



Messenger

Solihull Methodist Church

October 2025

Harvest Festival



The church was beautifully decorated for the Harvest Festival on Sunday 21st September. The 2 pictures below show the decorations that greeted you in the foyer, as you walked into church – these were done by the Fowgay and Fitter housegroups. The new Explorer housegroup decorated the new communion table with the message of ‘peace and love’ which was the theme of the Harvest celebration (right picture). The church’s Greener Church group were responsible for the old communion table and the front of the church. Apart from the floral arrangements there was a creation on the one side which they interpreted as the ivy trailing (not easy to see in the picture) down as Jesus’ tears and the red Virginia creeper as the blood of Jesus who brought love into the world and the pyramid of food as giving hope.

The Sunday morning service was led by Rev Molly with Sean Ryan preaching on the theme of ‘Peace, Love and God’s abundance’ and how God’s love had affected his life, leading him to become involved in running a charity settling refugees in the community.



Church Family News

Baptism



Lucy Ann Woolrich gave a short testimony and was baptised on Sunday 7th September. Welcome Lucy.

Deaths

Denys Nicol sadly died on Wednesday 3rd September. His funeral was on 26th September at Our Lady of the Wayside.

Brian Ashton died In September. He was the husband of Sue Ashton who was pastoral worker at Solihull Methodist Church a few years ago. His funeral was held at Knowle Parish Church on Wednesday 17th September.

Thank you

Thank you for your flowers, cards, messages, visits and prayers following the death of my brother, Ian. Your kindness and care has meant a lot to our family at this sad time.

Fiona Beadle

Prayer Box



We pray for:

- **John Allebon** who is in hospital
- **Marjorie Evans** who is in Marie Curie
- **Margaret Nicol** and sons Chris, Malcolm, Paul, Aidan and their families on the death of our dear friend Dr Denys Nicol
- Our children and young people, and youth leaders, attending the 3 Generate event at the NEC on 3rd/5th October.

Pastoral Visitors Rededication



During the morning service on Sunday 7th September the pastoral visitors were rededicated to continue the valuable work that they do for the Church. The pastoral visitors not only deliver the Messenger to the church family, but they also provide pastoral care. The picture shows just how many of them are involved in this work.

Minister's Message

Dear Friends,

Happy Methodist New Year! I hope you had a blessed and restful summer break.

First, I would like to give thanks to all of you who supported our mountain climbs by donating directly to **Entraide** or through Solihull Methodist Church. Your generosity has made a significant impact, raising a substantial gift to support our 24/25 Church project. The charity truly appreciates our efforts, and I pray that God will continue to use us to support our 25/26 Church project, **Awareness Foundation**, in any way we can.

I also want to thank everyone who contributed harvest gifts for those in need. Sharing in this way is a living expression of the Gospel and a powerful reminder that our faith calls us to care for one another. Our Harvest Service was a truly blessed occasion, enriched by your generosity and by the gift of music with KK on the piano and Sean offering his reflective pieces. Together, these acts of giving and worship reminded us of God's abundant provision.

Reflecting on God's Creation

As we celebrate Harvest, it is a wonderful opportunity to reflect on God's creation. We are sometimes tempted to think we own the land and all that is in it, but in truth, the land belongs to God, and we are its stewards. We are not the cleverest of God's creatures, and what we may think is cleverness must always be accompanied by wisdom — the wisdom to care for creation with reverence, humility, and love. Let us be guided by the words of Psalm 24:1: *"The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it."*

Prayers for Our Young People

Please pray for our young people and their leaders as they prepare to attend **3Generate**, the Methodist Youth Assembly. May it be a time of growth, fellowship, and spiritual inspiration.

Edgewalker Calling

I am humbled and excited to share that I was identified as an *Edgewalker* by the Connexion in 2023. Some of you may be wondering: *What is an Edgewalker?*

An Edgewalker is someone who courageously lives, leads, and loves on the boundary between worlds — the known and the unknown, tradition and innovation, security and risk. They are often described as "threshold dwellers," standing with one foot in the established world and the other in the emerging future. Edgewalkers lean into change with curiosity, embody deep presence amid uncertainty, and help others to cross thresholds into new ways of being.

For me, the most fulfilling part of being an Edgewalker is that it is not a solitary journey. It is something we do alongside others, walking together in faith, hope, and love. That is the way I long for my ministry to continue — to walk with people, to journey on the edge with them, and to live out the calling God has placed on my life.

We are going to gather as a circle of Edgewalkers at **Cliff College** beginning September 29. This will be a spacious, prayerful, and generative time to explore together what it means to inhabit the edge with faith, resilience, and imagination. As many of you know, I love walking, and I will be joining others on walks in the Peak District during the retreat. Pray for good weather and a safe journey please.

Gratitude and Celebration

Finally, I give thanks to God for the dedication of our Pastoral Visitors and our young people's leaders. We also rejoice in the baptism of Lucy Woolrich — a beautiful reminder of God's grace and the gift of new life.

Thank you all for your continued support, prayers, and participation in the life of our church. May God bless you richly in this Methodist New Year, and may we continue to walk faithfully, courageously, and lovingly in all that lies ahead.

