



Messenger

Solihull Methodist Church

June 2026

Christian Aid Coffee Morning

How wet can we get them?



There was an added attraction at the Christian Aid Coffee Morning this year. How wet can the young people get the minister (Rev Donald Ker) and the Youth leaders (Lawrence Day, Abi Godfree and Andy Hunt)? The stoic leaders were sat in a line like sitting ducks and the youngsters took great delight in throwing wet sponges and firing water pistols at the them. Money was raised by guessing who would get the wettest! Fortunately, the leaders had come prepared with changes of clothes. The young people also raised more money with a number of games: for instance, in which country is the chocolate hidden, working out what an object in a box was and dropping a coin to land on a spot in a bucket of water. They added lots of fun to the event.



Christian Aid coffee Morning cont.



Joyce Fitter and Brenda Mackey pricing the cakes



Toy stall



Anne Stoakley, Bryan Fitter and John Innes manning the excellent plant stall

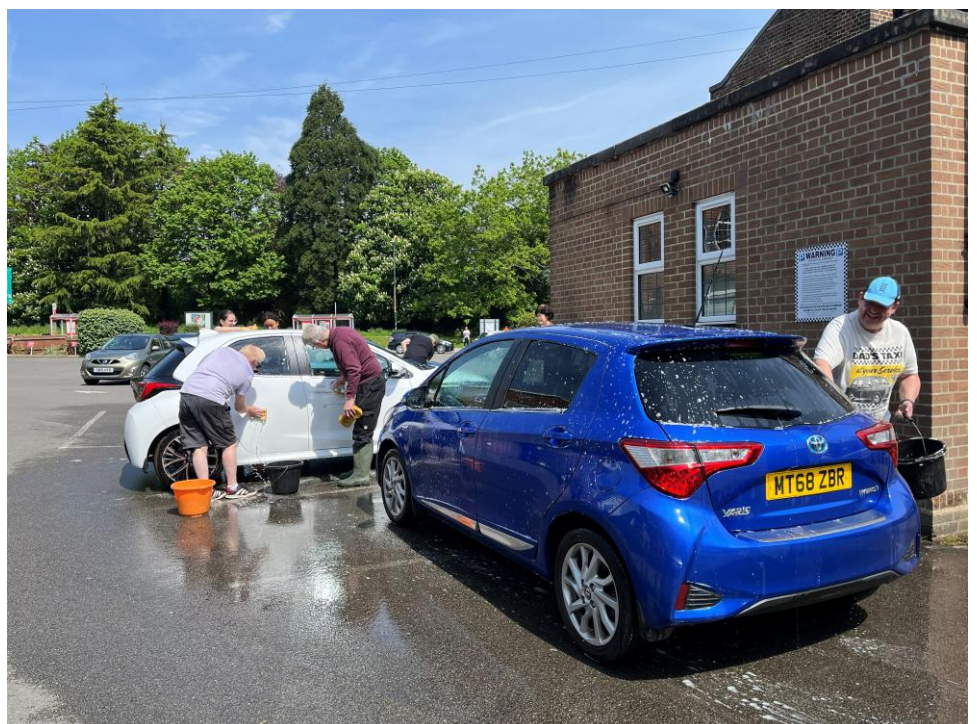
There were all the usual fund raising activities as well such, as the cake stall, which raised over £400 (a record amount), the car wash, toy stall, jams and pickles and plant stall (raising over £350).

The Greener Church Group organised a colourful display how stopping global warming complements the work of Christian Aid. Of course, teas and coffees were served throughout the day along with ploughman's lunches. Over £2,500 was raised.

A huge thank you to everyone who helped and worked so hard and also to all those who supported the coffee morning – it was a great event.



Sue and Richard Balmer along with Sue Kelley at the Greener Church Group's display



Car wash in the church car park

Church Family News

Deaths



'Buf' Bufton died on 24th April. His funeral will be on Friday 12th June, at 1.00 pm at Robin Hood Crematorium. There will be no service at church.

Anna Clarke died on Monday 11th May. Her funeral arrangements will be in the Prattle and weekly notices.

