



October 2025

In Touch

The monthly news bulletin of the
Herefordshire (South and East) Methodist Circuit

Dear Friends,

Every time I come to write the monthly minister's letter, or sit down to write a sermon, I think, things cannot get any worse in our world, and then a news article appears or I turn the TV on, and yes it just does!

One minute you think something good has happened, the UK has agreed to recognise the state of Palestine, and then news comes from the West Bank, that in retaliation, Israel has closed the Allenby Bridge crossing between Israel/Palestine and Jordan indefinitely. While Palestinians with Israeli citizenship and Jerusalem status Palestinians have other options to leave the country, West Bank Palestinians do not. They are now penned in by the Occupation Power unable to exit for any reason, however urgent or vital. Also West Bankers currently out of their country, are stranded, unable to return home. This is unbelievable horrible—we need to pray.

Then President Trump, you think he'd be happy after his state visit, appears on the TV and tells folk that Tylenol (Paracetamol) is unsafe and he's heard "terrible things" about multiple vaccinations. The amount of damage this will do, both in the USA and to the UK Trump & Farage followers will be horrific. A huge danger to expectant mothers in fear of taking a drug that will help them to reduce pain and inflammation, putting them in more danger, and we already know that worldwide the levels of child vaccination has fallen dramatically since previous unnecessary scares. What is going through the heads of these people. We need to pray.

And then there are many others, let's not start on people painting roundabouts or blaming everything on immigration and small boats.

If only people could see, that there is another way, that its not all about power, and greed and money and control. If love and care and Kingdom values could be shared in the world, how much better a place could it be. We need to pray, come Lord Jesus come.

Continued.....

The Methodist Church

Herefordshire (South & East) **Circuit**



Last Sunday was Peace Sunday, and I hope we can carry on some of the thoughts about Peace and Prayer on into October, and really think about what our reaction should be to some of the rhetoric of our world leaders, our own government, and the likes of Mr Farage and Mr Robinson that are stirring up hatreds in our country, and the othering of refugees and immigrants.

In my sermon at Bromyard last Sunday, I heard myself saying about our 1 Timothy reading that: - *Paul turns our attention to prayer. He urges that “supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings should be made for everyone – for kings, presidents and all who are in high positions – so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity.”*

This isn't prayer as a retreat from the world, but prayer that shapes how we live in it. To pray for everyone – including those in authority – is to place them before God's vision of peace. It reminds us that no one is beyond the reach of God's grace, and that peace is never the privilege of a few but the promise of God for all.

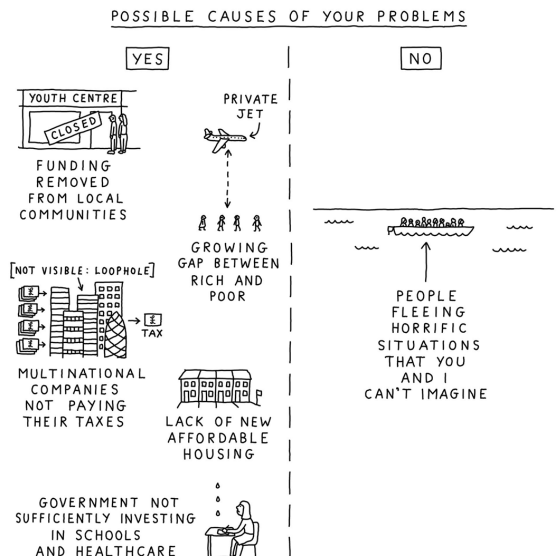
Let's reflect on what a stand we as Christians and Methodists want to make against all the hatred and othering that is going on in this country and this world at the moment, and let's pray, and let's do all we can in our circles to offer love and welcome.

The Methodist Church issued a challenge last week, and asked us to send in recordings of our church folk saying “All are welcome”. Bromyard was able to film this and send it in, and hopefully it can be used in the recording the church is planning.

