreds of years before Moses and the 10 Commandments). He was the victim of the deceit of Laban which must have made him think of the deceit he had inflicted on his father Isaac.

Jacob fathered 12 sons and 1 daughter from his two wives and their servants. (Gen 29 v31- chp.30 v24 and chp.35 v16-20)

Having looked at the background to the 12 sons of Jacob we look at the questions which arise.

Question 1 I thought that the names of the tribes in Israel were the sons of Jacob. Who is Israel?

Twenty years or so later after all but his last son, Benjamin, had been born, Jacob decided to take his whole family back to Canaan. The relationship with Laban had soured and among other things, Laban had not been honest with his dealings with Jacob over his wages for looking after the flocks.

One night during the journey, Jacob wrestled with a man until daybreak. Jacob refused to let him go until he had been blessed. The man said that because he had struggled with God his name would now be Israel. Jacob called the place Peniel which means "face of God". Israel probably means "he struggles with God" (Gen

32 v22-32).

The family arrived back in Canaan and as they neared Ephrath (Bethlehem), Rachel gave birth to Benjamin, the twelfth son of Jacob and then she died.

The intervening years

Jacob and his family settled at Bethel in Canaan. While there, Joseph was sold by his brothers as a slave to some Ishmaelite traders who in turn sold him to some Egyptians. He became a slave in the court of the Pharaoh. After further difficulties he was appointed as the next in line of authority to Pharaoh. Through a dream he learned that there would be 7 years of plenty followed by 7 years of drought. He organised the building of barns and the storing of grain in readiness for the famine. This duly came and spread beyond Egypt and into Canaan and other countries.

Hearing that there was grain in Egypt, Jacob sent his sons there to buy grain. Ultimately the family was reconciled, and all went down to Egypt where they settled in the area of Goshen. They remained there for 400 years and grew from about 70 people to over 2 million by the time they left Egypt under the leadership of Moses. Then followed a period of 40 years wandering before they entered the Promised Land of Canaan again.

The first tribes to settle in Canaan did so on the east of the Jordan and they were instructed to assist the other tribes in gaining possession of their land from the inhabitants.



The sons of Jacob/Israel and the tribes allocated land

Sons of Jacob/Israel	Tribal Name
Reuben	Rueben
Simeon	Simeon
Levi	-
Judah	Judah
Dan	Dan
Naphtali	Naphtali
Gad	Gad
Asher	Asher
Issachar	Issachar
Zebulun	Zebulun
Joseph	-
Benjamin	Benjamin
-	Manasseh
-	Ephraim

The allocation of the land took into consideration the number of people in each tribe. (numbers 26 v52-56). See map of where each tribe settled.

Question 2. Why is there no tribe of Levi or Joseph?

Levi

In the book of Numbers, we read that God appointed the Levites as a special people to serve in the Tabernacle and later in the Temple. They were to assist in the sacrifices and ritual of worship and in the maintenance of the Tabernacle and later the Temple. They were not required to be involved with warfare. They were to live out of the tithes and offerings the other tribes were required to bring. Out of these they were required to make a tithe to support the priests.

When the tribes were allocated their portion of the land the Levites were given 48 towns to live in, together with pasture lands for their cattle and other animals which were to be outside the town wall. (Numbers 35 v1-5) The Levites were not involved with agriculture.

Joseph

When Joseph was told that his father, Jacob, was on his deathbed, he took his two sons, Manasseh and Ephraim to visit him. Jacob said that these two sons would be reckoned as his. In other words, he adopted them and regarded them as being equal to his 12 sons. (Gen 48 v1- 21)

This meant that they would share in the inheritance from Jacob along with the other brothers. Adoption of sons was customary at that time especially if the adopting father had no natural son to whom he could pass an inheritance.

Although Reuben was the eldest son, he forfeited his birthright to double the legacy of his brothers because of his defilement of Jacob's marriage bed. (Gen 35 v22 and 1 Chronicles 5 v1). That is why over 440 years later Manasseh and Ephraim were given territory in Canaan.

Question 3. About 300 years later why did the country of Israel split into the nations of Israel and Judah?

The king was based at Jerusalem which was in the southern part of the kingdom of Israel. On the death of Solomon, his son Rehoboam was anointed king but proved to be an evil king. Meanwhile in the northern part of Israel a man called Jeroboam, an Ephraimite, had a disagreement with Solomon and fled for his life to Egypt. Upon hearing of the death of Solomon he returned to Israel and led a revolt against Rehoboam which resulted in the 10 tribes of the north being called Israel under king Jeroboam and the 2 tribes of Benjamin and Judah in the south being called Judah under king Rehoboam who was of the line of Judah and David.

Question 4. Why was the northern kingdom sometimes referred to as Ephraim?

The name Ephraim signified the importance the tribe which had grown to be large and powerful and took the lead over the other 9 tribes in all matters. It was also known as Samaria after the town of that name which became its capital.

Question 5. What became of the 2 nations?

Israel or Ephraim was overrun by Assyria in 722 BC and its inhabitants were taken into captivity and became absorbed into other nations. They are known as the 10 lost tribes.

