

IN TOUCH

F E B R U A R Y 2 0 2 6

**Lent is a
Spiritual
Reboot**

**Around the
Circuit**

**Lent &
Easter**

Lent

is a spiritual reboot.

A journey of pausing, breathing and
making s p a c e for God.



The Methodist Church

Herefordshire (South & East) **Circuit**

Dear Friends,

I must be getting old! It only seems as if it was Christmas yesterday, and Lent is now nearly upon us. These last few weeks, we have been talking about Lent Courses, Lent Lunches, and Soup.

We have Lent Courses at each of our churches, so keep a listening ear for the times and dates in the notices.

This year, as is the pattern now, the Connexion has prepared a theme for us to follow, opening liturgies and objects for each Sunday in Lent:-

This year the theme is— Pause. Breathe. Make space for God.

Lent is bigger than giving up chocolate. It's about letting go of what weighs us down and being open to what lifts us up. The benefits last longer than 40 days – it's a way of life, and we do it together.

Lent is a season of invitation. It calls us to loosen our grip on what holds us back habits, assumptions, fears – and to open ourselves to the transforming presence of God. Each week in our worship, we explore a different mindset shift: letting go of something that limits us, and becoming open to something that brings life. This journey is not linear or easy. It echoes the experience of the disciples who again and again had to let go of what was familiar in order to follow Jesus more deeply.

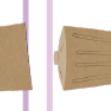
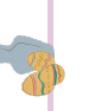
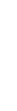
As the Revd Dr Roger Walton writes:

“And in this relationship they [the disciples] kept having to return to that very first experience of leaving things behind. Mark tells that Simon and Andrew ‘left everything’ to follow. But this was only the beginning. The symbolic leaving behind of boats and nets is met again and again in their experience of travelling with Jesus. They have to leave places where they have been popular (Mark 6:45) or had divine illumination (9:8), and exchange territories of relative safety for places of danger (10:32). Most of all they have to let go of established ideas that have formed their world view up to this point: that the wealthy were blessed by God; that greatness lies in power over others; that men rather than women and children were the ones to show the way to God; that victory would never involve humiliation and suffering. All these notions would be challenged along the way, and the disciples would be invited over and over again to let go and follow.”

Thank you for the support, love and care you have all offered to me and Caroline over the difficult times we have been having. Caroline has one more session of Chemo in February, and we hope when she has recovered from that to be able to take a break and some kind of holiday.

My Father's funeral will be on the 10th February, 1pm at Llanelli Crematorium. I will be conducting the funeral, and my brother and I are writing his Eulogy. Your prayers on that day will be appreciated.

Every blessing Phil

Date	Weekly theme	Old Testament	New Testament	Object
Lent 1: 22 February	Let go of idols, make room for God	Genesis 2:15–17; 3:1–7	Matthew 4:1–11	
Lent 2: 1 March	Let go of the form, embrace the spirit	Genesis 12:1–4a	John 3:1–17	
Lent 3: 8 March	Let go of scarcity, embrace abundance	Exodus 17:1–7	John 4:5–42	
Lent 4: 15 March	Let go of appearances, and embrace what's inside	1 Samuel 16:1–13	John 9:1–41	
Lent 5: 22 March	Let go of despair, embrace 'respair'	Ezekiel 37:1–14	John 11:1–45	
Palm Sunday: 29 March	Let go of violence, embrace gentleness	Psalm 118:1–2, 19–29	Matthew 21:1–11	
Good Friday: 3 April	Let go of certainty, embrace mystery	Psalm 22	John 18:1 – 19:42	
Easter Sunday: 5 April	Let go of fear, embrace joy	Jeremiah 31:1–6	Matthew 28:1–10	

Wrestling with God

It is not always easy to get on with God. Take Creation for instance. It is astonishing and beautiful but it is also cruel and unforgiving – or is it unfair to speak of it in human terms? Let's say it is indifferent and governs us with iron laws. I wouldn't recommend jumping off a parapet trusting that you won't be broken on the stones. All Nature shows a struggle for existence - “red in tooth and claw”. Our bodies too are a battleground and as someone once said, “Nature intends to kill us in the end”. Our hymns and prayers don't include such things.

And speaking of prayers; we celebrate those that are answered but ignore the 99% that are not. A church may advertise – “Miracles happen here” but they are in short supply. Not many of Sudan's stones are turned into bread for a hungry people. And the angels did not show up on Calvary..

We dream of a better world but can't quite imagine it. We strive for a better world but can't achieve it. “Two thousand years of wrong” have shown little gain in the things that matter most. There are still wars and rumours of wars and the poor are still with us. It is as though each generation has to start afresh, such is the raw material of human nature. The darkness has not overcome the light but neither has the light overcome the darkness. If the Kingdom is not yet, what then this brief existence ?