Some will remember **Bob Wilson** who died in April. He joined the ramblers and the walking group in the Lake District on a number of occasions. The interment of his ashes was held at Knowle Parish church on Sunday 17th May.

Prayer Box



We pray for:

- ❖ Wilson Clarke and his family on the death of Anna
- ❖ Sue, Andrew, Catherine and David on the death of their father Buf Bufton
- ❖ Rebecca Lo, continuing her course of chemotherapy
- ❖ Sheila Holloway, recovering from a back injury after a fall
- ❖ John Godfree, Ian's Dad, who is very poorly in hospital
- ❖ Jean Jones, recovering in respite care after time in hospital
- ❖ Rev Molly Chitokwindo, Allen, Kunashe and Sheanopa as Molly takes up a new appointment
- ❖ all those attending membership classes and those considering becoming members
- ❖ our young people taking exams

Church Project News



Piano Recital

Echoes of the Three B's
by KK Hung

Saturday 20th June
3:00 pm
in the church

Admission is free but donations are warmly welcomed to cover small costs and to support the Church Project



The programme will include

1. Toccata in F# minor. BWV 910 – J.S. Bach
2. Sonata in D. Opus 10 no. 3 Beethoven
3. Fantasies. Opus 116 – Brahms
 - a. Capriccio in D Minor
 - b. Intermezzo in F
 - c. Capriccio in G minor
4. Novelette No.8 in F minor - Schuman

BBQ service



CC BY-NC

Sunday 19th July
in the church grounds

6.00 pm Food served
6.30 pm Short service to be led
by the Greener Church
Group

Minister's Message – Rev Donald Ker



For Methodist people the month of June means “Conference”. The Conference for the Methodist Church here in Britain will take place in Telford towards the end of the month. During Conference Michaela Barker, who was with us here in Solihull a couple of years ago, and Julie Clarke, minister in Acocks Green and Cambridge Road, will be ordained. It will be a highly significant moment for them and for all the other probationary Presbyters and Deacons whose sense of call to ministry has been thoroughly tested and who will hear a whole congregation affirm “They are worthy”. In advance of the Conference those who are going to be ordained are invited to tell us about how God has been calling them and what God has been doing in their lives. Michaela’s Testimony service will be held in her local Circuit of Blackpool and South Fylde. Julie’s service will be held in our Cambridge Road Church on Sunday 7th June at 4.00 pm. Testimony services are always full of inspiration and so I would encourage you to attend in order to hear and support Julie.

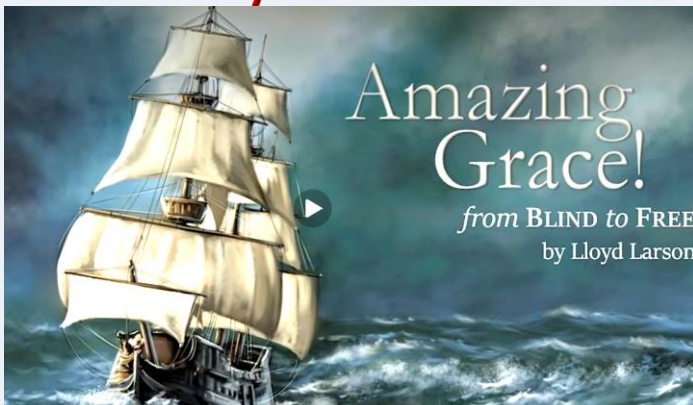
The Methodist Church in Ireland, to which I still belong, also holds its Conference at the beginning of June, so I’ll be over in Ireland from 2nd to 5th of June to be with them. This year’s Conference will be special to me for a couple of reasons. First, Revd Dr. Janet Unsworth, who has been friend and colleague over many years, will be installed as President of the Conference, and I’ll be glad to support her as she undertakes this ministry. Second, it will be fifty years since I was first commissioned and stationed as a probationary minister and so I’ll be glad to quietly mark the occasion and give thanks for the Methodist people who have supported and cared for me, both in Ireland and then, for the last eleven years, here in Solihull.