Judah was captured by Babylon in 597 BC when many of its inhabitants were taken to Babylon. Under a decree of Cyrus in 538 BC many returned to Judah and some years later others returned. Today the Israelis consist of the successors of the tribes of Judah and Benjamin who returned from Babylon and other Jews who have returned from across the world.

Barry Davis

Easter at Lyndon

We had a variety of services during Lent, leading up to the Easter Sunday celebration. We followed the Methodist Lent Liturgy, Soul Food, and each week items were placed at the bottom of the Lenten Cross, including a brown paper food bag, friendship bracelets, a pillow and an LP. We also had our Leprosy Sunday service and our church anniversary!

On Mothering Sunday, the Lent item was a repaired piece of material. We took this a stage further and draped material from the pulpit which included patches. We then invited members of the congregation to come up and attach words describing what a mother means to them which was used in the prayers. We also made gifts for the people that have played a mothering role in our lives – male or female.

On Good Friday, we joined with members of Hatchford Brook Churches Together for their service of witness outside the shops on the Coventry Road. Before that, the young people from our church and RCCG, made an Easter Garden whilst their parents enjoyed hot drinks and hot cross buns in the lounge.

Some members of our congregation got up very early on Easter Sunday morning to attend the HBCT sunrise service at 6.00am in Elmdon Park.

As people came into church on Easter Sunday morning they were invited to put a flower in our Easter cross which was then placed at the base of the main cross.

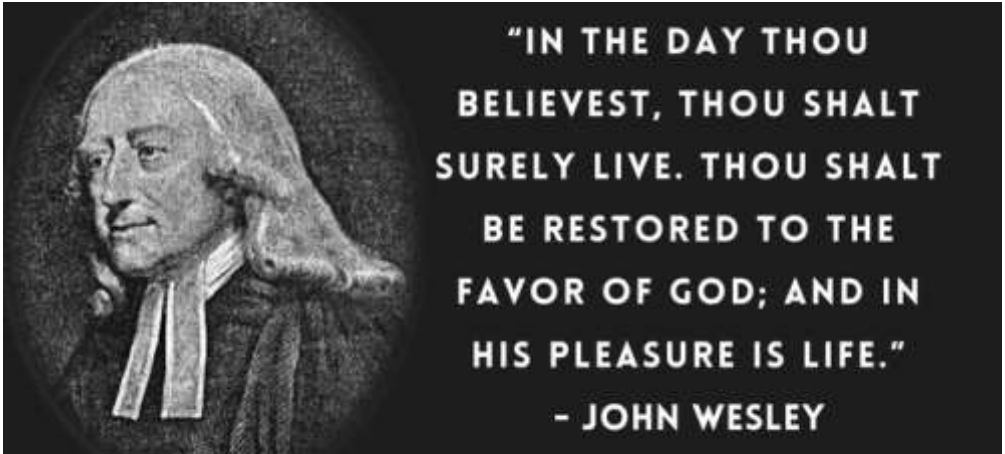
As usual, the flowers in the church and vestibule looked lovely and thanks must go to the people who contributed to the flowers and ladies who arranged them and made our church look and smell amazing.





Wesley Day and Aldersgate Sunday A Celebration of Transformation and Faith

In the heart of Methodism, two significant days stand as beacons of spiritual awakening and personal transformation - Wesley Day, observed on 24 May, and Aldersgate Sunday, celebrated on the Sunday closest to 24 May. These days commemorate pivotal moments in the life of John Wesley, the founder of Methodism, and continue to inspire millions of Christians around the world.



The Life of John Wesley: Foundations of a Movement

John Wesley was born on 28 June 1703 in Epworth, Lincolnshire, England. He was one of 19 children born to Samuel Wesley, an Anglican clergyman, and Susanna Wesley, whose devout faith profoundly influenced her children. Despite the challenges of their large family, Susanna provided her children with a rigorous religious and educational upbringing, laying the foundation for John's lifelong devotion to faith and learning. His life was marked by a quest for spiritual depth and a commitment to bringing faith to the masses, especially those marginalized by society.

Wesley attended Charterhouse School in London and later Christ Church, Oxford. At Oxford, his intellectual rigour and methodical approach to life earned him and his peers the nickname "Methodists," a term initially used in jest but one that became emblematic of Wesley's movement. It was during this period that Wesley, along with his brother Charles and their friends, formed the "Holy Club," a group committed to rigorous spiritual disciplines, acts of charity, and evangelism.

A Crisis of Faith and the Journey to Aldersgate

Despite his disciplined life, Wesley struggled with a sense of spiritual assurance. His faith crisis deepened following a missionary journey to the American colony of Georgia in 1735, where he hoped to evangelize Native Americans and establish a model Christian community. The mission proved unsuccessful, and Wesley returned to England in 1738 disheartened.

Wesley's encounter with the Moravians, a pietist group, marked a turning point. Their unwavering faith and emphasis on personal assurance of salvation left a lasting impression on him. Wesley began seeking a deeper, more personal experience of God's grace, which set the stage for the transformative event on 24 May 1738.

The Aldersgate Experience: A New Beginning

On that evening, Wesley reluctantly attended a meeting on Aldersgate Street in London. During the reading of Martin Luther's preface to the Epistle to the Romans, Wesley felt a profound spiritual awakening. He described the moment in his journal: "I felt my heart strangely warmed. I felt I did trust in Christ, Christ alone, for salvation; and an assurance was given me that He had taken away my sins, even mine, and saved me from the law of sin and death."