Let us also hold one another in prayer. We remember Margaret Nicol in the loss of her husband, Denys, and we pray for the whole family in their grief. Ann Pardoe and John Allebon send their love to you all. Though not feeling well, these two beloved children of God remain full of cheer whenever I visit them. Please continue to pray for them, and for all who are unwell at home, in hospital, or in hospice care.

Peace and Joy
Rev Molly



Housegroups



Did you know there are six housegroups meeting in people's homes or at the church during the week. Each housegroup sent a report to the Open Church Meeting on Sunday 21st September. They all meet twice a month. Some groups are using the Bible as the basis of their study and others look at topical issues. Apart from study the groups have occasional social events and provide valuable support to their members in good and bad times.

Innes Housegroup meets on Monday afternoons at church

Fitter Housegroup meets on Monday evenings

Banks Housegroup meets on Wednesday evenings

Fowgay Housegroup meets on Wednesday evenings

Explorers Housegroup meets on Wednesday evenings at church

Woodlea Wanderers meets on Thursday evenings

2025 Honours Board

Post Graduate Degree and Appointment

Alysia Hoe Alysia (Rumens) has completed her MA Law (Conversion) and has also completed her legal studies (SQEs) this year to practice in law. She has started her first paralegal role working in the Employment team at Apple, before joining Bolton and Stevens in Sept 2026 to begin her training contract to qualify as a solicitor.

Graduations and Appointments

Lauren Edgecombe Lauren, (Derek and Sheila Hollaway's granddaughter) graduated from de Montfort University with a first class honours degree in English Literature. She was also awarded the prize for the best graduating student in English from Leicester Literary and Philosophical Society. She is commencing a PGCE in secondary education at Birmingham University.

Daniel Banks Daniel graduated from Swansea University with a first-class honours degree in Software Engineering with a year in Industry. He is taking up a full-time position with the ONS (Office for National Statistics) in Newport and will be living in Cardiff.

Jonathan Hoe Jonno (Lawrie and Margaret Rumens' grandson) graduated from Exeter with a BSc in Sports and Exercise Sciences and takes a year out volunteering with CYE as a Trainee Activity Leader before he goes back to Exeter next year to take his Masters in Sports Management

Anna Lingham Anna (Derek and Chris Giles' granddaughter) has graduated in Maths from Birmingham University and will be doing a PGCE at Leeds University.

Rachel Lingham Rachel (Derek and Chris Giles' granddaughter) has graduated in Biology from Sheffield University and will be studying and serving at Sheffield Vineyard Church.

Alicia Luong Alicia (Derek and Chris Giles' granddaughter) has graduated in Classical Civilisation at Swansea University and will be working for a local charity

Harvey Macauley Harvey has graduated from Nottingham Trent University in "E" Sports and broadcasting and has his CV out there in a difficult time seeking a starting role that is media/technical orientated

Moving on from 6th Form

Oliver Beattie Oliver achieved great A level results and has commenced an apprenticeship with an accountancy firm studying to be a tax advisor

Georgina Griffin Georgina (Graham and Sue McKenzie's granddaughter) is off to Durham University to take a Masters in Chemistry (MCHEM). It's a 4-year course with a year in industry.

Ben Latham Ben (Gillian Penny's grandson) has gained a place at Southampton University to study economics

Naomi Lingham Naomi (Derek and Chris Giles' granddaughter) has got a place at Northumbria University to study Education.

Jade Liu Jade is excited to be going to Aston University to read Biomedical Science,

Millie Macaulay Millie is excited to be going to Manchester Metropolitan University to read Sports Science

Senior School to 6th Form (Year 12)

Max Max has achieved good results in his GCSEs and will be staying on at Caldew School, Carlisle to take his A levels in Biology, History, Psychology and core Maths.

Joy Joy is changing course to study the Early Years education certificates course in Solihull College. We wish her success as she studies to further her passion in Early Years education.

Jay Jay is going to year 8 in Alderbrook School and settling well in her KS3 study.

Freddie Freddie is moving into the Sixth Form at Alcester Grammar School to do Business Studies, Economics, Statistics & RE.

Esmee Esmee is moving to Solihull Sixth Form college to take a Diploma in Sport

Josh Josh is happy with his GCSE results and is moving on to Tudor Grange Academy Sixth form to study Maths, Physics and Psychology

Junior School to Secondary School (Year 7)

The following are moving up to Senior School this year - **Ayden, Daniel, Jaydden, Maisha, Moses, Peter, Steve and Zachary**

Primary to Junior (Year 3)

Morwenna Morwenna (Mary's granddaughter), aged 9, is moving up to Dorchester Middle School.

In addition, **Anna and Janry** are moving up to Seniors this year

Starting School

Zachary Zachary starts his school adventure in reception at Tidbury Green

The Prattle

Church Project

The church project for 2025 – 26 was launched on Sunday 7th September when Rev Dr Nadim Nasser preached and outlined the work of the Awareness Foundation in Syria. Nadim comes from Syria, where people are desperate to recover from the horrors of the Assad regime and bring together a country split by ethnic tensions. He outlined the charities main programmes which are: Little Heroes; Awareness Pioneers; Ambassadors for Peace; and Enterprising Women.