How intractable the problems. We shore up what we have gained with our laws; resist the aggressor and strengthen our defences, all the time knowing that we compromise our principles and fall short. It all sits uneasily in our Christian thinking, not willing to leave our ideals for another day.

We are kindly people, hoping that tolerance and talking are enough, but how can we empty our wallets to every beggar, take home each homeless family, give everyone an equal share, meet every demand for benefits, welcome every stranger off the boats?

In a family we find that children don't thrive on indulgence. Is that the way with God? So it is God, not Satan that may drive us into the wilderness, as it was with the Hebrews. This is easy to say but many look for justice, and behold a cry. Walter Smith had it right:

*“Immortal, invisible, God only wise / In light inaccessible hid from our eyes ...
unresting, unhaunting and silent as light, nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in
might”*

And what of Job who had everything torn from him? That too was God's doing.. (And let us not be consoled by the scribes who added a happy ending to the story.) As the dramatist says: *“Is it for a man who disputes with the Almighty to be stubborn?”* And, like Job, *“I have spoken of things which I have not understood.”*

Graham

Around the Circuit

Ledbury News

Christmas was a joyous – and busy – time. I suppose I could list all the special things that happened, but that might make for rather tedious reading, so let's mention just a couple of them. It was good to have a Midnight communion on Christmas Eve again: unspoken fears that no one would turn up proved unfounded, and about 15 of us shared a rather precious time together. Earlier in the month, Rev Bev Ramsden from St Michael's Hospice had led their Light Up a Life Service in our church – again goodly numbers there for what was a somewhat poignant occasion. But our thanks to everyone who led worship, acted in the DiY Nativity, stewarded at the Nativity Festival, sang carols or shook collecting tins around the town, provided mince pies or other treats for the carol service, cooked for the lunch club, or simply shared your faith and company with us over that time: we do appreciate all you do. And, oh dear, I do seem to have listed most of the things that took place. Sorry!

It was also a joy and a privilege in early December to welcome Joy, Lilian and Favour into membership of Ledbury Methodist Church. We look forward to continuing to share your friendship in the future.

Good intentions went walkabout when the first planned garden working party of 2026 met with hard frost that prevented work being progressed. Still, the cups of tea were nice. And two more dates were fixed in the hopes that snow, ice, rain (or even over-bearing heat) can be avoided next time.

Work is in hand to fix ecumenical Lent discussion groups. At time of writing, details have not been formally agreed, so you'll just have to curb your enthusiasm till next month's In Touch. By which time, of course, the sessions will hopefully have started. Such is life.

And finally – I noticed Easter Eggs were on sale in the local shops today – and I'm writing this on 9th January. Nothing like forward planning.

Brian Hudson

St. John's

The last time I wrote for In Touch it was mid- November which seems such an age ago. In the meantime, some of us have loved and lost, some have been hospitalised, some have received unexpected news.....some of it joyful, some of it painful.....and so the world rolls on.

For our church Christmas Tree this year we invited everyone to embrace the concept of Gifts. We wrote our wishes, hopes and dreams on gift tags to decorate the tree.

Here are some thoughts from St John's which surfaced as a result.

- * That Peace in the world, our gatherings, our church family, our own families be more than hope or wishful thinking.
- * That the spirit of Christmas may continue to be seen and felt and experienced.
- * That teachers may inspire their young charges
- * That our churches be blessed with an outpouring of the Holy Spirit

This desperate need for PEACE, expressed so often, was the overriding prayer/wish/hope that we would gift to our church, our families, our friends, our neighbours....and all people in all parts of this beautiful world which is slowly being maimed and damaged for reasons which are beyond our understanding.

As we reflect on the meaningful Christmas Services, the Covenant Service of Hope and Commitment, those gift tags bearing the word PEACE, may we do and say whatever we can to whomever we meet in whatever circumstance we find ourselves in our small corner of the globe. Let our light quietly shine.

We look forward to our New Year party on January 17th and wish all who read In Touch a peaceful, happy and healthy New Year for 2026.

Pat Peden

STOP PRESS

Details of the Lent course are now available - please see p. 14.

Bromyard

We have our Church Council meeting on Saturday 7 February at 10am when we will have a lot to report on. Our Solar Microgeneration scheme is to go ahead, Warm Welcome is well attended with 40/50 folks regularly attending; no doubt the weekly 'Food Share' is quite an attraction but it is so good to see food being distributed instead of being dumped. Soul Space has developed into a popular time for 9 – 12 year olds on a Thursday evening with a regular dozen or so children attending and enjoying time crafting, playing games and having Discussion Time! These activities are well supported by Diocesan Workers and friends from St. Joseph's (Catholic) and St. Peter's (CofE) churches here in Bromyard. The Lent Hunger Lunches are being revived this year, all being accommodated in our church Hall on Wednesdays at 12.30pm commencing February 25, from then each Wednesday with the final one on April 1st, the three churches providing the soup and rolls in turn each week. There will be Bible studies in Lent but details are yet to be announced.