This experience not only resolved Wesley's personal struggles but also became the cornerstone of his theology. It reaffirmed his belief in salvation by faith through grace and underscored the transformative power of the Holy Spirit.

The Rise of Methodism

Wesley's Aldersgate experience galvanized his ministry. Alongside his brother Charles, whose hymns became a hallmark of the movement, Wesley began preaching to vast audiences, often outdoors. His methodical approach to organization, including the establishment of small groups for mutual support and accountability, laid the groundwork for the Methodist Church.

Wesley's tireless itinerant preaching reached thousands across England and beyond, focusing on the marginalized and neglected. He travelled over 250,000 miles on horseback and preached more than 40,000 sermons during his lifetime. His efforts brought spiritual renewal to the working classes and contributed to social reforms, including prison reform, the abolition of slavery, and the promotion of education.

Aldersgate Sunday: Remembering the Transformation

The observance of Aldersgate Sunday as a key moment in Methodist history underscores the enduring relevance of Wesley's experience. It is not merely a commemoration of a past event but an invitation to all believers to seek personal renewal and assurance of faith. Methodists gather to celebrate the warmth and assurance Wesley found, reflecting on their spiritual journeys and reaffirming their commitment to God's grace.

Wesley's Legacy Today

John Wesley's life and ministry left an indelible mark on Christianity. Methodism grew into a global movement, with millions of adherents across continents. The principles of grace, faith, and social justice that Wesley championed continue to shape the mission of Methodist churches worldwide.

Wesley Day and Aldersgate Sunday serve as reminders of the transformative power of faith and the potential for personal and communal renewal. They inspire believers to live lives marked by compassion, service, and unwavering trust in

God's grace.

By exploring these deeper historical layers, Wesley Day and Aldersgate Sunday become not just moments in time but enduring symbols of faith's ability to transform individuals and communities. Let the warmth of Wesley's experience ignite a similar passion for renewal in all of us.

A Reminder of Personal Renewal

In an era defined by stress, anxiety, and constant change, Wesley's experience of having his "heart strangely warmed" serves as a reminder of the possibility of personal renewal. His story encourages people to take a step back from their busy lives and reflect on their inner spiritual health. Whether through faith, mindfulness, or introspection, this call to renewal resonates across cultures and beliefs, inviting individuals to rediscover their sense of purpose and peace.

The emphasis on assurance of faith also has universal applications. In a time when uncertainty is pervasive whether in economic, environmental, or societal contexts, Wesley's experience reminds us that transformative change often starts within and is fuelled by trust in something greater than ourselves.

The Importance of Community

Wesley's journey didn't unfold in isolation; it was shaped by his interactions with others, including the Moravians and the supportive networks he established within the Methodist movement. Today, the observance of Aldersgate Sunday reminds us of the power of community in fostering growth, resilience, and connection.

In a world increasingly fragmented by polarization and individualism, the Methodist emphasis on small groups and mutual accountability offers a model for building meaningful relationships. Communities founded on shared values, mutual support, and compassion can address modern challenges, from mental health crises to social justice issues.

Advocacy for Social Justice

John Wesley's ministry extended beyond personal faith to include a commitment to social reform. He championed causes like the abolition of slavery, prison reform, and education for all issues that remain deeply relevant today. Modern Methodists and others inspired by Wesley's legacy continue to engage in social justice work, addressing systemic inequalities and advocating for the marginalized.

Wesley Day and Aldersgate Sunday challenge us to integrate faith with action, reminding us that spiritual transformation should lead to tangible change in the world. They call on individuals and communities to confront modern injustices, from poverty and discrimination to environmental degradation, with the same fervour that Wesley brought to his time.

An Inclusive Message of Grace

Wesley's theology emphasized that God's grace is available to everyone, regardless of background, status, or past mistakes. This message of inclusivity is especially powerful in a world grappling with division and exclusion. Wesley Day and Aldersgate Sunday inspire us to break down barriers, fostering understanding

and unity in an increasingly diverse global society.

The notion of grace also encourages compassion—not only towards others but also towards ourselves. In a world often characterized by pressure to succeed and perfectionism, Wesley's message serves as a reminder that we are all worthy of love and redemption.

A Call to Lifelong Growth

Wesley's concept of "Christian perfection," or striving for holiness in love and life, underscores the idea that growth is an ongoing process. This aligns with modern perspectives on lifelong learning and personal development. Aldersgate Sunday, in particular, encourages people to view their spiritual and personal journeys as dynamic and evolving.

In today's fast-paced world, this call to continuous improvement grounded in humility and service remains both timeless and urgent. It challenges us to pursue not only individual excellence but also to contribute to the collective good.

Bridging Tradition and Modernity

As society becomes increasingly secular in many parts of the world, observances like Wesley Day and Aldersgate Sunday offer a bridge between tradition and contemporary relevance. For those within the Methodist tradition, these days provide a connection to their heritage and a reminder of the enduring power of faith. For others, the stories of personal transformation and commitment to social justice offer lessons that transcend religious boundaries.