Little Heroes was created by expert educators and counsellors for children aged 6-12. It offers a range of therapeutic teaching, play, art, music, and sports activities alongside help and support tailored to individual needs. So far, it has helped over 2,000 displaced children in Syria. It is designed to help children recover from trauma, forge new friendships, celebrate diversity, and build confidence through discovering new skills and talents. Those leaving the programme do so with a renewed hope for the future. Children from all faiths and cultures take part in all the activities and their friends and families recognise the opportunity to mix with youngsters from other communities in a safe environment of trust and respect.

Awareness Pioneers supports teenagers in the Middle East. It is vital work in response to calls from religious and community leaders in the region. It aims to help teenagers rebuild their lives and relationships, and face their personal anxieties and traumas, by engaging with a range of activities. It is striving to foster their sense of well-being, enabling them to find their place in the world and help to rebuild a broken society.

Ambassadors for Peace is an ecumenical educational programme for young Middle Eastern men and women, enabling them to build bridges of mutual respect and understanding in their diverse communities. The Foundation has already taught over 700 young people to be leaders. An essential element of this work is to introduce advocacy and to enable the young people to develop their own peace-building projects.

Enterprising Women is a scheme supporting women in their onward journey to self-sufficiency and financial independence. The aim is that they will become beacons of hope and peace builders, and play a crucial role in the economic development of their communities. Participants are brought together with established businesswomen, project collaborators and official representatives to create a mutually beneficial network of inspiring women.

More information about the Awareness Foundation is available via their web-site:

<https://awareness-foundation.com/about/>

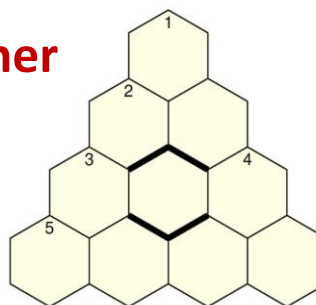
Please support this important work.

1	2	3
2		
3		

CLUES

- 1 I _____, you were (3)
- 2 I am, you _____ (3)
- 3 Japanese coin (3)

Puzzle Corner



ACROSS

- 2 Cry to attract attention (2)
- 3 e.g. Sister Boniface (3)
- 4 Friend of Mole and Ratty (4)

DOWN & LEFT

- 1 Church equipment (4)
- 4 Sodium (2)

DOWN & RIGHT

- 1 Discover (4)
- 3 Yes! We have ____ bananas (2)





Date for your diary
Saturday 6th December
Swing into Christmas
with
Out of the Blue Big Band

Nether Whitacre Open Gardens

The Open Gardens at Nether Whitacre was held on the August Bank Holiday weekend. The weather on the Saturday was not good with rain all afternoon. Amazingly, many turned up and although not so many of the gardens were visited because of the rain, there was a lot of tea and cakes consumed in the dry in the church hall! The turnout on the Sunday was much better and the total amount of money raised for maintaining Nether Whitacre Church came to £2700.

There were 11 gardens to visit – we managed all of them and still enjoyed a cup of tea and delicious cake in the church hall. You will see from the photos that there was a variety of gardens – all very different.

This year they included the new community 'edible' garden next to the Anglican parish church car park. We came away from there with tomatoes and cucumbers. Another garden was selling plums, which, the Fitter Housegroup enjoyed in a crumble the next day. We have never seen such a harvest of grapes in this country in one garden. The kind owner was trying to offload them. It was a really good afternoon.

Sue Balmer



JMA UP-DATE

From Sunday, 12th October to Sunday, 2nd November Youth Church will be helping to serve teas and coffees after the service on Sundays to raise funds for JMA, alongside Spring Harvest families. Please give generously.



Cake sale

Youth Church will also be running a **cake sale on Sunday, 12th October**. Please buy cakes and biscuits to enjoy during the week. If you enjoy baking and would like to contribute cake/biscuits to be sold on the stall, that would also be very much appreciated. The cake sale was our biggest fundraiser last year.

£1 Smartie tube challenge

In addition, our young people will be collecting **£1 coins to fill Smartie tubes from Sunday, 12th October to Sunday, 2nd November**. We would be really grateful if you could bring £1 coins to help them fill as many Smartie tubes as possible.

Huge thank you

A huge **thank you** to everyone who bought cakes and gave money when Youth Church served coffees and made donations to the JMA bank account in the 2024 – 2025 JMA year. In August, we were able to send a donation of **£506.33** to JMA (part of the Methodist World Mission Fund).

We are challenging ourselves to raise even more this coming year.



CC BY-SA-NC

Banking changes

Unfortunately, the bank we use will soon be making monthly charges to the JMA account and so we are looking to move our account. We will let our regular bank transfer donors know of the changes when they have been made.

Thank you as always for your continued support of our young people and JMA.
Helen and Jane

Songs of Praise



Do You Have A Favourite Hymn or one that has special significance for you?

The morning service on
Sunday 2nd November
will be

Songs of Praise

We would like to know what hymns are special to you.
Please send your nomination by email or using the form in Church, to Alison Faulkner stating

- Hymn's first line and hymn number if you know it
- Your name and contact details

We would like some nominators to simply say in just 2 – 3 minutes why they have chosen the hymn and what the hymn means to them. Please indicate whether you are prepared to do that

TEAMS 4U CHRISTMAS SHOE BOX APPEAL

It's Christmas Shoebox Time Again!