In response to tensions across parts of the United Kingdom over the recent weeks, particularly in response to groups of people being targeted based on their background, the Methodist Church is publishing a new recording of the hymn Let us build a house where love can dwell (StF 409). As part of this recording, we are filming a music video, so that we can share the media online and encourage communities to come together.

So folks, keep on praying and keep on placing our world leaders up to the light of God's vision of Love.

Every blessing Phil



Gideon—Wordsearch

u	g	m	i	d	i	a	n	i	t	e	s
w	y	j	s	g	s	y	g	o	d	w	u
a	v	e	d	m	r	h	w	e	r	o	r
t	f	s	h	t	a	o	o	u	i	r	r
e	r	i	n	e	e	s	u	c	n	r	o
r	r	u	g	s	l	s	h	n	k	i	u
u	o	j	m	h	i	p	p	e	d	e	n
c	a	m	p	p	t	g	r	r	d	d	d
e	h	g	i	d	e	o	n	o	i	w	e
h	o	m	e	c	s	t	r	a	o	n	d
a	f	r	a	i	d	n	s	c	l	f	g
w	o	o	l	j	a	r	s	k	h	u	g

camp
shocked
country
Gideon
help
home
spring
smashed

fight
Israelites
ground
proof
worried
afraid
water
wool

trumpets
Midianites
torch
drink
signal
God
jars
surrounded

Jesus and his Scriptures (Part 2)

We saw last month that Jesus freely interpreted the scriptures, often seeking the truth that lay behind the Hebrew laws. He could be more “liberal” or more “conservative”. The latter seems to be the case when he speaks against divorce, yet the churches have felt able to take a more lenient view. Even the Roman Catholic church has a way of annulling a marriage.

There is no question that Jesus loved his country as his tears over the fate of Jerusalem testified, yet he leaves behind the nationalist and sometimes racist teaching in the scriptures. John the Baptist had preached that *“God can make children for Abraham out of these very stones”*. *Jesus endorses John and mixes freely with Samaritans, Romans and Greeks, moving away from the exclusivism that marked Jewish tradition.*

Nor was this just a matter of social intercourse. Jesus recognised faith and goodness in Jews and non-Jews alike - *“by their fruits you shall know them”*. *Neither race nor place was central to his thinking. He told the Samaritan woman that even Jerusalem and the Temple would be superseded. This despite the clear promise ascribed to God - “I have chosen and consecrated this house that my name might be there for ever”*. *The moving testimony of Zechariah that nations will look to Jerusalem has to be set against Jesus' saying that “My kingdom is not of this world”*.

The Sermon on the Mount is characterised by Jesus' words *“You have heard ... but I say to you”*. *In one example Jesus quotes the injunction - “love your neighbour” but he makes the dramatic addition - “love your enemies” - and when the disciples want to call down fire from heaven on the villages that will not heed them, Jesus counters - “You do not realise what you are saying”*. *Even in death, he prayed for his enemies.*

To apply Jesus' teaching to our own time, we can say that whatever love we might have for our own country, there is no room for narrow nationalism. An outlook perhaps understandable in previous times is replaced by a wider, more tolerant, more compassionate vision. Among the great issues of Jesus' time was the Roman occupation. He sees that resistance will only bring suffering. In the same way, he does not confront the issue of slavery (hardly an option in his time) – but he sowed seeds that would flourish in a later time.

We too are not bound by old Hebrew traditions. In matters of capital punishment, abortion, women's rights and even homosexuality, we have moved on. In part this is because we have increased our God-given knowledge through

Ray worked in printing and later became a postman in Bromyard, retiring in 2002 alongside Rosemary. They enjoyed travelling, but especially loved returning year after year to Llandudno. Ray also enjoyed sport, skittles, bowls, badminton, and had a lifelong passion for football and Everton. He loved male voice choirs, jigsaws, word searches, and collected model trams.

Ray was a faithful member of Bromyard Methodist Church – always supportive, kind, and quietly present. In recent years he struggled with his health, and he passed away on the 12th August 2025.