By celebrating these occasions, we ensure that the wisdom of the past informs our present actions and guides us towards a more hopeful future. In a world searching for meaning and connection, Wesley Day and Aldersgate Sunday stand as powerful reminders of the transformative potential of faith, community, and grace. They call us to reflect on our values, engage in acts of service, and embrace the hope of renewal—both for ourselves and for the world.



CIRCUIT MEETING AT SELLY OAK METHODIST CHURCH

The Circuit Meeting took place on Saturday, 22nd March 2025 and as an elected representative for Lyndon, I attended it. An early start was made by me as it had to include a bit of retail therapy on the way in Birmingham City Centre, but I arrived at the meeting in plenty of time to have refreshments before it began at 10.00 a.m.

I have now attended several Circuit Meetings and find them to be enlightening on several counts. It makes one realise that Lyndon is just part of a larger picture in that it belongs to a group of around thirty Churches which form the Birmingham Methodist Circuit. A number of Circuits then form a District which I have alluded to in previous articles but suffice it to say that it is hoped that the enlarged West Midlands District will take effect from September 2025. It is interesting to speak to people from other Churches and find out what is happening there and also to realise that the Circuit is able to offer support on a number of things to individual Churches including such issues as modern technology and property matters just to mention two.

Some time was devoted to the Mission Statement that had been prepared by the Circuit and reflected the work that had already been done on considering the wellbeing of people but had further been delved into and so there were three main components to the Mission Statement as under:-

WELLBEING - Resources can sometimes be stretched and so it is necessary to ensure that they are used wisely and that individuals are not stretched that much that they are unable to cope with the workload given to them and this refers to Ministers, other paid employees and volunteers working within the Circuit.

BEING WHO WE ARE - We are all different and all have weaknesses and strengths. We cannot change the way we are and as a group of individuals can all contribute something. We should be prepared to help one another and be prepared to streamline things when we can.

BEING CREATIVE TO TRY NEW THINGS - We should be prepared to try new ways of doing things and not necessarily doing tasks the same way that they have been done in the past and to try and meet the demands of the modern world.

The Mission Statement is seen as a guideline so that each Church can adapt it to meet their local needs and in this connection a Circuit Support Group exist to work alongside local Churches to offer guidance and support.

Work is being undertaken on trying to ensure that the Circuit operates practicing Equality, Diversity and Inclusion. This is a big topic as it can impact in many different ways such as issues around different viewpoints, varying ways of life and can also cover such things as people being disadvantaged because they are not up to date with modern technology. The overall aim, of course, is to be a welcoming Church to everyone. It may be that there will be some training offered but this is being looked into at the present time.

Another item that was discussed was the Stationing of Ministerial Staff. There had been a request for two new Ministers, one full-time and one part-time. The full-time

appointment has been filled but the part-time appointment is yet to be filled. Please pray for those Churches (Carrs Lane, Water Orton and Nether Whitacre) who are yet to be matched with a Minister. Lyndon is to have a new Minister with effect from September 2025 and he will have pastoral charge of four Churches namely Lyndon, South Yardley, Castle Bromwich and Saltley. Stationing for September 2026 will commence at the appropriate time and will involve three Ministers.

Our present Minister, Rev Webber, is to move on to being Minister having Pastoral Charge of the Pioneer Project on a part-time basis which is being undertaken in the Stechford and surrounding areas of the City and in this connection she advised the Meeting that at the present time there was a core of around nine people working on the project and that they meet regularly and are at present exploring and undergoing appropriate training to help meet some of the potential challenges that they are likely to be faced with and to ascertain the actual issues that are being encountered within the area.

Other items that were mentioned included the possibility of a shortage of preachers available over the summer due to holiday commitments and all accounts were approved for the Circuit but it is appropriate to mention that at the present time a loss is being made.

The Meeting finished early afternoon with the next Meeting due to take place in September 2025.

Janet Rudge

Postscripts:

Should anyone wish to see the actual Mission Statement, please get in touch with Janet.

Advance Diary Notes:

World Circuit Service - Sunday, 13th July 2025 at Selly Oak Methodist Church at 6.00 p.m.

Welcome Service for our new Minister - Sunday, 31st August 2025 at Castle Bromwich Methodist Church at 1.00 p.m.

West Midlands District Zoom meetings:

If you would like to find out more about the new West Midlands district, the circuit invites you to attend one of their monthly 30 minute Zoom sessions which will give you an opportunity to hear more about the vision and plans, ask any questions you may have and pray together. They would love for you to come along—whether you're curious, committed, or somewhere in between.

Links for the meetings, and more details can be found on the new West Midlands Methodist District website on <https://www.wmmethodists.org.uk>

Christian Aid's new RESTORE campaign



This was introduced at the Changemakers Conference on Saturday 8/3/2025. You can see a recording of this conference on www.christianaid.org.uk/get-involved/events/changemakers-conference. It is in the "topic" sections, where you can choose what to watch.

This year **Christian Aid is celebrating its 80th birthday**. It began after WW2 to help refugees put their lives back together and it hasn't stopped helping the poorest of the poor since then, to 'Live before they die'. Despite all we see on TV or social media, there has been a huge reduction in extreme poverty worldwide in those 80 years, brought about by many charities and benevolent agencies, working alongside and learning from those in poverty to find new solutions. But there are forces that through greed and oppression can undermine that progress.