World Day of Prayer 2026

Friday 6th March 2026

Ledbury Methodist Church, 2pm



There don't appear to be any services in Hereford this year, but there is a service in Ledbury (as above), and also one at Leominster Baptist Church, also at 2.00pm.

There is one at Marden Church, in the Maund group of churches, and this one is slightly later, at 2.30pm.

Everyone - men as well as women! - is welcome at any of these.

Christmas thanks

One of the traditions introduced to St. John's by Alan and Joyce Wayman was to give a tin of biscuits to each church member over the age of 90, and even though the Waymans are no longer at St. John's the tradition has continued. In 2025 16 boxes of biscuits were distributed! That the biscuits, and especially the thought behind them, are appreciated is obvious, as evidenced in this letter we received:

'Dear Friends,

What a lovely surprise I had from you all - when I asked 'Why me?' 'Because you are a senior'!

Although I find it difficult with mobility problems I still feel I belong to St. John's and enjoy joining in when I can. My first visit to the Methodist church in Hereford was to Bridge Street when I came to college - the minister was informed of my arrival so I went to Bridge Street. However, it was to St. Owen Street that I went thereafter, with college friends meeting up with those from the RAF! Now living in The Chapel in Bridge Street I'm in church every day.

Very many thanks to you all for thinking of me. I wish I could be more involved but think of you all often and remember many years of being involved with the friends at St. John's.

Best wishes for a happy and healthy 2026 to everyone.

Rosemary Whitehouse'

Hereford's New Junior Mayor

On 19th January Lavenia Tauri was installed as the new Junior Mayor of Hereford. Before lockdown Lavenia and her brother Jeremiah used to come to S Club (Sunday School, in old language) at St. John's.

The picture shows Lavenia on the left, with Councillor Kevin Tillett (former mayor) and Stefan Dragomir (the outgoing Junior Mayor).

Well done, Lavenia!



(Photograph from Hereford City Council)

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t	t	v	n	i	g	h	t	d	c	x	j
s	h	i	l	o	h	s	a	m	u	e	l

talked	calling	God
Israel	right	speak
Shiloh	ignored	sons
stopped	priest	answered
night	brought	Lord
Eli	heard	listening
leave	sorry	Samuel
demanded	third	morning

Friends and Neighbours

As churchgoers and Christians, we face the fact that we are living in a country which is nominally ‘Christian’, but which nowadays is largely secular. The 2021 Census showed 46% of the population as Christian, the first time this figure had dipped below 50% (down from 59% in 2011). Over the same period of time the percentage of people claiming ‘no religion’ had jumped from 25% to 37%. The most recent statistics indicate that people claiming ‘no religion’ is 53% but that amongst 18-24 year olds the figure is 68%. When it comes to ‘active church-goers’ (defined as attending Church at least once a month) numbers were 8% in 2018, but had risen to 12% in 2024 (although interestingly this was largely driven by an increase amongst 18-24 year olds).

We all value our family and friends, and the companionship and support we get from them is an integral part of our lives. Outside family, friendship is normally founded upon mutual affection, and a sharing of experiences or mutual interests. So for Christians, friendship often includes doing things together which are related to our shared faith – going to Church and joining in church activities,

attending seminars, festivals or retreats, perhaps doing things together of an outreach nature (street pastoring, or Easter marches etc). All this is right, proper and natural, and it may well form the bulk of our social interactions. It encourages us in our faith and helps us to live our lives in a Christian way.

But what about ‘non-Christian’ friends? Do we have many? The above statistics demonstrate that, generally speaking, there will be far fewer Christians amongst the people we come across than non-Christians, thus making random encounters with Christians unlikely, and making new Christian friends outside Church pretty difficult. So any non-Christian friends we have may well be smaller in number than our Christian ones. How do we regard them? Do we feel reticent, or shy, especially when talking about our faith? Should we regard them in the same way as our Christian friends?

There has in the past (and still is in some places) a strong disapproval of Christians having friendly contact with ‘worldly’ people. There is an old children’s chorus which tells us, in language inspired by Psalm 1, that a Christian ‘does not walk, stand nor talk, with the wicked day by day, for chaff are these, which the breeze driveth far away.’ In Luke ch 15 we read that Jesus attracted angry

criticism because he was seen eating with ‘tax collectors and sinners’. Jesus responded with the parables of the lost sheep and the lost coin, demonstrating that in God’s eyes one lost person (non-Christian) is worth as much to Him as a Christian, and indeed is to be sought after and welcomed.

