



Messenger

Solihull Methodist Church

Scout Camp

November 2025

A weekend in mid September saw 10 scouts and 2 volunteers from our scouts attending the Solihull County camp with Scouts, Explorers and Network (the 3 older sections for young people) from all over Solihull.

With the organisation managed centrally we boarded coaches (finally - ours only turned up after most of the others had left) and arrived at the campsite with the challenge of pitching tents in the dark in quite windy conditions.

The scouts did brilliantly and finally all our tents were up and tired scouts packed into sleeping bags earlier than the leaders expected.

Saturday morning saw our group raft building, navigating the lake, doing a mini triathlon and mostly getting wet!

After that we had various adventure bases to choose from. It is fair to say that the catapults were a firm favourite. The scouts also took part in an adventure hike which involved navigating a course and solving puzzles at each point, whilst also guessing the code to unlock each challenge. One of our teams completed the course in the fastest time through a mixture of using scouts pace (running for 20 paces then walking for 20 paces) and some process engineering which meant they solved puzzles in parallel rather than in sequence.

Saturday evening brought the biggest challenge. Storm force winds meant that we spent an hour or so trying to keep tents pitched, collecting event shelters from where they had been blown down the field and assessing broken equipment. Over 100 people were re-distributed to other accommodation. Two of our scouts managed to sleep through their tent poles breaking and had to be woken up for us to move them to a different tent, which was provided by another group. As is often the case, adversity brought out the best in everyone. Equipment shared, teamwork shown, tenacity and resilience displayed in spades.

Sunday was calm and sunny and the scouts enjoyed some great science and engineering activities before packing up what was left of the tents and heading home.

Definitely a camp to remember!

Fiona (Group Scout Leader)



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Church Family News

Golden Wedding



Karen and John Handford celebrate their Golden Wedding in November. They were married at Solihull Methodist Church by Rev Ronald Rich on 22nd November 1975.

Wedding

Amy Roper married Mark Lees at SMC on Saturday 11th October

Deaths



Marjorie Evans died on 11th October. Her funeral was held on Thursday 23rd October



John Allebon died on 21st September. His funeral will be held on Friday 31st October at 12.00 noon.

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Prayer Box

We pray for:

- the family and friends of John Allebon who has died
- Rachel, Jenny and Alison, the daughters of Marjorie Evans, and Marjorie's friends, as we mourn her loss
- those undergoing treatment and those waiting for hospital appointments
- those who have Covid and those suffering its after-effects



Thank you

A huge thank you for your generosity in making donations towards the new boiler for the church.

The target of £26,600 has now been reached.

The new church boiler installation was completed in the first week of October, and controls are now being fine tuned to keep us all warm, but, not overheated. Thank you to all who donated to the appeal which has resulted in the full cost being met.

New Church Boiler



Minister's Message

Dear Church Family,

Grace and peace to you all in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

As we move through October, we also celebrate Black History Month, a time to honour the rich contributions, faith, and resilience of Black brothers and sisters who have shaped our world and our Church. This year's theme invites us to "Celebrate, Inspire, and Empower," reminding us that the body of Christ is beautifully diverse, and that every culture reflects something of God's image.

As a Church, let us take this opportunity to listen, learn, and give thanks for the ways God continues to work through Black voices, stories, and experiences past and present. May this month encourage us to stand together for justice, equality, and love, following the example of Christ who welcomed all people with open arms.

As we step into November, I find myself reflecting on two recent experiences that have deeply encouraged my faith. One was my time at Cliff College, gathering with other Edge Walkers; the other was reading again the story of the little servant girl who helped Naaman find healing in 2 Kings 5.

I recently had the blessing of spending time at **Cliff College** with other **Edge Walkers**. It was a truly uplifting and thought-provoking experience. We shared openly about what it means to be "on the edge" in those places where faith leads us beyond comfort, into spaces that can be both **challenging and deeply fulfilling**.

We explored how walking on the edge often involves **taking risks for the sake of truth**, standing firm in conviction even when the consequences may be significant. Yet in those moments, we are reminded that **God's presence never leaves us**. Even when the journey feels lonely, we are never alone because God walks every step with us.

The time together was filled with worship, learning, reflection, and honest conversation. I came away renewed in spirit and reminded that our calling as followers of Christ often means standing in the tension between faith and the world listening for where God is at work, even on the margins.

I revisited the story of **Naaman and the servant girl**.

