



# Messenger

*Solihull Methodist Church*

May 2026

## Spring Harvest 2026



A group of families went to the Spring Harvest conference this Easter at Minehead. As you can see there are people of all ages in our group and we were very happy to be spending time together as you can see in our smiling faces in the photos.

**Spring Harvest** is a UK-based Christian festival held each year during the Easter holidays and organised by the Spring Harvest team. The event brings together thousands of Christians of all ages for worship, teaching, seminars, and community activities. It usually takes place at Butlin's resorts in Skegness and Minehead and runs over five days, offering programmes for children, youth, and adults. The event is designed to provide "spiritual refreshment" and help attendees return home inspired to make a difference in their communities.

The mission of Spring Harvest is to encourage Christians to grow in their faith, strengthen church communities, and equip people for everyday mission. The festival focuses on worship,

biblical teaching, and practical tools for living out Christian faith. Organisers describe the event as a place to "encounter Jesus in a fresh way" and to gather with the wider church for encouragement and inspiration.

The theme for Spring Harvest 2026 was "**No Greater Life: Embracing God's design for wholehearted love.**" This theme shaped the main celebrations, seminars, and children's programmes across the event. It encouraged attendees to explore what it means to follow Jesus fully in everyday life, focusing on worship, community, and mission.

Many attendees describe Spring Harvest as a meaningful and transformative experience. One participant shared that it was "a week of refreshing, rebuilding and reconnecting" for their faith journey.

Overall, Spring Harvest continues to be one of the UK's largest Christian festivals, bringing together worship, teaching

and community. Through its annual theme, mission-focused teaching, and shared experiences, the event aims to inspire people to deepen their faith and live out Christian values in everyday life.

Our group always returns with a feedback service to share what we have learned and a glimpse into attending the event. If you would like to attend next year the booking happens very early and so I would encourage you to speak to me as soon as you can to make this happen.

Another resource is now available if attending the event is not up your street. Spring Harvest Home is an online provision where you can view almost all talks and worship sessions as if you were there but from the comfort of your armchair. Again, if you are interested please let me know and I will get you signed up.

In conclusion we want to be sure to explain that this is one of the most joy filled, faith affirming and exciting weeks of our year and hope you can see in us all that God is doing. Blessings.

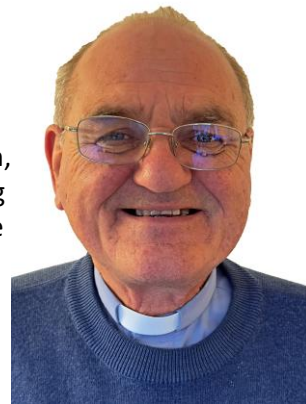
Abi



## Spring Harvest 2026



# Minister's Message – Rev Donald Ker



One of the highlights of our family trip to Italy after Easter was a visit to Pompeii. You may remember that the city of Pompeii, just to the south of Naples, was totally destroyed after a volcanic eruption from Mount Vesuvius in 79 AD. For centuries the ruins of the city lay undisturbed under the earth but in the nineteenth century excavations began and now the ruins of Pompeii are world famous. They offer much insight into how people lived in the Roman world as the Christian faith first began to spread. We have no evidence that any Christians lived in Pompeii at the time of its destruction, but the design of the city gives us a clue as to what life was like in the other cities where we know that there were Christian communities, such as Ephesus and Corinth.

I found two buildings in Pompeii to be particularly interesting. The first was the largest house in the city, owned by the richest and most influential family who lived there. It had an outside court, known as an Atrium, into which anybody could come if they wanted to consult with the owner or offer political support in return for particular favours offered. Behind that outer court was the area for entertaining guests. This area was reserved for the rich man's friends and those who were on the same social level. Most citizens didn't dare enter this area and weren't invited to do so.

