

LYNDON MAGAZINE



**SEPTEMBER &
OCTOBER 2023**



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 venture into a new Methodist year, I am mindful that, the older I get, the quicker the times and seasons seem to come and go. Sunday 1st September marks the beginning of what has come to be known as Creation time. This period runs from 1st September right through to the feast of St Francis on 4th October and for many of us in the UK it encompasses the “harvest season”.



The Jewish festival of Sukkot, or The Feast of Tabernacles/Booths, begins this year at sunset on 29th September and ends at nightfall on 6th October. Sukkot commemorates the years that the Jewish people spent in the desert on their way to the Promised Land, and celebrates how God cared for them under impossible conditions.

The word sukkot means ‘huts’ (or ‘booths’), and building a hut is the most obvious way in which the Jewish community celebrate the festival. Families these days will sometimes build an open-air structure to live under during this time. The structure essentially has a roof made of branches and leaves. The purpose of this is for those inside to be able to see the sky through the branches and leaves. It is also essential that the structure is temporary and actually quite flimsy, which serves as a reminder of the fragility of life. Chief Rabbi, Lord Sacks described it as:



"a festival about the fragility of nature as a habitat hospitable to humankind". He said that Sukkot helps restore “our sense of humility about our place within nature and the universe. It reminds us that we are dependent on things beyond our control.”

Surely, this is a lesson for all of us, not just for the Jewish community.

Hand in hand with this theme of fragility, which has the power to humble us, is the idea that we are forever in the presence of God, whether in the security of our own, well insulated, protected homes, or, in open, less protected spaces.

It sounds quite poignant doesn't it, given our TV screens show refugees flooded out of their homes, shanty towns sprung up by open sewers, or vast, tented camps sheltering the victims of famine? And closer to home, in our own neighbourhoods, people we know are struggling to make ends meet, making difficult daily decisions as to whether they should pay the bills or put food on the table.

And yet as Christians, along with our Jewish brothers and sisters, when we dare to peer through the gaps in the roof of a Sukkot, albeit imagined in our case maybe, and see the sky scattered with a myriad of stars, we are also looking beyond ourselves to find God embracing us and all things in all our situations. A God who lends us this planet that we inhabit, but for a short time only. A God who entrusts to our care the earth and all its resources. A God who displayed this love most fully by coming to be with us, as one of us, yet still divine. Emmanuel. A God, in Christ, whose love took a cruciform shape in order to reconcile all things with Him.

May this Creation time be a time to remember not only our own fragility, the fragility of others and of creation, but also Christ's fragility in the offering of his life for all.

May we also remember that, in the scheme of things, we are here but for a short time, and may that prompt us to live more carefully, mindfully and unselfishly, simply Christlike.

Go well, Karen

- 1 God in his love for us lent us this planet,
gave it a purpose in time and in space :
small as a spark from the fire of creation,
cradle of life and the home of our race.
- 2 Thanks be to God for its bounty and beauty,
life that sustains us in body and mind :
plenty for all, if we learn how to share it,
riches undreamed-of to fathom and find.
- 3 Long have our human wars ruined its harvest ;
long has earth bowed to the terror of force ;
long have we wasted what others have needed,
poisoned the fountain of life at its source.
- 4 Earth is the Lord's : it is ours to enjoy it,
ours, as God's stewards, to farm and defend.
From its pollution, misuse, and destruction,
good Lord, deliver us, world without end !

Fred Pratt Green (1903–2000)

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<www.stainer.co.uk>

The Mountain of the Lord

In the Old Testament this phrase was used to describe any location where the Lord made his divine will known to his holy prophets. Throughout scripture, mountains have been the place where epoch making events have taken place.

For many years my wife and I have been drawn to mountains and have taken our summer holidays walking and climbing them, albeit we now cannot achieve the heights we did years ago.

Ararat

The first mountain mentioned in the bible is Ararat. God had commanded Noah to build an ark to save himself and his family and animals from a forthcoming flood. Genesis 8 v 4 records that after the flood had subsided, the ark came to rest on the lower slopes of the Ararat Mountain range which is located in present day Turkey. The peak of Ararat is some 16,000 feet high. Many years ago, we flew over it while on a business trip. From the aeroplane we had a magnificent view of this tall snow-covered mountain shining in the sun and standing out high above everything near it.

After the ark came to rest, Noah had to wait for nearly eight months for the vegetation to grow before God told him to leave the ark together with everyone on it. (Gen 8 v13-17)

Noah had to be obedient to God's call and be patient and only leave the ark when directed to do so.

The berthing on Ararat showed Noah that God had been faithful and kept him safe and that there was new life after the flood.

Moriah

Abraham was tested by God to offer his son Isaac as a sacrifice in the region of Moriah which was by Jerusalem and about 2,000 feet above sea level depending upon where the sacrifice was to take place.

God did not want Isaac to die, but wanted Abraham to sacrifice Isaac in his heart so that it was obvious that Abraham loved God more than he loved his son and the promise God had made to him that he would be the father of a great nation.

It was at the point of sacrifice that God spoke to Abraham through an angel and told him not to kill Isaac but to offer a ram which was nearby. (Gen 22 v 1-19)

A thousand years later David bought the threshing floor of Araunah the Jebusite to build an altar to the Lord. This was believed to be on Moriah.

(Sam 24 v 18). David wished to build a temple for the Lord on this spot but was told by Nathan the prophet that God did not want him to build it but that his son Solomon could build it after his death. The temple was completed in 957 BC. It was utterly destroyed by Nebuchadnezzar 2nd of Babylon in 586 BC. In 538 BC the rebuilding of the temple was ordered by Cyrus 2nd the Persian conqueror of Babylon and the work was completed by 515 BC.

During the time of the Roman conquest, Herod the Great ordered the rebuilding of the second temple. The work commenced in 63 BC and took 46 years to complete. Ironically this temple was destroyed by the Romans 87 years later in AD 70.

Sinai or Horeb

These two names are synonymous. It was at a burning bush on this mountain that God called Moses to challenge Pharaoh and to lead his people out of Egypt into the promised land. (Exodus 3 v 1-14). In verse 5 the Angel of the Lord told Moses to take off his sandals as it was holy ground.

