

Good Morning Church - 17th May 2026 - 7th of Easter

As we continue our journey to Pentecost, this Sunday we are in Ascensiontide.

Ascension Day and Ascensiontide sit in a slightly overlooked but really fascinating part of the Christian year — the strange in-between space after Easter joy but before Pentecost fire.

Traditionally, Ascensiontide begins on Ascension Day, which falls 40 days after Easter Day (always a Thursday), and continues until Pentecost. It remembers the story in Acts 1 where the risen Jesus is "taken up" from the disciples.

What is the Ascension about?

The key biblical texts are:

- Acts 1:1–11
- Luke 24:44–53
- Echoes in Ephesians 1, Hebrews, and John's Gospel

Theologically, Christians have understood the Ascension not as Jesus "flying into space," but as:

- Christ entering fully into the presence and reign of God
- the completion of resurrection
- the exaltation of Jesus
- the promise that Christ is no longer limited to one place or one people

In other words: Easter says *Christ is risen*; Ascension says *Christ reigns*.

Why does Ascensiontide feel unusual?

It has a liminal quality. The disciples are:

- no longer walking physically with Jesus,
- not yet empowered at Pentecost,
- waiting, praying, uncertain.

That makes Ascensiontide deeply relevant to periods of transition, uncertainty, or discernment.

A lot of churches miss it because:

- Ascension Day is on a Thursday,
- modern culture doesn't really notice it,
- Pentecost often overshadows it.

But historically it was one of the great feasts of the Church.

Themes often explored in Ascensiontide

Presence in absence

Jesus departs, yet promises:

"I am with you always."

That tension matters pastorally — grief, change, endings, and trust.

Waiting

The disciples are told to wait for the Spirit. Ascensiontide can become a season of prayerful expectancy rather than frantic activity.

Kingdom not empire

In Acts 1 the disciples still ask:

"Will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?"

Jesus redirects them away from political restoration toward Spirit-filled witness "to the ends of the earth."

Humanity in heaven

Some theologians stress that in the Ascension, human life is taken into the life of God. Athanasius of Alexandria and later theologians loved this theme: Christ carries humanity into divine communion.

Methodist and liturgical traditions

In the Methodist tradition, Ascension is sometimes underemphasised compared with Christmas or Easter, but it appears clearly in the lectionary and hymnody.

Classic Ascension hymns include:

- "Hail the day that sees him rise"

- "See the Conqueror mounts in triumph"
- "Alleluia! Sing to Jesus"

Charles Wesley especially loved Ascension themes because they connect resurrection, kingship, and intercession.

So let's celebrate Ascensiontide and look forward to Pentecost.

With every blessing,

Phillip

Where is Phil?

Phil returns from family duty today, and has some holiday Wednesday 21st through to Bank Holiday Tuesday, returning to circuit duties on Wednesday 27th. No sooner is he back, but has to go off again to the Superintendent's Conference in Blackpool. Slightly frustrated that all these times away come on top of each other, but sometimes that's the way the cookie crumbles.

Sunday Services - 7th of Easter

This Sunday, our services are:

Bromyard - 10:30am: Rev'd Phil Warrey

Ledbury - 10:30am: Mr John Parsons (Stream Source)

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

St John's - 4pm - Rev'd Phil Warrey - Tea Church

[Lectionary readings](#)

The streaming this Sunday will be from Ledbury.

[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 – 24th May 2026 – Pentecost

Next Sunday, our services are:

Bromyard - **Bromyard Public Hall - 3pm:** United Service

Ledbury - **St Michael's Church** - 10:30am: United Service

St John's - 10:30am: Deacon Angie Allport - Church Anniversary (Stream Source)
followed by bring-and-share lunch

[Lectionary readings](#)

Action of the Week - 21 hairpins. 14 kilometres. One 84-year-old riding for Gaza's children

Please consider supporting 84 year old, Anne M Jones, fundraising for Amos and children in Gaza

One hairpin at a time — Anne M Jones, 84, is riding Alpe d'Huez for Gaza.

[Will you support her?](#)

There are 21 hairpin bends on Alpe d'Huez. Each one is named after a Tour de France stage winner. Each one represents £1,000 that Anne M Jones — 84 years old, retired social worker and psychotherapist — is determined to raise for Gaza's children this May.

