

# IN TOUCH

S E P T E M B E R 2 0 2 6

**Climate**

**Celebrate**

**Explore**



Taste and see that the Lord is good.  
The Lord's words are sweeter to me than honey.  
Ps 34:8, Ps 119:103

# **Start of the Connexional Year**

## **Reflections from the President**

### **the Revd Mark Slaney**

"I invite you to contemplate deeply what solidarity you and the church to which you belong both practise, and might be called to practise, in local contexts and in relation to the cries for justice and mercy worldwide."

"Christian solidarity means standing beside and supporting the local church in its steadfastness, strengthening the steadfastness of believers in the land and empowering church and Christian institutions that embody the faith-based and humanitarian mission on the ground. We renew our appeal to Christians worldwide to challenge the siege imposed on the Christians of the Holy Land, to come and visit the living stones, to witness and respond to what you see, and to help strengthen the steadfastness of the Palestinians and the Christian Palestinians among them. This is our call: "Come and see." Then tell what you have seen, respond to it, and stand with the steadfast Church." (Kairos 2, paragraph 3.13)

After being nominated President Designate at Conference 2025 (just over a year ago) my wife and I went on holiday to Italy. I was wondering, pondering – what had I let myself in for? What might be the theme or focus of the Presidential year? Where in the world would I go to visit other Churches and Mission Partners?

On the penultimate day of the holiday we were in Milan due to catch a direct flight to Edinburgh the following afternoon. Wandering around the city we came across a large open square with the city's Cathedral on one side. The square was busy. In front of the Cathedral we noticed two rows of people standing, quietly, holding banners and placards. We went over for a closer look. It was a silent protest in solidarity with the people of Gaza. The placards were adorned with photos from the besieged strip of land and messages about, for example, how many children or medics had been killed. I noticed one man, holding such a placard, with tears rolling down his cheeks. And I was overwhelmed with the desire to go and give him a hug. I turned to my wife and said, "Do you see that man on the left crying? Do you think it would be alright to go and give him a hug?" "I'm not sure," she said, "but you should go and if he doesn't want a hug, leave him alone and come back."

Wise words. He accepted the hug. I held him and we cried together and I thanked him before returning to a watching, waiting spouse.

We did not know at that moment that the following February we would be visiting the Methodist Liaison Office in Jerusalem and Mission Partners in the West Bank and Galilee, but I wonder if, seven months ahead of time, that vocational invitation was already being heard, responded to and embraced?

After this summer's Conference, where Methodists heard from Father Fadi Diab, Anglican Priest from Ramallah, and received the call of Palestinian Christians to costly solidarity, my wife and I went on our annual holiday ending in Croatia. I was wondering, pondering if there was anything more, Presidentially-speaking, to be and do in relation to Palestinian Christians or whether, maybe, what was needed was done in bringing the cause to the Conference.

On the penultimate day of the holiday we were in Dubrovnik, due to catch a direct flight to Edinburgh the following afternoon. Wandering around the city, we came upon an open, old, wooden door in a stone wall revealing a small, simple, single-room chapel beyond. A cross made up of small, framed and connected glass circles with images in each hung from the ceiling. We stepped inside for a closer look. The Circular Way of the Cross is a two-metre-high installation created this year by Croatian visual artist Milica Bravacic. On one side of the cross each round frame holds an image from a contemplative February walk in Dubrovnik, after a storm, in which the artist came to think of and connect the suffering of Jesus with that of people in Gaza.

The other side holds images from Gaza and the military action and occupation. The artist's inspirational walk was taken on 11 February, right in the middle of our visit to Israel/Palestine.



A supervision session after February's visit explored the sense of being commissioned to share and amplify the voice of Palestinian Christians, particularly through Kairos 2. The end of holiday experiences confirmed and affirmed a continuation of this commission.

