

Good Morning Church - 22nd March 2026 - 5th of Lent

This Sunday is the fifth week of Lent and we continue with the Lent 2026 Resources - Pause. Breathe. Make space for God.

This Sunday our theme is - Let go of despair, embrace 'respair'

Respair? - Language expert Susie Dent points out that English often leans towards negative words. She notes that some positive words have almost disappeared. One example is the word linked to 'despair'. Its opposite is rare, but it exists:

"...one English word surely stands above all others from the corners of the dictionary. I mention it all the time, because I'm determined to bring it back. Or bring it anywhere in fact, for it never really enjoyed more than a day in the sun. 'Respair' has just one record next to it in the Oxford English Dictionary, from 1525, but its definition is sublime. Respair is fresh hope; a recovery from despair."

Our Object under the cross is a rubbish bin.

Our Bible readings are:-

[Ezekiel 37:1-14](#) - God breathes life into a valley of dry bones, promising restoration and hope to a despairing people.

[John 11:1-45](#) - Jesus raises Lazarus from the dead, showing that God's power brings life, even in the midst of grief and loss.

Ponder before church, the readings and - "Where in your life or community do you feel like you're standing in a valley of dry bones: places that feel lifeless, stuck or forgotten?"

The good news we are trying to get across this week is - God calls us into 'respair'. Even when everything feels lost, God is still breathing life into what seems dead. Resurrection is not just a future hope - it begins now, in the places we thought were beyond repair. God meets us in our despair and gently calls us into 'respair': fresh hope, renewed life and the promise that we are never alone.

With every blessing,

Phillip

Sunday Services - 5th of Lent

This Sunday, our services are:

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

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

St John's - 10:30am: Mr Chris Ottershaw (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 – 29th March 2026 – Palm Sunday

Next Sunday, our services are:

Bromyard - 10:30am: Rev'd Kath Baldwin

Ledbury - 10:30am: Rev'd Peter Grimwood (Stream Source)

St John's - 10:30am: Rev'd Phil Warrey

[Lectionary readings](#)

Action of the Week - Hope School.

As the war in the Middle East continues, we need to remember the folk at our Circuit Project Hope School.

Please as your action of the week this week, read their newsletter, and pray.

I wonder if also we could plan some fund raising events at each of our churches so we can send some funds to Hope School. Let me know if you have any ideas.

[Hope School Newsletter](#)

Dear Friends, Partners, and Faithful Supporters,

Greetings from Hope School in Bethlehem. In these days when the shadow of war once again darkens our land, we hold onto the light that you help us keep burning.

We are pleased to share with you our March 2026 Newsletter, attached to this message. Inside, you will find updates on our daily life and programs amid most difficult circumstances.

We invite you to read, enjoy, and share this newsletter with others who may be encouraged to be part of Hope School Family.

Most importantly, we want to thank you. Thank you for keeping Hope School's children, staff, and mission in your prayers and programs. Your faithfulness, prayers, and generosity remind us that we are not alone, and that hope endures even in the darkest valleys.

May God bless you and keep you.

With deepest gratitude,

**Tula Stephan - Hope School-Charitable Association **

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Coming Up This Week

Monday 23rd:

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

Tuesday 24th:

St John's - 10am - Twins & Tots

Ledbury (Holy Trinity Church) - 7:15pm - Ecumenical Lent Groups Closing service

Wednesday 25th:

Ledbury (St Katherine's Hall) - 12noon - Lent Lunch

Bromyard - 10am - 2pm - Place of Welcome, 12:30pm Lent Soup Lunch

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

7pm - Bible Study (zoom)

Thursday 26th:

Bromyard - 4:30pm - Soul Space (for 9-12 year olds)

Friday 27th:

St John's - 11:30am - Lent Course, 7pm Singing for Fun

Saturday 28th:

St John's - 10am - 12pm - Place of Welcome

Sunday 29th:

Services as listed above

The Vine at Home Lent 5

[The Vine at Home for Sunday 22nd March 2026](#)

Ledbury Methodist Notices

[Ledbury Methodist Notices 11/3/26](#)

Methodist Connexional Weekly Newsletter

[Newsletter for 19/3/26](#)

Something to think about

We regularly update our website with devotions which you can find [here](#). Two new reflections will be published over this week so please take a look.

PREACHING PLAN FOR APRIL TO JUNE 2026

The preaching plan for April to June 2026 has been updated due to an error in the pattern of the services in Bromyard in June. You can see this updated plan [here](#). We would be very grateful to those who receive the draft plan for checking in advance of publication, if they could review and let us know of any errors.

There may also need to be some changes to Pentecost, as when the plan went to press we were not aware of the plans for Ecumenical Services on Pentecost in Ledbury & Bromyard.

MICROSOFT LICENCES

Microsoft have recently changed the options offered to charities which has meant we have needed to review and change our Microsoft Licences. We have reallocated the licences we now have. If you use a Circuit Microsoft log in and encounter any issues with the applications you can now access please contact either [Phil](#) or [Lynne](#) for help.