Naaman was a man of power, but he carried a hidden weight of leprosy. In biblical times, leprosy meant not only physical suffering, but also **spiritual and social isolation**. Lepers were cut off from their communities, labeled "unclean," and left to live apart. It was a disease that touched every part of life: body, mind, and soul.

And then out of the shadows comes a **young Israelite girl**, a servant, taken captive in war. She had every reason to be bitter and angry. She could have said, "Let Naaman suffer; he deserves it." But she didn't. Instead, she spoke words of compassion and hope: *"If only my master would see the prophet in Israel, he would be healed."*

What faith! What courage! Out of the mouth of a Servant came a message that changed the course of a man's life. She did not let her pain make her bitter, she let her **faith make her better**.

Church, there's a deep message here for all of us.

We cannot always control our circumstances, but we can control our response.

Like that little girl, we can choose **faith over bitterness, love over anger, and hope over despair**. The people around us may not control what's inside us but what's inside us will always show through.

If we carry hurt, hurt will flow out.

If we carry anger, anger will spill out. But if we carry God's love within, then love will overflow into every part of our lives.

As we approach the end of this year, let us be people who **refuse to live in bitterness**. Let's be a church that walks the edges of faith with courage, compassion, and hope. Even when we feel small or unseen, God can use our simple words like that little girl to bring healing, peace, and transformation to others.

"Lord, let my words and actions bring healing to those around me."

May we each continue to walk faithfully on the edges where God calls us, trusting that in those very places, His grace and strength are most powerfully revealed.

I am aware next time I write my letter we will be in Advent:

Reflection for the Advent Season – "You Are a Gift"

As we approach **Advent**, our theme this year "*You Are a Gift*" reminds us that each of us carries something precious from God to share with the world. Just as the little servant girl in Naaman's story offered the gift of faith and compassion, we too can bring healing and hope through our words and actions. Advent invites us to pause and remember that **God's greatest gift** is His Son, Jesus Christ the light of the world and the hope of all creation. When we allow His love to shine through us, we become gifts to one another: gifts of kindness, forgiveness, encouragement, and peace.

So, as we journey toward Christmas, let us unwrap the gifts within us: our faith, our compassion, our service and offer them freely to others. Because when we give ourselves in love, we reflect the heart of God, who first gave Himself to us.

May this Advent season remind each of us that *we are God's gift to the world called to bless, to love, and to shine with His light*.

Peace and Blessings, **Rev Molly**



Rev Molly walking while at Cliff College, Peak District

Denys Nicol

Denys Bewdley Nicol was born in June 1940 at his grandparents' house in South Wales. His father had joined the RAF as a doctor, and Denys spent the war years being brought up by relatives, before settling in Lowestoft. His father then set up as a GP from the family home and another 4 children were added to the family.

Denys had a happy childhood. He went to boarding school at a young age, which he enjoyed and he learned to play cricket. At St Edmund's he excelled academically and played cricket for the 1st XI. From there he moved on to Cambridge to study medicine and after three years of lectures (and cricket) he worked at Charing Cross Hospital, London.

It was here that he met Margaret on a blind date. One aspect of Denys' life was his faith. When he announced he was going to marry Margaret, a practising Methodist, his parents didn't approve, hence the move to America where they were married in Minneapolis-St Paul in January 1969. He loved his time there and was well-mentored, not just learning about medicine but also how to treat other people with kindness and respect at all times.

Their first son, Christopher, was born in Minnesota. They returned to Britain and Denys joined a GP partnership in South Yardley. He went on to work there for 34 years, overseeing the transformation to the Swan Medical Centre. His patients loved him and in 1994 he won a "Doctor of the Year" award.

They moved to Field House in Solihull in 1972 where Malcolm, Paul and Aidan were born. It was a happy home. The door was always open; meals were frequently shared with anyone who happened to be there; and there was always the chance that Denys could press a visitor into a few overs of cricket in the practice net he built in the garden, followed by a swim.

Field House grew into something of a haven for many people and later an actual haven for refugees and asylum seekers.

When he retired at 65 he no longer played cricket (something he had done for much more than half his life) but he did put his talent for language to good use.

He started visiting Croatia with the Charity "The Bench we Share" along with Margaret, where he worked to reconcile the various factions by facilitating meetings in Serbo Croat, a language he first learned as a medical student in Dubrovnik in 1964. Later, he helped refugees and asylum seekers in the local area as part of "Solihull Welcome" helping to provide clothing, legal advice, food and kindness for some of the most marginalised people in the area.