And that, perhaps, is our cue.

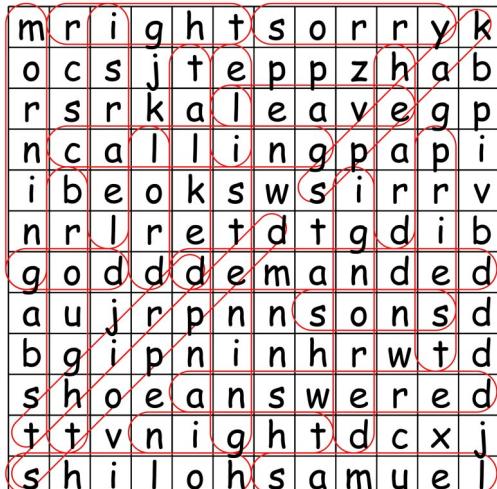
If we have non-Christian friends, Jesus said we should value them too. And I would suggest that this does not necessarily mean constantly promoting our faith (i.e. with a view to converting them), which is likely to be counterproductive. They will know that we are faith people, and if we quietly and consistently behave in a loving, caring and Christian way, we will perhaps do more to demonstrate our beliefs than if we invite them to Church every time we see them.

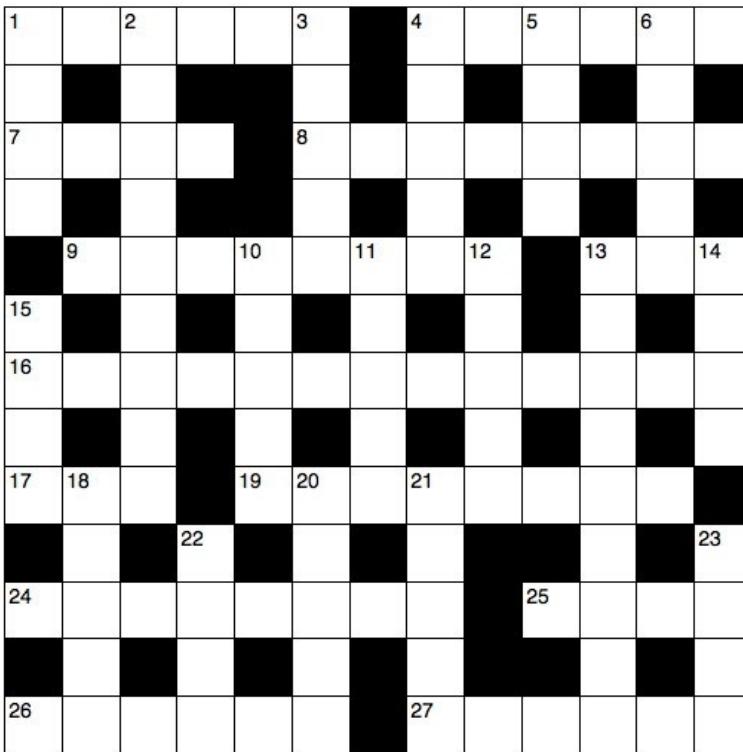
We English are a funny lot; we are far more comfortable discussing our intimate health problems with our friends (or others come to that) than talking about matters of personal belief. It takes a tragedy, or an accident, an unexpected illness or a death in the family for us to open up, and then only briefly before the door shuts again. This may be the only chance we get to have a little chat with a non-Christian friend, but we just might make real difference. On occasions like this, The Lord will guide us if we listen to Him.

In Luke !0 Jesus was being grilled by a lawyer as to what is the greatest commandment. ‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart, and your neighbour as yourself.’ was Jesus’ profound reply. ‘And who is my neighbour?’ asked the lawyer, which was a trap. Jesus replied with the parable of the Good Samaritan, one of the great declarations of Christian love, love towards somebody outside his listeners’ social norms, somebody who would be make them uncomfortable to be with. ‘Go,’ said Jesus to the lawyer, ‘go and do likewise.’

So let’s think about our non-Christian friends at the beginning of this new year 2026, hold them in our prayers and hearts, and our neighbours too, wherever we may find them.