Rest in peace, Ray. *Amen.*



Ledbury News

Perhaps one event that stands out from the last month's diary (so far) was the Silent Peace Vigil for Gaza held after morning worship on August 31st. Almost 40 people stood in silence for 30 minutes in the town's High Street outside the Almshouses, holding posters showing the faces of just some of the many who have been killed in Gaza. It was a moving occasion, and perhaps one of the few ways we have to express our horror at what is happening there.

A small group were also privileged to meet, and provide breakfast for, half a dozen pilgrims on 4th September who were walking as part of the Jubilee Year of Hope. They had started from the Catholic Cathedral in Cardiff and were on one of four routes which will converge in Nottingham on 13th with a celebration of hope, the sign of the Cross and the Gospels.

At time of writing, there are several September "happenings" still to come: the Women's Breakfast Retreat Day, a new series of Bible studies (on the "I Am" sayings of Jesus) and Harvest. And, of course, every Sunday we meet for worship – always the morning, but also once a month for a relaxed afternoon service and an evening Taizé or Iona-style service. It is right to say a huge thank you to all our presbyters, local preachers and worship leaders who put so much thought and preparation into these. We are very grateful for all they do to help us focus on the Gospel message and our calling as members of Christ's body.

Brian Hudson

St. John's

Hello again. October! Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness indeed! Let's hope so, anyway.

In mid - September we held an unusually early Harvest Festival celebratory service. This was ably led by Revd. Richard Wilde, Methodist Rural Officer. It was good to welcome him to St. John's for his first visit. The Bring and Share Lunch which followed the service was much appreciated by all who were able to attend. There was much chatting in between and lively conversation causing one happy member to observe, "It's been a great day....just like old times.". Thanks are due to all who helped to prepare the church the day before, man the kitchen on the day and distribute all the produce to the Food Bank the following week. It was truly a real team effort.



Sadly, we have to report the passing of two of our members recently, both of whom lived out their final days in Brockington House Care Home. June Beasey's funeral was held in mid September. The service was conducted by Revd. Phil Warrey at St John's , following the committal at the crematorium. (See p. 8)

At the time of writing we await Ionwen Williams's funeral service which will be held at the village church in Llanwarne where she lived for most - if not all - of her life.

If you would appreciate marking a special anniversary, birthday or similar by contributing flowers for church on the nearest Sunday to that date, do let me know. There has been a suggestion that we look again at "best practice from the past" and possibly reconsider resurrecting the Rota idea. What do you think?

As usual, House groups and Bible Studies, Twins and Tots and Lunch Club have continued , details of which are in the pages of In Touch or, if you prefer, do feel free to ask any of the Stewards and they will point you in the direction of the person to whom you need to speak.

In the meantime, have a memorable October, whatever it may hold. Stay safe.

Pat Peden

June Elizabeth Beasey: 1 June 1929 - 31 August 2025

June and her twin sister Mavis were born in Malpas, Newport, Gwent and were raised by their widowed mother and two bachelor uncles. She attended St. Julian's School in Newport, and grew up during the war years. She was popular because, not having a sweet tooth, she shared her sugar ration!

As a young woman, June was an active member of the Girls' Brigade, where she met Eric, who was in the Boys' Brigade. She worked as a telephonist for the Post Office until she and Eric married and moved to Hereford.

Their first home together was in Elgar Avenue and they moved a couple of times to other homes in Hereford. Eventually, Eric bought a plot of land in Breinton, where he built a bungalow with beautifully landscaped gardens. This home, known as *The Granary*, became a special place for family gatherings.

After Eric died, June moved back into town where she was supported by many friends. In 2019, she became the second resident of the newly-built Brockington House Care Community, close to her old home in Elgar Avenue. In time, her twin sister Mavis joined her there.

