The Methodist Church
Herefordshire (South & East) Circuit

Good Morning Church - 22nd November 2026 - Sunday before Advent

This Sunday, 22nd November, is the final Sunday of the Methodist lectionary year, often known as **Christ the King Sunday**, or the Reign of Christ. It's a Sunday when we look beyond the busyness of everyday life and remind ourselves of the bigger picture: who is at the centre of our lives, what sort of kingdom Jesus came to establish, and what it means to follow him.

Our readings give us plenty to think about.

In **Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24**, we hear God's promise to be like a shepherd who searches for the lost, brings back those who have wandered away, binds up the injured and strengthens the weak. It's a beautiful picture of a God who doesn't abandon people, particularly when life has been difficult. It also gives us a picture of the sort of leadership God desires: caring, compassionate and attentive to those who need help.

Our **Psalm 100** is a joyful invitation to worship God with gladness, to come into God's presence with thanksgiving and praise. It's a reminder that worship isn't simply something we do out of habit, but an opportunity to celebrate God's goodness and faithfulness.

In **Ephesians 1:15-23**, Paul gives thanks for the faith of the people and prays that they might grow in wisdom and understanding, discovering more fully the hope to which God has called them. He speaks of Christ being raised above every power and authority, and of the Church as Christ's body in the world.

And in **Matthew 25:31-46**, Jesus tells the challenging story of the sheep and the goats. It's a reminder that following Jesus isn't just about what we say we believe, or how often we come to church. It's about how we treat other people, particularly those who are hungry, thirsty, strangers, poorly or in need. When we care for someone who is vulnerable, Jesus tells us, we are caring for him.

One verse that perhaps brings the whole Sunday together is from Matthew's Gospel:

"Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these ... you did it to me." (Matthew 25:40)

As we reach the end of the Christian year and get ready for Advent, it's a good opportunity to reflect on the kind of kingdom Jesus calls us to be part of. Not a kingdom built on power, wealth or status, but one built on love, compassion, justice, kindness and service. And perhaps a reminder that we don't have to look very far to find opportunities to recognise and serve Christ in those around us.

You can find all the readings for Sunday here.

Whether you are joining us in one of our churches or worshipping with us online, may you have a lovely Sunday. May you know the love of Christ, the joy of his presence, and the encouragement to see him in the people you meet along the way.

Every blessing, Phil

Sunday Services - Sunday before Advent

This Sunday, our services are:

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

Ledbury - 10:30am: Rev'd Phil Warrey - All Age Worship (Please note road closure information below)

St John's - 10:30am: Rev'd Kath Baldwin (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 November 2026 – Advent Sunday

Next Sunday, our services are:

Bromyard - 10:30am: Mr Ethan Ottershaw - Christingle

Ledbury - 10:30am: Rev'd Phil Warrey (Stream Source)

St John's - 10:30am: Rev'd Nigel Williams

Lectionary readings

Action of the Week - Violence against women and girls – a call to prayer and action

Our news over recent weeks has been full of deeply disturbing stories of men abusing women, denying their actions and, in some cases, seemingly attempting to defend themselves by putting others in the spotlight. One particularly uncomfortable example was a statement of innocence being read by a wife on YouTube. It is difficult not to feel that the voices of those who have suffered are once again being pushed into the background.

Today's news has brought another harrowing story, of a woman who wasn't even safe in her own home. I was particularly moved by her bravery in waiving her right to anonymity, in the hope that other women might feel able to come forward and speak about their own experiences. That takes enormous courage.

Sadly, the Methodist Church has not been immune to these issues. A court case that we have known was coming for some considerable time has now reached its conclusion, with the former Chair of the Cornwall District, Steven Wild, being convicted on 11 counts of sexual abuse against women. The Methodist Church has issued a statement and apology, which you can read here:

Methodist Church statement following the verdicts in the trial of former President Steven Wild.

Firstly, let us pray.

Let us pray for all those who have experienced violence or abuse, particularly women and girls who have suffered sexual violence. Pray for those who are living with fear, those who are struggling to speak out, and those who are still waiting to be believed. Pray that women and girls may be safe in their homes, workplaces, communities and churches. And let us remember that sexual violence can affect anyone, and pray for the protection and safety of all.

Secondly, let us examine our own hearts and our own actions.

We need to ask ourselves some uncomfortable questions. How often have we heard stories or rumours about someone's behaviour and simply dismissed them? How often have we laughed at inappropriate jokes, brushed aside concerning behaviour or chosen not to challenge something because the person involved was popular, influential or well connected?