Denys started to worship at Our Lady of the Wayside in 1972. He read monthly for the 11 o'clock services and sometimes served Communion. The couple worshipped there for 53 years. They also attended Solihull Methodist Church for the same number of years. They joined the Association of Interchurch Families in their mission to promote interchurch dialogue to help marriages and families like theirs.

Over the last 20 years, Denys delighted in his five grandsons, swimming with them at Field House, playing cards, chess and of course cricket with them. He found great joy in a lifetime of service, but if he is to be remembered for anything, it is that "He was kind to everyone".



A statement from the Methodist Church on the announcement of a ceasefire in Gaza

We welcome the announcement that Hamas and Israel have agreed to the first phase of a deal that will release all hostages and see Israeli troops withdraw to an agreed line.

Many have prayed for the release of captives on both sides and for an end to the violence. We thank God that these prayers are beginning to be answered.

While this is a significant move toward a ceasefire, lasting peace will require much more. The current 20-point peace plan under negotiation does not address the deeper injustices in the history and present reality of the Holy Land.

In the West Bank, Israel continues to expand illegal settlements through legislation and the actions of violent settler groups, often supported by the Israeli Defence Forces. Palestinians face increasing restrictions on movement, and violent confrontations continue daily.

The West Bank is notably absent from the current peace plan, suggesting that self-determination for Palestinians is not a priority for those leading the peace process.

If the plan succeeds, Gaza may be rebuilt and governed by Palestinians. But the broader relationship between Israel, Gaza, and the West Bank will remain unchanged. The ongoing occupation of the West Bank and the blockade of Gaza have failed to provide freedom for Palestinians or security for Israelis. Without addressing these root issues, the region risks falling back into an uneasy peace, maintained by force and vulnerable to future unrest and violence.

We welcome these first steps toward ending the war on Gaza. We continue to pray for a peace process that delivers justice, security, self-determination, and respect for human rights for all. We urge the international community to support a process that builds on this agreement and leads to a lasting and just peace in the region.

The Revd Richard Andrew, President of the Methodist Conference

Matthew Forsyth, Vice-President of the Methodist Conference

Church Project News

An evening not to miss

Swing into Christmas

Saturday 6th December

with

Out of the Blue Big Band

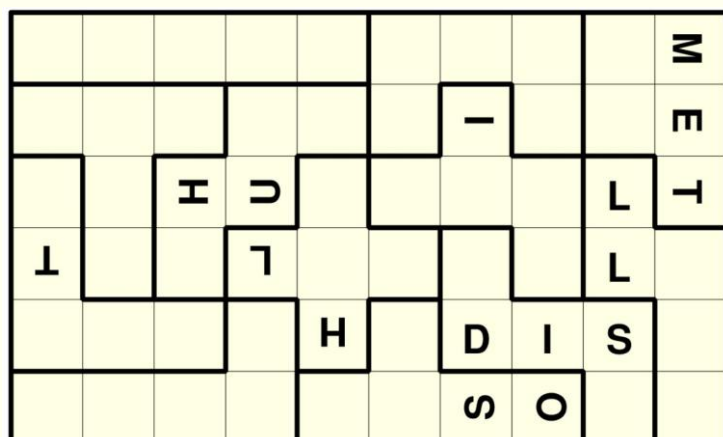


7.00 pm
In the church

Tickets £10



Puzzle Corner



Cut out the rectangle and then divide it into twelve pieces by cutting along the thick lines. Now rearrange the pieces appropriately.

If you do not wish to cut up your copy of the *Messenger*, then visit the web-site given below. From there a copy of the rectangle can be downloaded:

www.solihull-methodist.org.uk/shapes

Awareness Foundation Programs in the Rest of the World:

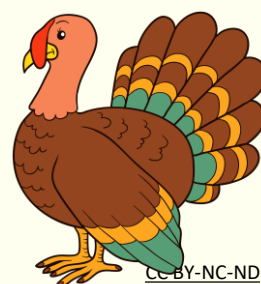
- ❖ The **PAX** programme, is "a growing online collection of short yet challenging faith-based videos." The program's goals are described as "Through discussion of topics such as politics and faith, interfaith relationships, and how to combat extremism, PAX seeks to build peace by insisting upon compassion and respect."
- ❖ The **Awareness Forum** consists of special events such as dinners, conferences, roundtable exchanges, and lectures, focuses on the religious and cultural issues of the day.
- ❖ The **Facing Faith** program is described by the Foundation as "A community-based initiative to promote peace and understanding across barriers of faith & culture" by "bringing together community and faith leaders from different religions and cultures to discuss ideas."