Chris Knight





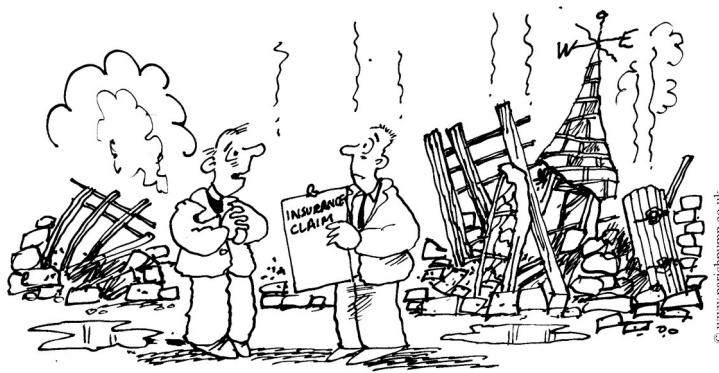
Across

- 1 'If you love those who love you, what — is that to you?' (Luke 6:32) (6)
- 4 'They threw the ship's — overboard' (Acts 27:19) (6)
- 7 The first murderer (Genesis 4:8) (4)
- 8 He was the head Levite in charge of the singing when the ark of God was brought back to Jerusalem (1 Chronicles 15:22) (8)
- 9 Samson was noted for this (Judges 16:6) (8)
- 13 Solicit money or food from passers by (Acts 3:2) (3)
- 16 What William Booth's Christian Mission became in 1878 (9,4)
- 17 Alliance of Religions and Conservation (1,1,1)
- 19 'I will praise your name for ever and ever. — — I will praise you' (Psalm 145:1–2) (5,3)
- 24 Simon had (anag.) (8)
- 25 Desperate (Deuteronomy 28:48) (4)
- 26 Elisha witnessed the boy he was seeking to resuscitate do this seven times before opening his eyes (2 Kings 4:35) (6)

27 The belly and thighs of the statue in Nebuchadnezzar's dream were made of this (Daniel 2:32) (6)

Down

- 1 'Before the — crows, you will disown me three times' (Matthew 26:75) (4)
- 2 Relating to the books of the Bible between Acts and Revelation (9)
- 3 'They have — the Lord out of the tomb, and we don't know where they have put him!' (John 20:2) (5)
- 4 Belief (5)
- 5 'Take the following fine spices: ... 250 shekels of fragrant — ' (Exodus 30:23) (4)
- 6 'Do not — Jerusalem, but wait for the gift' (Acts 1:4) (5)
- 10 A seer (anag.) (5)
- 11 'Even there your hand will — me' (Psalm 139:10) (5)
- 12 The wild variety was part of John the Baptist's diet (Mark 1:6) (5)
- 13 A non-Greek speaker who was looked down on by civilized people (Colossians 3:11) (9)
- 14 Famous 1950s musical whose characters included members of
- 16 Across, — and Dolls (4)
- 15 The province from which Paul wrote to the Corinthians (1 Corinthians 16:19) (4)
- 18 'He was standing in the gateway with a linen cord and a measuring — — his hand' (Ezekiel 40:3) (3,2)
- 20 'Today, if you hear his — , do not harden your hearts as you did in the rebellion' (Hebrews 3:15) (5)
- 21 The Jericho prostitute who hid two Israelite spies on the roof of her house (Hebrews 11:31) (5)



...er... apart from this little hiccup... it was an excellent church pancake supper...

Darkness and light

As I write in what seems the bleakness of January, everything seems pretty dark - the tree is down, the cards are down, the lights are down and so are we. All the glamour and glitter of Christmas has gone and here we are in the dark again. And then February comes along, seemingly equally bleak, cold and dark, and yet bang in the middle of it we have the great celebration of love that is Valentine's Day. Red roses are called for and cost three times what they do normally. Romantic dinners are indicated and special evenings out. Red hearts are in every shop window and very cheerful they are.

St Valentine was a 3rd century priest or Bishop in Rome who apparently helped administer to persecuted Christians. He himself was martyred and his body was buried on February 14th, hence St Valentine's Day. He is the saint of engaged couples, against fainting, and also of happy marriages, bees and, curiously, the plague. One common legend about him says that he defied the orders of the Emperor and secretly married couples to save the husbands from having to go to war. Whoever he was he is certainly well celebrated in this country, and his day lightens one of the bleak months of the year.

And yet for those of us who follow the Christian way, there is always light in our lives for we are the people of Jesus Christ, the one who said 'I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life' (John 8 v.12) so that even in the darkest times in our lives, when events and circumstances bring us to fear or grief or illness, we know that we have the light of Christ to sustain us. Sometimes it may seem a very little light in a very dark world a light that surely must be blown out by the sheer awfulness of the world around us. But then there is that other quote from John's gospel to give us hope: 'The light shines in the darkness and the darkness has never put it out. ' (John 1 v 5)

Happy February and happy St Valentine's Day!