The Methodist Church in Ireland is not large. Its total community amounts to approximately 30,000 people. It covers the whole island of Ireland and this works within

two jurisdictions, with two different governments, two different education and healthcare systems, two different currencies and so on. Churches in Northern Ireland, where Methodism has traditionally been stronger, have seen a decrease in their membership, particularly since Covid. It’s a situation which we know here in Britain also. Churches in the Republic of Ireland, however, are growing, not least because people from other parts of the world are coming to enliven and strengthen our congregations. We know this experience here also. As in Britain there are fewer ordained ministers than once there were but the Irish Church has recognised the importance of our youth work and have developed a youth strategy to encourage commitment and discipleship among young people now. Irish Methodism is also recognised as a reconciling community where there are still deep divisions in society. The Methodist Conference here in Britain can feel somewhat remote from our life together in Solihull and yet it is important. The spirit and wisdom of Methodist people conferring together on the Work of God can filter into our life here. The gathering of people from all over Britain, as well as representatives and guests from other parts of the world, reminds us that we are part of a much larger family, and indeed connected with them through the Gospel. So please remember all those for whom this forthcoming Conference will be particularly important. Revd Mark Slaney has been designated to be President of the Conference and Mrs Caroline Stead is Vice-President Designate. Pray for them as they take up office, and remember Michaela and Julie as they take their next very significant step in ministry.

Rev Donald Ker

Choir Sunday Sunday 28th June



At the morning service the choir will lead worship with a cantata by Lloyd Larson entitled “Amazing Grace, from Blind to Free”.

Usually, our cantatas are based on scripture, but this musical presentation tells the story of John Newton, probably best known as the author of the hymn “Amazing Grace”. He was initially a turbulent and difficult young man who became involved in the slave trade but through the years he came to recognise the undeserved, unearned love of God (God’s grace) for himself. As we tell this story we hope that you’ll be encouraged to think again about how God’s grace is here for you, and the big difference this grace makes for all of us.

The composer, Lloyd Larson says – “*Amazing Grace* is a hymn that speaks of hope in times that are bleak and dark: those moments where we have felt overwhelmed by the challenges and experiences of life. John Newton’s hymn is a reflection of his own journey and in many ways it’s our journey. We all long for the message of hope which is inherent and central to the hymn *Amazing Grace*.”

Minutes of the Church Annual General Meeting held on Sunday 26th April 2026

Welcome and Opening Devotions

The catering committee were thanked for all the work preparing and serving the Church Family Lunch which preceded the meeting.

Rev Donald Ker opened the meeting by sharing a reading from Ephesians 3 starting at verse 14 which is a prayer for the people in the churches. He said a prayer.

The minutes of last year's AGM were approved.

1. Senior Stewards' update & Comments

Using pictures from the Messenger, Glen and Alison shared their year, saying there are lots of exciting things going on in the church.

The church project was Entraide when they became Senior Stewards last May. The events included a recital by KK, Open Gardens and BBQ service. The Awareness Foundation has been a new project since last September. Events have included the Out of the Blue Concert, SMASH concert with the Cantonese Choir, family fun evening and the quiz.

We said goodbye to Rev Molly Chitokwindo and welcomed Rev Donald Ker as our minister until September. We have a new boiler. Deborah Webb has been appointed as new lettings officer. In the summer Sue Ann and Audrey will be leaving us to take up a post in Warrington. We are about to welcome our new minister, Rev Andrew Moffoot and family.

We have large numbers of children and youth and on a Monday morning Pushchair Club is thriving. It was lovely to see our youth helping with the shoe box appeal even if the evening did seem very chaotic. The young people are currently studying On the Way, which currently is a Methodist pilot project.

Throughout the year we have had numerous Own Arrangement services but in October we seemed to have more than usual- Autumn/change, Songs of Praise and Prayer are the titles of some of them. Peter Farndon was thanked for organising all the cantatas we hear and Margaret Rumens for organising the flower rota and her flower arrangements for special services..

Fiona Beadle was thanked for co-ordinating and knitting angels at Christmas which were distributed at care homes and around Solihull.