It's possible that some of the early Christian communities met in large houses of a similar design to the Pompeii house. Where they did so, a problem may well have occurred. Paul writes with concern to the church in Corinth that, in their celebration of the Lord's Supper, some were able to eat but others went hungry. Could it be that those fledgling Christians who were of a lower social status felt that they were outsiders and couldn't join in the sacred meal because it happened in a part of the building from which they felt excluded? Paul is very clear that, when it comes to the Lord's Supper, no-one is to be left out. All, whatever their social status, should eat together.

The other building that interested me was the bakery. There was an oven there, looking exactly like a pizza oven, although it was used simply for baking bread. But there were also three large grinding stones which were used to mill grain into flour for the bread. These large grinding stones could be turned by a donkey or, if one wasn't available, they could be turned by a slave. There were many slaves in the ancient world. Some were gifted and involved in the education of children. Some, including those who pushed round the grinding stone, were treated like beasts of burden. They were the very lowest in society, without freedom and without dignity. As I thought about them my mind went back to the short letter that Paul wrote to Philemon. Philemon was a Christian, and probably quite well off. He owned slaves, including one named Onesimus (which means "useful"). Onesimus ran away from Philemon, which was considered a crime deserving at least of a severe beating, if not worse. Onesimus ended up with Paul who in due course sent him back to Philemon with a covering letter pleading for Philemon to receive him graciously. In that letter Paul urges Philemon to receive Onesimus "no longer as a slave but as a brother".

My visit to Pompeii underlined the various social divisions which existed in the world where the Christian faith was beginning to take root. Paul's instructions and encouragement to individuals and churches may have come as a shock to them, for he was radically inclusive. I'm not sure that they always found it easy. I'm not sure that we always find radical inclusion to be easy either, but it's at the heart of the gospel and what it means to be a Christian. Are we really treating all who belong in our church family, no matter what their background, as brothers and sisters?

## New Era for Soupa Talks

The April meeting of Soupa Talks marked the end of an era with the founding team of Bryan and Joyce Fitter, Richard and Sue Balmer and Ivan Crowdell all retiring. They started Soupa Talks in October 2013 as a daytime gathering to replace Contact. Contact (a ladies' group) had folded because it met in the evenings and folk were reluctant to venture out on dark winter nights. Ivan has been the amazing soup chef preparing over 9,000 bowls of soup over the years. The finale was a cream tea with Jean Hamilton and Graham Lowe playing the piano with delightful springtime music

To their amazement Soupa Talks, with its very varied programme and delicious soup was an immediate success. In the last 2 years the average attendance has been 70 to each meeting. Over £10,000 has been raised for charity.



*Bryan Fitter, Sue Balmer, Ivan Crowdell, Joyce Fitter and Richard Balmer*



They said none of this would have been possible without the amazing support they had, meeting after meeting, in the kitchen preparing and clearing away; putting up tables and assembling chairs (and later, storing them all away again); laying out the tables; quietly taking the money on the door; those who make the cakes, and the volunteers on the day who see a need and just get up and help out. The retiring team feel it has been a privilege to be part of it and are certain Soupa Talks will continue to serve the Church and local community as well, or even better, in the future. Glen Mullineux is getting together a new team to start in the autumn.

# Stuart Aldridge

(16<sup>th</sup> July 1939 – 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2026)

Stuart was born on 16 July 1939 in Kirkby-in-Ashfield, Nottingham, the only child of Cyril and Daisy Aldridge. He grew up with his cousins Jill, Ian and Daphne and went to Annesley School. He enjoyed maths, English, singing in the choir and he learnt to play the piano. Football, cricket and tennis were his favourite sports. He left school at 16 to start work at Mansfield Council as a junior accountant. He met Shirley at the Methodist Youth Club and they went to the cinema, youth club and coffee bars. Stuart got a job in Great Yarmouth and had to travel back to visit Shirley on his motorbike.

He trained to be an accountant and took his Chartered Institute of Public Finance exams to be fully qualified, going on to work as an accountant at Bedfordshire and Shropshire County Councils. Stuart married Shirley in 1960, and they moved to Stevenage where Stephen and then Michael were born and later on, Catherine. In 1974 they moved to Solihull for Stuart to work with Severn Trent Water Authority, ending up as a Director of Finance. Stuart was a numbers man who could remember every vehicle registration of every car he'd ever owned, every phone number for every house he'd lived in and, before computers and spreadsheets, recorded every single household expense in a little notebook.