Although it is a bit early to be thinking about Christmas, it's not too early to start filling your Shoeboxes for our **2025 Appeal**. As we did last year we will be collecting filled shoeboxes to be distributed through Teams 4U who organise sending the shoeboxes to Eastern Europe. The shoeboxes will be distributed through schools, orphanages and hospitals to vulnerable and needy children and families. For these children, a shoebox filled with simple gifts, is their **only** present at Christmas and probably in their lifetime. A small shoebox filled with gifts can have a **BIG** impact.

Last year, our church collected 105 shoeboxes. It would be wonderful if we could collect **even more** this year, so **PLEASE** fill as many shoeboxes as possible (why stop at 1 or 2!) and encourage your family, friends, neighbours and work colleagues to do the same.

PLEASE start filling those boxes now – it's amazing how many items can be packed into a shoebox, it's fun to do and this small, simple gift will give the love and joy of Christmas to so many needy children.

Leaflets are available in the Church vestibule and on the notice board in the Church Hall which give full details of simple gifts to include in the shoeboxes. As can be seen in the leaflet, also included are ideas for a **'Home Box'**. These boxes go to adult females in a household and can include small toiletries, scarves, jewellery, small household utensils etc. Items such as shampoo, nail varnish etc CAN be included but please make sure the top of the bottle is secure and wrapped around with Sellotape. Filled shoeboxes can be left in the church vestibule until **SUNDAY 16th NOVEMBER**.

For anyone who is unable to fill a shoebox, any items listed in the leaflet can be left in the boxes provided in the Church or Church Hall foyer. There are also some empty shoeboxes in the vestibule waiting to be filled, so please take one or more. Enjoy knitting? There are always patterns for hats, bags etc available in the church and hall. So why not knit something for your shoebox or leave your knitted items in the collection boxes. The knitted Christmas angels are a lovely addition to a shoebox, patterns also available.



PLEASE NOTE that when wrapping your shoebox with Christmas paper it is **very important** that the lid and the base of the box are **wrapped separately**. Each box has to be opened and the contents checked before distribution.

For more information have a look at the **Teams4U** website – teams4U.com – and watch their shoebox video which gives helpful suggestions about gifts to include and shows how to pack a shoebox. Or speak to Chris Cooke if you need any help.

Thank you
Chris Cooke

The Church Car Park needs Your Help



The Church Property Committee are concerned about the availability of parking spaces for the more vulnerable users of our premises. Sunday, Monday and Tuesday mornings are particularly busy. Can you please help everyone by either not driving to the church or if you do drive please can you consider parking at Tudor Grange Leisure facility and walk over? If you do park at the church, please make sure you are parked in a designated bay and within the lines to avoid using two spaces or reducing the aisles.

Monday to Friday we are seeing a lot of vehicles using our car park to drop off or pick up passengers for the railway station and for school buses. This increased number of vehicles, and associated passengers, presents a risk to all pedestrians so please be very careful especially as the nights draw in. Your Property Committee are looking at ways to deter these additional users but until this is achieved please be extra careful.

Thank you.

Kunashe's Trip



I am Kunashe Chidziya, and I'm humbled and blessed to serve as one of the Methodist Church youth representatives.

A little about what it means to be a youth rep: as the name suggests, we represent the voices of young people in our church. Through gatherings such as 3Generate, we listen to their thoughts, acknowledge their concerns, and share them at church conferences and events across the nation. In this way, we help young people feel seen and heard within the life of the church.

As youth reps, we are given incredible opportunities to represent the voices of young people in different spaces. This year, I am honoured to have been selected to represent the Methodist Church youth at the All Africa Youth Conference (AAYC) in Nairobi, Kenya, in October 2025.

The purpose of this trip for me is to witness and experience how young people in Africa worship and live out their faith. I look forward to discovering both the similarities we share and the differences that may inspire us here in the UK. I hope these insights will help us build deeper connections, grow in understanding, and create greater unity within our church.

I am truly excited and deeply honoured to take part in this journey.

Blessings, Kunashe Chidziya

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.



Shirley Methodist Church
257 Stratford Road B90 3AL

Two's Harmony Celebrates!!

Saturday 25th October 2025 at 2.30p.m.

Keyboard capers with Jean Hamilton and Graham Lowe



Retiring collection in aid of church funds

Solihull Pride

Rev Caz Hague (minister at Shirley and Dorridge Methodist Churches) organised a Christian group from local churches to be represented at the Solihull Pride march in Solihull on Saturday 6th September. In the photo you will see some folk from Solihull Methodist Church who joined the group.



Alpha Course



The Alpha Series 3 course continues on

Wednesday 1st October
Wednesday 8th October
Wednesday 15th October

If you are curious about the Christian Faith and want to find out more, you are very welcome to come along

It starts at 6.00 pm with a meal followed by a talk on a theme. If you want to find out more contact Diane Webb.



Wednesday 8th October 6pm

As part of **Alpha Series 3** we have invited Rev Karen Webber to come and talk about an exciting Venture which is happening just down the road, a new way of doing Church.

Karen will be leading the Alpha course with a heading
"What about Church?"