Three months after the Israelites had left Egypt and crossed the Red Sea, they arrived at Sinai. They cried out to Moses for water. God told Moses to strike the rock at Horeb (Sinai) and water would come forth from it. (Exodus 17 v 1-7) This is not to be confused with a similar incident thirty-seven years later at Kadesh when Moses, having been told by God to speak to the rock, disobeyed God by striking it. This cost Moses the joy of actually entering into the promised land. (Numbers 20 v 6-13)

It was at Sinai where the Lord came down to Moses in a dense cloud and gave him the ten commandments. There was thunder and lightning, and a thick cloud and smoke covered the mountain. At the same time a loud trumpet blast could be heard. The people were warned not to ascend the mountain but to remain at the bottom. Obviously, they saw and heard what was going on. Exodus 19 v 16 says “Everyone in the camp trembled”. We do not know how far up the 7,500-foot mountain Moses climbed to meet with God.

Moses came down the mountain with the two tablets of stone containing the ten commandments which had been written with the finger of God. (Exodus 31 v 18)

Mount Tabor



Jezreel Valley, biblical Mount Tabor and the Arab villages at its foot, neighbourhood Nazareth, Israel

The Gospels record the transfiguration of Jesus taking place up a mountain but do not name it. Tradition has it that it was Tabor which has a height of 1,800 feet and is situated in lower Galilee.

Jesus took Peter, James, and John with him up the mountain. It was here that he was glorified and joined by Moses and Elijah. Moses represented the law and Elijah the prophets. Jesus fulfilled both the law and the prophets.

This remarkable incident took place on a mountain and was presented as the point at which human nature met with God. The temporal with the eternal. It was a bridge between heaven and earth. (Matt. 17 v 1-13)

The Mount of Olives

The Mount of Olives features in the gospel narratives. It is part of the mountain ridge east of Jerusalem and rises above it at a height of 2,700 feet. From the summit could be seen the city and the temple.

During his final week in Jerusalem, Jesus taught each day in the temple. Being drained of physical and spiritual energy he spent the night alone on the Mount of Olives to pray and recover. (Luke 21 v 37)

The garden of Gethsemane was at the foot of the Mount of Olives.

The Ascension took place on the Mount of Olives. (Acts 1 v 12)

Zechariah prophesied that when Jesus returns to reign on earth his feet will stand on this Mount, and it will be split in two. (Zechariah 14 v 4)



Jesus and Apostles in the Mount of Olives, fresco in the church of Saint Matthew in Stitar, Croatia

Calvary

Jesus was crucified at Calvary which is believed to have been on Moriah about one hundred feet above The Temple Mount at over 2,000 feet above sea level.

The work of Christ on earth was completed by his death on the cross since when the way has been open for all to receive forgiveness for their sins and to have direct communion with God the Father through Jesus his son.

It is significant that many mountains in the Alps have a cross on the top. This custom of erecting a cross after the first ascent of a mountain began during the 19th century. Many of these crosses have a container attached to them with a summit book in which climbers sign their name and add any comments they wish to make. It has been a joy to add our names to many of these books. The crosses are a symbol of faith and a sign of thanksgiving for a safe ascent and a prayer for a safe descent.

Summary

We have seen how significant events where God has spoken or revealed himself have taken place on mountains. People have found his presence there in a special way.

Mountain top experiences are talked about, particularly among Christians. These usually relate to Christian experiences.

Noah, Abraham, Peter, James, John, and Jesus certainly had such experiences on the mountains when they came and heard God the Father.

Over the years we have stood on the top of mountains and been awestruck by the majesty of them and the wonder of God's creation and in the silence have given thanks to Him.

Probably our best literal mountain top experience occurred many years ago, when after setting off very early we had climbed the last 3,300 feet of a 11,600-foot mountain. For the last 200 yards we battled against a strong wind but reached the summit safely being roped together with our guide. Standing by the cross we looked down into the valley below where everything looked miniature and looking on the horizon, we could see other mountains many miles away.

May our faith develop and deepen as we walk the Christian path and as we pray the prayer of Charles Wesley:

*Give me the faith which can remove
and sink the mountain to a plain;*

STF 661

Barry Davis

Prayer For September and October

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.

For people facing fires or floods, and also for those in the emergency services facing danger as they go to help others.

As we see our planet overheating, we pray that people will take steps to reverse the bad practices that have destroyed the temperature balance. May we all take responsibility for preserving our planet's precious resources.

For those in authority that they will direct this and every nation in the ways of justice and peace, so that we honour one another and seek the common good.

Also please pray for:

Pray for those we know who are unwell or with serious illness and for the families of the bereaved. Pray for those who are anxiously waiting for test results or operations. May they all feel God's healing touch.

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

Pray for all those returning to or starting in education after the summer holidays. For those starting in new schools and in new classes and those moving on to higher education and university. May they feel refreshed from their summer break and eager to learn and become the best they can be.

Pray for our services in September and October and all those that lead them. We also pray for all those volunteers that help our services to run smoothly. Help us to think about the ways in which we can help, too, to bring your love and message to our community.

Amen





The **Methodist** Church 

CHILDREN and YOUTH

Fun Day


SATURDAY 16TH SEPTEMBER 2023

12 NOON - 4PM

PERRY HALL METHODIST CHURCH

152 Rocky Ln, Perry Barr, Birmingham, B42 1QF

A day to make new friends from churches from across the city,
join in fun activities and worship together.
Free entry and lunch is provided.



TO REGISTER YOUR INTEREST

contact: Ermine Mitchell Circuit Youth Co-Ordinator

EMAIL: emitchell@birminghammethodistcircuit.org.uk

TEL: 07526204536

Letter from Leeds

It's 18th August and it's more than time that I updated you all on our progress in Leeds. Unbelievably it was 18th August 2022 when I first let you all know how we were getting on so it's most apt that I write again tonight.

What a difference a year makes!