He took early retirement at the age of 55 but did consultancy work with Haswells Engineering in Hong Kong and following that, he worked voluntarily for the Princess Royal Trust for Carers meeting the Princess Royal on a number of occasions. He was invited to a black tie concert at St James's Palace with Shirley during this time which was a real honour.

Early holidays with Stephen, Michael and Catherine were spent in Isle of Wight and then later caravanning in France which Stuart loved. Two weeks were often spent with family in France.

He tried to learn French but what he lacked in French

vocabulary he made up for in enthusiastic sign language. Stuart and Shirley enjoyed travelling the world during his retirement – Australia, New Zealand, Canada, Russia, Hong Kong, Italy and they especially liked river cruises. Stuart played golf from his 20's and was a very active member at Moseley Golf Club. His handicap got to under 20 at one point and he was very proud to score a hole-in-one on 9 June 2004 – he kept the scorecard! He also enjoyed the Men's Tuesday coffee group. He joined SMASH taking many roles and was a valued member of the Church Council taking care of so many financial issues for us. He sang bass in the Choir each week and played the piano for evening and Tuesday services. He was one of the first to volunteer to open his garden.

Stuart has always gone to church and his faith has been a constant through all of his life. He became a Local Preacher in 1967, one of the longest serving in the Birmingham Circuit: each service was carefully planned with relevant messages based on his own deep faith. Only a few weeks ago, he intently read the Lord's Prayer from the Methodist Worship book and spoke just at the end "forever and ever Amen".

Cathy says of her father "My dad was the happiest, friendliest man you could ever wish to meet. He loved to entertain, he was always smiling, positive and easy company. He loved meeting new people. He always asked after other people and was interested in what they were doing. His positive, cheerful outlook on life has been a gift." He embraced life and was a gentleman to the end – the carers at St Bernard's Care Home said his favourite word as his speech declined was "Lovely", second only to "Thank you".



**christian aid**

**Coffee Morning and Lunch**

**Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> May**  
**10 am – 2 pm**

**Solihull Methodist Community Hall**

**Car wash**

**Book sale**

**Jams and preserves**

**Ploughman's Lunches**

**Toys**

**Cake stall**

**Plant sale**

# Joan Parman

(23<sup>rd</sup> November 1930 – 25<sup>th</sup> March 2026)

Joan was born in November 1930 in the mining village of Ferryhill, County Durham. Her parents were George and Catherine Laverick, and she had a sister, Renee. Her family were Methodists, so she was brought up with a Christian faith that continued all her life.

After her school days, she went to secretarial college in Darlington. There was a shortage of work in the North East and her parents moved to Birmingham, where she met Gerald Miles, and they married in 1953 at Great Barr Methodist Church. They came to live in Solihull and had three children, Elaine, Julia and Howard.

In September 1953, Joan joined Solihull Methodist Church where she joined the choir under the care of Margaret Wharam, whilst the children were in Sunday School. During the time of Rev Bernard Dowding and then Rev John Lloyd Williams, she served as a church steward, along with George Palfreyman and Albert Lord, which she felt was quite a privilege.

She became chairman of the Solihull Barnados Committee, raising money for the organisation. She received her 25 year medal, and represented the Midlands at Westminster Abbey, where she was presented to Princess Diana in the Jerusalem Chamber – a day she would never forget. Gerald always

said that it took her a few days to come down to earth!

Joan started a Young Wives Choir at Church and was also a pastoral visitor for many years. In February 1987, Gerald and Joan moved in to 489 Streetsbrook Road to look after her parents.

Gerald's health was poor and in September 1987, during a holiday at the Methodist Hotel in Bispham, he suffered another heart attack and died three weeks later. Her parents went to live with Renee and her husband.