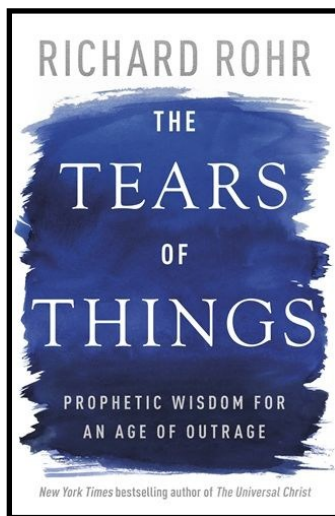
Throughout her life, June was a woman of faith and commitment. She attended church twice every Sunday, faithfully leaving Eric in charge of putting the meat in the oven for the 1pm meal (a duty he sometimes forgot!).

She was elegant, smartly dressed, and known for her refined hospitality—china teacups, serviettes, and a memorable welcome in her home.

She was also active and energetic. She took part in keep fit classes, loved tennis, and played well into her late 60s. She never missed Wimbledon, especially if Roger Federer was on court.

Eventually, as her eyesight and hearing declined, June faced challenges, but she continued to welcome visitors warmly. Communication was often helped by a whiteboard, and many a conversation ended in laughter when misunderstandings arose. Friends and family alike testify to how uplifting it was to spend time in her company.

June has been part of the St John's family for over 50 years—faithful in worship, joyful in music, and generous in friendship. We give thanks for her long life, for the love she gave and received, and for the peace she now knows in God's eternal care.



A Good Old Age – An A to Z of Loving and Following the Lord Jesus in Later Years By Derek Prime, 10Publishing, £7.99

Old age often gets a bad press. Associated with grumpiness, aches and pains, loneliness, and isolation it's not something we particularly look forward to or relish when we're there.

Pastor and Bible teacher, Derek Prime, writing in his 80s, shows us that there is another way to view old age. He guides us through 26 Christian priorities that we should hold to in later life.

With biblical wisdom and practical advice, Prime helps us to navigate the unique challenges and joys that old age can bring. This is a book to dip into, meditate on and read prayerfully as you let the truths it contains gently transform the way you live your old age.

The Tears of Things – Prophetic Wisdom for an Age of Outrage By Richard Rohr, SPCK, £21.99

Richard Rohr's much-anticipated memoir offers teaching of profound importance for our fractured world.

How do we live compassionately in a time of violence and despair? What can we do with the anger we feel over an unjust world? Rohr turns to the writings of the Jewish prophets, showing how some of the lesser-read books of the Bible offer us a path forward today.

The prophets' writings carry a profound lamentation about our shared human condition and the pain of the world. They embody what Rohr calls holy disorder – a distinct approach to confronting malevolence and recognizing the wholeness of every living being.

Written in the warm, pastoral voice that has endeared millions to Rohr, this book breathes paves a path of enlightenment for anyone seeking a wholehearted way of living in a hurting world.

WHATSAPP GUIDANCE AND RULES

The purpose of our WhatsApp groups is to share information about Church activities, pass on messages and have collective conversations with others.

GUIDANCE

Please be aware that by joining a WhatsApp group you are consenting to share your phone number with the rest of the group. You can leave the group at any time. The administrator of the group has the right to remove inappropriate posts and not following the rules could result in removal from the group.

RULES

- Always keep to the purpose of the group, do not share irrelevant messages about other topics or messages of a personal nature. Keep chat inclusive and relevant for everyone.
- Do not spam the group. No memes, adverts or deals. Never send content or information that has not been verified.
- Try not to have long one-on-one conversations in the group. Ask for permission to switch to private messages instead.
- Privacy must be respected. Members of the group are asked not to share anyone else's personal information such as a phone number, address or photos without their permission.
- Be respectful in your messages.
- If you feel uncomfortable or have any issue with the group, please contact the administrator in the first instance.

If you are not sure, ask yourself these three questions before you post:

- Is this relevant?
- Is this necessary?
- Is this a good time to post?

Safeguarding Sunday

Sunday 16th November will be Safeguarding Sunday at St John's. Our service will help us to reflect and act on what it means to make our church a safe place for everyone.