The Conference received Kairos 2 and committed to key actions including writing to the Foreign Secretary and producing study material for the Methodist people in Britain. I am pleased to share that, after waiting to see what changes in government offices would occur over the summer, we have written to the new Foreign Secretary and Prime Minister. We await any responses.

"Jesus shows us what God is like and shows us what a human being can be like. Perhaps we might contemplate and follow Jesus as the divine act of solidarity, Immanuel, God with us." - The Revd Mark Slaney

I am currently listening to the audiobook, released in March this year, *Solidarity: The Work of Recognition* by former Archbishop of Canterbury, the Rt Hon Rowan Williams. The Church Times shared some of his recent address to St John's College, Cambridge, speaking about solidarity:

"It's not just that solidarity would be a good idea, it's that we are already involved with one another. The dependence of your well-being on mine and mine on yours is a fact built into our very nature as speaking, thinking, social beings. It's not that we start out as individuals and then after a bit decide actually it's a bit more convenient to talk to other people. We are talked to before we talk. We are acted upon before we act. We are loved before we love. And somehow that is just built into what it is to be human."

We are one body made up of many involved, connected parts, none of which can dismiss the other as either more or less valued. "If one member suffers, all suffer with it." (1 Corinthians 12 v.26)

In the Conference address I spoke of the ancient wisdom in Genesis 1:26 – how we image/imagine God to be is what we become, what we become like, how we are made. Perhaps a Trinitarian God, God in relation with God, offers us an image of Being in solidarity. I also spoke of Jesus as our image both of God and of humanity. Jesus shows us what God is like and shows us what a human being can be like. Perhaps we might contemplate and follow Jesus as the divine act of solidarity, Immanuel, God with us. Likewise, the Spirit or Advocate sent to be with us forever. (2)

"More than ever, now is a time for costly solidarity. By its very nature, true solidarity is costly. It has a price. It is a faith-based stance, a human commitment and a moral responsibility."

True solidarity is also the embodiment of our shared humanity and fraternity. Either we live together — or we perish together." (Kairos 2 paragraph 3.11) The Presidency is primarily a ministry of visitation and encouragement to churches and mission partners. Vice-President Caroline and I have begun our visits and we have already seen and experienced some profound examples of solidarity:

- Methodist Homes for the Aged with staff, residents and families;
- Action For Children with children, young people, families and community partners;
- Chaplains alongside farmers and seafarers and in local Health Practices; Church and community work with all ages and abilities, cultures and languages, diversity and inclusion.

With all the associated joys and sorrows.

In July of this year, Brittany Shigley and Patrick Eby wrote an article titled What Is Social Holiness? John Wesley's Vision for Justice and Community, for Indiana Wesleyan University. Having reminded readers that John Wesley believed that holiness was formed in community through relationships with other people which did not stop within the walls or bounds of church but was practised in 'works of mercy' in the world at large, they wrote: "Social holiness is not a slogan. It is a way of seeing the world – one in which personal faith and public life belong together, and in which becoming holy and becoming useful to others are part of the same journey."

I hope and pray to be useful to those Palestinian siblings I met earlier this year.

I celebrate those Methodist expressions of solidarity in ministry and mission that Caroline and I have already seen and are yet to see. I invite you to contemplate deeply what solidarity you and the church to which you belong both practise, and might be called to practise, in local contexts and in relation to the cries for justice and mercy worldwide.

Yours in Christ.

Mark Slaney (August 2026)



## Derek Warlock

“I am my brother’s keeper and he’s sleeping pretty rough these days.”

This article was half written when The Times published one by the Labour peer, Lord Glasman, on the same subject. I hope he will forgive me for some plagiarism!

Derek Warlock was the outstanding Catholic Archbishop of Liverpool, who, with his close friend, the Anglican Bishop, David Sheppard. was popularly known as Fish and Chips (!); they sometimes shared sermons together and between them helped to change the face of Liverpool.