In December 1987, Joan moved to Dorchester Court, which was nice and handy for church, the Wesley Guild and the Fitter house group. She met Harry Parman, who became her second husband in 1991. They had a very happy marriage, danced together and travelled abroad. They were fortunate in having 20 years together before Harry died in November 2011. Joan spent her final years in Dorchester Court with many memories, and also had the pleasure of seeing five grandchildren and the birth of seven great grandchildren.



## Thank you

On behalf of the family, Elaine sends a big thank you everyone who attended Joan's service and who sent happy memories and expressions of sympathy. The family was so grateful that there was such a good turn out with good singing, to say farewell to Joan and help them remember their Mum's life so well lived

## Easter Egg Appeal

Big thank you to our Young People and everyone who contributed to our Easter Egg appeal. We sent 32 Easter Eggs and £177.52 for Solihull Hospital Charity

## Prayer Box



We pray for:

- Elaine, Julia and Howard on the death of their mother, Joan Parman
- Shirley Aldridge and family Stephen, Mike and Cathy on the death of Stuart
- Helen Reynolds, Phil and Elaine on the death of their brother Michael
- Rebecca Lo, starting a course of chemotherapy
- Pam Beattie and all her family, on the death of her sister Anne, while also recovering from further wrist surgery
- all those in our church family trying to find work

# EARLSWOOD METHODIST CHURCH

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

# GRAND FETE

**SAT 4<sup>TH</sup> 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)

# Good Friday and Easter Sunday



*Outside St Augustine's church*

## Good Friday

The Walk of Witness started in the grounds of St Augustine's Church with a hymn, reading and prayer. The cross was then carried out of the grounds, down the High St to Mell Square, where there was a short service.



*The cross leaving St Augustine's Church*



*Mell Square*

The procession then turned up Drury Lane to the High St and closed with a further reading, hymn and prayer. All then crossed the road to enjoy a hot cross bun and a warming cup of coffee in the Oliver Bird Hall.

As can be seen from the crowd in Mell Square there was a good turnout.

## Easter Sunday

The morning started with an Easter Breakfast organised by Sue Bates. This was followed by an Easter Egg Hunt for the children before everyone went across to the morning service.

As folk went into church they handed over flowers for the Easter Cross to be decorated. This decorated cross was brought into the church during the first hymn,

During the service the children were very busy colouring in sheets which were eventually put together as a collage to depict a lion to show how brave and courageous Jesus had been.



*Easter Breakfast*



*Flowers being added to the bare cross as people went into church*

*The children's collage*



*The completed Easter Cross on the steps of the church for passers by to see the glory of Easter.*

# News from Laura Yarham

Hello Sue et al,

It's so lovely to receive these Messengers still and see how much is going on at SMC. Your generation, the wonderful elders, holding the guiding light for all the ongoing activities, events and support groups the church continues to give to its members and the wider community. I see there are younger ones emerging, too, to help continue the hard work and commitment required to maintain all of this.

I loved the article and prayer about the Middle East conflict. This was very moving and beautifully expressed. And all the other articles about all the numerous activities going on, seems SMC is as vibrant as ever.

I remain so grateful for all the love and support I gained at Solihull, as well as being part of the team for a while, and the church was Mum's lifeline.

Life here in Dorset is a delight, with plenty of hard work too. I live in an intentional cohousing community with values of regenerative living, sustainability, affordability and compassionate communication. We share resources and look out for each other. We live in Passiv standard houses, so, top eco spec, with our own micro grid and we grow a lot of our own food too. I feel very fortunate to be here and give my time willingly to all the work that needs doing, as we all do. There is a short video that you and Richard might be interested in looking at, about our community, from the green perspective, I mean, here's the link.

[https://youtu.be/f\\_erUG5PFHY?si=qEWxPrE48Kb8aLYS](https://youtu.be/f_erUG5PFHY?si=qEWxPrE48Kb8aLYS)

Note there is an underscore between the 'f and the 'er 'not a space

In other news, I am a grandparent now to 1 year old twin boys, Archie and Oliver. Georgie who worked with Tina and the young people at SMC, is the fairly exhausted Mum! She and her partner, James, have their work cut out.