We at last sold our Castle Lane home in April – it took a year and it's an experience I do not want to repeat! Meantime we found our perfect new home and were very lucky that the sellers waited patiently whilst we rode the roller-coaster of selling. Anyway, we took possession of our dormer bungalow in April and moved in late May. It's a bit of a 'doer-upper' as they say. We have had a number of electrical repairs, new windows and doors and unexpectedly had to fork



out for a new roof as well. It needs decorating throughout. We are going to have to live with the 1990s kitchen and the bathroom needs re-doing soon.

All that said, we love it! David has a penthouse suite consisting of living room (with balcony over-looking the woods), bedroom and shower room. We have redecorated it in his choice of colours – red, blue and white living room and green, gold and white bedroom – actually it looks really good. Downstairs we still have mainly plaster walls but gradually working round papering and painting. The garden also needs an overhaul but again we are making progress. By next summer we should have it pretty much as we would like it.

Whilst still in Leeds with all its' benefits of health care and city amenities, the house is literally on the corner of green belt with immediate access to the countryside and yet in the other direction are local shops, bus stop, very nice restaurant and café, hairdressers and chemist. Next to us there is also a small park and children's play area. What more could you ask for?

The footpath which runs down the side of our property leads into woodland and down to a stream. Up the other side from the stream the path leads to farm buildings and fields where David and I go blackberrying. Hidden within the woodland is an open area which is designated as being specially protected because it is a rare example of lowland heathland and is currently covered in flowering heather.

If we walk in the other direction past the shops and through the urban area we come to fields where we can survey many miles of beautiful Yorkshire countryside.

In terms of activities, Ray is happy doing DIY as he is reasonably well at the moment. David now goes to the farm 3 days a week funded by social services and he is very happy there. He also goes out regularly with his brother which is great. David and I volunteer once a month at a community café back in Meanwood. I have made new friends who I see regularly for coffee – today it was lunch. And, of course, we see Craig and Kate frequently which is wonderful. They have



bought a very nice house in Meanwood so we are close to each other – about the distance from Lyndon Church to Solihull. Indeed, we both live by the 'Meanwood Trail' which is a walk along the stream, through the woodland and park we used to live by so we could walk to each others house without walking on the road!

David and I continue to go to Holy Trinity Church in Meanwood although the last 2 Sundays we tried our local Methodist church which we can walk to from here. I think we will alternate. I prefer Holy Communion in the Methodist Church because of the individual cups of wine – CofE still only offer wine in a shared Chalise. I also go to a fortnightly evening Bible group which is thought-provoking and very good fellowship.

So, all in all this move has turned out to be an excellent one – if you discount the weather which for the last few weeks has been miserable. Of course, we miss you all and the worship at Lyndon (the churches here don't match your high standards). We send you all our love. *Wendy*





Education Sunday: A History and a Celebration

Education Sunday is a special day of prayer and celebration for everyone in the world of education. It is held on the second Sunday in September, coinciding with the start of the school year in many countries. But how did this tradition start and what does it mean for Christians today?

The Origins of Education Sunday

Education Sunday has a long history that dates back to the 19th century. According to Wikipedia, Education Sunday was established by the Bishops in 1848 as one of the oldest Days of Special Prayer in the liturgical calendar of England and Wales. At that time, the Catholic Church was facing persecution and discrimination in the provision of education, and the Bishops wanted to raise awareness and support for Catholic schools, which were often underfunded and marginalized.

The Catholic Education Service states that in the 175 years since then, the Catholic Church has become the country's largest provider of secondary schools and second-largest provider of primary schools, serving over 850,000 pupils and employing over 50,000 teachers. Education Sunday is an opportunity to celebrate this achievement and to thank God for the gift of education.

The Ecumenical Dimension of Education Sunday

Education Sunday is not only a Catholic event, but also an ecumenical one. Since 1908, Education Sunday has been celebrated on an ecumenical basis in England and Wales, involving different Christian denominations and organisations. Churches Together in England explains that each year, an ecumenical steering group chooses a theme for Education Sunday and produces resources for churches, schools and individuals to use. The ecumenical steering group consists of representatives from eight organisations:

- Association of Christian Teachers
- Baptist Union
- Roman Catholic Church
- Church of England National Society
- Methodist Church
- Student Christian Movement
- Salvation Army
- United Reformed Church

The ecumenical steering group also produces resources for churches, schools and individuals to use on or around Education Sunday. These resources include prayers, liturgies, reflections, activities, stories and songs that explore various aspects of education from a Christian perspective.

Some examples of how different Christian traditions have celebrated Education Sunday are:

- A joint service between a Baptist church and a Church of England school in London, featuring testimonies from pupils and teachers
- A creative workshop for children and young people at a Methodist church in Birmingham, using art, drama and music to express their learning experiences
- A prayer walk around a local community organised by a Salvation Army corps in Liverpool, visiting places of education and learning

The Theme for Education Sunday 2023

This year's theme is inspired by the lectionary reading from Paul's letter to the Romans: The armour of light. Armour is generally something solid, impenetrable, something to protect its wearer from deadly weapons and the dangers of the 'outside' world. Just think of the full body armour of a medieval European knight.

The armour of light, however, is quite the reverse. Instead of shutting its wearers off to protect them from the world, it brings light and warmth to the people. It is not armour worn out of fear, it is worn to give hope. In Romans 13:11-14, Paul urges us to put on this armour of light because in Christ, we have become creatures of day, creatures of hope. In Christ, the night of sin has passed and what we must now focus on are the 'honourable' deeds of daylight.

The resources for Education Sunday 2023 are available on the official website, <https://www.educationsunday.org.uk/>. They offer suggestions for how to celebrate Education Sunday in different settings, such as churches, schools, homes and communities. They also provide ideas for how to support education locally and globally, through prayer, advocacy and action.

Conclusion

Education Sunday is a special day of prayer and celebration for everyone in the world of education. It has a long history that reflects the Catholic Church's commitment to education as a human right and a divine gift. It also has an ecumenical dimension that expresses the unity and diversity of Christians in their common mission of education.