If you have been affected by abuse in the past this might raise issues for you. There will be people available after the service for you to talk to if you wish

Kath

Grief

Just recently Ruth and I had to say Goodbye to a much-loved Pet Dog, a Yorkie-Poo, named 'Doodle'. It gave me cause to reflect on the nature of grief and grieving. It can manifest itself through, guilt, anger, denial, depression, and acceptance. Nor is this a linear experience, we can return and repeat any of these feelings as we work through our grief. It is an emotion most of us will have experienced, particularly so when that loss is around a Loved one, a Family member, or close friend and not just a loved Pet.

That sense of loss and grief leaves a hole; a hole that cannot be filled, nor should it because if that love means anything, that hole is important! It should not consume us but remain with us to shape and form us into the future.

Grief is something that connects us directly to God, as we can forget that God Grieves. Within the Christian faith we are certain of the forgiveness we receive through Christ by the cross so our sin, our failings, our things undone as well as those done in error that cause hurt and pain are wiped clean. But this does not mean God does not grieve, and does not go through that sense of loss and continues to grieve as we as individuals and collectively as humanity give cause for God to weep. In the Noah Story we read of God's grief over humanity. The Story of Jesus Weeping at the grave of his friend Lazarus's grave illustrates this, Jesus wept over Jerusalem, and continues today weeping over Israel Palestine, and all other problems in our world.

We never grieve alone. For God is always ahead of us, not only grieving with us, but for us as well.

Neil Eldridge

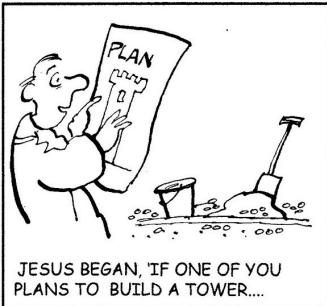
The tale of the Tower Builder



JESUS OFTEN TOLD
STORIES WITH
HIDDEN MEANINGS

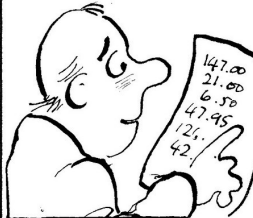


ON ONE OCCASION JESUS
EXPLAINED HOW IT WOULDN'T
ALWAYS BE EASY TO FOLLOW HIM.



JESUS BEGAN, IF ONE OF YOU
PLANS TO BUILD A TOWER....

...YOU'LL FIRST NEED TO
WORK HOW MUCH IT WILL
COST.



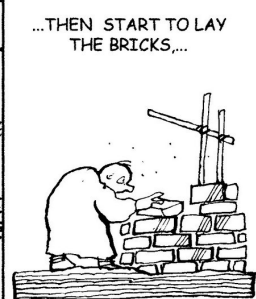
IF YOU DON'T DO THE SUMS....



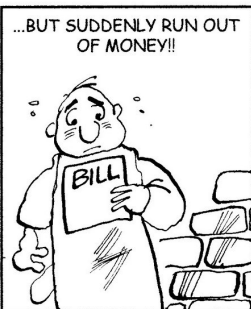
...YOU MIGHT MAKE A
START,



....WORK VERY HARD ON THE
FOUNDATIONS.



...THEN START TO LAY
THE BRICKS,...



...BUT SUDDENLY RUN OUT
OF MONEY!!



THEN PEOPLE WILL LAUGH
AT YOU!



WE NEED TO REALISE THAT
ALTHOUGH FOLLOWING
JESUS IS THE RIGHT THING
TO DO, IT'S ALSO A GREAT
CHALLENGE.

Street Banquet

In response to a pious statement, “Blessed is anyone who eats bread in the Kingdom of Heaven”, Jesus tells a parable. This is the story of a king who is throwing a dinner party and he decides to invite his friends to join him for the celebrations. But, one by one, each of those people who were asked to the dinner turn down the invitation for what they consider to be very valid reasons. On hearing their excuses the king is ‘hopping mad’, and he orders one of his servant to go out into the lanes and back alleys and invite those folk who are never invited to a party. By doing so, the most needy of society become honoured guests and receive a taste of God’s New World.

That parable told by Jesus has been the inspiration for us to run what we call ‘Street Banquet’. This regular event of food and fellowship began about seven years ago in the redundant graveyard on Park Road (behind the Birmingham Polish Centre), before moving indoors, first of all at the Methodist Central Mission, and now at The Church at Carrs Lane.