My dear Dad died last September, getting to a very respectable age of 94. He visited Solihull back in the day and sung the tenor part of all the hymns rather loudly, if I remember rightly! Jess, my eldest, is on her healing journey post covid and is living with me at present. We get along really well, fortunately and she is finding her feet again now.

That's the update for now, I felt it was about time I checked in and expressed my gratitude, even though I am all the way down South.

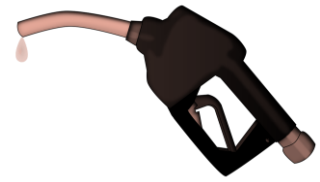
Thank you all, for continuing all the work that you do. Please send all my love to all that remember us. I wish you all a peaceful and joyous Easter.

Laura X

*The photos below are taken from the video link showing the community where Laura lives.*



# Cuban Fuel Crisis



At a time when many in Cuba are facing increasing hardship, we share this update from Bishop Ricardo Pereira, the Presiding Bishop of the Methodist Church in Cuba. In recent months, the country has been experiencing severe fuel shortages because of the blockade of shipping from Venezuela to Cuba. – no oil has been imported since early January – resulting in repeated nationwide blackouts that have left communities without power for long stretches and placed added strain on daily life and essential services. His words offer a moving glimpse into these challenges and into the faithful, compassionate ministry of the Methodist Church in Cuba as it seeks to bring hope where there is despair. As a Connexion, we hold our Cuban family before God, trusting in God’s grace at work among them and renewing our commitment to walk alongside our global partners in prayer and solidarity.

*Dear friends,*

*Greetings and blessings from Havana.*

*Thank you for your concern and prayers for the Church and the people of Cuba. The country's economic situation is deteriorating. So far this year, we have had five national power outages, which means everything comes to a standstill. Obtaining food and medicine is even more difficult, and this has brought about protests and crowd gatherings in some regions of the country.*

*In the Church, we have tried to maintain the general program we had planned for the year. The districts' efforts to hold meetings are enormous, paying ten times more for transportation (a litre of petrol costs 8\$ US ). So far, all the district conferences scheduled for March have taken place, and tonight we finish in Pinar del Río, hoping for a large gathering.*

*The Church is redoubling its efforts, bringing food, medicine and whatever else we can to those most in need, and giving hope in the midst of a people without hope.*

*Once again, our gratitude for your concern, prayers and help. May God continue to bless you,*

*Bishop Ricardo Pereira*

Join us as we pray for Cuba, holding on to this scripture of hope:

*So, we do not lose heart. Even though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature is being renewed day by day. For our slight, momentary affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all measure, because we look not at what can be seen but at what cannot be seen, for what can be seen is temporary, but what cannot be seen is eternal. (2 Corinthians 4:16–18).*

Let us pray:

Loving God, who knows all our needs before we even speak a word, we lift up the people of Cuba before your throne of grace. We pray for an end to the political impasse that is stopping the import of fuel into Cuba and affecting daily life.

We pray that US and Cuban government dialogue will result in opportunities for Cubans to flourish and reverse the sense of despair that is so prevalent in Cuba, turning it into hope.

We pray that food and healthcare support will arrive in Cuba, enabling the Cuban state, humanitarian organisations and faith-based organisations such as the Methodist Church in Cuba to offer emergency relief to local communities.

We pray for the Methodist Church in Cuba, asking you to grant Bishop Ricardo Pereira, district superintendents and other Church personnel wisdom and grace to lead the Church through this momentary affliction.

We pray that your Churches in Cuba, will not lose heart but continue to offer the eternal message of hope and salvation in Christ to their communities.

In Christ’s name we pray.

Amen.

**The Revd Richard Andrew and Matthew Forsyth**

The President and Vice-President of the Methodist Church in Britain

## Responding to Israel’s New Death Penalty

The Methodist Church in Great Britain expresses its deep alarm and profound concern at the passage of Israel’s new death penalty law, which will apply to Palestinians tried in military courts. We note with concern that some members of the Knesset appeared to glorify death by arriving for the debate wearing gold noose-shaped pins and that several lawmakers celebrated the bill’s passage with champagne inside the chamber. We applaud those members who voted against this horrific bill.