Street Pastors

[Street Pastors](#) celebrated its 20th birthday last month. Street Pastors bring together people from across the Church, all sharing the same values of selflessness, help and care for those in need. They offer pastoral support and community welfare.

Here we share the stories of six Methodists who are Street Pastors, their beliefs, commitments and achievements.

Viv Higgins, Stamford, Street Pastor for 6 years



"I used to take detours to avoid noisy groups of young people on the street, until, at a Churches Together meeting, the organiser of City Angels gave a presentation. I was moved and joined the street team.

Every time we go out we are aware that God is with us leading our steps. We see amazing demonstrations of the importance and power of prayer. As one of the nightclubs was closing one night, the atmosphere was beginning to get aggressive. A police car pulled up and was instantly surrounded by the crowd. We phoned our prayer

pastor and within a couple of minutes, most people had moved on, leaving the streets quiet.

We also work closely with door staff, police and CCTV to help distressed folk when appropriate. Once we helped a lady intoxicated to walk home. Although it took us away from the town centre, it meant we were there when she passed out and were able to get her safely home. God was leading us and the doormen that night to ensure a potentially vulnerable person got safely home."

Judith Wade, Stamford, Street Pastor for 7 years



"I am now 81. Forty years ago, I struggled to walk 500 yards. After many years of prayer, and God's protection and guidance, I had four operations and can now serve both God and our Community. Now my grandchildren love to tell their friends 'My Grandma goes out into the town until 3.00 am in the morning helping others!'

Stamford is a small town and we are welcomed and accepted as 'people who will help'. We sweep up broken glass from bottles and glasses to protect people and prevent cut feet. We offer flip-flops as

alternative footwear, and bottled water where it is needed. For the younger people, the best thing is the lollies, we always have them in our pockets! We ring in to the Prayer Pastors who support us back at the church when we come across situations where we need to seek God's guidance even more. We experienced many miracles as God unfolds answers and people, to be there for us.

Rosalind Boxall, Sutton, Street Pastor for 2 years



When I retired from my job as an Occupational Therapist I wanted to use my problem-solving skills in a voluntary role. The patrols go out on Friday and Saturday afternoons and evenings and involve Christians from many local churches. At the base, we check that our rucksacks have water, a first aid kit, warm socks, a hat, gloves and a flask of hot drinks for anyone in need. We call the police duty officer and radio the local security team to inform them we'll be out in the High Street and most importantly we pray together, asking God to protect us and guide us to those who need to speak to us.

Once, outside the rail station, a man holding a beer can was persisting in talking to a group of teenage girls who appeared nervous. We engaged him in conversation and the girls were relieved to move away."

Paul Blackett, Preston, Street Pastor for 10 years



"The possibility of complete strangers asking me about my faith at 1.00am terrified me when I first joined the Street Pastors! Yet, as the years have gone by I have learned to rely on the Holy Spirit to give me the words to say to those hurting or curious on the street. It might be a kind word to a homeless person, or a chat with a bereaved father. It might be a deep theological question!

We never know quite what to expect each night. Through the giving of time, we give value to those we meet. Through the offer of a hot drink and chocolate, we show love. In befriending the lost and charging mobile phones, we reunite people.

I never thought I'd feel comfortable praying with a stranger in the drizzle at 2.00am; talking about my faith on my knees with a homeless man, or giving a new testament to a drug dealer, but here I am, 10 years doing just that. Our God is an awesome God!"

Doris Vaughn, Newbury, Street Pastor for 13 years

“Our initiative is a Churches Together one, with three Newbury Methodist Street Pastors and one Prayer Pastor. We have helped at Newbury Race Course, Reading Festival and Henley Regatta as well as our usual Saturday evening shifts. We are well supported in our opening devotions before going on shift by the church leaders.

We count it a privilege to minister to the night-time economy in this way and have a great working relationship with the police, door staff and taxi drivers etc. As well as the opportunity of sharing our faith and showing Christ's love in action we have fun. When on duty on at 2.30am on Easter Sunday morning I had the opportunity to have a great conversation with a young man about the authenticity of the Bible and the Resurrection.”

Claire Pearce, Winchester, Street Pastor for 8 years

“To me, being a Street Pastor, means being the hands and feet of Jesus in my local area. It sounds very worthy but is where I believe Jesus would be and this is where being a Street Pastor fits with the Methodist way of life, in caring for people, being open, serving and giving us the chance to tell others and share our faith.

It is a chance to celebrate with people who are out celebrating, talk to the lonely, help the vulnerable and reassure the anxious. There has not been a single patrol where the team and I have felt that our time was wasted, some are less eventful than others but every time we go out, we can see the power of prayer over the city and feel that we have made a difference.

If there is a local Street Pastor team near you I would recommend that you explore ways to get involved, go out for an evening as an observer, hold them in prayer or fundraise and consider joining this amazing initiative as the benefits you will gain far outweigh the cost of an evening given up once a month.”

From Methodist Website (methodist.org.uk)



Hobmoor Food Pantry Update

Dear Friends

I thought I would write a few words to update you on the work of Hobmoor Food Pantry which is based at South Yardley Methodist Church. Firstly though, I want to say a big thank you for all the support by way of donations you have given and continue to give. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

Here is a reminder of what a Food Pantry actually is:

A Food Pantry exists to help those who need it to stretch out the weekly food budget. The whole ethos of the Food Pantry is around dignity and choice. Choice as in, being given the option to choose items according to your family's tastes which in turn affords a sense of dignity. Families self-sign up to use the Pantry, no referral is needed and no eligibility checks are made. Once signed up each visit costs £4. For £4 customers can shop in our corner shop like store. The amount of food purchased weekly is the equivalent to approximately £25 -£30 if purchased in the supermarket. In addition to this, fresh produce and bread is also available.



The Food Pantry opened in December 2021 in response to the growing need in the community. From our first day of opening, we attracted many customers and we now have over 1,000 families signed up to use the Pantry. In addition to this, in June 2021, we opened a pay-as-you-feel café, offering food and drinks to the community. The café attracts not only Pantry users but also those in the community just looking for a cuppa and a chat.