Abi was thanked for running Celebration Saturdays which welcome non church goers into the building. The Lent Breakfasts allowed us to meet and study the Lord's Prayer with members of other churches in Solihull. This was followed by the Walk of Witness and Easter Cross- so beautifully decorated by Jane Elmer.

We celebrated the New Year by walking through local parks followed by soup at the church. Shall we Talk? went on a trip to Weston-Super-Mare and the Greener Church Group to the recycling plant. This year the Lunar New Year event was held at Alderbrook School and was followed by the Cantonese Choir singing in church.

Jackie Farmer was thanked for her work with Open the Book and the team from Soupa Talks were thanked for all the wonderful outreach work they have done over the years.

Finally, the Messenger team were thanked for providing all the photos.

Glen and Alison thanked Donald for all the work he has done. Alison thanked Glen for staying on for another year as Senior steward. Thanks were expressed to Alison and Glen in their roles as Senior stewards.

2. Group reports

Children's, Youth and Family Worker- the young people are studying On the Way course which is a pilot. Children's church has seen a drop in age with lots of 4, 5 and 6 year olds attending. There is a group of volunteers who are fully invested in the children's and youth work.

Andy Hunt thanked everyone in the room for their support both financially and through prayer.

"It takes a village to raise a child" the church is that village. Abi was thanked for her work and how appreciated it is.

Lay Pastoral and Community Worker Diane thanked the knitters for the angels that went into the care homes and also Easter chicks which also went to the hospital along with the Easter eggs. £177 and 32 eggs were sent to the Solihull Hospital trust. There is now a core group who regularly go into care homes to share worship.

Soupa Talks This has provided a fabulous outreach. Bryan and Joyce Fitter along with Richard and Sue Balmer were thanked for all the work they have done in setting up this group and running it. The rest of the team were also thanked for all their hard work.

Shall We Talk? Last week there were 86 attendees, not including the volunteers. Cathy encouraged people to attend, it is a very friendly place to go. Cathy thanked all the people who help and support Shall we Talk? Ways and Means are currently helping with a large grant that was received.

Men's Coffee Group They meet on a Tuesday morning at 10.30 am every week and currently have 22 men on their books with an average age of 80.5 They talk about everything and anything. Not everyone who comes goes to the church. 4 Hongkongers attend. Last year the group donated £1,500 to charity. The group were thanked for the support they have given to the King's Trust.

Scout Group This is thriving with a waiting list for all groups. Last year they lost a leader, Gareth Evans, so they now need a volunteer to lead Scouts, otherwise it might close in September. Gareth Evans and the work he did for Scouts was remembered in a moment of silence.

Community Hall and Room 3 development Richard Burr shared a plan of the new room 3 development. Work will begin on 6th July and should be finished by the end of August. 6 ft of the stage is being kept.

The new room 3 will have both a toilet and tea station. Richard thanked John Hopkins and John Handford for the work they have been doing clearing the space ready for the work to begin.

Richard also thanked all the sound, projector and streaming team for the work they do on a Sunday morning.

3. Financial Update

The church accounts up to 31/8/25 have been audited and published on the Charity Commission website. The general fund, where most of the money goes in and out, had a small surplus partly due to healthy lettings income and giving from the congregation.

There had been a request for funds to purchase a new boiler. This was achieved without touching the general funds.

The financing of the room 3 and hall developments/refurbishments will be funded through grants and legacies. We currently have £66,000 from grants. Chris Tucker was thanked for his work in gaining these grants.

Caroline was thanked for all the work she has done as treasurer. It was noted that Caroline has been the treasurer for 5 years and so we are looking for a replacement

4. Election of Stewards

The stewards normally serve for 3 years but are appointed annually.

Christine Burr, Yan Yeung and Jacki Lancaster were re-elected.

Kevin Garnett was elected as a steward to stand for 3 years

and **Tim Weatherup** for 2 years.

There are 2 further vacancies for stewards so Donald requested that if people are found to fill these vacancies their names can be ratified by the Church Council rather than wait for the next AGM in 2027.