Creation is groaning under climate change driven by greed and a wish to dominate. This fractures relationships between people and nations, as we can see happening now – damaging so many people. Many systems nationally and internationally are failing, yet we know God is at work, restoring and healing. We can join in this work.

Together, our congregation has supported Christian Aid since the 1950s, and other campaigns for a fairer world. We worked with the Fair Trade movement that proved you can pay producers a fair price and still have a profitable company, which people thought was impossible. We sold fair trade products through our church until fair trade goods got into the supermarkets. This has benefitted farmers across the world.

Christian Aid's Restore campaign spotlights reckless polluters and greedy lenders fuelling the climate crisis and trapping countries in debt. If a country or an individual is poor, they have fewer options and there are those, such as banks, who will make their situation far worse by either charging more for credit to those who are less well off, or refusing to give legal credit. This exploitation happens between countries. The poor are left to borrow from 'loan sharks' who actively make it very hard indeed to repay the debt. Banks and illegal moneylenders make huge profits from the struggling poor.

The actor Michael Sheen has used £100,000 of his own money to buy up £1 million of debt owed by people in South Wales around the Port Talbot area. This is a drop in the debt ocean, but was a great way to highlight the snares trapping the poor. He made a documentary about his great giveaway, broadcast on Channel 4 on Monday 10th March 2025, giving a really easy-to-understand account of how banks charge poor people, usually in work, more to borrow money, add in hidden charges, and late payments charges, making it really hard for people with no savings to repay the debt. Any extra bill can then so easily push them further into debt. Having made their money, the banks sell on the debts very cheaply – "discounted" – which is how Michael Sheen paid relatively little for the £1 million of debt, but the person in debt is still desperately trying to repay the full amount. Mr Sheen is doing this to

show up the discrimination against the poor and press for a Fair Banking Act in the UK to get a just system of credit. Just as for individuals who live near us, poorer countries get a bad debt deal. Debt has a huge impact on lives in the UK and abroad. See #michael sheen giveaway or Google it.

The Restore campaign, using the unstoppable power of hope, aims to help people understand how poverty is created by the powerful for profit, creating debt and fuelling climate change. For our fragile world to survive and thrive we need to work together to rein in the exploiters, building co-operation and mutual support for a better world. We know this can be done, because we've had success in reducing poverty and cancelling debt before.

But hoping for the best doesn't really cut it. The Quakers say that if you hope for a good thing to happen, you should also do what you can to bring it about. Learn about the issues, so you can't be misled by those who say there is no alternative to the status quo. Share with others what you have learnt, pray about the issues and act by giving, by supporting events, or signing petitions. You can learn more by looking at the Changemakers conference, mentioned at the start of this article, and there is information on the Restore Campaign, including a petition you can sign on-line see www.christianaid.org.uk/get-involved/campaigns/restore-campaign-launch-petition

Christian Aid Week this year runs from 11th to 17th May 2025. This year the country being featured is Guatemala and tells how communities are having to adapt their way of life in order to combat the impacts of climate change on their crops. Gruelling heatwaves, savage storms and unpredictable seasons are ravaging farms. Industrial agriculture is taking over the last of the region's natural resources to feed the world's richest countries. Over the years, climate change has caused extended dry seasons, contaminated water and a decreasing diversity of plants and crops. This means that people are faced with some periods where crops are giving smaller yields, leading to smaller reserves and the risk of families becoming vulnerable to hunger in between harvests. Christian Aid is helping to fund an organisation called Congcoop, who offer specialist agricultural training. Congcoop supports communities to return to Indigenous farming practices and adopt agroecological approaches that conserve their land, culture and livelihood. Agroecology, put simply, is farming in a sustainable way that works with, not against, nature. It's the application of ecological principles in farming – a blend of ancient and modern wisdom.

By working with Congcoop, communities gain the skills and knowledge to cultivate native seeds that are better suited to the changing climate. They are given the knowledge to produce their own organic fertiliser, create nurseries, construct rainwater collection systems, and making nutritious food and medicine for their chickens.

The Ukulele Concert at AGMC on 31st May will be supporting the work of Christian Aid (see page 27 for more details). The Olton Amazing Pluckers came last year for the first time and people have been asking when they are coming again, so they are back by public demand. See you there!

K Harding/L Tyler.

EATING IN THE UK IN THE FIFTIES

A friend sent me this list of items, and although not a child of the Fifties, it still made me chuckle. I hope it makes you smile and brings back some memories, too!

Pasta had not been brought to the UK.

Curry was a surname.

A takeaway was a mathematical problem.

A pizza was something to do with a leaning tower.

Bananas and oranges only appeared at Christmas time.

All crisps were plain; the only choice we had was whether to put the salt on or not.

A Chinese chippy was a foreign carpenter.

Rice was a milk pudding, and never, ever part of our dinner.

A Big Mac was what we wore when it was raining.

Brown bread was something only poor people ate.

Oil was for lubricating, fat was for cooking.

Tea was made in a teapot using tea leaves and never green.

Coffee was Camp, and came in a bottle.

Cubed sugar was regarded as posh.

Only Heinz made beans.

Fish didn't have fingers in those days.

Eating raw fish was called poverty, not sushi.

None of us had ever heard of yoghurt.

Healthy food consisted of anything edible.