Whilst from time to time we do attract the odd grant, we are largely dependant on generous donations from people like yourselves. Currently we are in a period of extremely low stock so your donations are ever more needed and appreciated.

If you would like to visit the Pantry anytime, the Café is open from 12.30 and the Pantry runs from 1-3pm.

Thank you again for all your prayers and support.

Peace, *Amy, Leanne & Karen*

Editors Note: There are collection boxes in the vestibule and centre reception desk for your donations. Thank you!

Watch Out For Summer Scams

We received this from Barclays and thought it worth sharing to help make people more aware of potential scams.

Keep your money safer



Look out for fake deals on accommodation and travel

Scammers create realistic travel websites and listings with fake holiday offers. They may contact you directly by email, text or phone call. They'll try and trick you into:

- Paying for accommodation that doesn't exist or is already full
- Buying fake travel tickets
- Entering your details on a fraudulent website.

Be vigilant when paying for your holiday and only use the payment options shown on the company's official website. Always book with a company you've researched and never open links in unexpected emails and texts. If something looks too good to be true, it usually is.



Watch out for ticket scams

Scammers can make websites that mimic real ones and sell fake tickets at seemingly bargain prices. It can be tempting, especially if the ones you want are very expensive or have sold out.

You pay and either don't get a ticket, or you get a fake one that will be refused when you try to use it at the event.

Always do your research and check a provider is genuine before buying.



Don't be tempted by quick cash

Be wary if someone offers to pay you to help them move money. If money goes in and out of your account from illegal activity, you're a 'money mule' and that's a crime. Never help anyone move money or give them access to your account.



Protect your tech



Criminals sneak malicious software, or 'malware', onto your devices to steal information like passwords and payment details. They hide it in emails and apps so you don't realise you're downloading it.

To avoid getting malware:

- Only get apps from the official app store for your device
- Don't open links in unexpected emails and texts
- Keep your device's software up to date, so you always have the latest security features.

If you use the Barclays app,* always check your recognisable word is shown on screen before you log in. If it isn't there or is wrong, don't log in as you might have malware. Close the app immediately and call us using the number on the back of your card. Search 'Barclays cyber' online for more information.



TO STOP FRAUD™

STOP CHALLENGE PROTECT

Methodist Conference 2023 Report

Conference Business Digest

A report for local churches about the business of the 2023 Methodist

The 2023 Methodist Conference, held at the Hilton Birmingham Metropole: Presbyteral Session 22-23 June; Representative Session 24-29 June. methodist.org.uk/conference

The Conference is the governing body of the Methodist Church and meets annually to discuss matters affecting the life of the Church, the nation and the world.

Induction of the President and Vice-President for 2023/2024

On Saturday 24 June, the Revd Gill Newton was elected and inducted as President of the Conference, and Deacon Kerry Scarlett as Vice-President. They shared their theme of 'Hidden Treasures' in their addresses to the Conference.

You can read both addresses in full here: methodist.org.uk/presidential-addresses-2023

Reception into Full Connexion and Ordination Services

New presbyters and deacons were ordained on Sunday 25 June 2023.

During the Sunday Worship, thirteen presbyters and four deacons were received into Full Connexion with the Conference, along with ten presbyters by transfer, and one presbyter by reinstatement and transfer when they were presented to the members of the Methodist Conference and to its President and Vice-President.

Having been received into Full Connexion on Sunday morning, presbyters and deacons travelled to nearby Coventry with their families and friends for the afternoon where the diaconal ordinations took place at Coventry Central Hall and the presbyteral ordinations were held at Coventry Cathedral.

Oversight and Trusteeship

Following consultation with the District Synods, the Conference confirmed changes to the Deed of Union which it agreed in 2022, to establish a Connexional Council from 1 September 2024. The Connexional Council will be the trustee body for the Church, and will undertake many of the functions of the present Methodist Council and Strategy and Resources Committee.

Further to the decisions of the 2022 Conference in respect of reducing the size of the Conference from 2024, the Council brought a proposed allocation of seats in order to achieve that reduction. Among other changes, proposals were agreed to abolish the category of Conference-elected representatives and replace it with members of the Connexional Council.

The Conference agreed to the establishment of a new District incorporating the

present Cumbria, Lancashire, Liverpool and Bolton and Rochdale Districts, with a continuing consultation taking place in the Manchester and Stockport District concerning this proposal. The new District will come into being on 1 September 2024 and will be called the North West England District.

There is Room – Triennial Membership Returns 2019-2022

Every three years a report is presented to the Conference on the membership returns of the Church. For the years 2020 and 2021 attendances were not recorded due to the lockdown with many societies meeting online for that time. The attendance figures for 2022 (as for 2019) do not include those who shared in online services.

The numbers indicate a 3,000 reduction between 2021 and 2022, more typical of pre-pandemic trends. The extrapolation implies a loss of 10,000 members during the pandemic, representing 15% of our membership, matching the narrative around the Connexion.

The decline in membership and attendance is not unexpected nor unique to Methodism. The faithfulness of God and God's people in the current reality is seen in pockets of growth in churches and circuits and in experimentation with Methodist people and churches taking missional risks.

Online Church

The Conference recognised the close relation of the questions of online celebrations of Holy Communion and predominantly online churches and, subject to the outcome of the connexional period of discernment in respect of online communion, affirmed in principle the possibility of predominantly online churches.

Action for Children

A report from the charity Action for Children, part of the Methodist family, thanked the Methodist people for their on-going support. Particular mention was made of their involvement in the online action to challenge the gap between the benefit uplift and inflation. In the year 2021/2022, Methodists raised £644,000 for Action for Children.

Budget

Planned reductions in the District Assessment mean there will be less funding for the Connexional Team and therefore a reduction in the work that the Team can undertake. Transitional funding was agreed to support the Connexional Team whilst a transformation plan is developed. The impact of inflation will continue to be passed through to the District Assessment.

Pension Schemes

This report updated the Conference on pension issues including the estimated funding position and a report from the task group established by the Council to look at the future of the Methodist Ministers' Pension Scheme. The improvement in the funding position has arisen due to the unprecedented and unexpected economic turmoil of the last year.