Find out more at www.streetbanquet.org.uk

Tea Church at St. John’s

4.00pm on the 3rd Sunday

19th October

16th November

ALL WELCOME!



Bible Study

Rev'd Roy Crew will continue to lead our Bible studies in October on October 10th & 24th. They will be held at 2.30pm at St John's.

The theme will be 'A Sensational Week With Mark', covering Chapters 14 - 16.

New members will be most welcome. Do try and share lifts if you are able.



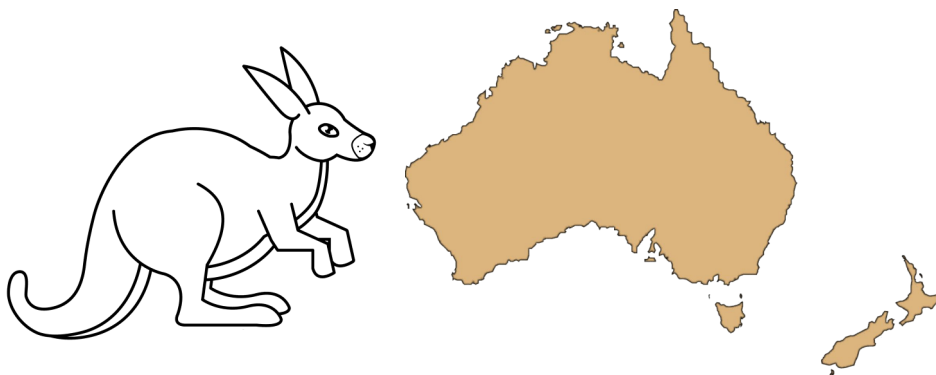
Australia-themed afternoon and tea



Come and join us in St. John's Lower Hall for a light-hearted afternoon with Mark Jackson, with memories and slides of his visits to Australia, followed by tea.

Donations welcome in aid of Methodist Homes.

Sunday 2nd November at 3pm



Smile Lines

Lost in translation

Sign on a door in Istanbul: American dentist – 2nd floor. Teeth extracted by a new Methodist.

Not any more

Two young tourists went into a Quaker Guest house in Lakeland. As they were strangers, the warden approached them and asked, "Are you Friends?"

The answer came back politely, "Oh no, not now, we are married."

Choice

Why do Americans choose from just two people to run for president, and 50 for Miss America?

If you understand it...

When you get to the point where you really understand your computer, it's probably obsolete.