Ramblers News

Our October walk took place in fine weather on Thursday 16th October. Martin had organised a new circular ramble starting in Knowle and taking in 5 miles of countryside walking. Afterwards 15 of us tucked into a welcome carvery lunch at the Wilsons Arms.

The date of our next ramble is scheduled for **Thursday 20th November** and further details will follow.

Christmas Turkey Trot



Please also note in your diaries that the December walk known as the "Turkey Trot" will take place a week earlier than usual because of booking difficulties at The Fleur de Lys, Lowsonford.

We have a provisional booking for

THURSDAY 11th DECEMBER

and again, further information will follow.

New Places New People

The theme for the Alpha session on Wednesday 8 October was 'What about Church?' and the speaker was Rev. Karen Webber, a minister in the Birmingham Circuit. Since September this year, Karen reduced to half-time ministry to enable her to focus on the Circuit's New Place for New People Project in the Stechford area of Birmingham.

She spoke about how the aim of the project is to establish an inclusive Christian community. This is basically a pioneering approach and, although Karen is a presbyteral minister rather than a pioneer minister, her initial approaches are very much pioneering initiatives. She 'walks the patch' and finds that, because she is recognised as a minister – she is wearing her collar – people stop her to talk about – everything, and she is constantly adding to her understanding of the issues that affect the lives of people living in this deprived area. The project is supported by Churches together in Stechford and Karen is taking very small groups to meet in cafes and pubs, to local festivals and events, already becoming a presence that people recognise and can relate to. At Easter this year she was able to organise an event handing out Easter eggs and is hoping to have a similar type of community event at Christmas. The scheme is at a very early stage, but connections are being made here with people whatever their church or faith background or none.

Karen also told us about the other ministry for which she is responsible which is much more established, based at South Yardley Methodist Church. Initially, the Oasis Trust which runs the local Hobmoor Academy helped to fund the establishment of the Food Pantry. There is an initial payment of £2.50 to join and then members can choose about £30 worth of food for the payment of only £5. There is also a café providing hot meals and drinks running alongside the Food Pantry. This support is offered to people who are deprived in every imaginable way and connections are made irrespective of faith background or none. Equally, the volunteers and donors, of whom there are many including local businesses come from all backgrounds. This is a vital lifeline for so many people.



In her ministry, Karen uses crafts and art to help people feel more at home. She brought some materials to the Alpha meeting but we were too caught up in her stories to take time out – sadly. Karen uses creative approaches herself, and, in the photo, she is seen with her own painting made from tea and coffee grounds which she has christened Martha, telling us that she sees herself as 'Martha,' the practical one in the community.

Karen is an excellent speaker and her talk brought to life questions asked in the Alpha material about 'what is the church?' Alpha quotes Mother Teresa of Calcutta as saying 'You can do what I cannot do, I can do what you cannot do; together we can do great things.' Truly, great things are being done in both the projects we heard about.

Thank you, Karen.

Church Council News

At the church council meeting on Monday 13th October, the council:

- Agreed the terms of reference and membership of all the committees.
- Approved Rosemary Stimson as a pastoral visitor
- Thanked Peter Stoakley for all the work he has done in managing the church grounds
- Heard how the financial year ended with a surplus of £16,554. Ways and Means will now consider giving more to the circuit above the extra £5,000 already given.
- Heard all the money needed for the new boiler had been raised
- Heard that planning permission for the Room 3 development had been granted. Connexion, district and circuit now need to approve before grants can be applied for. The work will not start until all the finances are in place.
- Noted that there had been a security issue in the community centre when a door had been left open. An aggressive man had got in asking for money. All church users are to be reminded to monitor the main doors or close them.
- Agreed that a policy/ guidelines on what to do in such circumstances will be written to inform all users on what to do in such circumstances.

The next church council meeting will be on Monday 9th February 2026.

The October Council received sufficient information from the 2 subgroups set up by the Emergency Church Council meeting in August, to review the grant offer from Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council (SMBC) of £99,000 for (ESOL) English Speakers of Other Language provision.

Rev Molly Chitokwindo had addressed the GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation) issue with the other three trustees and assistance from TMCP (Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes).