There have been many reports and public discussions about the behaviour of people such as Russell Brand and David Walliams. There are also serious questions about how people in positions of responsibility within the entertainment industry responded to concerns about those in the public eye. Too often, it seems, protecting reputations and careers has taken priority over protecting people.

We must be prepared to ask the same questions of ourselves and our own Church. In the Methodist Church, there were apparently people who dismissed concerns about Mr Wild's behaviour as simply "Steve being Steve". That sort of language might seem harmless, even affectionate, but it can become a way of excusing behaviour that should never be acceptable. Nobody should be given permission to

behave inappropriately simply because of who they are, their position, their popularity or how long they have been part of the Church.

Thirdly, we need to make sure our churches are safe places for everyone.

No woman should ever feel unsafe in our churches. No child, young person or adult should have to worry about inappropriate behaviour, unwanted attention or unwanted physical contact. Safeguarding must be something we take seriously, not just something written in a policy or discussed at an annual training session.

We need to listen when people raise concerns, take those concerns seriously, challenge inappropriate behaviour and make sure that those who speak out are supported rather than questioned or silenced. Physical contact must always be appropriate, respectful and welcomed, with clear consent.

As Christians, we talk about a God of love, justice, compassion and welcome. We cannot genuinely offer that welcome if people are not safe amongst us.

So let us pray, but let us also act. Let us examine our own attitudes, challenge behaviour that is wrong, listen to those who speak out and make sure that our churches are places where everyone can feel safe, valued and respected.

Prayer is important, but prayer must also move us to action.

Women Against Violence Sunday

One in three women worldwide experience physical or sexual violence. This weekend, the Church marks Women Against Violence Sunday. It comes ahead of the United Nations' International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women and the start of 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence on 25 November.

The Methodist Church is hosting a free webinar about domestic violence, also on 25 November.

Sign up for webinar here

The Vice-Chair of Methodist Women in Britain, Philippa Hill,shares her reflections in this blog

Find information and resources for Women Against Violence Sunday here

Ledbury - road closure - 22nd November

For those coming to the Sunday Service in Ledbury, due to the town's Christmas Lights switch-on, the High Street will be closed from 9am this Sunday. We believe Bye Street will still be open but only accessible from The Homend or from the bypass.

Coming Up This Week

Monday 23rd:

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

Tuesday 24th:

St John's - 10am - Twins & Tots

Ledbury - 2pm - Bible Study

Wednesday 25th:

Bromyard - 10am - 2pm - Place of Welcome

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

Thursday 26th:

St John's - 2:30pm - River House Group

Ledbury - 7:30pm - Thursday Talk Burgage Hall

Friday 27th:

Bromyard - 11am - 'On the Way' Bible Study

St John's - 7pm - Singing for Fun

Saturday 28th:

Ledbury - 10:30am - Advent Quiet Day - Holy Trinity Church

St John's - 10am - 12pm - Place of Welcome, 7pm Concert by Le Voci singers (tickets available at singingtheseason.eventbrite.com)

Sunday 29nd:

Services as listed above

The Vine at Home - Sunday before Advent

The Vine at Home for Sunday 22nd November 2026

Ledbury Methodist Notices

Ledbury Methodist Notices 18/11//26

Methodist Connexional Weekly Newsletter

Newsletter for 19/11/26

Domestic Abuse webinar with Sally Hope – 25th November 2026

Domestic Abuse webinar – 25th November 2026 11-12.00

The Methodist Church Domestic Abuse Steering Group are pleased to present a webinar with speaker Sally Hope.

On 25 November 2026, Sally Hope will present a webinar on the issue of domestic abuse, which is common in our churches and church communities.

Writer, trainer and recovery practitioner, Sally Hope is the author of *Always Hopeful*, an eleven-week recovery programme for Christian women who have experienced Domestic Abuse.

A survivor herself, Sally spent several years working in a women's refuge facilitating recovery programmes and coaching women to rebuild their lives free from abuse. She recognised the lack of support for those women who had experienced spiritual abuse as part of the domestic abuse and so developed a peer support programme that, with training, can be delivered by any church or ministry to support Christian women to make sense of their faith in light of their experience of abuse.

Sally now trains others to deliver Always Hopeful as well as writing books, recovery resources, and articles about issues related to faith, feminism and domestic abuse.

In addition to Sally, victims and survivors of domestic abuse will be talking about their personal experiences.

Advance Registration is essential.

Register on Zoom for Domestic abuse webinar with Sally Hope

WhatsApp Groups

Each of our churches 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

EDI (Equality, Diversity and Inclusion) Officer - 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 12 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

November 2026 InTouch

Preaching Plan

Our website

Sign Up for Methodist News

Joint Public Issues Team Newsletter

Gallery - Ledbury Methodist Art Project