They worked together for social justice and reconciliation. During the Irish Troubles they brought Catholics and Protestants together – the city having a large Irish population. During the Toxteth riots they walked the streets, at first to listen and then to bring together angry young black men with the police. During the miners’ strike, they worked for the relief of the families. After the Hillsborough disaster, they spoke out for the fans who had been unjustly blamed.

They convened regular meetings with businesses, unions and government to renew the docks, to build new homes and to restore civic pride.

Derek Warlock was a living witness to Catholic social teaching which stemmed from the papal encyclical *Rerum Novarum* in 1891. Leo VIII had steered a middle course between unrestrained capitalism and state socialism at a time when the poor often endured miserable conditions and too many employers exploited their workers.

The principles of Catholic social thinking included:

- justice for the poor with the right to a fair wage
- the right to private property
- the dignity of labour and the right to withdraw that labour
- the right of employers to control their businesses and profit from them

- social solidarity - to work for the common good and overcome difference and division
- loyalty to community, first within the family and then reaching out to the locality and beyond to national citizenship
- localism (“subsidiarity”) – where decisions are made at the lowest reasonable level
- mutuality – in the nineteenth century witnessed in the growth of cooperatives and building societies - Catholics and Methodists often working together.

Derek Warlock explored these themes in his sermons in the new Catholic cathedral (“Paddy’s wigwam!”). One of the altar boys had the extra task of switching on and off the cassette recorder that broadcast his sermons – and so he had to listen to them! His name was Andy Burnham, who now asserts that Derek Warlock had as great an influence in his life as Everton football club! Listening to our new Prime Minister, you may hear again the voice of his preaching.

Graham

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## **Around the Circuit**

### **Ledbury**

We continued with Bible study sessions in August – thank you, Martyn, for a challenging look at the early chapters of Genesis. In mid-September, we are going to try again (for, I think, the third time) to have a two session study on What makes John’s Gospel different. If we have to cancel it again for any reason, perhaps we should just accept it as a non-starter!

It was a pleasure to welcome Jude Levermore back to lead our church anniversary worship at the start of August, and we now look forward to Harvest at the end of September – led by Martyn Sanders

We have been delighted to welcome a number of new people to our fellowship in recent months, but we are sad to be saying goodbye to Angie Webb who is moving to a new home in South Wales. We have enjoyed her company and will greatly miss her, but she goes with our love and God’s blessing.

After quite long delays caused by a whole raft of factors, the church entrance is due to be altered in very early September to make wheelchair access that much easier. We look forward to seeing the end results.

And so the seasons change again. The calendar tells us Autumn is about to begin, even if nature seems to have thought it is already here. May the God of All Seasons be with you in your work and worship.

*Brian*

## **St. John's**

Welcome to September. Summer 2026 is officially in the past, or will be by the time you read this!

During the holiday season we have continued with many of our usual activities and we look forward to returning to full strength as Autumn beckons. We offer our genuine gratitude to those who continue to keep the wheels turning week by week.

We are indebted to all those who invite us to share in the pleasure of their gardens and welcome us to Tea in the Garden. They represent so much creativity and sheer hard work and inspiration for those of us whose talents and inclinations lie elsewhere!

Bible Study is always thought-provoking as we encounter unexpected interpretations and those of our members who regularly attend are encouraged by alternative viewpoints. We value the input and preparation involved of the various willing contributors who lead our sessions. Do think about joining us. You would be most welcome.

If Housegroup meeting appeals there are several options; each has its own unique style and you would be welcome to attend any...or all.... just ask the stewards to point you in the right direction.

At the end of August we had a wonderful celebration of Ruth and John Thompson's 90th birthdays. Thanks are indeed due to Linda and family for a fitting and worthy tribute in which we were invited to share.