The Council was satisfied that questions from the August meeting had been fully answered. The following proposals were approved:

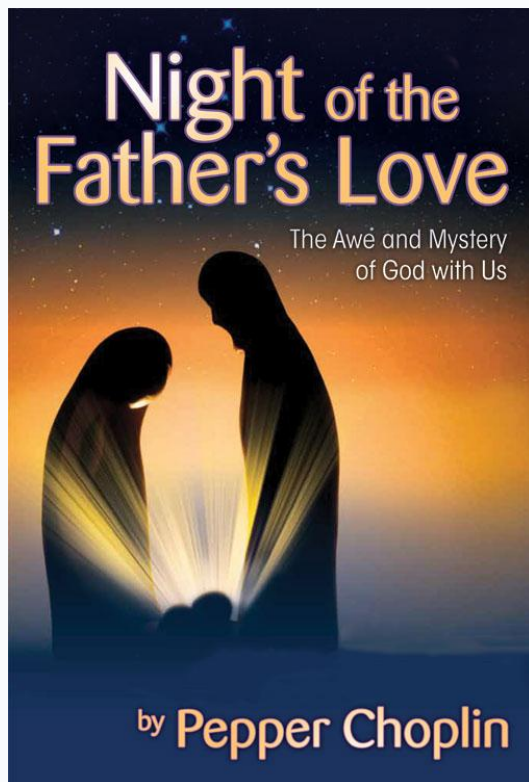
- SMC should accept, in principle, the £99,000 ESOL funding from SMBC, subject to further discussions with SMBC concerning the legal documentation required and verification with the TMCP Legal Department.
- There would be clear plans in place for administering the grant and allocating expenditure.
- The Church Council delegated responsibility for the final decision to the Ways & Means/Shall We Talk sub-group.
- It was noted that the SMC Church Council was aware that SMBC had applied for the grant without the Church's prior knowledge or consent, but the Council is now content to proceed.

Helen Banks, Church Council Secretary

Advent Sunday 30th November

On the first Sunday morning in Advent, November 30th, the Chancel Choir will offer in worship the choral presentation "Night of the Father's love" by Pepper Choplin, with reflections specially written by Rev Donald Ker.

As we listen to the words and music and join with traditional Advent hymns, we'll be thinking about the themes of waiting, being ready, looking for light in darkness, listening for God, seeking and being open to God's presence, and realising once again the miracle that God is with us.



We do hope that you will be able to join us.

Carol Singing

It seems rather early to be thinking of Carol Singing at Christmas but not too early to note the dates for your diary.

Carol Singing in the Care Homes

Thursday 4th December, Blossomfield Rose Care Home

Tuesday 9th December Fountains Care Home Royal Star and Garter Homes TBA

Tuesday 16th December Hampton House

Wednesday 10th December 11am Solihull Hospital

Carol Singing at the Station (In aid of Birmingham Christmas Shelter.)

Monday 22nd December 4.30pm

Tuesday 23rd December 4.30pm

Wednesday 24th December 4.30pm

Please talk to Diane Webb for further details of any of these events.



2025 CHURCH FAMILY CHRISTMAS CARD

It's that time of year to think about sending Christmas greetings to friends in the church family by making a donation via the Church Family Christmas Card, from which the profit will support this year's church project:

Contributors' names will be added to the Christmas card which will be circulated with the December Messenger.

You can donate via cash, or cheque, or with a bank card via the church website.

(Deadline for inclusion - Sunday 16th November)



TO DONATE WITH CASH OR CHEQUE

Brown collection envelopes will be on church chairs on Sundays in November 2nd, 9th and 16th.

Cheques should be made payable to 'Solihull Methodist Church'.

Enter your name(s) on the front of the envelope as you wish them to appear in the Christmas Card.

Don't forget to **tick either Yes, or No, box** as to whether Gift Aid can be collected from your donation.

TO DONATE WITH A CARD VIA THE WEBSITE

(www.solihull-methodist.org.uk)

1. Click '**DONATE TO THE CHURCH CHRISTMAS CARD**' half way down the homepage – *Takes you to a page of guidance.*
2. Click '**DONATE TO THE CHURCH CHRISTMAS CARD**' again when you have read the guidance.
3. Select '**CHRISTMAS CARD**' from the list of donation funds.
4. Choose a fixed donation amount, or 'Other Amount' and enter amount. Click '**DONATE**'.
5. You will be asked to confirm your donation – click '**CONFIRM**'.
6. **IMPORTANT:** Click '**YES**' when asked if you want to leave a message.
7. Enter your name(s) in the message box as you wish them to appear in the Christmas Card, eg. *John & Mary Smith*. Click '**DONATE**' – **DO NOT SKIP!**
8. Enter your card details in the usual way and click '**DONATE**'.
9. Answer any prompts about GiftAid as required to complete your donation.