LEAF - Wellspring events and request for Volunteers

Please see these links for information about events being held at The Wellspring, Ledbury:

Ministry Day - [The Unforced Rhythms of Grace](#)

Bible Study Series - [A day in Ephesians](#)

Creative Arts Day - [Painting with Jesus](#)

Bible Study Series - [A day in Galatians](#)

Guided Retreat - [Grace: from inside out](#)

Please see [here](#) for Volunteer request to help at the Youth Drop In in Ledbury on Tuesdays.

A message from the Methodist Church Domestic Abuse Steering Group

The Methodist Church Domestic Abuse Steering Group do their utmost to highlight the issue of domestic abuse to help ensure victims and survivors receive the response and support they need and deserve. Domestic abuse continues to be an issue in our church communities. Some victims and survivors seek support and advice from their minister. Some ministers are unsure how to respond and feel ill equipped to support those who disclose that they are victims of domestic abuse. The Methodist Church has a [Domestic Abuse Policy and Procedures](#) which provides information around what constitutes domestic abuse, advice on how to respond to disclosures and information around theological understanding. In addition, a list of support organisations is provided. We also have a poster that can be displayed and stickers that can be ordered from Methodist Publishing. See [here](#).

Ministers may be victims or survivors of domestic abuse. It can be a truly difficult place for a minister and I would urge ministers to seek support if they felt able to do so. This could be 'anonymised' support. Being able to tell someone can be a helpful first step. There is a Christian charity called [Restored](#) which is aimed at women who are victims of domestic abuse and provides advice and support.

Please do get in touch with me if you have any questions, suggestions or if would like to talk with me about any of the above.

Karen Allen

Regional Safeguarding Manager (North East)

Chair of the Methodist Church Domestic Abuse Steering Group

Wholehearted Monthly 14 March 2026 7:00pm

Our April Wholehearted speaker is the Revd Charissa Suli, President of the Uniting Church in Australia. She is the youngest person, the first person of non-Anglo-Celtic background, and the first of Pacifica heritage to hold this esteemed position.

She will speak to us about her Presidential theme: 'Threads of Love: Weaving Christ's Love Across Cultures and Boundaries' and how it relates to us being a global family of churches – both the importance of worldwide church relationships in an increasingly fragmented and volatile world, and the recognition that through migration and movement, our churches are already globally diverse and multicultural spaces, strengthened as their many strands are woven together.

Wholehearted is a free monthly online gathering of Christians learning, playing, praying and working for the transformation of the Church and world God loves.

Hosted by the Methodist Church and free and open for all. Book in at tinyurl.com/ea2ujc95 (When you register you'll receive a link that will work for every wholehearted event).

Refugee family reunion campaign

The government has announced plans to permanently curtail refugee family reunion. This policy enabled those granted refugee protection in the UK to be joined by their closest family members, including their children, recognising that family unity is integral to protection, stability and integration.

JPIT is currently running a campaign to urge the government to reconsider its proposals, and keep families together. It is inviting faith leaders to show support by adding their names to our open letter calling on the Home Secretary. Please could you consider signing, and sharing?

[Support Refugee Family Reunion – Joint Public Issues Team](#)

Online Suite

Dear colleagues,

Thank you for your patience. You were expecting an update in February, and I'm sorry this is reaching you slightly later than planned. I wanted to ensure we had a clear and deliverable plan before communicating next steps.

In the few weeks since I joined, my team and I have carefully reviewed the Online Suite and the feedback many of you have provided. It's clear that delays and reliability issues have caused significant frustration and additional workload, and I want to acknowledge that upfront.

Starting now, we are changing both how we deliver improvements and how we communicate with you. We will commit to releasing groups of fixes and features on a quarterly basis, building on the parts of the system that already work well and steadily improving those that do not.

Over the next three months, leading up to the annual Conference, we will deliver the following changes:

1. Office holders: Fix and reinstate the ability to view and update office holder data in the Online Suite. These updates will synchronise properly with the main Connexional Database systems.
2. Duplicate or closed churches: Resolve the technical issue that can cause duplicate churches or closed churches to reappear.
3. Modernisation: Deliver initial improvements to the look and feel of the Online Suite to support future development and improve usability.
4. Forward plan: Add a link to a page that shows the planned roadmap for improvements, along with the expected timescales.

Ahead of each improvement, my team will send communications outlining what's changing and anything you need to do in response.

Separately, Jane and I plan to establish a representative steering group to advise on and help prioritise future fixes and enhancements.

You will receive regular updates as work progresses, including summaries of what has been fixed and what improvements are planned. My aim is to give you clear visibility of our work and to ensure you see consistent, meaningful improvements. Please look out for further communications. If you need to get in touch beforehand then please contact us via the Online Suite support address - onlinesuitesupport@methodistchurch.org.uk

Thank you again for your patience and for the constructive feedback you continue to provide. It is directly informing our approach, and I am committed to ensuring that you start to see tangible progress soon.

Kind regards,

Andy Webb

Director of IT | The Connexional Team

Jane Bates

Senior Governance Executive Officer | The Connexional Team

WhatsApp Groups

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

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 March 2026](#)

[Preaching Plan](#)

[Our website](#)

[Sign Up for Methodist News](#)

[Joint Public Issues Team Newsletter](#)

[Gallery - Ledbury Methodist Art Project](#)