In the summer we held a 'Vision Day' and on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> September we'll be meeting to further explore the ideas raised. One of the issues raised was the kitchen and how it might be improved; if you have any suggestions or thoughts please let Geoff Hopper or Dot Calder know. We'll also, of course, be considering our model/style/content of church worship then; do come to this follow-up meeting, or pass your ideas on if you're unable to come.

We've seen a number of new faces at St. John's lately: welcome to Les, student Aaggie and her mum Marygrace, Mos, Jenny and anyone else whose name escapes me!

And finally we are delighted that Pam has made such good progress since her stroke – see the picture she coloured, on p. 11. We wish her and Duncan every happiness in their new home.

## **Bromyard**

Here at Bromyard we are pleased to report we have now got solar panels on the roof to cut down on our energy use and costs.

Our place of Welcome on Wednesdays, is very popular, giving people a chance to meet friends, have a chat over a cup of coffee or tea with light refreshment at No Charge! Every week we welcome 40 to 50 people and also enjoy the chance of receiving some of the local Co-op's Free Food Share. This is available to everyone.

In September, we are very pleased to welcome 2 visiting preachers who are also our friends, to lead our worship. On Sunday Sept 13th the Rev David Hall the curate at St Peter's Church here in Bromyard, will be with us at 2.30pm and we look forward to hearing his 'Message'.

On Sunday Sept 27th, also at 2.30pm, we are delighted Deacon Angie Allport will be with us to lead our Chapel Anniversary service. We plan to have a small exhibition that day to show some of our history and also we expect to have our History booklet 'The years of Witness & Thanksgiving' brought up to date. It is now 1857 to 2026 and includes Angie's contribution of her thoughts on her time spent with us here at Bromyard. Looking back through the many anecdotes from the 1860's brings many a smile, for example the Rev'd Herbert Minchin in 1897 relates...

"I was appointed to Bromyard in 1896 by the Conference of that year. This was my first appointment after two years on the President's list. I did not see much of my Super, who was Rev. J. B. Gratten, then living at Leominster about 12 miles away. There were no cars in those days and when I preached at Leominster about once a month, I walked to Steens Bridge, about eight miles and thence by train. I did this on the Saturday and returned the same way on Monday morning. One hot summer's morning I had walked about five miles on the return journey when a well-known resident in Bromyard overtook and passed me in his carriage.

He stopped and said he would gladly have given me a lift but feared I should take cold after getting too warm walking. I was prepared to take the risk but did not get the ride.”

We are most fortunate to have found many years ago the booklet written by Rev'd Leslie Henry published in 1933, titled Eighty-Three years of Methodism in Bromyard. We have managed since our 150th anniversary in 2007 to include contributions from ministers who have spent time at Bromyard Methodist church up to the present time and it is most interesting reading. If anyone is interested copies are being printed and will be available priced at £5; contact [john@huddleston.org.uk](mailto:john@huddleston.org.uk) .

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## Greetings from Phil

I'm back, my holidays and Greenbelt went very well. We were joined at Greenbelt, by Lisa Jayne Lewis, and Andrea McLean from Ledbury. Sarah Bowring was hoping to come, but was unfortunately unwell at the last moment.

Greenbelt Festival is taking a Sabbatical in 2027, so the next festival will be in 2028. There's been plenty of posts on Facebook and in the media if you want to see what we got up to.

We shared a moment of sadness at the festival, following news of a tragedy at another festival called Big Church Festival, where some signage collapsed and killed one person and injured another 7 people. Please hold them and Big Church Festival in your prayers.

As we prepare for the Methodist year 2026/27, some things for us to think about:-

- Consolidation, and implementation of the ideas we all shared at our away days.
- Prayers for the employment of a CYP person for Ledbury & Bromyard, and a person for the District NPNP role in Bromyard. (The Ledbury NPNP project is currently on hold).
- The Launch of “On the Way” - a journey of spiritual exploration and transformation.
- My Sabbatical - I am due another Sabbatical (yes I know it's not been 7 years since my last one, but my last one was delayed for a number of years for various reasons. My Sabbatical will be from 1<sup>st</sup> June to 31<sup>st</sup> August 2027.