People who didn't peel potatoes were regarded as lazy.

Indian restaurants were only found in India.

Cooking outside was called camping.

Seaweed was not a recognised food.

"Kebab" was not even a word never mind a food.

Sugar enjoyed a good press in those days, and was regarded as being white gold.

Prunes were medicinal.

Surprisingly, muesli was readily available, it was called cattle feed.

Pineapples came in chunks in a tin; we had only ever seen a picture of a real one.

Water came out of the tap, if someone had suggested bottling it and charging more than petrol for it they would have become a laughing stock.

The one thing that we never ever had on our table in the fifties was elbows.

How times have changed!

Prayer For May & June

Please pray for all peoples, at home and abroad who are suffering from financial difficulties, war, hunger, homelessness, lack of medical facilities, trafficking and other forms of exploitation. We continue to pray particularly for the people of Ukraine, Israel and Palestine and those involved in discussions which we hope will lead to a lasting peace so that the wasteful destruction of people and property is ended and people can once more live without fear.

For people facing fires, floods, eruptions and earthquakes caused by climate change as well as for those in the emergency services facing danger as they go to help others. Help us to think about what we can do, however small, to reduce the impact of climate change on the wonderful world that has been created for us by God.



Please pray for the Catholic church as they mourn the death of Pope Francis and as the cardinals elect their new Pontiff. May they be guided by God to make the right decision.

Thinking of our more local community, including those within our church community, please pray for those you know who are unwell or have serious or life-threatening illnesses and for their families and friends as they support them. Please also pray for those that are recently bereaved as they come to terms with their loss. Pray for those who are anxiously waiting for test results or operations. May they all feel God's healing touch and support.

Pray for the doctors, nurses, care workers and volunteers. Give them the skills and strength they need to support those in need.

We pray for those members of our congregation who, for whatever reason, are unable to join us in our acts of worship. May they know that they are still in our hearts and minds.

Pray for our services in May and June and all those that lead them.

We continue to pray for all those volunteers that help our services to run smoothly.

Help us to all think about the ways in which we can help, too, to bring Your love and message to our community.

Amen

March & April Quiz

A CONNECTIONS QUIZ (for a change)

1	What is the largest city and capital of Peru?	
2	What sport is associated with Troon, Sandwich and St Andrews?	
3	What equals 2.2 lbs?	
4	Mr Montague and Miss Capulet are better known as who?	
5	In which month do USA celebrate Thanksgiving?	
6	Who often exclaimed 'I don't believe it'?	
7	Which dance, originated in Argentina in 1890's is also a soft drink?	
8	A rather disparaging name for an inhabitant of the United States	
9	What is the 7th largest country in the world (by area) and the most populous?	
10	Montreal is the capital of which Canadian province?	
11	Which British comic actor (born 1889) starred in many films including 'The Great Dictator' and 'The Gold Rush'?	
12	Which historical film depicting the Battle of Rorke's Drift starred a young Michael Caine and Stanley Baker?	
13	What is the 4th letter of the Greek alphabet?	
14	Katharine Hepburn was awarded 4 of these in her lifetime	
15	And finally..... what connects all your answers?	

Answers please to Lynne Tyler or Church Email

by 8th June 2025

JOHN WESLEY WORD SEARCH

T	S	V	W	P	C	R	N	B	V	B	C
M	R	S	E	E	E	S	P	R	T	U	O
U	S	Z	L	N	S	C	Y	N	N	L	M
H	S	I	E	E	H	L	A	V	J	C	P
A	T	W	D	A	G	R	E	H	O	Y	A
N	A	I	R	O	E	A	F	Y	H	L	S
L	Z	L	A	N	H	V	C	P	N	O	S
J	E	Y	I	F	P	T	E	Y	B	H	I
S	E	T	A	G	S	R	E	D	L	A	O
K	I	S	U	N	D	A	Y	M	T	H	N
E	C	A	R	G	J	U	S	T	I	C	E
K	R	Y	T	I	N	U	M	M	O	C	B

ALDERSGATE

CHARLES

COMMUNITY

COMPASSION

FAITH

GRACE

HOLYCLUB

ITINERANT

JOHN

JUSTICE

LEGACY

METHODISM

RENEWAL

SUNDAY

WESLEY

March & April Quiz Answers

1) Cherry Blossom, 2) Crocus, 3) Poinsettia, 4) Rose, 5) Daffodil, 6) Lily, 7) Lotus, 8) Orchid, 9) Lily of the Valley, 10) Calendula, 11) Hawthorn, 12) Helianthus, 13) Jasmine, 14) Poppy, 15) Dahlia, 16) Fuchsia, 17) Primrose, 18) Lavender

Last month the quiz was very hard (sorry!) and there were no all correct entries compared to the list that we had, although some people did very well. Also some of the questions had the potential for different answers. Hopefully this month's quiz will be simpler.

Lyndon Community Page

We really would like to make this page and the whole magazine relevant, therefore, please get in touch. Let us know what you like and don't like and send or give any important events, ideas, offers, stories, feedback or tips personally to Lynne Tyler or by e-mail to lyndonmethodist@btconnect.com.