A justice-seeking Church: the report of the Walking with Micah project

Walking with Micah has been a two-year project helping the Methodist Church to explore what it means to be a justice-seeking Church. It draws on Methodist history, theology, current concerns and practice, and recommends a framework of principles for justice which underpin our understanding of God's justice and what it means to seek justice. The report recognised how much is being done in churches to tackle injustice and recommends a two-year programme to embed these principles, priorities and practices in order to support and encourage this work. The Conference commended the report for prayerful study and action throughout the Connexion. You can read the 'report in three minutes' at methodist.org.uk/our-work/our-work-in-britain/social-justice/walking-with-micah/a-justice-seekingmethodist-church-the-report-in-three-minute

3Generate 2022 – Methodist Children and Youth Assembly

This report highlighted the success of last year's 3Generate event that was bigger than ever before with 1200 children and young people, 456 group leaders, and 252 volunteers joining together. The Conference received the report, which called upon all Methodists actively to engage in conversation with children and young people about faith and life.

Reconciliation and Mediation Team and Positive Working Together

The Conference agreed to roll out a scheme to help resolve disputes in church communities across the Church following a successful pilot project. The Conference adopted the recommendation for the five-year programme, in partnership with Place for Hope, to offer an integrated approach in support of Positive Working Together and extending the Reconciliation and Mediation Team as a Connexion-wide programme.

A Methodist Way of Life

The Conference approved A Methodist Way of Life (methodist.org.uk/our-faith-a-methodist-way-of-life) and in workshops engaged with experiences and ideas of how this model of structured discipleship can help people to grow in faith and confidence.

Memorials

Memorials are messages from Circuit Meetings and District Synods to the Conference. They play a vital part in enabling the Conference to hear and to respond to concerns from across the Connexion. This year, the Conference considered and replied to 23 memorials on topics including district probationers' committees and probationers' retreats, email provision for ministers, Israel Palestine, the Annual Affirmations, EDI training, annual returns and statistics, locally resident members, funding of a stipend during a minister's long term absence.

President and Vice-President designated for 2024/2025

The Conference designated the Revd Helen D Cameron to be President and Mrs Carolyn Godfrey to be Vice-President of the Conference 2024/2025

Appointments

The Conference made a number of appointments and reappointments, including: Dudley Coates as Chair of the Conference Business Committee for the Conferences of 2024, 2025 and 2026. Anne Bolton as Connexional Treasurer for the connexional year 2023/2024. Alethea Siow as Chair of the Resourcing Committee from 1 September 2023. Jenny Jackson as Chair of the Stationing Committee from 1 September 2023. The Revd Dr Marcus Torchon as Chair for the Bristol District from 1 September 2024; the Revd Angela Long as Chair for the Lincolnshire District from 1 September 2023; the Revd Andrew Fyall as Chair for the Nottingham and Derby District from 1 September 2023; the Revd Sonia Hicks as Chair for the Northampton District from 1 September 2024

The Conference also appointed the Revd Dr Daniel Haylett and the Revd Loraine Mellor as Chairs of both the Plymouth and Exeter and Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Districts for one year from 1 September 2023.

Future dates of the Conference

The Methodist Conference will meet in Leeds from 27 June-3 July 2024

This can be read online and downloaded from methodist.org.uk/conference

Editor's note:

Revd Helen D Cameron, who has been designated to be President of the Methodist Conference 2024/25 was the minister at Lyndon from September 2004



to August 2007. She left Lyndon to join the teaching staff at the ecumenical Queen's College in Birmingham. Since then she has had many roles and is currently Moderator of the Free Churches Group and serves as one of the Presidents of Churches Together in England.

You may have seen her in some high profile services recently as she took part in the Queen's funeral service at Westminster Abbey in September 2022 where she said a prayer recognising the Queen's devotion to duty, and prayed for the continued health and prosperity of the nation. She also had a part to play at the

coronation of King Charles III in May this year where she took part in the procession of faith leaders and representatives representing the Churches in England.

September & October Quiz

General Knowledge

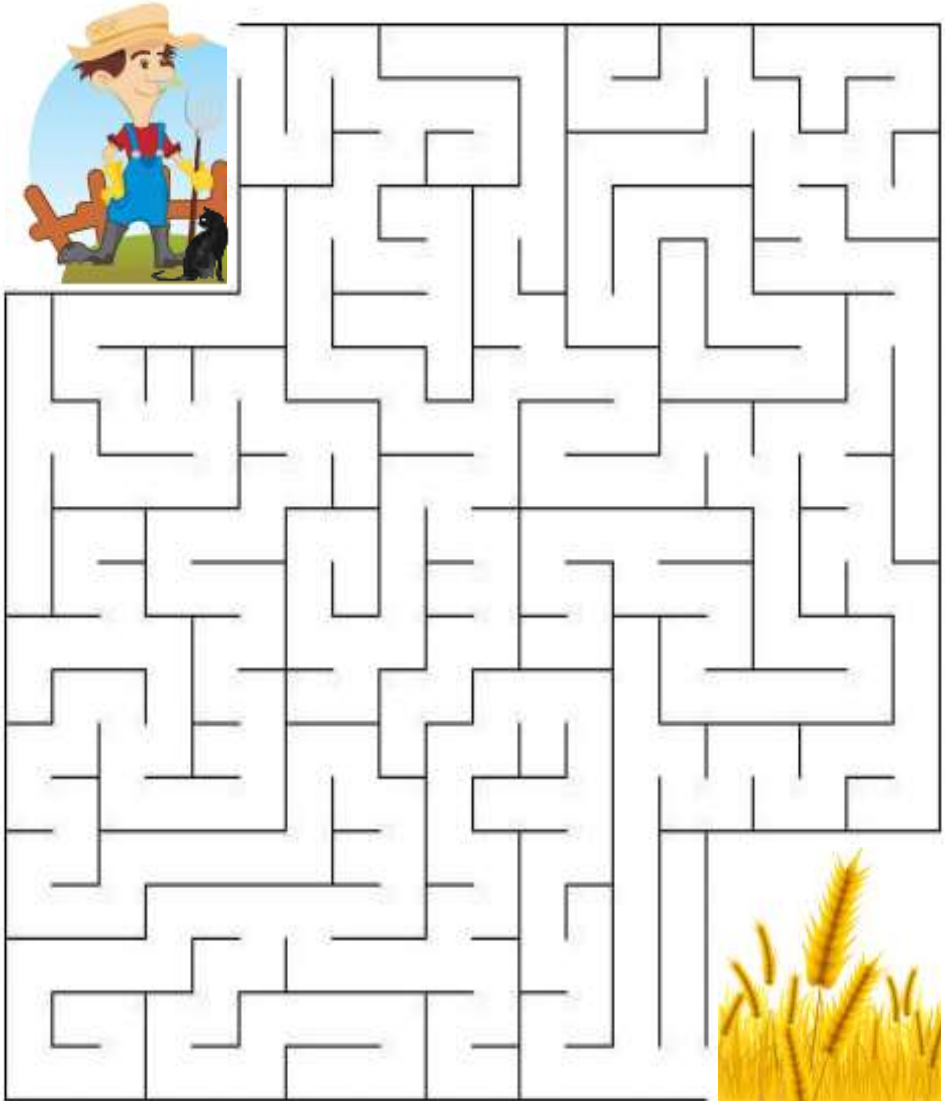
How many of these old adverts do you remember?