Every blessing for our new Methodist Year. Phil

# Thank you

I would like to thank members of St. John's for the many cards and flowers received, for their support given to myself and family these last few weeks and for sharing with us in the Thanksgiving Service for Simon.

Anwyn

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This is the picture that Pam Kennet-Wise (St. John's) was able to colour in recently - a major achievement in her recovery from a serious stroke. Well done Pam - it's beautiful!

## Worship that works for All?

On Saturday 19th October 2026 from 10.00 am to 1.00 pm at Ledbury Methodist church Rev Daniel Bishop (Head of Ministries in the Methodist Church) will lead a session entitled:

'Worship that works for all?'

Theologies of worship: what are we doing when we worship?

Developing ways of worshipping which help all to truly worship:

Age and intergenerational worship

Neuro diversity

How we portray God in image and language

Creative ways of worshipping in 'formal' (Sunday) worship.

'Breaking Open God's Word: The Ministry of the Word in the twenty-first century.'

All are welcome at this event. For Local Preachers it will be part of their Continuing Development in Ministry commitment. It will also be very relevant for worship leaders and anyone interested from churches which are looking to make their worship more relevant for the twenty-first century.

Kath Baldwin (Local Preachers Secretary)

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### Women's Breakfast Fellowship

At Ledbury Methodist Church on the first Saturday of each month, 9.00am - 10.30am

All welcome!

Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> September

Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> October

Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> November

Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> December



# Facebook



Did you know that each of our Churches in the Circuit has a Facebook account? We use them as one of the ways that we reach out to people who are not currently involved with our Churches. The UK has over 40 million Facebook users according to the Government. While other social media platforms may be more important to some age groups, Facebook remains one of the most used.

If you are a Facebook user, even one that rarely posts anything, you can help us with little effort. First and foremost, we would ask you to follow your Church account. Search Facebook for "Hereford St John's" or "Bromyard Methodist" or "Ledbury Methodist" as appropriate, and "Follow" that page. (There is, of course, no problem with you following the other Circuit Churches!) You will then tend to see the Church posts in your Facebook feed.

There are two other things that you might also do to help us, because they will encourage Facebook to show our posts to other users. (The algorithms that Facebook uses to determine what to show each user are arcane and complex, but these actions will help to promote our posts.)

Firstly, when you see one of our posts, you are invited to "Like" it. That simple action helps. Secondly, however, if you can "Comment" on a post, or reply to someone else's comment, that gives us a bigger boost. The more likes and comments our posts get, the more Facebook will show those posts to other users, thereby promoting our Circuit Churches. (Don't feel that you have to like or comment every post.)

Finally, if you have an idea that could be posted on Facebook under one of the Church accounts, do please let someone know. At St John's, I would be happy to turn an idea into a post, and the Circuit Administrator, Lynne, is happy to do the same for Ledbury and Bromyard.

*Tony Pitt*



# THE HEREFORD MYSTERIES

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Friday 23 & Saturday 24 October | 7.30 pm

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# Planes crashing into skyscrapers

Many of us will remember where we were 25 years ago this month, on Tuesday 11th September, when reports began to come in of planes crashing into skyscrapers in New York. For those of us who were at work, the shock was such that little work got done the rest of that day. Instead, we gathered round the nearest television we could find, watching the news unfold, watching the loop of film as the planes flew into the Twin Towers.

For an earlier generation, it was 'I remember exactly where I was when President Kennedy was shot'. These moments are ones which stay with us. They could be called 'hinge moments' when something changes, a new direction is taken, a moment that has such a profound effect on the world that history sets off in a new direction. Those horrifying scenes on 11th September 2001 led to many of the troubles we see in the Middle East today, and the West's responses to them.