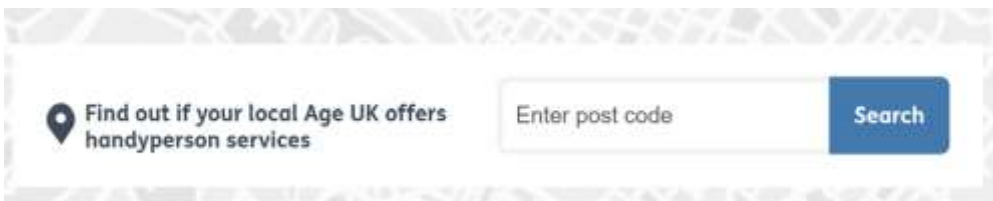
As previously mentioned, to keep this section going, improve this magazine and to try and create a closer community we really need your interaction.

HOW TO FIND A REPUTABLE TRADER

Kate Collen suggested that I did an article about how to find a reputable trader to do a job for you.

Kate recommended using Age UK and had used them to find an electrician for her. You can visit them in Solihull by the connect office or ring them on 0121 704 7840. Alternatively, you can look for details on the Age UK website.

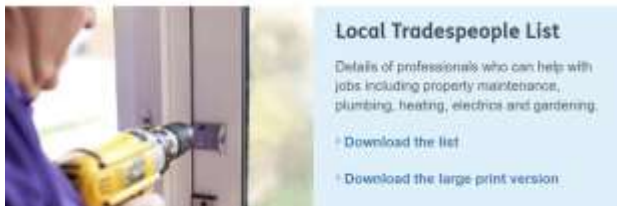
If you go onto the Age UK website, www.ageuk.org.uk, and type Finding a tradesperson you can trust into the search box, it will take you to a link which says "how do I find a trusted tradesperson near me". Clicking on this link will take you down the page to somewhere where you can input your postcode to see if your local Age UK offers handyman services



If you input your post code and then click on the search button it will then show places that you can get information. For Solihull, I have found that if you then click on the South Solihull Community Advice Hub and then scroll down, there is an item entitled Factsheets, Guides and Local Information. If you then click on the link which says See our guides and lists and then scroll down this page, you will see the item below:

Local Lists

Age UK Solihull also produces lists that provide details of local services and activities that we hope will be useful. They can be downloaded below.



Clicking on Download the list, will take you to the list of local traders.

Please however, note that Age UK states that the individuals and companies included on the list do not work for and are not recommended or vetted by

Age UK Solihull. Any work undertaken will be a private arrangement between you and them. Age UK Solihull is not responsible for work carried out by the people included on this list, nor do they personally inspect the work they have done and the charity has no influence on their working arrangements or charges. Age UK Solihull has obtained two customer references for each of the traders and have also ensured to the best of our ability that they have Public Liability Insurance.

Age UK also have lists of other local services including a Care Home List, Care Agency List, Chiropodists and Podiatrists List, Local Clubs List and Sheltered Housing List which you may be interested in. Kate also tells me that they can also help you with blue badge applications and filling in other benefit forms.

Another useful website which I have used in the past is No Rogue Traders Here – see the details below:



If you're looking for a builder, roofer, landscaper, electrician or other trade professional visit www.norougetradershere.com.

No Rogue Traders Here (NORTH) works in conjunction with Solihull Trading Standards, to rigorously vet all businesses who apply to join the network. This decreases the chances of things going wrong, when you need to hire a trader.

More than just a recommendation service, NORTH is completely free for consumers; monitoring the work and the price you are charged.

Working with Trading Standards, NORTH will also provide practical support to consumers if things go wrong.

Just go to www.norougetradershere.com to register or you can phone for free on 0800 233 5000.

Basically, once you have registered with them, you create your job and post it on the site, and they'll match your request to the relevant Trading Standards approved tradespeople.

Lynne Tyler

RECYCLING AND WASTE



YOUR
FUTURE
SOLIHULL

Introducing soft plastic recycling



You can now recycle plastic films and wrappers in your recycling. Please place these loose into your brown bin, communal recycling bin or clear sack. **Alongside your normal recycling you can now include:**



Yes Please



Crisp packets



Confectionery wrappers



Fruit and veg net bags



Plastic bags



Cheese, fish and meat wrapping



Bubble wrap and cling film – max 1m sections



Plastic film and sleeves



Pouches



No Thanks

✗ Small sachets or packets

✗ Balloons

✗ Blister packs, pills or tablets

✗ Disposable gloves/masks

✗ Foam or polystyrene

✗ Plastic straws or cutlery

✗ Compostable or biodegradable bags

 Solihull recycles

 VEOLIA

 Solihull
COUNCIL

WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP



Ukulele concert



on Sat 31st May 2025 at 7:30pm
at Acocks Green Methodist Church
1 Botteville Road, B27 7YE

- A keen, talented, yet modest, Uke group
- Favourite songs, old and new
- Interval refreshments available (cash only!)
- Tickets £5 each. Under 16s free with a paying adult.



For tickets ring 0121 711 2362
or take your chances on the door!