Entering the link below, or scanning the QR code, >>> will take you direct to the guidance page – (2) above.

solihull-methodist.org.uk/complete-your-christmas-card





Another Recycling Outlet for Spectacles and a New One for Hearing Aids

We have just noticed that Specsavers in Solihull High Street have a box for spectacles which are no longer wanted, just inside their front door, on the right. Scrivens at 205, Stratford Road, Shirley have been accepting unwanted spectacles for some time and, in the July Messenger this year, another kind optician, Walford and Round on Dovehouse Parade, was found to accept them. Use one of those 3 opticians if it is convenient but do, still, bring them along to the Church and put them in the box in the Community Hall or Church Vestibule if not.

The recycling outlet for hearing aids is the first we have found. Stan Field asked me if anyone took old hearing aids. I had no idea but an internet search brought up a countrywide network of funeral directors who will recycle them. Thinking about it that is an obvious service funeral directors could easily provide so, well done to them. In Solihull, William H. Painter on Dovehouse Parade, and Thomas Bragg and Sons at 562, Stratford Road and opposite Knowle Parish Church, are happy to recycle hearing aids for you.

As always, if you notice any shop recycling items that the Church could advertise, do let me or any of the Greener Church Group know.

Do Christmas Cards need Glitter?

Adverts encouraging plans for Christmas are already gathering pace and purchases are increasing.

It is just a thought but, when choosing Christmas Cards, please remember that the ones with 'glitter' **can't be recycled** while the ones without, can.

Driving Cold Cars?

There have been huge improvements in reducing the pollution from the exhausts of petrol and diesel cars mostly due to EU legislation. It has been done by introducing so called 'Catalytic Converters' or 'Cats' in cars' exhaust pipes. A Cat is a device which speeds up an otherwise slow chemical reaction. When petrol and diesel cars burn fuel they emit various toxic gases or families of gases. The Cat converts them to carbon dioxide, oxygen, nitrogen and water which are safe. One problem remains, however: Cats need to be up to full temperature to work properly. And, because heating comes from the engine and cars are cold when they start, this takes time. On significant journeys it is said half of all pollution will occur in the first 5 miles. So, as we move into winter, the blue light on our dashboards will remain on longer and the worse the pollution we cause will be. Two tips can help.

1. Most obviously, try as hard as possible to avoid short journeys. It is often quite feasible to walk, cycle or take a bus for a short journey.
2. If your car still has a manual gearbox, use a lower gear than usual until the blue light goes out so that the Cat warms faster. Of course, though heavier, electric cars do save us this particular problem.

Recycling reminder

Linda Innes is still happy to receive **unwanted jewellery and foreign or obsolete currency**.

Don't put recycling in bags!

What recycling plants do is to try to separate the stuff which comes to them into streams of different material - metal, glass, paper, different kinds of plastic, and so on - so that that 'raw' material can be used for something else. If you put paper, cans, milk bottles etc in a bag, **it can't do that**.

At the new works in Coventry, which is where Solihull's recycling goes, it even has an AI system which can read labels on bottles and tell what something is by seeing its shape. **It can't do that if it is in a bag.**

Please, please, don't put stuff in bags to go into recycling bins.

Richard Balmer: On behalf of the Greener Church Group: John and Linda Innes, Pam Beattie, Bryan Fitter, Anthony Gough, Sue Kelley, Derek Giles, Sue and Richard Balmer, Glen Mullineux, Sandra Ker.

Building Sustainable Hope

Working towards Net Zero in the Yorkshire North and East District

The Yorkshire North and East District has celebrated the successful completion of 'Building Sustainable Hope', a £1.1 million decarbonisation project that the district has been running alongside the wider Methodist Church's commitment to climate justice and net-zero by 2030.

'Building Sustainable Hope' has enabled 20 churches to significantly reduce their carbon footprint through the installation of sustainable technologies. To mark the occasion, a special service was held on the 26 September at Northallerton Methodist Church.