But hinge moments do not have to result in wars and loss. As Christians we can say that the life, death, resurrection and teaching of Jesus was one such pivotal moment. Christians were accused of 'turning the world upside down', such was the effect of their radical and transformative message.

For one thing, we no longer throw unwanted babies out onto a rubbish heap - as Romans did - because the Christian message proclaims all have value before God, and there are better ways to deal with unwanted souls. It took a great deal longer, but slavery was abolished because of the tireless work of Christians. Western society is underpinned in all its fundamentals by the precepts of the Christian faith, and that influence is felt around the world in such proclamations as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. We are not just economic units, not just parts of a machine; we are individually loved and valued since we stand in the image of God.

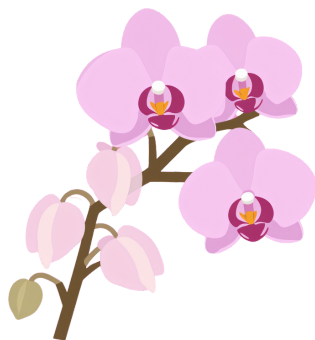
So, in spite of all the destructive forces that we may meet, may we be able to say with St Paul, 'I am convinced .....that nothing will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.' And God bless you as you discover more and more of that infinite love.

*From 'Parish Pump'*

## Orchids from Hawaii

A good time to remind you that Lisa-Jayne Lewis's book, *Orchids from Hawaii*, about her time as part of the World Trade Center recovery operation is available to buy.

Visit <https://orchidsfromhawaii.net/buy-the-book> to order (click on the orchid symbol to order a copy for collection within the circuit and to avoid postage charges).



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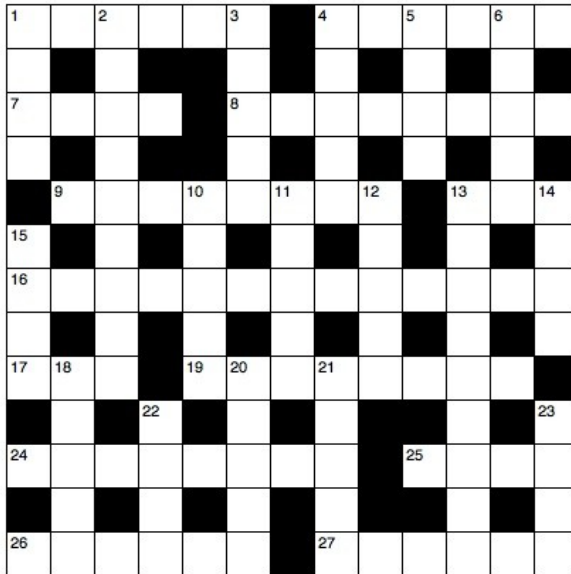
## Book donations wanted at National Trust properties

Many National Trust properties have second-hand bookshops, and these generate significant income which is used for projects at those properties. The bookshop at Berrington Hall near Leominster, where we volunteer, is in need of donations. They are particularly looking for fiction (romance, crime, fantasy, historical, etc.) The books need to be clean and in good condition. They can take other books, but not dictionaries, encyclopaedia, out-of-date educational material, CDs, DVDs or magazines.

If you have books that you would like to donate but cannot take them yourself, please contact us; we may be able to collect them in Hereford and take them to Berrington Hall for you. In Ledbury or Bromyard, maybe someone can collect them at the Church for us to collect.