Wendy Werrell

Crossword Answers

ACROSS: 1, Credit. 4, Tackle. 7, Cain. 8, Kenaniah. 9, Strength. 13, Beg. 16, Salvation Army. 17, ARC. 19, Every day. 24, Admonish. 25, Dire. 26, Sneeze. 27, Bronze.

DOWN: 1, Cock. 2, Epistolic. 3, Taken. 4, Tenet. 5, Cane. 6, Leave. 10, Erase. 11, Guide. 12, Honey. 13, Barbarian. 14, Guys. 15, Asia. 18, Rod in. 20, Voice. 21, Rahab. 22, Hope. 23, Mene.

St. John's Lent Course

This year's Lent course is titled 'A Place for us', based on the 2021 production of West side Story. The sessions will be held on each Friday during Lent and after each session there will be a simple lunch of soup and bread. **Each session will start at 11.30am** except for the first session which will start at 10.30am so that we can all watch the whole film together. The dates and themes are as follows:

1. 20th February Showing of West Side Story
2. 27th February Belonging
3. 6th March Otherness and difference
4. 13th March The gift of love
5. 20th March The promise of a place for us
6. 27th March Tragedy and betrayal

Nigel Williams



Concert

featuring Welsh Music, Song & Dance

Hereford URC HR1 1UJ

Saturday 21st February at 7.00pm

Starring Bronwen Wilkins, Harpist
The Three Tenders, Singers, and
Gwerinwyr Gwent, Welsh Folk Dancers

Entry by donation

Proceeds raised in aid of MNDA

FAITH and UNCERTAINTY

Ecumenical discussions in Lent 2026



This year our ecumenical reflections during Lent take the form of a short series of meetings based on themes suggested by the recent award-winning cinema film: '**Conclave**'.

The series begins with an act of ecumenical worship, at the Parish Room of Holy Trinity Roman Catholic Church, New Street on

Tuesday 24th February, at 7.15pm.



Our guest speaker at this event will be the author and biographer of Pope Francis, **Austen Ivereigh**. He was present in Rome reporting the Conclave which chose Pope Leo XIV.

The core programme of **Three Lent Meetings** will be held at Ledbury Methodist Church – with afternoon and evening options ! **Afternoon** meetings will be held on

Tuesdays at 2.15pm – 3rd, 10th and 17th March

Evening meetings *covering the same ground* will be held on

Wednesdays at 7.15pm – 4th, 11th and 18th March

(feel free to mix and match afternoon and evening meetings)

On **Tuesday 24th March** at 7.15pm we gather at Holy Trinity RC church in New Street for ecumenical worship centred on the **Stations of the Cross**.



There are seven Repair Cafés in Herefordshire

When and where are they?

Please check details via social media / websites

Golden Valley Repair Café

@ Alternating between Kingstone, Dorstone and Ewyas Harold

10am-12:30pm

Book items in by email:

gvrrepaircafe@gmail.com

www.gvrepaircafe.org.uk

Ledbury Repair Café

@ Ledbury Community Hall

10am-12:30pm (no sessions January / July)

Book online:

Repaircafeledbury.org.uk

Leominster Repair Café - Bin it? No way!

@ Leominster Community Centre

10am-12pm (no session January)

Book online / turn up:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/leominsterrepaircafe.org.uk/?ref=share>

Marden Repair Café

@ Marden Links Parish Hub

10am-1pm

Book online in advance (preferred):

www.marden-links.org/repair-cafe

FIRST Saturday of the month:

LAST Saturday of the month:



THIRD Saturday of the month:

South Hereford Repair Café

@ Dinedor Village Hall

10am-12:30pm (no session in December)

Book online:

www.repaircafesouthhereford.org.uk



SECOND Saturday of the month:

Archenfield Repair Café

@ Llangrove Village Hall

But March session

@ The Barron Centre, Llangarron

2pm-4pm

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1706873959793154/?ref=share>



Calling All Knitters!

Knitters at all the churches are busy again! Here are patterns for a simple hat and a scarf, suitable for putting in 'Shoe Boxes' at Christmas. If you would like something a bit different, there are also details of the latest Mystery Lent Knitalong from Victoria Methodist Church in Bristol (facing page).

Pattern for Knitted Hat.

No 8 needles (4mm), Double knitting wool

Cast on 96 stitches.

(Work in K2, P2 Rib) - 5" for Beanie hat, 8" for ordinary hat

When required length of Rib completed for your choice of hat, start decreasing for crown of hat:

(K 6, K 2 tog) to end of row (84 sts)

P 1 row, K 1 row, P 1 row.

(K 5, K 2 tog.) to end of row (72 sts)

P 1 row, K 1 row, P 1 row.