1	Which soap powder 'washes whiter'?	
2	What was the 'too good to hurry mint'?	
3	What 'cleaned a big big carpet for less than half a crown'?	
4	'Graded grains' made which kind of flour?	
5	Which sign meant 'happy motoring'?	
6	A what a day helps you 'work rest and play'?	
7	'Hands that do dishes can feel soft as your face' using what?	
8	Which airline promises to 'take good care of you'?	
9	What has '1 and a half glasses of milk in every bar'?	
10	I liked the company, so I bought it' Which Company'?	
11	What do you 'p p p pick up'?	
12	'Let your fingers do the walking' using what?	
13	What 'means Heinz'?	
14	What petrol would put 'a tiger in your tank'?	
15	'You'll wonder where the yellow went' using what?	

**Answers please to Lynne Tyler or Church Email
by Sunday 15th October 2023**

Harvest Maze

Help the farmer find his way to the field of corn!



As an extra puzzle, in keeping with the time of year, and for a bit of fun, there are 7 black cats scattered throughout the magazine. Can you find them all? Send me the page numbers in the usual way. PS There is one on this page.

Education Wordsearch

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

ASSEMBLY

ENGLISH

MATHEMATICS

READING

TEACHER

CHALK

HISTORY

PENCILS

SCHOOL

UNIFORM

CLASSROOM

LESSONS

PLAYTIME

STUDENTS

WRITING

July - August Quiz Answers - General Knowledge

1) Mardi 2) Mary Poppins 3) Mercury 4) Monday 5) Morocco 6) Marge 7) M4 8) Mike 9) Mall 10) Miller 11) Mr Tickle 12) Mauritius 13) Malachi 14) Margaret 15) Marmite

Congratulations for 100% correct answers to the Hunt family and commiserations to Tom and Kate Collen who got 2 wrong.

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.

159 FRAUD HOTLINE

159 Fraud Hotline to Counter Scam Threats

An emergency hotline was launched towards the end of 2021 for people to report and check financial scams as they happen. A potential victim who dials 159 will be automatically connected to their bank's fraud prevention service.

Anyone who receives a call or message from somebody claiming to be from a trusted organisation and who suggests money should be transferred is being urged to hang up or not to click links in messages and call 159.

How it works

159 works in the same way as 101 for the police or 111 for the NHS. It's the number you can trust to get you through to your bank safely and securely, every time. So, if you think someone is trying to trick you into handing over money or personal details - stop, hang up and call 159 to speak directly to your bank.

This service is run by Stop Scams UK. They say nearly 350,000 calls have already been made to 159. By following this advice they say this breaks the scam 'journey' at the critical moment when you are at most risk of being manipulated into making a payment. So, even if scammers can make contact with you, that link will be broken by your call to 159, before any information is shared, any payment is made, and any harm is done.

Currently not all banks have signed up for this but most of the main banks, building societies and telephone companies such as Virgin and BT have, with more committed to joining the service.

A simple way to keep you safe

It is now an easy way to check the validity of any call purporting to be from a bank, building society or telecoms company.

The majority of landlines and mobiles are compatible with this 159 service, with calls costing the same as a national rate call. There is also an accompanying website. <https://stopscamsuk.org.uk>

INSURANCE TIPS

Like everything else, home insurance costs look set to soar following claims due to climate change relating to things such as property damage from storms, burst pipes due to December's cold snap and subsidence as a result of the summer heatwave. However, there are several things you can do to bring the costs of your home insurance down:

- Buying combined buildings and contents insurance is often cheaper
- If you can afford it, paying a lump sum for the whole year usually costs less than paying by monthly instalments
- Always compare prices from other companies, rather than letting your policy auto-renew. Try using price comparison websites such as Compare the Market, Confused.com or MoneySuperMarket. If you don't want to use an online service try a local insurance broker who deals with multiple insurance companies, such as A-Plan Insurance by the Wheatsheaf
- Never accept the first renewal quote letter. Always phone the company and ask if they can do better. Many will offer a discount to keep your custom
- The best time to get quotes is around 21 days before your current policy ends

Since the start of 2022, insurers can no longer charge existing customers more for their home and car insurance than introductory offers for new customers, but different providers prices vary so you can shop for a deal.

Most of the above applies equally to car insurance.



Solihull Hospital Urgent Treatment Centre (UTC)

The newly re-opened UTC is open 08:00 – 20:00, seven days a week, providing urgent care for common issues including:

- broken bones
- sprains
- cuts
- stomach pains
- rashes
- minor burns

The facility is available for adults and children (1 year old and over) and can be accessed by contacting NHS111 or by walking in. UTC services are provided by a range of healthcare professionals, including emergency nurse practitioners and GPs.