*Tony and Jennifer Pitt (email [pitt@btinternet.com](mailto:pitt@btinternet.com))*





### Across

- 1 'Unless the Lord builds the house, its builders — in vain' (Psalm 127:1) (6)
- 4 Season of the year (Psalm 84:6) (6)
- 7 'My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. — here and keep watch with me' (Matthew 26:38) (4)
- 8 It came over the whole land from the sixth to the ninth hour on the first Good Friday (Luke 23:44) (8)
- 9 Paul invariably did this in the synagogues he visited on his missionary journeys (Acts 17:2) (8)
- 13 'It is God who works in you to will and to — according to his good purpose' (Philippians 2:13) (3)
- 16 Members of the Church of Scotland (13)
- 17 'Now when he saw the crowds, he went up on a mountain side and — down' (Matthew 5:1) (3)
- 19 Mock(Luke14:29)(8)
- 24 Disgrace(Psalm44:13)(8)
- 25 First month of the Hebrew calendar (Exodus13:4)(4)
- 26 Christianity of the Britons before Augustine arrived from Rome(6)
- 27 Mean (Numbers 35:23)(6)

## Down

- 1 'Whoever finds his life will — it' (Matthew 10:39) (4)
- 2 'My lord the king, let the — — on me and on my father's family, and let the king and his throne be without guilt' (2 Samuel 14:9) (5,4)
- 3 O raid (anag.) (5)
- 4 'If two of you on earth — about anything you ask for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven' (Matthew 18:19) (5)
- 5 Take care of (1 Samuel 17:15) (4)
- 6 What the older son heard as he came near the house the day his prodigal brother came home (Luke 15:25) (5)
- 10 'Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with — judgment' (Romans 12:3) (5)
- 11 Do ten(anag.)(5)
- 12 Architectural style first used in Greek temples in the sixth century BC (5)
- 13 Capable of being used(1Kings7:36)(9)
- 14 'Each one should — his own actions'(Galatians6:4)(4)
- 15 Among the items imported by Solomon's fleet of trading ships (1 Kings 10:22) (4)
- 18 'But I am afraid that just — was deceived by the serpent's cunning, your minds may somehow be led astray' (2 Corinthians 11:3) (2,3)
- 20 Outstanding 18th-century hymn writer, — Watts(5)
- 21 One of the four sons of Asher(Genesis46:17)(5)
- 22 Be distressed(Proverbs24:19)(4)
- 23 He was the father of Gaal, who threatened rebellion against Abimelech (Judges 9:28) (4)

*Answers on p. 22*

## Wanted

I am knitting squares for a knee blanket for a Shoebox appeal and would very much appreciate any oddments of wool anyone can spare. Many thanks in anticipation,  
*Anne Beevers, St. John's*



## A Sioux prayer

You, O God, are the Lord of the mountains and valleys.

You are my mother and my father.

You have given rain to make the corn grow,  
and sunshine to ripen it.

Now in your strength the harvest begins.

I offer you the first morsels of the harvest.

I know it is almost nothing  
compared with the abundance of the crop.

But since you have provided the harvest,  
my gift to you is only a sign of what you have given to me.

You alone know how many suns and moons  
it will take to finish reaping.

You alone know how heavy the crop will be.

If I work too hard and too fast,

I forget about you, who gave me the harvest.

So, I will work steadily and slowly,  
remembering that each ear of corn is a priceless gift from you.

*(Parish Pump)*



# The persistent problem of violence against women and girls.



## WOMEN AND VIOLENCE

A talk by  
**Fiona Macaulay,**  
*Emeritus Professor of Peace and  
International Development,  
Bradford University.*



Hereford Quaker Meeting House,  
21 King Street, Hereford.



September 29, 7.30 pm



Free entry - donations welcome



## **Prayer for Nepal and Tibet**

Loving God,

We pray for all those affected by the floods in Nepal and Tibet.  
Be near to those who mourn the loss of loved ones, and to all who  
wait in uncertainty for news of family and friends.

Hold close those whose homes, livelihoods and communities have  
been swept away, and all who are shocked, displaced or afraid.  
Strengthen rescue workers, local communities, churches and all who  
are searching, serving and offering care in the midst of this crisis.

Grant courage and resilience to those waiting for news, facing  
uncertainty, and fearing the days ahead.  
As we witness the growing fragility of creation, renew our commitment  
to care for one another and for the earth of which we are a part.