Rev Karen Webber will be sharing about the

New Places for New People project

Stechford. What's a New Places for New People project, all about? It's about doing Church differently, growing a Christian Community outside of Church walls, come along on Wed 8th October to find out more.

Please contact Diane, if you would like to come?

Prayer for Peace in Gaza, in the West Bank and in Israel

In the days of the prophet Habakkuk, God spoke of stones crying out against oppression and violence. Centuries later, as Jesus entered Jerusalem, he told the Pharisees that if his followers were silent, the very stones would shout aloud in witness to him. Today, as we listen to the cries of pain rising from the rubble of Gaza, we pray with the conviction that to praise Christ as King is also to pray and act for his peace and justice.

God of stones that shout, and of people too often silent,
We cry out in despair as violence and killings continue.
Lord, may there be a ceasefire that lasts.

As we cry out for justice, **we commit to being people of peace.**

God of stones that shout, and of people too often silent,
We cry out in horror at the images of emaciated children.
Lord, may aid reach all those who need it.

As we cry out for justice, **we commit to being people of peace.**

God of stones that shout, and of people too often silent,
We cry out for release of those held captive.
Lord, may all hostages and detainees be set free.

As we cry out for justice, **we commit to being people of peace.**

God of stones that shout, and of people too often silent,
We cry out in frustration as leaders posture and prevaricate.
Lord, may hearts soften and meaningful dialogue begin.

As we cry out for justice, **we commit to being people of peace.**

God of stones that shout, and of people too often silent,
We cry out in recognition of our complicity in violence and oppression.

Lord, in your Kingdom, no one would profit from war or occupation.

As we cry out for justice, **we commit to being people of peace.**

God of stones that shout, and of people too often silent,
We pray for all who are suffering and grieving today.
We pray for people in Gaza, in the West Bank, in Israel, and around the world.

We pray for those silenced, and those simply silent.
We pray for peace.

We cry out for those people and situations on our hearts and minds, and bring you our hopes for change...

If God's people keep silent, the rubble will shout aloud.

As we cry out for justice, **we commit to being people of peace.**

May it be so. **Amen**



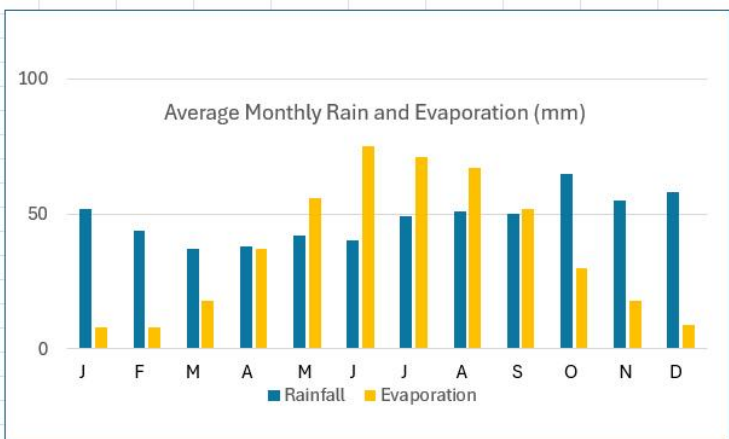
Green Matters



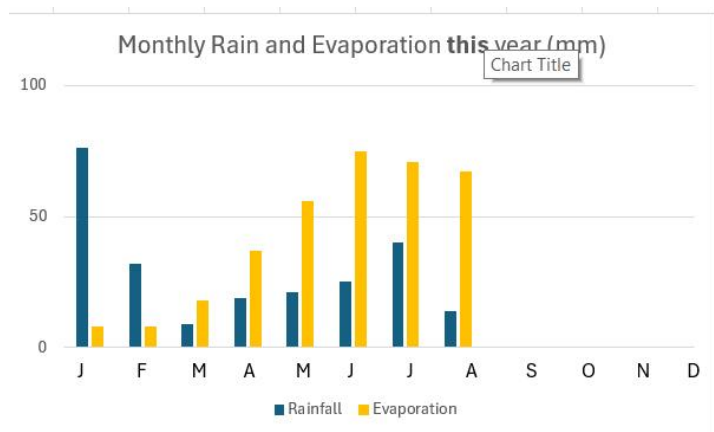
Why our exceptionally dry summer is a warning

At the beginning of September, rain began to turn lawns green again: 2025 had had the driest summer since 1976.

I hope the 2 charts below help you understand what happened and why we should be concerned. They show how much rain falls and how much of that rain returns to the sky.



The chart above shows the monthly rainfall at Birmingham Airport in millimetres (mm) in an **average** year. In the first month, January, the blue column shows the Airport has just over 2 inches of rain in an average January. (50 millimetres is, near enough, 2 inches). The yellow column is very much smaller. This is mostly* the amount of water our green countryside - grass, trees and plants and so on - use as the sun draws water full of nutrients up from the soil to help them grow, and which then evaporates into the air. (Trees, plants etc work like nature's solar powered pumps.) In January there is less sun and evaporation is barely 1/3rd inch but, in June, it is 3 inches on average. So, in an average year you can see more rain than evaporation from October to March, and the reverse from May to August. At the Airport there is about 23 inches of rain and 17** inches of evaporation in an average year. The airport is on the dry side but rain normally exceeds evaporation across the whole country. This is why we have our lovely green land and our rivers flow all through the year taking the surplus water into the seas around us.