**HOLY TRINITY CHURCH
HEREFORD**

Bromyard Wind Band



Gala Concert

with the

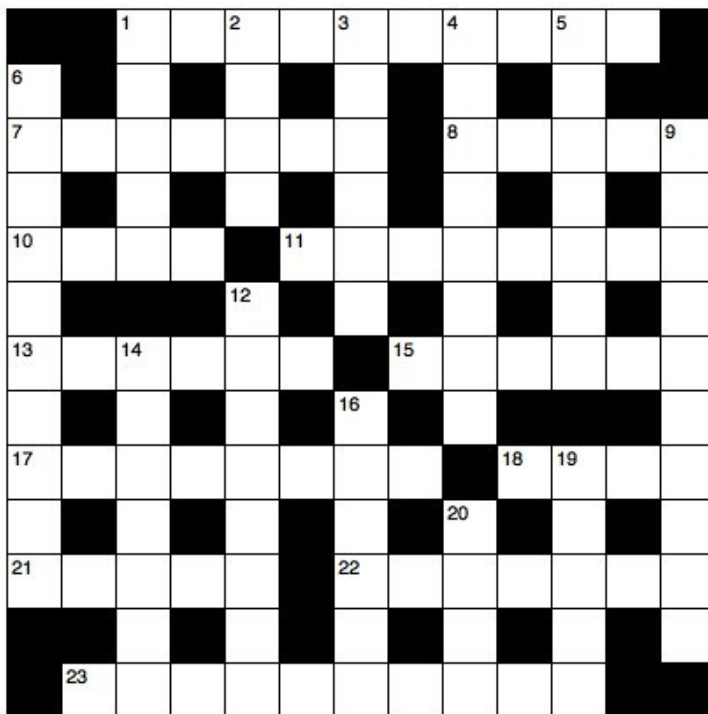
Got2Sing Choir

SATURDAY 4th OCTOBER: 7.30pm

Tickets: £10 adults £5 children

Available “on the door” and also from

**Kevin Barry (Hair Salon), 16 Commercial Road
Hereford HR1 2BB Tel 01432 274140**



Across

1 He was replaced as king of Judah by his uncle Mattaniah (2 Kings 24:17) (10)

7 'Let us fix our eyes on Jesus... who for the joy set before him – the cross' (Hebrews 12:2) (7)

8 Relieved (5)

10 Impetuous (Acts 19:36) (4)

11 Surprised and alarmed (Luke 24:37) (8)

13 'It is – for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for the rich to enter the kingdom of God' (Mark 10:25) (6)

15 Directions for the conduct of a church service (6)

17 One of the acts of the sinful nature (Galatians 5:19) (8)

18 and 20 Down 'She began to wet his – with her tears. Then she wiped them with her – ' (Luke 7:38) (4,4)

21 'We will all be changed, in a flash, in the twinkling of an – , – the last trumpet' (1 Corinthians 15:51–52) (3,2)

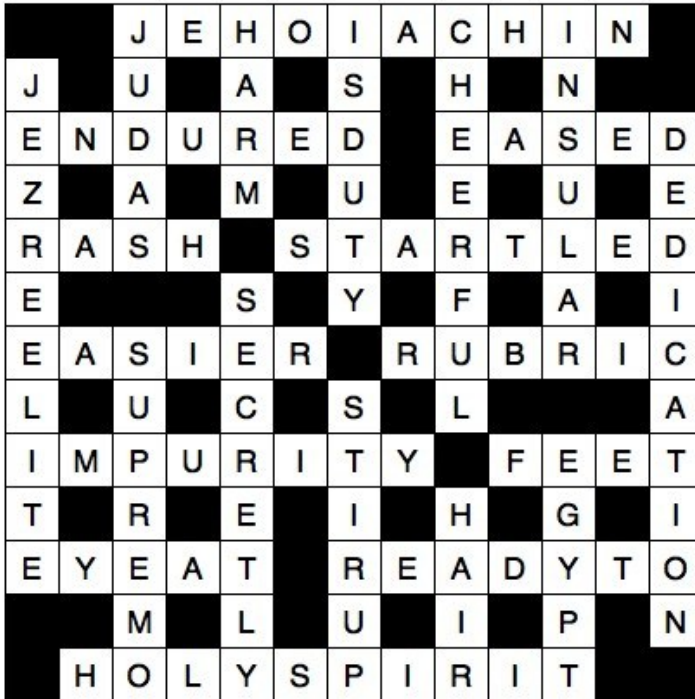
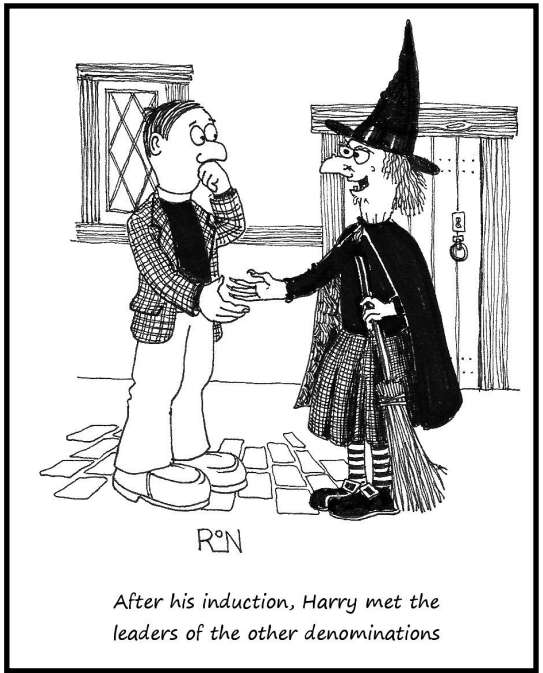
22 'But he replied, "Lord, I am – – go with you to prison and to death"' (Luke 22:33) (5,2)