In the name of Christ.

Amen.

## Lectionary Readings

### 13 September

*24th Sunday in Ordinary Time*

Exodus 14: 19-31

Psalms 114 or Canticle: Exodus 15:

1b -11, 20-21

Romans 14: 1-12

Matthew 18: 21-35

### 20 September

*25th Sunday in Ordinary Time*

Exodus 16: 2-15

Psalms 105: 1-6, 37-45

Philippians 1: 21-30

Matthew 20: 1-16

### 27 September

*26th Sunday in Ordinary Time*

Exodus 17: 1-7

Psalms 78: 1-4, 12-16

Philippians 2: 1-13

Matthew 21: 23-32

### 4 October

*27th Sunday in Ordinary Time*

Exodus 20: 1-4, 7-9, 12-20

Psalms 19

Philippians 3: 4b -14

Matthew 21: 33-46



...I take it our local supermarket has a rather good offer on tinned peas at the moment!

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*Answers to crossword on p. 16*

ACROSS: 1, Labour. 4, Autumn. 7, Stay. 8, Darkness. 9, Reasoned. 13, Act. 16, Presbyterians. 17, Sat. 19, Ridicule. 24, Reproach. 25, Abib. 26, Celtic. 27, Intend.

DOWN: 1, Lose. 2, Blame rest. 3, Radio. 4, Agree. 5, Tend. 6, Music. 10, Sober. 11, Noted. 12, Doric. 13, Available. 14, Test. 15, Apes. 18, As Eve. 20, Isaac. 21, Ishvi. 22, Fret. 23, Ebed.

# Church Services in September

## Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> September

- B 10.30am Revd. Kath Baldwin *Holy Communion*
- L 10.30am Revd. Martyn Sanders *Holy Communion*
- L 2.30pm Revd. Phillip Warrey
- H 10.30am Revd. Phillip Warrey (Source)

## Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> September

- B 2.30pm Revd. Trey Hall
- L 10.30am Revd. Peter Grimwood (Source)
- L 6.00pm Mrs. Caroline Warrey *Iona-style*
- H 10.30am Mr. Keith White

## Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> September

- B 10.30am Mr. Ethan Ottershaw
- L 10.30am Revd. Phillip Warrey
- H 10.30am Revd. Dr. Nigel Williams *Holy Communion* (Source)
- H 4.00pm Mr. Tony Pitt, Tea Church

## Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> September

- B 2.30pm Deacon Angie Allport *Church Anniversary*
- L 10.30am Revd. Martyn Sanders *Harvest Festival*
- H 10.30am Revd. Phil Warrey *Harvest Festival* (Source)

## ..and into October

## Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> October

- B 10.30am Mr. Tony Pitt
- L 10.30am Mrs. Linda Williams
- L 2.30pm Mr. Brian Hudson *Relaxed Worship* (not communion)
- H 10.30am Revd. Martyn Sanders (Source)

# Diary Dates

## **Saturday 5th September**

9.00 - 10.30am Women's Prayer Breakfast, Ledbury

## **Wednesday 9th September**

2.30pm Church Life Committee, St. John's

## **Wednesday 16th September**

7.15pm for 7.30pm Local Preachers/Worship Leaders, St. John's

## **Tuesday 22nd September**

12.15pm Stewards' meeting, St. John's

## **Sunday 20th September**

4.00pm Tea Church, St. John's

## **Saturday 3rd October**

9.00 - 10.30am Women's Prayer Breakfast, Ledbury



## **Keeping InTouch**

Circuit contacts:

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Rest day: Usually Friday

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Circuit Administrator: [admin@herefordshiremethodists.org.uk](mailto:admin@herefordshiremethodists.org.uk)

The deadline for the October edition of In Touch is Sunday 13th September.

Ideally, please send material by email to [hfdscircuitnews@gmail.com](mailto:hfdscircuitnews@gmail.com)