The second chart shows what happened this year. After above average rain in January and February, evaporation exceeded rain for the next 6 months. About 8 inches more water would have evaporated from the land than fell as rain had it been there. 8 inches may not seem much, but a rule of thumb is that deep soil holds about 6 inches worth of water. **As that store was used up, growth and evaporation had to slow down, leading to brown lawns and early falling leaves that we saw this year. Eventually vegetation dies.**

Why is this last summer warning us? For 3 main reasons:

1. As the earth warms the rate of evaporation increases, cutting the margin we will have in future dry summers.
2. It is forecast more rain will fall in winters and even less in summers. More of the valuable winter rain will go down the rivers straight to the sea because the soil, which acts like a huge sponge, will become full sooner and be unable to store it.
3. More rain will fall more quickly. This means more will run off the land because it can't soak in quickly enough. You may disagree, but the UK is extremely fortunate with its rain. It varies a lot in intensity but generally falls very slowly (on average, around 2 mm/hour locally, or about 1 inch in 12 hours) so most soaks into the ground.

There is a further problem of course. Whatever the weather, the more the UK population grows, the more land will be paved over leaving less land to store the winter water for the food we need to grow and keep the rivers flowing all through the year.

*There is also evaporation from lakes of course, and hard surfaces

** Evaporation increases going south. Near the Equator it can exceed 2,500 mm, over 8 feet/year.

'Green' Lifestyle Survey

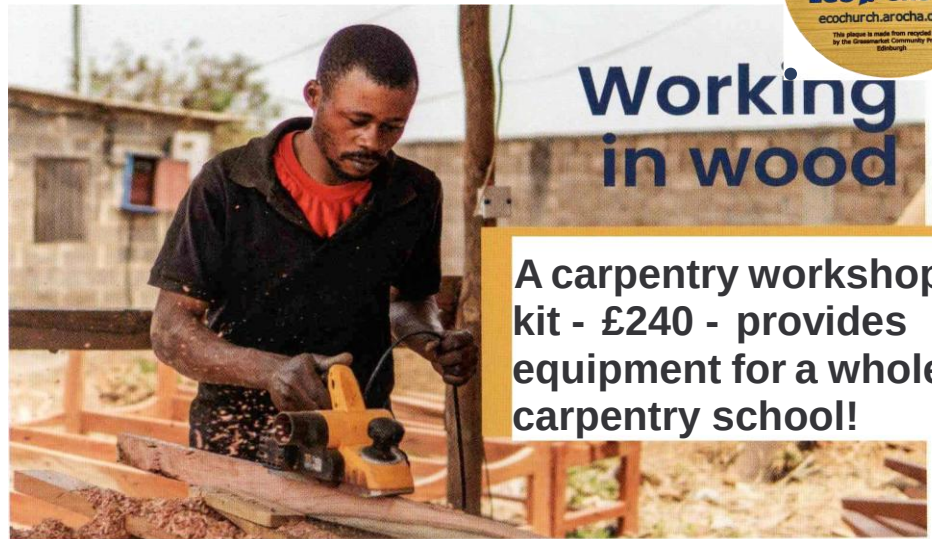
Following our Gold Eco-Church award the Church has been asked to undertake another Lifestyle survey. The intention is to see what progress has been made over the last 3 years and to gather new ideas about how we, as individuals and the Church as a whole, can become more 'green'.

Forms will be on chairs on the 2nd and 3rd Sundays in October and can also be completed online. Names are not needed but the more that take part, the more useful the information will be. Please take part.

Thank you

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.

We are proud to be a GREEN CHURCH caring for God's Creation



Meet Didier, a carpenter from Solwezi in Zambia. He began to train and teach at the Mentra Youth Training Centre in 2020 - a year none of us will forget. But despite the worst restrictions of the pandemic, that year TWAM managed to send 513 carpentry kits to Africa with the support of our heroic volunteers and donors. One of these kits contained the tools for Didier, and for Mentra Youth.

Didier thinks of himself as 'getting old' at just 39, but this is the sad reality of the badly paid, back-breaking work of day labourers. After the physical demands of bricklaying became too much, Didier explored carpentry.

"Thanks to carpentry, I have been able to send my children to school and pay nursery fees. My eldest daughter wants to be a nurse, and I plan to raise funds to pay for education for both my daughters so that they will always have work. My son comes with me sometimes - I want him to grow up watching me so that I can pass my skills down to him."

This incredible change - from not being able to feed or school his family to his new found success - shows the impact training and skills can have on just one man. But the impact will be even greater as others benefit, hence he continues with a clear sense of pride and achievement: "When I train a young man, I secure the future for him. And when I do this I secure the future for Zambia."

With the support of TWAM tools, Mentra Youth has totally transformed the lives of all those who have learned carpentry since 2020. Some have gone on to start businesses; others like Didier have stayed to gain more experience and earn a good living making furniture to sell. Just one box of tools - vices, clamps, power tools and other essentials - has totally transformed their lives.