Anne knows what it takes to get to the top. In 2024 she cycled Mont Ventoux, the iconic 1,900-metre Tour de France summit, horrified by what she was witnessing in Gaza. In 2025 she climbed the Tourmalet — the highest paved pass in the Pyrenees. Now she's taking on the greatest climb of them all.

*"With a fragile ceasefire in place in Gaza, humanitarian needs are rising as hardships tighten their grip. The children of Gaza show extraordinary courage and need all the support they can get — so I'm riding for them." *Anne M Jones*

This year, Anne won't be riding alone. Alongside the Amos Road Club, she'll be joined by Palestinian para-cyclists Alaa al-Dali and Mohammed Asfour from the Gaza Sunbirds — who evacuated Gaza in 2025 to represent Palestine on the world stage. Alaa became the first Palestinian to compete in the Cycling World Championship. Their families remain in Gaza.

Anne has already raised over £50,000 for Gaza's children across her previous rides. Her target this year is £21,000 — one for every hairpin of the climb.

Building hope in Gaza

Every pound raised goes to Amos Trust's partners on the ground in Gaza — running trauma support for children and families, operating tent schools for the 93% of children whose schools are now unusable, raising awareness of the dangers of

unexploded ordnance, and providing wraparound care for children and families who have travelled to Lebanon for multiple operations to treat their war injuries.

Gaza's children haven't been able to go to school since October 2023. They are living in vermin-infested tents on the coast, facing food and water shortages, and carrying trauma that most of us can barely imagine. They need our support.

Please donate today and help Anne reach the top — for Gaza's children.

[DONATE NOW](#)

Coming Up This Week

Monday 18th:

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

Tuesday 19th:

St John's - 10am - Twins & Tots

Wednesday 20th:

Ledbury - 9:45am - Quiet Space

Bromyard - 10am - 2pm - Place of Welcome

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

Thursday 21st:

St John's - 2:30pm - River House Group, 3pm - Rose Garden House Group

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

Friday 22nd:

St John's - 2:30pm - Bible Study

St John's - 7pm - Singing for Fun

Saturday 23rd:

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

Sunday 24th:

Services as listed above

7pm - City Praise at Hereford Cathedral

Safeguarding Foundation Training

We have scheduled some Safeguarding Foundation Training to happen at Bromyard Methodist Church on 30th May at 9.30am. You will already have been contacted if you need to do this training.

This training is being delivered by our own Margaret Kunzer and Deborah Williams, and will be good.

There are various roles within the church, where Safeguarding Training is necessary for you to undertake your role. However, a basic knowledge of Safeguarding, and a desire to keep everyone in our church community safe is good for us all. So if you would like to attend, and if it would be a benefit for you to attend, please contact Margaret to book a place.

[Email the Circuit Safeguarding Officer.](#)

something to think about

There is a reflection for Ascensiontide on our Devotions page on the website and one for Pentecost will be published for next week. Please take a look [here](#).

The Vine at Home 7th of Easter

[The Vine at Home for Sunday 17th May 2026](#)

Ledbury Methodist NoticeS

[Ledbury Methodist Notices 6/5/26](#)

Methodist Connexional Weekly Newsletter

[Newsletter for 14/5/26](#)

Can Muslims and Jews be friends again? 3rd June 2026

LESSONS WE CAN LEARN FROM HISTORY

A talk by Francis Ghilès

Specialising in security, financial and energy trends in Europe and the Middle East, Francis was the Financial Times's North Africa Correspondent from 1981 to 1995. He is also a freelancer for newspapers including The New York Times, The Wall Street Journal and Le Monde. He is a frequent commentator in the broadcasting media, notably the BBC World Service. He has acted as adviser to Western governments (UK, France and the US) and to major European, American and Japanese corporations working in North Africa.

FREE - Wednesday 3rd June, 7pm

CONQUEST THEATRE, BROMYARD

Book your tickets at www.conquest-theatre.co.uk

For further information: Fr Paul Stonham OSB - 01568 612238

A unique opportunity to hear from a renowned expert.

Please find out more about this talk [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.

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](#)

[May InTouch Magazine](#)

[Preaching Plan](#)

[Our website](#)

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[Gallery - Ledbury Methodist Art Project](#)