In 2020, the Yorkshire North and East District set a net-zero carbon target of 2040. This timeline reflected the scale of change required across the largely rural district. With local synod support, the leadership team laid out a realistic yet ambitious roadmap, confident they could meet the pledge while aligning with the wider Methodist Connexion's goal of 2030.

The first priority was a comprehensive district-wide assessment of building emissions. This was intended to maximise carbon savings in the early years to ease the load over the next two decades. Funding and resources were secured for detailed energy audits pinpointing the issues that needed attention and the solutions, including insulation upgrades, LED lighting installations, and the installation of solar panels and batteries.

In 2023, Tim O'Brien was appointed as the district's first Net Zero Officer. His role, funded by the Benefact Trust, was to improve building sustainability, refine the energy procurement and increase environmental awareness among the church users.

"By pooling our resources and expertise, we've not only lightened the load for volunteers but built lasting relationships with funders and suppliers," says Tim. "This collaborative approach drives faster progress and shows what faith communities can achieve when they work as one."

The district-led initiatives, Tea and PV, Net-Zero Near You and Building Sustainable Hope, involved 31 churches, with 12 more pursuing improvements independently. Together, these efforts covered about a quarter of the buildings that required upgrades.



Grants, such as the York and North Yorkshire Net-Zero Fund, led by York and North Yorkshire Combined Authority with UK Government investment, fueled projects like 'Building Sustainable Hope' along with district, circuit, and church funds.

Listed buildings were another area that required attention with each historic church requiring painstaking planning and clear communication with conservation authorities.

The early adopters set some inspiring examples. Killinghall Methodist Church near Harrogate and Sewerby on the Yorkshire coast have largely decarbonised their premises with larger sites such as Portholme in Selby, Poppleton and Acomb in York, and Northallerton are following suit.

The need for environmental stewardship resonates with the church members. Some view creation care as an expression of discipleship. Others appreciate the financial relief that energy savings bring.

The district will continue delivering retrofits, with a focus on manses and churches in the city of Hull and partnering with local community organisations to maximise the social benefits of sustainable buildings in areas of deprivation.

The ultimate goal of the project extends beyond decarbonisation. The district want to share the green energy they produce with their neighbours, underlining their commitment to serving community needs. At Gracious Street Methodist Church in Knaresborough 91 solar panels have been installed with the support of Knaresborough Community Energy. If successful, this pioneering model will provide cleaner, cheaper local power while reducing the need for costly high-voltage infrastructure, benefiting both our neighbourhoods and the national grid.



The Revd Leslie Newton, Chair of the Yorkshire North and East Methodist District, commented, "Through our 'Building Sustainable Hope' project, the District has been taking important steps on our journey to Net Zero, affirming that caring for creation and caring for communities go hand in hand. By working together, churches have been able to reduce their carbon footprint and created greener, more welcoming spaces that serve both congregations and their neighbours. Every step forward makes a real difference and shows what is possible when faith and action come together."

Soupa Talks



Light lunch, chat and an interesting talk
1.00 pm in the Community Centre

Wednesday 12th November Blood Bikes

Blood bikes are courier vehicles for the prompt transportation of urgent and emergency medical items between hospitals and other healthcare facilities. These are primarily blood, X-rays, tissue samples, surgical tools, human milk, spinal fluids, drugs, and documentation.

Come and hear about this vital service.

Martin Williams

Wednesday 26th November Knowle Handbell ringers Introduction to Christmas



Christmas Lunch

Thursday 4th December
West Midlands Golf Club

See Sue Balmer to book

Need to talk to your minister?

It is very simple
I am here for everyone, just a phone call
away, feel free, please ring
07878 757024, Rev Molly

Anxious? Concerned?
Contact the confidential
Prayer Chain
via Chris Giles
via the church office



The Messenger Team

Sue Balmer, Rev Molly Chitokwindo, Bryan Fitter, Jeff Horton, Sue Kelley, Glen Mullineux, and Lawrie Rumens

Please send material for publication to
messenger@solihull-methodist.org.uk

We reserve the right to edit articles if necessary.
Please send photographs **separately** as jpeg files