Human life is sacred. It must be protected without exception. B’Tselem, an Israeli human rights organisation, has warned that this law entrenches the dehumanisation of Palestinians and “normalizes the killing and injury of human beings,” as Executive Director Yuli Novak stated in response to the legislation.

"Israel is reaching a new low in the dehumanization of Palestinians, enshrining their cruel treatment in state law. It already kills Palestinians systematically and faces no demands

for accountability. Under the leadership of top ministers, the Israeli system is day by day becoming a system that normalizes the killing and injury of human beings."

This law has been widely condemned by international bodies, including the Foreign Ministers of the UK, France, Germany, and Italy, who issued a rare joint statement calling the law "de facto discriminatory" and the European Union, which called it a “clear step backwards” and urged Israel to uphold its obligations under international law.

We reaffirm unequivocally that life is sacred. It must be safeguarded, whether threatened by war, terrorism, crime or by the power of the state itself. The normalisation of state-sanctioned killing erodes justice, undermines human rights and diminishes the dignity of all.

**The Revd Richard Andrew and Matthew Forsyth**

President and Vice-President of the Methodist Conference in Britain

# Green Matters

## 'We don't always know what we don't know'.

The heading comes from Donald Rumsfeld, one time US Secretary of Defence. He was saying we know some things, we know we don't know some things, but we also don't know what we don't know. He talked of 'unknown unknowns' and was widely ridiculed but it is a wise and humble observation. I, and the Greener Church Group, don't know what we don't know about green matters.

Fortunately, we have a wonderful Church and, frequently, someone comes to us with a suggestion we just hadn't thought of. I want to highlight 3 suggestions received recently in the hope that others will be encouraged to do the same. We would far rather we told of something we **do** know, than **not** be told of something we might not know.

First, a few months ago, Stan Field came to me. Stan said "Do you know anyone who recycles hearing aids?" I had absolutely no idea. The thought they might have value had never crossed my mind. They were so small. Lo and behold a search on the internet came up trumps. They did have value and many undertakers in particular will forward them to recyclers.

Around the same time Richard Burr sent me a link to a web site adding "You might be interested in this". It was about recycling electric cables. Again, I had no idea these could be recycled. I knew about recycling unwanted copper piping and other metals, but not cables. Surely it was not worth the trouble to strip off the plastic insulation just for a bit of copper. Wrong again. There are machines which can strip the insulation off and, in the case of mains cables, around a third, by weight, is precious copper.

As a direct result of Stan's and Richard's initiatives, the Greener Church Group collected both hearing aids and electric cables



in this year's Big New Year Recycle. We received £38 for the cables from Cable Wire Recycling (their yard is just alongside the M6 A4040 Junction), that's £38 that will go to our next environmental charity. I chatted to the manager. His grandfather had come to the UK from Kashmir and it hit me that people like his grandson were a crucial link in an environmental chain. Our Church might collect recycling materials (which is essential), but unless someone like the grandson organises the messy business of separating out the valuable metal, our efforts will have achieved nothing.

And this takes me to the third person, Fiona Beadle. A few weeks ago Fiona said to me "Have you ever recommended the use charity shops in these pages?" I was embarrassed to have to say no, because charity shops are another essential link in an environmental chain. We can happily take clothes, books, whatever, to the Heart Foundation or another charity shop but, if someone else doesn't buy those things, the shops will have to close. Also Fiona added this very shrewd point: she can buy branded clothes she couldn't otherwise afford. It's a win for her, the environment, and the charity.

## A Few Recycling Reminders

What recycling plants are trying to do is separate unwanted items into streams of different raw material: paper, glass, different kinds of plastic and so on. So:

Don't put your recycling into bags. The recycling machinery can't see into the bag to separate out the different items.

Don't put mixed items in the recycling. Christmas and other cards often have glitter on the card. Toothbrushes, for example, often come packaged with a plastic front stuck to a cardboard back. The card could be recycled and so could the plastic but not when stuck together.