The UTC **cannot** treat life-threatening emergencies, such as heart attacks and strokes. Please call 999 or attend your nearest accident and emergency department in these situations.

YOUR CHURCH NEEDS YOU!

BIG BREAKFAST

At the last Church Council a suggestion was made that we recommence the Big Breakfast. This worked well in the past and offered a great social time as well as great fellowship away from the Sunday service. However, it won't happen by itself and needs volunteers to run it. It is hoped that it could start in January 2024. If you would like to help, please speak to one of the stewards and let them know so that we can get something set up. Thank you.



SUNDAY MORNING ROLES

As many of you will be aware, we have many volunteers who help with the smooth running of the Sunday morning services. There are people who welcome visitors to the service, people who prepare and serve the teas and coffee after the service, people willing to read the Bible passage etc. We would now like to set up a rota of people who are willing to help count the collection after the service so that it can be banked. If you are willing to help, please give your name to one of the stewards and we will get you on the rota.

Even though there are days
I wish I could change some
things that happened in the
past, there's a reason the
rear view mirror is so small
and the windshield is so
big. Where you're headed is
much more important than
what you've left behind.



Notices & Events

Ladies Club - 2.00pm to 4.00pm (1.30pm to 3.30pm from October)

Wednesday 6th and 20th September

Wednesday 4th and 18th October

Lunch Club - Fridays 12pm to 1pm

SEPTEMBER

8th Brisket of Beef

15th Cheese and Potato Pie

22nd Lasagne

29th Salmon

OCTOBER

6th Sausage Casserole

13th Baked Stuffed Liver

20th Quiche

27th Salmon

Price: starter £1, main £4, pudding £1

No need to book - Just come along

Monthly Prayer and Bible Study - 7.00pm - 8.30pm

Wednesday 6th September

Wednesday 4th October

Hobs Moat WI - 7pm to 9pm

Monday 18th September

Monday 16th October

Notices & Events

TIME OUT

Time Out restarts on 3rd September.

Time Out is when the children leave the morning's service in order to have their own special worship session whilst the adults listen to the sermon.

The session starts with something to drink and a healthy snack. We watch a DVD showing a Bible story and then we do a craft activity before re-joining the adults back in church for the final prayers and hymn.

HARVEST FESTIVAL DONATIONS & DECORATING

The Harvest Festival Service is on 24th September and decorating the Church for the service will be on Friday 22nd September 2023.

Harvest gifts may be brought on the Friday when the ladies will be decorating the church or to the Sunday service. The ladies will be decorating the Church on Friday 22nd September and would be pleased to receive gifts of flowers, greenery, fruit and veg by 9.45 a.m. Gifts of money would also be welcome. These may be handed to one of the Stewards, Sarah or Brenda.

Gifts of tinned and boxed food will be given to the South Yardley Pantry and gifts of fresh produce will be given to Lyndon House.

Many Thanks, Brenda

HARVEST FESTIVAL SERVICE

We are currently in the process of planning this year's harvest festival service and are hoping to do something very different this year. Following on from the successful Messy Nativity and Messy Palm Sunday services, we are going to try something else.

No breakfast this time, but still an activity (or two) in the hall for all the family, followed by a shortened service in the church. We hope that you will all come along and take part and celebrate the wonderful gifts of harvest.

Services in September

Sunday 3rd September

10:30am Communion Service led by Rev Karen Webber

6.00pm Lyndon People

Sunday 10th September

10:30am Service led by Barry Davis

Sunday 17th September

10:30am Own arrangement service led by Ian Smith

Sunday 24th September

10:30am Harvest Festival and Parade service
led by Rev Karen Webber

Services in October

Sunday 1st October

10:30am Communion Service led by Rev Peter Bates

5.00pm Lyndon People (note change in time)

Sunday 8th October

10:30am Service led by Barry Davis

Sunday 15th October

10:30am Parade Service led by Rev Karen Webber

Sunday 22nd October

10.30am Service led by Robert Matthews

Sunday 29th October

10.30am Service led by Rev Karen Webber

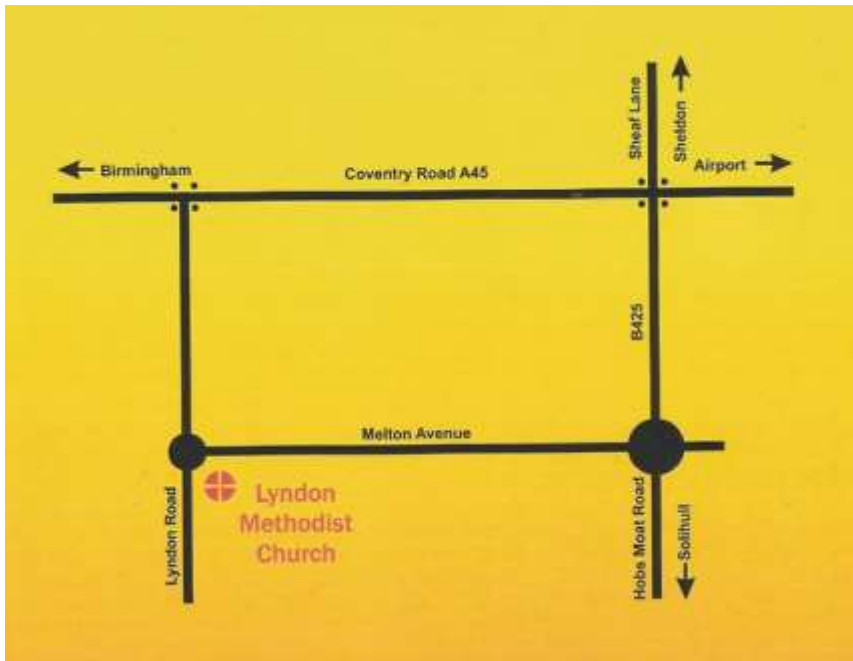
Our next issue will be November 2023

I am looking forward to receiving your contributions by

15th October 2023

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

or by post to Church – address below



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