5. Election of Representatives to Church Council

The existing representatives **Alan Faulkner, Judy Lingard, Sian Musgrave-Spiby, Liz Pickles, Rubina Thakor, Judith Farndon, Peter Austin, Karen Robertson, Karen Handford and Ian Hancock** were re-elected

Cathy Coleman, Jackie Farmer, Alison Faulkner, Alan Hung and Ioanna Burnell were elected as new representatives.

Donald reminded people that anyone is welcome to attend a church council meeting as they are open meetings. He encouraged people to attend.

6. Any Other Business

The Circuit Mission Plan is being looked at by Church, Life and Mission Committee. In the circuit there are 30 churches- some small, some like us and some very different. Donald challenged everyone present "How can we find out about other churches in the circuit?"

Donald thanked people for their support- stewards, everyone in charge of committees, ministerial support from Chris Giles, Peter Bates, Nigel Collinson and Helen Cameron.

Helen Banks was thanked for her work as the church council secretary.

7. Closing Prayers

The meeting closed at 2.40 pm with sharing the grace.

New Stewards

Kevin Garnett



I have recently retired after spending 45 years working in IT as a programmer, systems consultant, and IT manager, mainly in the manufacturing industry. I have lived in Solihull for most of that time and have been attending Solihull Methodist Church since 2013 after transferring my membership from Shirley Methodist Church so that my family could be part of the amazing youth work in Solihull. We love being part of this wonderful Church community.

I am married to Jane and have three children: Tim, Helena, and Matthew. Family has always been an important part of my life, and I am particularly looking forward to celebrating my daughter's wedding in Cornwall in June.

I am a football fan and a season ticket holder at Manchester United. I enjoy watching a variety of sports and have been lucky enough to enjoy regular trips to Wimbledon and the F1 at Silverstone over the last few years. I also love travelling and am excited to explore even more places now I have retired. In the rest of my free time I enjoy walking, I am part of the church rambling group and am kept busy completing various DIY tasks!

I am looking forward to having more time to become involved in church life and feel privileged to be serving you as a steward.

Tim Weatherup

Hi, I'm Tim, a member at Solihull Methodist Church since 2012 and a Methodist for as long as I can remember! I am married to Jane, with two grown up children, Alex and Elizabeth.

I have previously served as a Church Steward between 2014 and 2017. My background is in primary school teaching, from which I am now enjoying retirement.



Circuit Mission Action Plan

Sharing in the Transformation of Life
made Possible through God's Love

The Birmingham Methodist Circuit has undergone significant change and development since its formation in 2011. Some developments have been welcome and encouraging, whereas others have brought sadness; some have been planned, whereas others could not have been anticipated. Leaders across the Circuit, in many different contexts, have aimed to deal responsibly with all these circumstances.

The circuit has drawn up an action plan for the future and the key areas for development are listed in the box. As agreed at the AGM the Church Life and Mission Committee will look in detail at the report and how it can be implemented at Solihull

Areas for Development

- 1: Working together effectively.
- 2: Supporting local worship and mission.
- 3: Sustaining leadership and participation.
- 4: Doing fewer things, well.
- 5: Developing the faith of young people.
- 6: Beginning new forms of church.
- 7: Acting for justice, dignity and solidarity.
- 8: Reducing our harm to the natural environment.

Circuit Farewell Service

This will be at Shirley Methodist Church on
Sunday 14th June at 6:00pm.

EARLSWOOD METHODIST CHURCH

(CORNER OF WOOD LANE & RUMBUSH LANE - B94 5JR)

GRAND FETE

SAT 4TH JULY
2.00pm - 4.30pm

FREE CAR PARKING

ADMISSION £1(Adult) Children free

**MAD DOM - THE ENTERTAINER,
MUSIC, VINTAGE ENGINES, CRAFTS
HOMEMADE CAKES & REFRESHMENTS
GAMES & STALLS FOR ALL**

SUPPORTING:

Dream-makers Children's Charity & Church Funds
(Charity No 1045148)

The Circuit is saying farewell to **Rev Molly Chitokowindo**, who is moving on to a new appointment.

