



Good Morning Church -
8th February 2026 - 5th in
Ordinary Time

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Today we gather on the **Fifth Sunday after Epiphany**, a season that keeps inviting us to notice where God's light is already shining — and where we are called to let that light be seen more clearly in the world.

This Sunday we also mark **Racial Justice Sunday**, holding together worship and witness, prayer and action. The Epiphany readings remind us that faith is never just about what we believe, but how we live — especially in the ways we seek justice, practise compassion, and stand alongside those whose voices are too often ignored. You can read more and reflect further in this week's *Action of the Week*.

One of today's readings offers both encouragement and challenge:

"You are the light of the world... let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven."
(Matthew 5:14,16)

May our worship today renew us as people of light — shaped by grace, grounded in love, and committed to justice in God's world.

Grace and peace to you all.

Sunday Services - 4th in Ordinary Time

This Sunday, our services are:

Bromyard - 2:30pm: Rev'd Phil Warrey
- Holy Communion

Ledbury - 10:30am: Mr Keith White.
There will be a Swap Shop after
morning worship.

Ledbury - 6:00pm: Dr Gillian & Mr
Stephen Chowns - Taizé Style Worship

St John's - 10:30am: Rev'd Phil Warrey
- Holy Communion (Stream Source)

Lectionary readings

The streaming this Sunday will be from
St John's

[Watch the live stream live on YouTube](#)

[Sunday Worship Page on the Circuit
Website](#)

Please pray for our preachers and
worship leaders as they prepare to
lead worship.

Next Sunday – 15th February 2026 – Sunday before Lent

Next Sunday, our services are:

Bromyard - 10:30am: Mr Chris
Ottershaw

Ledbury - 10:30am: Rev'd Phil Warrey -
All Age Worship

St John's - 10:30am: Rev'd Ruth & Mr
Neil Eldridge (Stream Source)

St John's - 10:30am: Mr Roy Little -
Tea Church

[Lectionary readings](#)

Action of the Week - read the introduction to racial justice sunday

If you are of a certain age, you may remember, or wish to forget, a British sitcom from the 1970s called *Love Thy Neighbour*. It featured a White working-class couple called the Booths, who lived next door to a Black couple of Caribbean heritage, called the Reynolds, in Twickenham, West London. Although the 'comedy' was called *Love Thy Neighbour*, there was very little love shown between the two men, Eddie Booth and Bill Reynolds. The so-called 'comedy' aspect involved one poor excuse after another for exchanging racist epithets and sharing bigoted stereotypes, with the Black man invariably getting the worst of it.

Such is the offensive nature of this programme that it is not repeated on terrestrial television. Even the more obscure satellite channels, which pride themselves on broadcasting other comedies from that era, with the requisite warnings about 'language and attitudes many may find unacceptable or offensive today', do not have the gall to show it.

I believe that some things should be placed (and kept) in the 'dustbin of

history' marked, 'Do not open'. Yet we are now experiencing attitudes, behaviours and language that has been resurrected from that era. Hardly a day goes by without some politician, social media commentator or activist using inflammatory, racist language to stoke up hostility towards asylum seekers, refugees, migrants and Black and Brown people *per se*.

Moreover, akin to the 1970s, there are those who are now asserting that to be 'truly' British and Irish you have to be White. Those who do not fall into this category are regarded as 'immigrants' or 'migrants', irrespective of whether they were born on these shores or have lived here for decades.

Allied to those notions is the unsavoury and unsubstantiated connection between 'immigrants' and crime, which suggests that immigrants are more disposed to commit crime, especially of a violent nature. A key aspect of the far-right, anti-asylum protests is to keep 'women and children safe' from predatory male asylum seekers.

Ironically, during the 1970s there was also the counternarrative that immigration was a phenomenon that enriched society. It gave a country greater cultural, social and religious assets, variety and kudos. Today, the abiding, misguided narrative is that immigration (from the Global South) leads to social division and results in ethnic tensions. Yet the Bible tells us that there is a better way, a more excellent one that is based on love and compassion (1 Corinthians 12:31–13:13).

When Jesus was asked by a teacher of the law, 'Of all the commandments, which is the most important? '** **Jesus answered:

The most important one is this: 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one.' ** Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' The second is this: 'Love your neighbour as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these. (Mark 12:28-31)

Consequently, Jesus calls on his followers not to 'tolerate' or even 'accept' their neighbours, but to love them, regardless of how they look or what they believe. This is not an easy ask, but it is one that is demanded of those who follow a Saviour who gave his life for all, out of love. What is more, while we often hear about who belongs in or who should be excluded from a country or kingdom, as Christians the only 'kingdom' we should truly be focusing on is the Kingdom of God (Matthew 6:33). This is a kingdom built on love, justice, compassion, mercy, truth, unity and hope.