**NB. Last date for the December/January
Messenger items is
Sunday 9th November**

Church Team



Rev Molly Chitokwindo
Minister
Day off - Friday



Abi Godfree
Children, Youth and
Families worker



Janice Smith
Church Administrator
Tuesday - Friday



Wai Kong
Finance Assistant



Diane Webb
Pastoral and Community Worker



Chris Giles
Pastoral Coordinator



Church Office
0121 705 7367

www.solihull-methodist.org.uk

November Diary

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 10.30 Morning service Songs of Praise	3 9.45 Pushchair Club 10.00 Shall we talk? 7.30 Scouts	4 9.30 Communion 10.00 Bible Study 10.30 Men's Coffee 5.00 Rainbows 6.00 Brownies	5 9.30 Morning prayers by Zoom	6 6.00 Beavers 6.30 Cubs 8.15 Badminton	7 10.00 Cantonese Fellowship 6.30 Youth Club	8
9 Remembrance Sunday 10.30 Morning service with Holy Communion Rev Molly Chitokwindo 6.30 Space for quiet reflection	10 9.45 Pushchair Club 10.00 Shall we talk? 7.30 Scouts	11 9.30 Communion 10.00 Bible Study 10.30 Men's Coffee 5.00 Rainbows 6.00 Brownies 7.00 Youth study	12 9.30 Morning prayers by Zoom 1.00 Soupa Talks	13 6.00 Beavers 6.30 Cubs 8.15 Badminton	14 10.00 Cantonese Fellowship 10.30 Friendship cafe 6.30 Youth Club	15 9.30 Property working party
16 10.30 Morning service – own arrangement	17 9.45 Pushchair Club 10.00 Shall we talk? 7.30 Scouts	18 9.30 Communion 10.00 Bible Study 10.30 Men's Coffee Annual Lunch at Barston 5.00 Rainbows 6.00 Brownies	19 9.30 Morning prayers by Zoom	20 9.30 Ramble 6.00 Beavers 6.30 Cubs 8.15 Badminton	21 10.00 Cantonese Fellowship 6.30 Youth Club	22
23 10.30 Morning service Rev Molly Chitokwindo 6.30 Healing and Communion service Rev Donald Ker	24 9.45 Pushchair Club 10.00 Shall we talk? 7.30 Scouts	25 9.30 Communion 10.00 Bible Study 10.30 Men's Coffee 5.00 Rainbows 6.00 Brownies 7.00 Youth Study	26 9.30 Morning prayers by Zoom 1.00 Soupa Talks	27 6.00 Beavers 6.30 Cubs 8.15 Badminton	28 10.00 Cantonese Fellowship 10.30 Friendship café 6.30 Youth Club	29
30 Advent Sunday 10.30 Chancel choir will sing Night of the Father's Love	1 December 9.45 Pushchair Club 10.00 Shall we talk? 7.30 Scouts	2 9.30 Communion 10.00 Bible Study 10.30 Men's Coffee 5.00 Rainbows 6.00 Brownies	3 9.30 Morning prayers by Zoom	4 6.00 Beavers 6.30 Cubs 8.15 Badminton	5 10.00 Cantonese Fellowship 6.30 Youth Club	6 7.00 Swing into Christmas with Out of the Blue Big Band

Property Working Party

Saturday 15th November
9.30 am – 12.30 pm

Come and help tidy up and do odd jobs around the church buildings and grounds

Please let Richard Burr know if you plan to come



CC BY-SA-NC

Church Mission Statement

We believe that to make the all-embracing love of Jesus Christ known, we need to be brave in God's changing world so that all can belong and find hope

3 Generate

At the beginning of October 37 young people and 10 leaders headed to the NEC for 3 Generate- an event for 8-18 year olds run by the Methodist Church. 4-7s were able to attend on Saturday for the day. Having found the tents and had a meal, it was off to an event but which one? There were so many to choose from in 18 different venues. Silent disco, surf simulator and chocolate quiz won.

Then it was off to bed where not much sleeping took place. The next day was spent exploring the new venues.

"They were exciting to explore" "I loved rock climbing"

"I felt closer to God"

were some of the things the young people said. Everything stopped at 11.00 am when everyone attended worship. What an experience to see all our young people engaged by the music and responding by dancing and doing the conga. At 4.00 pm, with the promise of prizes, most attended a talk by Sue Ann "What is the Bible?" The leaders were amazed by both Sue Ann and the Bible knowledge of the young people.

Sadly, the last day arrived and after seeing animals, watching a movie and listening to talks during the weekend, it all ended with a Bible study followed by worship whilst eating lunch.

The theme for the weekend was "Journey of a Lifetime." By the end we had certainly been on a journey and couldn't wait for next year. Ask one of the young people to find out more: their knowledge will astound you.

Helen Banks



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