If you wish to contribute to a gift for Molly from Solihull Methodist Church, please give your donation (preferably in an envelope, suitably labelled) to one of the stewards at Solihull or to the Solihull Church Office.



BLOOM

Bloom is a brand new District festival taking place on **Saturday 4 July 2026, 10am-4pm** at Trinity Methodist Church, Codsall, WV8 2ER.

The day will consist of a range of activities, workshops, worship, community and conversation, and is open to all ages.

Cost £5.00 To book go to

<https://www.tickettailor.com/events/wmmethodists/2125950>

Our theme this year is Rooted and Growing, which will delve into our Methodist roots as well as look at how we are all growing together in the body of Christ.

Throughout the day you'll be able to get stuck into a range of workshops and activities, designed for all ages.

Some activities/workshops include:

- A Festival Green with an outdoor stage, barbecue & coffee lounge
- Drop-in spaces for craftivism and 'forest church'
- Storytelling, puppets & an interactive art exhibition
- Inclusive musical worship, quiet sensory spaces & communion
- Mini-retreat, eco-spirituality & practical church growth workshops
- Special Guest: Folk musician, poet & theologian David Benjamin Blower

Green Matters



Some interesting figures for Church food

One of the extra things the Church had to do to gain its Gold Eco-Church award was to calculate how many tonnes of carbon dioxide (CO₂) it was responsible for from 4 areas besides just the electricity and gas we use. One was the food we enjoy here. It was pointed out that growing, harvesting, packing, and transporting food to shops (including from overseas on occasion) takes lots of energy. It presented us with a dilemma however: is the energy used providing food a good or bad thing? 'Good' surely means more church and community activities.

The request for this extra calculation came late so we made honest guesses last year but decided to do something better this year. The figures we got are interesting. Did you know:

- We have **on average**, over 8 bookings for our rooms every day? 8+ bookings a day is almost 3,000 in a year!
- We estimate over 16,000 cups of tea are served in a year (see table), over 28,000 cups of coffee, over 1,700 packets of biscuits, and, dear me, over 2,500 pieces of cake? (These figures were around double we guessed last time).
- The carbon footprint for the food we provide (11.1 tonne) is close to that from electricity and gas (14.8 tonne).
- Half of all bookings are for non-church groups so these large figures are a wonderful measure of the service we provide to the community and a tribute to the Property Committee for the value for money our accommodation obviously represents.

Food	All Year
Cups of tea	16,160
Cups of coffee	28,610
Glasses of Squash	740
Glasses of Fruit Juice	1,480
Packets of biscuits	1,730
Pastries, slices of Cake	2,580
Meals	4,400
Carbon Footprint for Food (tonnes)	11.1

So, food consumes a lot of energy, and there is a limit to what we can do at Church and at home to reduce it except to remember to choose

- Locally grown food where possible to save food miles
- Seasonal food which is more likely to be grown in the UK
- Less meat and smaller portions, especially of beef and lamb
- And always remember Grandma's adage "Waste Not Want Not"

Have you seen our wild flowers?

Last year, for the first time, the Church agreed not to mow the 2 grass strips either side of the nave to encourage wild flowers. This year Christine Cooke tells me that we have buttercups, ladies smock, ragwort, dandelions, sorrel and ribwort plantains on the station side and white clover daisies, speedwell, violets, woodrush and yarrow on the Blossomfield Road side. We also, have broom, forget-me-nots and knapweed in bloom in the Silver Birch Tree garden.



Knowle Green Fair: 6th June

Our partners at Knowle Parish Church are organising a Green Fair on **Saturday 6th June** from 10am - 12 Noon. They will be displaying eco-initiatives that can be adapted at home. From food to fast-fashion, easy household swaps, eco home improvements and renewable energy initiatives and grants, health, composting and local volunteering opportunities."