In these resources for this Sunday we explore what it really means to love our neighbour, especially given the current narratives of hostility, fear, suspicion and hatred of the 'other', especially asylum seekers, refugees and anyone who is not British or Irish 'enough'. We discuss how the Bible provides a blueprint for a world where everyone belongs; where everyone is loved, valued and affirmed for who they are, and not what they look like or have to offer. And one in which our identity is ultimately to be found in Christ, as brothers and sisters of one 'race': the human race.

I believe that this message is 'for such a time as this' (Esther 4:14). It is one that speaks through the 'flags', banners, protests and invective, relaying a message of unity and hope.

Just as the greatest commandment speaks about loving God and one another, Jesus' sacrificial death on the cross offers us all the hope of being united with God and with one another.

Let us use Racial Justice Sunday (and other Sundays) to stand together in love, rejecting those words, actions and behaviours that go against Christ's teachings, and embracing those biblical principles that foment unity, cohesion and engagement.

Finally, I would like to thank all those who worked tirelessly to produce these resources, especially the Racial Justice Sunday Writers' Group for their inspiration, vision and ideas. Our group reflects the diverse nature of the Christian faith in both Ireland and Britain, and is all the better for doing so!

**Richard Reddie **Director of Justice and Inclusion, Churches Together in Britain and Ireland

More information on Racial Justice Sunday can be found [here](#).

Coming Up This Week

Monday 9th:

Ledbury - 10:30am - 1pm - Place of Welcome

Tuesday 10th:

St Johns - 10am - 12noon - Twins & Tots

Wednesday 11th:

Bromyard - 10am - 2pm - Place of Welcome,

St John's - 12:15pm for 12:30pm - 2pm
- Lunch Club,

St John's - 7pm Bible Study via zoom

Thursday 12th:

Ledbury - 12pm - Lunch Club,

Bromyard - 4:30pm - Soul Space.

Friday 13th:

St John's - 7pm - Singing for Fun

Saturday 14th:

St John's - 10am - 12pm - Place of
Welcome, 2:30pm Omega House
Group meets at Val's

Sunday 15th:

Services as listed above

The Vine at Home 5th in Ordinary Time

[The Vine at Home for Sunday 8th](#)
[February 2026](#)

Ledbury Methodist Notices

[Ledbury Methodist Notices 28/1/26](#)

Methodist Connexional Weekly Newsletter

[Newsletter for 5/2/26](#)

Hereford URC Newsletter

[Newsletter for February March 2026](#)

New Places for New People / Church at

the Margins - February 2026

Click [here](#) for more information.

Finance Newsletter – February 2026

Please find the latest newsletter from the Finance Department of the Connexional Team at [this](#) link.

Count Your Blessings

Each week, you'll receive uplifting emails featuring:

- Inspirational stories showing the difference your support makes.
- Thought-provoking reflections.
- Simple activities that help you connect with and support our work.

If you'd like to take part, just add your name [here](#).

WhatsApp Groups

Each of our churches now have a WhatsApp group, if you'd like to join please ask and we will add you.

District Treasurer Vacancy

The advert, role description and application form for the District Treasurer vacancy can be found [here](#).

Vacancies

We have the following vacancies in our circuit and churches:-

Circuit Archivist - [Role Description](#) -
[More Details](#)

If you would like to know more about any of these vacancies, please speak to Phil.

Circuit Admin & Ledbury Admin

Lynne will be generally working her 14 hours across Wednesday, Thursday and Friday mornings.

She can be contacted at
admin@herefordshiremethodists.org.uk

Circuit Administrator - Herefordshire (South & East) Methodist Circuit

Tel 01432 356023

Church Administrator - Ledbury Methodist Church

Tel 01531 598007

Links

The links below are to websites or adobe cloud documents (all underlined in blue) A mouse click on the link will open the relevant documents for you or direct you to the websites referred to. These have all been checked and are safe links to click.

[Watch the live stream live on YouTube at 10:30am](#)

[Sunday Worship Page on the Circuit Website](#)

[Click to watch any of our services again, or refer your friends and families to our services](#)

[InTouch Magazine for February 2026](#)

[Preaching Plan](#)

[Our website](#)

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[Gallery - Ledbury Methodist Art Project](#)

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