October – the Month for Recycling

A reminder that October is the collections month for which the following would be welcome:

for TWAM - Tools With A Mission

Sewing and Knitting machines
plus haberdashery items and wool to go with them
Laptops - all files and data will be cleaned off
Carpentry tools
Decorating and building tools
Mechanic's tools

for RfGC - Recycling for Good Causes

Mobile phones - all data will be cleaned off
Cameras
Jewellery - any sort and also broken items
Currency - from any country and of any age
As mentioned in the September Messenger, Linda and John Innes will be happy to receive any of the above on Sunday mornings or to collect them from you if that is more convenient.

Thank you in advance
Linda Innes

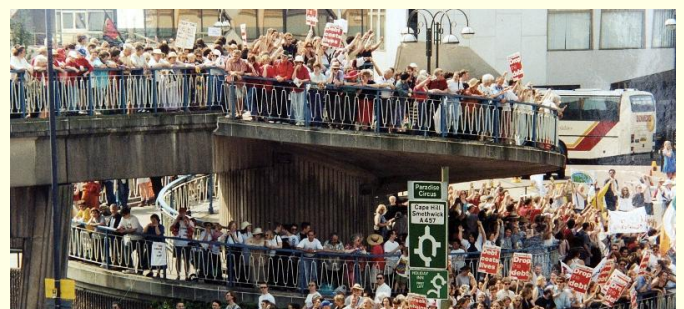
Debt Justice Progress

In 1998 many supported 'Drop the Debt' campaign by walking along the canal into Birmingham as part of a massive human chain encircling the G7, demanding that the totally unpayable debts of some of the poorest countries in the world was dropped.

Drop the Debt is now **Debt Justice**

Come and find out—and allow yourself to be challenged. 27 years ago, **Drop the Debt** had a significant impact, contributing to the cancellation of \$130 billion of unpayable debt.

The message now is that there is continuing momentum in this life-giving campaign; that through **hope and action**, we can be a real part of it.



Wednesday 22nd October, 7.30 p.m.

Water Orton Methodist Church

Meet Wiz from Debt Justice

“Transcarpathia is No Longer Out of Reach” – A Call to Prayer and Support for our partner church in Ukraine.

Methodist Church Partnership Coordinator Barry Sloan shares the devastating news that a region of Ukraine where people have been fleeing to for safe haven has come under attack from Russia.

The region of Transcarpathia, in the south-west corner of Ukraine and previously considered a safer haven, has now also come under attack from Russian missiles and drones. People have been travelling to the region fleeing the violence in eastern Ukraine to begin to rebuild their lives.

The Methodist Church in Britain (MCB) continues to stand in solidarity with their partner church, The United Methodist Church in Ukraine (UMC). In Uzghorod, Transcarpathia, the UMC has established two shelters for internally displaced people. One of these is the newly created “*Under the Castle*” project — a former hotel and restaurant now being transformed into a trauma and spiritual support centre. This vital work is supported by donations to the Methodist Church in Britain / All We Can Appeal Fund for Ukraine.

The District Superintendent of Ukraine, Rev. Oleg Starodubets, shared the following update on Facebook:

“Transcarpathia is no longer out of reach. Today, Russian missiles struck Mukachevo — just 45–50 kilometres from our socio-spiritual centre ‘Pid Zamkom’ (‘Under the Castle’), where I live with my family and where many internally displaced people have found refuge. The missile hit a civilian factory producing household electronics. At least 15 people were injured. In nearby towns, drones have also attacked — one destroyed a private home near Khust, where our apartment is located. Until today, Transcarpathia was considered a relatively safe region.

We received families from Kharkiv, Bakhmut, Mariupol — hoping they could start again, hoping that children would smile again. But now, the front line has moved closer. This is not only a strike on a building — it is a strike on hope.

We ask all our Western friends, churches, and partners:

Pray. Speak. Act.

We need protection — for the people, for the children, for those who have already lost everything once. We remain here. But now — with even greater responsibility.”

As the Methodist people in Britain, we hear this call and stand alongside our sisters and brothers in Ukraine.

How you can respond:

- **Pray** — for peace in Ukraine, for the protection of those in danger, and for the strengthening of those offering shelter and hope.
- **Speak** — share this story in your churches and communities so that awareness of the ongoing crisis is not lost.
- **Act** — consider supporting the *whole work of the Global Relationships team in connecting with our partners around the world, you can do so by making a donation to the World Mission Fund of the Methodist Church in Britain.*



Let us continue to hold Ukraine in our hearts and prayers, responding to this urgent plea with faith, compassion, and action.