Plug in and Play Batteries

There is growing expectation we can soon buy solar panels which can just be plugged into the nearest socket. I don't recommend them unless you buy a battery as well. . The problem with solar energy is that it is mostly there when least needed: daytime and summer, not nighttime and winter. What I strongly recommend however are the coming 'plug in and play' batteries. They do not rely on the sun. They take electricity from the mains, when it is cheap (nighttime) and export it back when needed (daytime, especially over breakfast time and evening meals). The demand for electricity goes up and down and power stations have to be switched on and off and, at peak times, it is the most expensive that are switched on. Batteries reduce the peaks.

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

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

Middle East Justice Appeal



The President Designate of the Methodist Church, the Revd Mark Slaney, visited Palestine in March. He reported back that people are living through unimaginable suffering and terror. Our partners remain on the front line of a relentless humanitarian crisis, supporting communities affected in Gaza and Lebanon. To support them, we are relaunching our appeal with the Methodist Church in Britain and the United Reformed Church, and we'll continue to raise money for partners who are delivering life-transforming, essential work.

Our original appeal, launched in November 2024, was to help meet the humanitarian need resulting from the crisis in Gaza and Lebanon specifically. However, the scope of work of our partners has increased, and we want to remain flexible to support their work in the most efficient way possible. This includes supporting Palestinians increasingly targeted by Israeli settler violence in the West Bank.

Christian Palestinians are telling us through Kairos Palestine

It that 'We live now in a time of genocide, ethnic cleansing and forced displacement unfolding before the eyes of the world. This moment, a moment of truth — demands from us a new stand unlike any before it. While people of the world have stood in solidarity with us, the genocidal war has laid bare the hypocrisy of the Western world, its hollow values and its empty boasts of commitment to human rights and international law.' We heed their call.

The Israeli military has been accused of the crime of genocide, starvation, extermination and of crimes against humanity. There is an active investigation at the International Court of Justice into the Crime of Genocide, brought by South Africa against Israel.

We are asking you to show your solidarity with those in the Middle East through giving to **All We Can** and **praying**.

The Methodist Church

Storage Container in the church car park



The property team have been preparing the community centre for the work to start on the room behind the stage. There is so much necessary equipment stored under the stage that the solution is to temporarily hire a storage unit

to accommodate it. Therefore, a large storage container was positioned in the church car park on Tuesday 12th May. It will stay there during the summer.

Educaid Africa

Cream Tea

Saturday 13th June

3:00 – 5:00 pm

St Swithin's House, Barston B92 0JU (next to the church)



CC BY-SA

An informal get together to thank supporters and interested parties and to meet and share information. Many from our church family have supported us over the years and many still do..

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

Anxious? Concerned?

Contact the confidential

Prayer Chain

via Chris Giles

via the church office



Soupa Talks

Light lunch, chat and an interesting talk
1:00 pm in the Community Centre



Wednesday 23th September Laurence Ince
Charles Dickens, Warwickshire and the Great Jennens Case

Wednesday 14th October Henrietta Lockhart
These flowers are from my garden: the Nettlefolds and their garden

Wednesday 28th October Quintin Watt
"Good Monkeys!" The adventures of Harry Payne – the Edwardian "Literary Tramp"

The Messenger Team

Sue Balmer, Rev Donald Ker, 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 July / August Messenger items is Sunday 14th June