(K 4, K 2) tog to end of row (60sts)

P 1 row, K 1 row, P 1 row.

(K 3, K 2 tog) to end of row (48sts)

P 1 row, K 1 row, P 1 row.

(K 2, K 2 tog) to end of row (36sts)

P 1 row, K 1 row, P 1 row.

(K 1, K 2) tog to end of row (24sts)

P 1 row, K 1 row, P 1 row.

(K 2 tog) to end of row (12 sts)

Thread wool through all 12 stitches and pull up to close. Sew up seam and sew in any loose ends.

Knitting pattern for SCARF

No 8 needles (4mm) Double knitting wool

Cast on 27 stiches

Work 10 rows in Garter stitch (knit every row)

Then - Moss stitch with border: K4; P1; K1 to last 4 stitches K4

Continue to required length - 36" or 1 metre (39") finishing with 10 rows of Garter stitch. Cast off. To finish off, sew in all ends.

Mystery Lent Knitalong

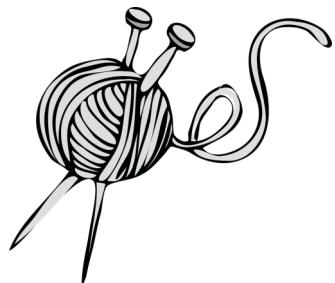
Victoria Methodist Church in Bristol are delighted to be hosting another mystery Lent Knitalong this year!

Knitters all over the world are warmly invited to join us as we knit a large, drapey shoulder wrap (this can be partially sewn up at the end to create a poncho, or left open as a wrap) using daily knitting pattern instructions which are accompanied by specially written reflections.

Full details, including yarn/needle requirements, release dates and a pattern for a practice swatch, will be outlined in the Welcome letter, which will be released on Friday 30th January.* As before, kits will also be available from No Frills Knitting for UK knitters; more information on these will also be included in the Welcome letter.

If you are a Facebook user, you are invited to join the dedicated Facebook group community (Victoria Methodist Bristol Knitalongs). The Welcome letter will be published on the group, on our website, as well as being sent by email to this mailing list.

**You will obviously be reading this newsletter after 30th January but you can still register to take part in the Knitalong!*





LENT SOUP LUNCHES

wednesdays in lent

12:30pm on each of the Wednesdays during Lent

February 25th to April 1st 2026

Hosted at Bromyard Methodist Church

(New Road, Opp the Fire Station)

Soup, Bread and something spiritual provided in turn by St Joseph's, St Peter's and Bromyard Methodists. All welcome.



CHRISTIANS
TOGETHER
IN
BROMYARD

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Bible Bitz

It can be read in the Bible in
1 Samuel 2:11-17, 22-25, 3:1-21

A short story from the Bible

As soon as he was old enough to leave his parents, Samuel went to live at God's temple in Shiloh, with the priest, Eli...

Eli's sons were also priests, but they helped themselves to what people had brought to give to God.



Eli talked to them about it. They ignored him.



But Samuel did all the work he was given well.

One night, after everyone had gone to bed, Samuel heard someone calling him.



He thought it was Eli, so he ran to him.



It happened again.



No, I didn't call you

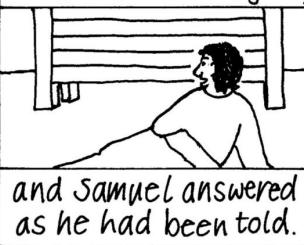
I didn't call. Go back to bed.

The third time, Eli knew it must be God calling Samuel.



You must say, 'Speak, Lord, your servant is listening.'

God called Samuel again,



and Samuel answered as he had been told.

I told Eli his sons had done bad things, but he has not stopped them. Now, even being sorry will not make up for what has happened.

The next morning, Eli demanded to be told what God had said.



Samuel was afraid, but he told him.

He is God. He will deal with us as is right.



God continued to talk to Samuel. He became known throughout Israel.



Church Services in February

Sunday 1st February

Ordinary 4

Bromyard	10.30am	Mrs. Wendy Werrell
Ledbury	10.30am	Revd. Phil Warrey
	2.30pm	Revd. Mary Jolly <i>Relaxed</i>
St John's	10.30am	Revd. Dr. Nigel Williams

Sunday 8th February

Ordinary 5

Bromyard	2.30pm	Revd. Phil Warrey	<i>Holy Communion</i>
Ledbury	. 10.30am	Mr. Keith White	
	6.00pm	Dr. Gillian & Mr. Stephen Chowns	<i>Taize</i>
St John's	10.30am	Revd. Phil Warrey	<i>Holy Communion</i>