For
christian
aid

by the
Olton
Amazing
Pluckers



Notices & Events

Ladies Club - 1.30pm to 3.30pm

Wednesday 7th and 21st May

Wednesday 4th and 18th June

Lunch Club - Fridays 12pm to 1pm

MAY

2nd Sausage and Mash

9th Gammon and Pineapple

16th Salmon

23rd Quiche and Salad

30th CLOSED FOR HALF TERM

JUNE

6th Turkey Pie

13th Baked Potatoes with Various Fillings

20th Macaroni Cheese

27th Fish Portions

Price: starter £1, main £5, pudding £1

No need to book - Just come along

Monthly Prayer and Bible Study - 7.00pm - 8.30pm

Wednesday 7th May

Wednesday 4th April

Hobs Moat WI - 7pm to 9pm

Monday 19th May

Monday 16th June

Notices & Events

LEPROSY SUNDAY

Many thanks to all those who have donated money towards the work of The Leprosy Mission. We have raised the grand sum of £1,412.53 during the year ended 31st March 2025. This sum will enable many sufferers to receive treatment, care and love and to hear the Christian Message.

Brenda Davis

ANNUAL CHURCH MEETING

This year's Annual Church Meeting is due to take place on 18th May, 2025 following the morning service. Everyone who attends Lyndon is welcome to come to the meeting and participate.

Janet Rudge

LUNCH CLUB - CAN YOU HELP?

After many years of serving our community through our Friday lunch club, the team Margaret, Alan, Maisie, Trevor and Jean, have decided it's time to retire. Their last Lunch Club will be on 18th July.

I'm sure you would all like to join me in saying a huge thank you to each of them for their dedicated service to our community for so many years. So, to Margaret, Alan, Maisie, Trevor and Jean, thank you so much for all you have done for the ministry of food and hospitality at Lyndon. We really do appreciate all you have done.

Ideally, we would love for this regular event to continue in some form, but for that to happen, a new team will need to be formed. If anyone would like to take the lead on this please do come and have a chat with me, or speak to Claire Frew or Lynne Tyler.

Rev Karen Webber

CHURCH FLOWER COORDINATOR REQUIRED

We are still looking for somebody to take over the very important role of church flower coordinator. You don't need to be able to do flower arranging, as this is more of an admin role. Annually, you would need to prepare the rota for arrangers and donors which is usually done for the period March to February. In addition, on a weekly basis you would need to contact the donor about two weeks before the date they have chosen to ask for their donation. You would also need to co-ordinate the flower arranging process for the special festivals - Easter, Harvest, Remembrance and Christmas. Please speak to Lorraine Sibson for more information. Thank you

Lorraine Sibson

Services in May

Sunday 4th May

10:30am Communion Service led by Rev Dr Jane Craske

5.00pm Lyndon People

Sunday 11th May

10:30am Service led by Barry Davis

Sunday 18th May

10:30am Service led by Rev Karen Webber

Sunday 25th May

10:30am Own arrangement service led by Helen Cook

Services in June

Sunday 1st June

10:30am Communion Service led by Rev Karen Webber

5.00pm Lyndon People

Sunday 8th June

10:30am Service led by Barry Davis

Sunday 15th June

10:30am Parade/Father's Day Service led by TBC

Sunday 22nd June

10.30am MHA Service led by Sam Monaghan

Sunday 29nd June

10.30am Service led by TBC

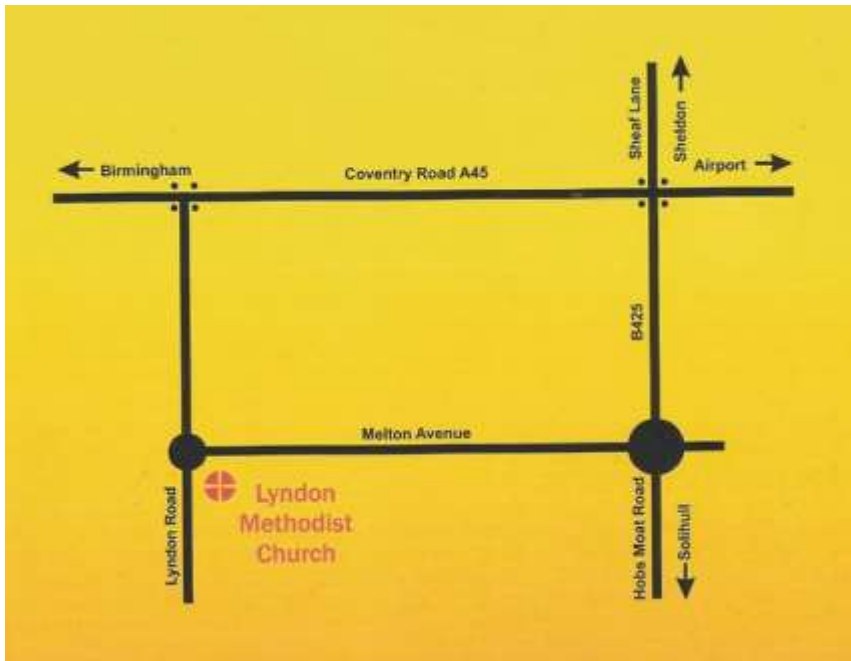
Our next issue will be July 2025

I am looking forward to receiving your contributions by

8th June 2025

by email to Lynne Tyler or to lyndonmethodist@btconnect.com

or by post to Church – address below



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West Midlands
B92 7QX

<https://lyndonmethodist.org.uk>

Charity No. 1150167