Church Team



Rev Donald Ker
Minister
Day off - Friday



Abi Godfree
Children, Youth and Families worker



Janice Smith
Church Administrator
Tuesday - Friday



Wai Kong
Finance Assistant

Church Office
0121 705 7367

www.solihull-methodist.org.uk



Diane Webb
Pastoral and Community Worker



Chris Giles
Pastoral Coordinator



Deborah Webb
Church Lettings Officer



June Diary

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5 10.00 Cantonese Fellowship 6.30 Youth Club	6
7 Church Anniversary 10.30 Morning service Rev Cleopas Sibanda	8 9.45 Pushchair Club 10.00 Shall we talk? 7.30 Scouts 7.30 Church Council	9 9.30 Communion 10.00 Bible Study 10.30 Men's Coffee 5.00 Rainbows 6.00 Brownies 7.00 Youth study	10 9.30 Morning prayers by Zoom	11 6.00 Beavers 6.30 Cubs 8.15 Badminton	12 10.00 Cantonese Fellowship 10.30 Friendship cafe 6.30 Youth Club	13
14 10.30 Morning service with Holy Communion 6.30 Prayer Space 6.00 Circuit Farewell at Shirley	15 9.45 Pushchair Club 10.00 Shall we talk? 7.30 Scouts	16 9.30 Communion 10.00 Bible Study 10.30 Men's Coffee 5.00 Rainbows 6.00 Brownies	17 9.30 Morning prayers by Zoom	18 9.30 Ramble 6.00 Beavers 6.30 Cubs 8.15 Badminton	19 10.00 Cantonese Fellowship 6.30 Youth Club	20 3.00 Piano Recital
21 10.30 Morning service	22 9.45 Pushchair Club 10.00 Shall we talk? 7.30 Scouts	23 9.30 Communion 10.00 Bible Study 10.30 Men's Coffee 5.00 Rainbows 6.00 Brownies 7.00 Youth study	24 9.30 Morning prayers by Zoom	25 6.00 Beavers 6.30 Cubs 8.15 Badminton	26 10.00 Cantonese Fellowship 10.30 Friendship café 6.30 Youth Club	27
28 10.30 Morning service led by the choir 6.30 Reflective communion service with prayers for healing Rev David Butterworth	29 9.45 Pushchair Club 10.00 Shall we talk? 7.30 Scouts	30 9.30 Communion 10.00 Bible Study 10.30 Men's Coffee 5.00 Rainbows 6.00 Brownies				

Easter District Pilgrimage



Advanced Safeguarding Training 2026 Dates

There a number of **Advanced Safeguarding Training** opportunities taking place this year.. These sessions are vital for anyone involved in leadership, pastoral care, or ministry, helping ensure we continue to create safe and healthy environments for all.

Upcoming dates and locations:

- **20 June** – Erdington Methodist Church, Sutton Park
- **25 July** – Studley Methodist Church, Bromsgrove
- **15 August** – Selly Oak Methodist Church, Birmingham
Book here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/advanced-safeguarding-training-selly-oak-methodist-church-tickets-1987956756172?aff=oddtcreator>
- **26 September** – Coventry Central Hall, Coventry
- **3 October** – Brierley Hill Methodist Church, Vale of Stour

To book a place on any of these sessions, please contact Steph directly at bradleys@methodistchurch.org.uk.

We encourage you to book early to secure your place.

On Easter Monday 11 pilgrims set out from Hereford Cathedral, where they received a blessing and walked for 5 days along parts of the Golden Valley Pilgrimage route which included many hills and lots of challenging stiles but wonderful views.

They visited 10 churches, some being very small and remote, but all a testament to hundreds of years of worship and sanctuary; the presence of bowls of daffodils evidence of recent Easter celebrations.

Joyfully walking, cooking, living and worshipping together the pilgrims became a supportive, encouraging and reflective community finding inspiration in nature and shared experiences.

Christian Aid Week Video



Christian Aid produced a video to mark Christian aid week in early May. It was shown during the morning service on Sunday 10th May. The video this year concentrated on the work that Christian Aid is doing in a Dagoretti, a slum on the outskirts of Nairobi.

From the aerial photo it could be seen how crowded the housing was and that there was no space for farming. However, Christian Aid has partnered with James Onwanda from Beacon of Hope in Nairobi and has introduced urban farming techniques. These are life changing to the poor slum dwellers.



The Christian Aid initiative has trained people how to use every small space to grow plants for food. The training involves making organic compost and growing healthy seedlings. They are using vertical farming techniques, where plant pots are attached to the side of a wall as well as hydroponics, which grow plants in troughs of water. The initiative is encouraging people to grow their own food, which means that not only can they feed their family but also have food to spare to sell in the market, giving them an income.



Youth Study

Once a fortnight a small group of our young people meet to study the Bible and enjoy fellowship together, I thought you would like to see them in action. Their diligence and careful thought is a testament to all our young people and leads me to say, what a wonderful group of people they are. What a privilege it is to spend time and support them.

Abi Godfree



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