A Prayer for Ukraine

*God of peace,
we bring before you the people of Ukraine.
Hold in your love all who are afraid,
all who are grieving,
and all who long for safety.
Bless those who offer shelter and hope,
especially our sisters and brothers of the United
Methodist Church in Ukraine.
Strengthen their witness of compassion and
courage.
We pray for an end to violence,
for justice to prevail,
and for peace to be restored.
In the name of Christ,
the Prince of Peace. Amen.*

New District Chair



Rev Rachel Deigh is the new chair of the West Midlands District of the Methodist Church. She will be preaching at Solihull on **Sunday 26th October.**

Soupa Talks



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

Wednesday 8th October

Gardening for Wildlife
Warwickshire Wildlife Trust

Wednesday 22nd October

Acupuncture – what is it
Sarah Christian



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 October Messenger
items is
Sunday 12th October**

Church Team



Rev Molly Chitokwindo
Minister
Day off - Friday



Abi Godfree
Children, Youth and
Families worker



Janice Smith
Church Administrator
Tuesday - Friday



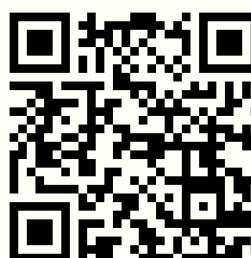
Wai Kong
Finance Assistant



Diane Webb
Pastoral and Community Worker



Chris Giles
Pastoral Coordinator



Church Office
0121 705 7367

[www.solihull-
methodist.org.uk](http://www.solihull-methodist.org.uk)

October Diary

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 9.30 Morning prayers by Zoom 6.00 Alpha course	2 6.00 Beavers 6.30 Cubs 8.15 Badminton	3 10.00 Cantonese Fellowship 6.30 Youth Club	4
5 10.30 Morning service Ruth Keast	6 9.45 Pushchair Club 10.00 Shall we talk? 7.30 Scouts	7 9.30 Communion 10.00 Bible Study 10.30 Men's Coffee 5.00 Rainbows 6.00 Brownies 7.00 Youth study	8 9.30 Morning prayers by Zoom 1.00 Soupa Talks 6.00 Alpha course	9 6.00 Beavers 6.30 Cubs 8.15 Badminton	10 10.00 Cantonese Fellowship 10.30 Friendship cafe 6.30 Youth Club	11
12 10.30 Morning service with Holy Communion Rev Molly Chitokwindo 6.30 Space for quiet reflection	13 9.45 Pushchair Club 10.00 Shall we talk? 7.30 Scouts	14 9.30 Communion 10.00 Bible Study 10.30 Men's Coffee 5.00 Rainbows 6.00 Brownies	15 9.30 Morning prayers by Zoom 6.00 Alpha course	16 9.30 Ramble 6.00 Beavers 6.30 Cubs 8.15 Badminton	17 10.00 Cantonese Fellowship 6.30 Youth Club	18
19 10.30 Morning service Banks Housegroup	20 9.45 Pushchair Club 10.00 Shall we talk? 7.30 Scouts	21 9.30 Communion 10.00 Bible Study 10.30 Men's Coffee 5.00 Rainbows 6.00 Brownies 7.00 Youth Study	22 9.30 Morning prayers by Zoom 1.00 Soupa Talks	23 6.00 Beavers 6.30 Cubs 8.15 Badminton	24 10.00 Cantonese Fellowship 10.30 Friendship café 6.30 Youth Club	25
26 10.30 Morning service Rev Rachel Deigh 6.30 Healing and Communion service Rev Donald Ker	27	28 9.30 Communion 10.00 Bible Study 10.30 Men's Coffee	29 9.30 Morning prayers by Zoom Half Term	30 8.15 Badminton	31 10.00 Cantonese Fellowship	

Youth leaders' dedication



All those who help with the work with young people were dedicated during the morning service on Sunday 7th September. Abi also handed out certificates to those who had attended the Youthscape training course.

Church Mission Statement

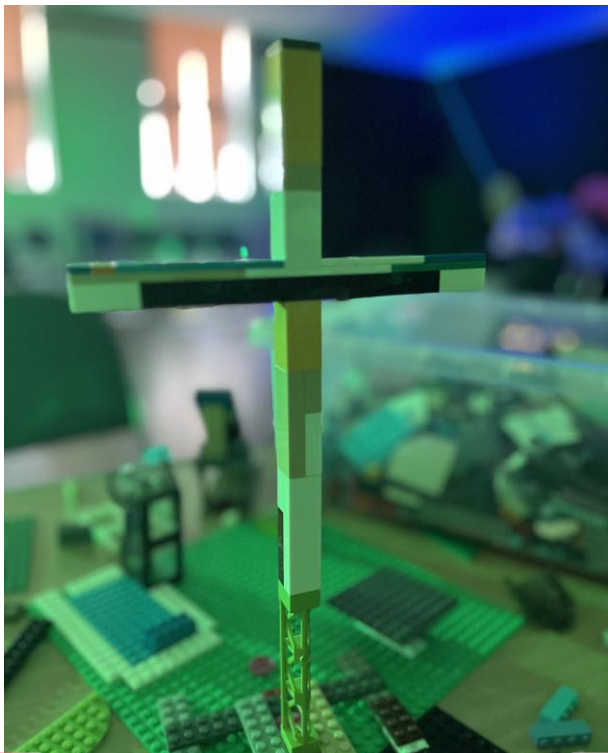
We believe that to make the all-embracing love of Jesus Christ known, we need to be brave in God's changing world so that all can belong and find hope

Youth Camp



These pictures were taken at the youth camp that I took a small group of young people to in Bridgwater at the end of August. A wonderful experience for everyone who attended, especially for Neel who came as a leader for the first time, such a servant heart.

Abi Godfree



**Blossomfield Road
Solihull, B91 1LG
0121 705 7367**