Put bottle tops on containers and jars. They stop stuff getting inside.

Don't put any small items, for example screws, in your recycling. They get lost in the conveyors.

**If you see or hear of a good idea, please remember we would far rather be told of something we do know, than not be told of something we don't.**

*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**

# Our Story, Our Song: Growing your Calling in Worship

**With the President of the Methodist Conference**

Do you feel called to lead worship or see it flourish in your church?

Join us for a day designed to encourage, equip and inspire everyone involved in worship across our churches.

**Saturday 9 May | 9:30-15:30**  
**Trinity Methodist Church, Kidderminster, DY10 2JL**

Save the date! More information coming soon...



Mark your calendar!

## 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



## 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](mailto: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 June Messenger items is Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> May**

## 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



**Diane Webb**  
Pastoral and Community Worker



**Chris Giles**  
Pastoral Coordinator



**Deborah Webb**  
Church Lettings Officer

**Church Office**  
**0121 705 7367**  
**[www.solihull-methodist.org.uk](http://www.solihull-methodist.org.uk)**



# May Diary

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					<b>1</b> 10.00 Cantonese Fellowship 6.30 Youth Club	<b>2</b>
<b>3</b> 10.30 Morning service Dr Sue Ann Mak	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> 9.30 Communion 10.00 Bible Study 10.30 Men's Coffee 5.00 Rainbows 6.00 Brownies	<b>6</b> 9.30 Morning prayers by Zoom	<b>7</b> 8.15 Badminton	<b>8</b> 10.00 Cantonese Fellowship 10.30 Friendship cafe  6.30 Youth Club	<b>9</b> 10.00 Christian Aid Coffee Morning and Lunch
<b>10</b> 10.30 Morning service with Holy Communion Rev Donald Ker 6.30 Prayer Space	<b>11</b> 9.45 Pushchair Club 10.00 Shall we talk? 7.30 Scouts	<b>12</b> 9.30 Communion 10.00 Bible Study 10.30 Men's Coffee 5.00 Rainbows 6.00 Brownies 7.00 Youth study	<b>13</b> 9.30 Morning prayers by Zoom	<b>14 Ascension Day</b> 6.00 Beavers 6.30 Cubs 8.15 Badminton	<b>15</b> 10.00 Cantonese Fellowship  6.30 Youth Club	<b>16</b>
<b>17</b> 10.30 Morning service Rev Peter Bates	<b>18</b> 9.45 Pushchair Club 10.00 Shall we talk? 7.30 Scouts	<b>19</b> 9.30 Communion 10.00 Bible Study 10.30 Men's Coffee 5.00 Rainbows 6.00 Brownies	<b>20</b> 9.30 Morning prayers by Zoom	<b>21</b> 9.30 Ramble 6.00 Beavers 6.30 Cubs 8.15 Badminton	<b>22</b> 10.00 Cantonese Fellowship 10.30 Friendship café 6.30 Youth Club	<b>23</b>
<b>24 Pentecost</b> 10.30 Morning service led by the Praise Party team  6.30 Reflective communion service with prayers for healing Rev Chris Giles and Sue Kelley	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> 9.30 Communion 10.00 Bible Study 10.30 Men's Coffee	<b>27</b> 9.30 Morning prayers by Zoom	<b>28</b> 6.00 Beavers 6.30 Cubs 8.15 Badminton	<b>29</b> 10.00 Cantonese Fellowship	<b>30</b>
<b>31</b> 10.30 Morning service Rev Donald Ker						

**PROSTATE HEALTH CHECK**

## Solihull PSA Blood Testing Event

The PSA test is a blood test that can give an indication of the overall health of your prostate and may identify early signs of potential issues before symptoms occur.