Sunday 15th February

Sunday before Lent

Bromyard	10.30am	Mr. Chris Ottershaw	
Ledbury	10.30am	Revd. Phil Warrey	<i>All-age worship</i>
St John's	10.30am	Revd. Ruth & Mr. Neil Eldridge	
	4.00pm	Mr. Roy Little	<i>Tea Church</i>

Wednesday 18th February

Ash Wednesday

St. John's	10.30am	Revd. Dr. Nigel Williams
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Sunday 22nd February

1st of Lent

Bromyard	2.30pm	Revd. Phil Warrey	<i>Tea Church</i>
Ledbury	10.30am	Revd. Ruth & Mr. Neil Eldridge	<i>Holy Comm.</i>
St John's	10.30am	Revd. Phil Warrey	

St David's Day at St. John's

Our January social was a great success! So much so that the Stewards are organising another event, this one to be held on St. David's Day, March 1st – a celebration of all things Welsh! There will be a lunch (provided, not bring-and-share) of cawl and other Welsh fare, and home-made entertainment to follow with a Welsh theme. We will need to know numbers for catering purposes, sign-up sheets will be available in February.



Lectioary Readings

1 February

4th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Micah 6: 1-8

Psalm 15

1 Corinthians 1: 18-31

Matthew 5: 1-12

8 February

5th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Isaiah 58: 1-9a (9b-12)

Psalm 112: 1-9 (10)

1 Corinthians 2: 1-12 (13-16)

Matthew 5: 13-20

15 February (Transfiguration)

Sunday before Lent

Exodus 24: 12-18

Psalm 2 OR Psalm 99

2 Peter 1: 16-21

Matthew 17: 1-9

18 February

Ash Wednesday

Joel 2: 1-2, 12-17

or Isaiah 58: 1-12

Psalm 51: 1-17

2 Corinthians 5: 20b – 6: 10

Matthew 6: 1-6, 16-21

22 February

1st Sunday in Lent

Genesis 2: 15-17; 3: 1-

Psalm 32

Romans 5: 12-19

Matthew 4: 1-11

1 March

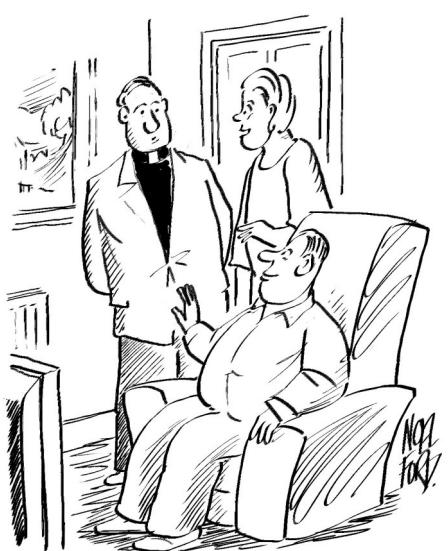
2nd Sunday in Lent

Genesis 12: 1-4a

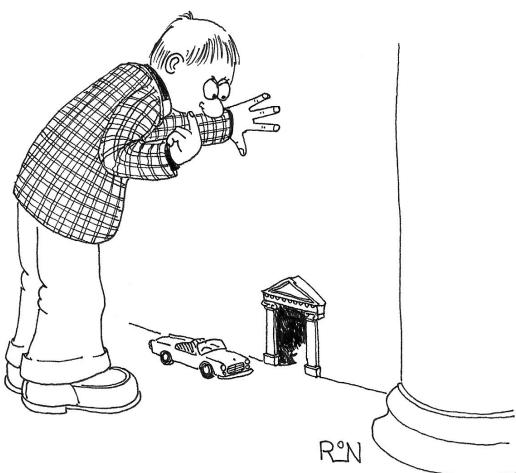
Psalm 121

Romans 4: 1-5, 13-17

John 3: 1-17 or Matthew 17: 1-9



Henry is making a real effort for Lent – he's giving up the remote control and walking to the TV



...and yet the Church Mice still put it about
that they were poor

Diary Dates

Saturday 7th February

9.00 - 10.30am Women's Prayer Breakfast at Ledbury

Wednesday 11th February

7.00pm Zoom Bible study

Wednesday 25th February

5.45pm Zoom Bible study

Saturday 28th February

Women's Prayer breakfast Away-Day



Keeping InTouch

Circuit contacts:

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e: phil.warrey@methodist.org.uk

Rest day: Usually Friday

Circuit Website: www.herefordshiremethodists.org.uk

Circuit Administrator: admin@herefordshiremethodists.org.uk

The deadline for the March edition of In Touch is **Sunday 8th February**
ideally, please send material by email to hfdscircuitnews@gmail.com
Or by Post to 18 Southbank Close, HEREFORD HR1 2TQ