**Who is it for?**  
All men aged between 45 and 80 years

**How much does it cost?**  
Testing is Free (each test costs our group £26.00 and donations will be gratefully received)

**When is it?**  
Saturday 13th June 2026  
10.00am until 2.00pm


**Where is it?**  
Solihull Methodist Community Hall, Station Approach, Solihull B91 1LE

**How do I book?**  
By appointment only - book online by visiting [tinyurl.com/yc3r576y](http://tinyurl.com/yc3r576y) or scan the QR code

Solihull Prostate Cancer Support Group

Supported by **tackle** prostate cancer

In collaboration with 

## Church Project News



### Night of Escape Rooms

On Saturday 18 April, 4 teams, 5 or 6 strong, challenged some "escape rooms". There were 4 different "rooms" available, and each team attempted 2 of these during the evening with a break for food in between.

Each "room" had a games master who explained the situation, invited the team to examine what was around and try out ideas, and reported on the results of such explorations. This meant that puzzles requiring solution were discovered and the solutions enabled further actions to be taken. The games masters ably provided assistance when required and tried to dissuade teams from following potential red herrings.

It was all great fun, everyone successfully "escaped" and nobody was left in the Hall overnight. It was hoped that a similar event could be held in the future.

Very many thanks to all those involved in organising and participating, particularly Janice, Abi and Jacki.

### Piano Recital

by KK Hung  
Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> June  
3.00 pm  
In the church



# Young Church News

## End of term dance party

This photo shows the Youth Club enjoying a dance party at the end of term.

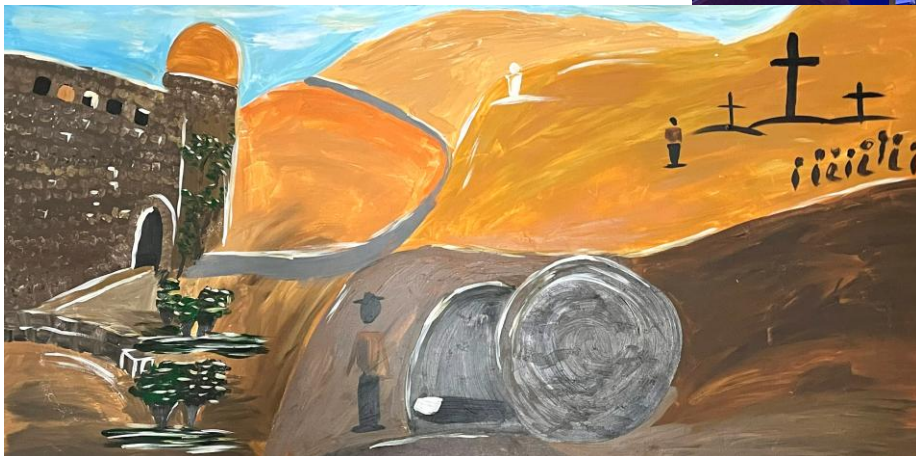


## Celebration Saturday for Lent/Easter

On the day before Palm Sunday, there was a Celebration Saturday event to mark Holy Week (the end of Lent) and Easter. About 48 people (children and adults) took part. Things started with a range of activities including games, an Easter egg hunt, and a puzzle trail.

After this, things settled down and Abi took us through the events leading up to Easter itself. This was illustrated by a large painting which was initially incomplete. It was added to as we learned about Jesus's entry to Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, the Last Supper, the betrayal by Judas in the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus's trial and crucifixion and his glorious rising from the tomb.

A few songs also reflected on the ideas involved and we were grateful to Medina Cole for providing piano accompaniment.



*The large finished Easter painting that was started at Celebration Saturday. It can be seen unfinished behind Abi in the church.*

*It was on display in the church on Easter Sunday.*

## Contemporary Worship

60 people gathered in Church for our evening of contemporary worship, with sung worship, fun, food and friends. It was an opportunity for people to come and experience contemporary worship, a different style of worship for our Church. The large picture from the day before was there and there was more to do to finish the image. The service started with a session of modern hymns and songs underpinned by Audrey leading the song set with the band. As the worship continued the energy and excitement was palpable and towards the end the younger folk could not resist the chance to have a go themselves and form their own band and they did it instantly! it was a great evening with young people, families and the young at heart.



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