23 Third person of the Trinity (2 Corinthians 13:14) (4,6)

Down

- 1 He betrayed Jesus (Matthew 27:3) (5)
- 2 Paul's assurance to the Philippian jailer: 'Don't — yourself! We are all here!' (Acts 16:28) (4)
- 3 'Fear God and keep his commandments, for this — the whole — of man' (Ecclesiastes 12:13) (2,4)
- 4 The sort of giver God loves (2 Corinthians 9:7) (8)
- 5 Sun rail (anag.) (7)
- 6 Naboth, the ill-fated vineyard owner, was one (1 Kings 21:1) (10)
- 9 Paul said of young widows, 'When their sensual desires overcome their — to Christ, they want to marry' (1 Timothy 5:11) (10)
- 12 This was how Joseph of Arimathea practised his discipleship 'because he feared the Jews' (John 19:38) (8)
- 14 Mop ruse (anag.) (7)
- 16 Foment (Philippians 1:17) (4,2)
- 19 Where Joseph and Mary escaped to with the baby Jesus (Matthew 2:14) (5)
- 20 See 18 Across





Lectionary Readings

5 October

Ordinary 27

Lamentations 1:1-6

Canticle: Lamentations 3:19-26 or

Psalm 137

2 Timothy 1:1-14

Luke 17:5-10

12 October

Ordinary 28

Jeremiah 29:1, 4-7

Psalm 66:1-12

2 Timothy 2:8-15

Luke 17:11-19

19 October

Ordinary 29

Jeremiah 31:27-34

Psalm 119:97-104

2 Timothy 3:14 – 4:5

Luke 18:1-8

26 October

Ordinary 30

Joel 2:23-32

Psalm 65 2

Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18

Luke 18:9-14

2 November

Ordinary 31

Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4

Psalm 119:137-144

2 Thessalonians 1:1-4, 11-12

Diary Dates in October

Saturday 4th October

9.00 - 10.30am

Women's Prayer Breakfast at Ledbury

Friday 10th October

2.30pm

Bible study at St. John's

Friday 24th October

2.30pm

Bible study at St. John's

Diary Dates into November

Saturday 1st November

9.00 - 10.30am

Women's Prayer Breakfast at Ledbury

Sunday 2nd November

3.00pm

Australian-themed afternoon and tea, St. John's

Church Services in October

Sunday 5th October

Ordinary 27

Bromyard	10.30am	Rev. Roy Crew	<i>Holy Communion</i>
Ledbury	10.30am	Rev. Martyn Sanders	
	2.30pm	Rev. Mary Jolly	<i>Relaxed</i>
St John's	10.30am	Mr. Keith White	

Sunday 12th October

Ordinary 28

Bromyard	2.30pm	Rev. Neil Johnson	<i>Harvest</i>
Ledbury	10.30am	Ms. Lisa-Jayne Lewis	
	6.00pm	Gillian/Stephen Chowns	<i>Taizé</i>
St John's	10.30am	Rev. Phil Warrey	<i>Holy Communion</i>

Deadline for November In Touch

Sunday 19th October

Ordinary 29

Bromyard	10.30am	Rev. Martyn Sanders	
Ledbury	10.30am	Rev. Dr. Nigel Williams	<i>Holy Communion</i>
St John's	10.30am	Rev. Phil Warrey	
	4.00pm	Mr. Roy Little	<i>Tea Church</i>

Sunday 26th October

Ordinary 30

Bromyard	2.30pm	Rev. Phil Warrey	<i>Tea Church</i>
Ledbury	10.30am	Rev. Phil Warrey	<i>Jun. Ch. Ann., AAW</i>
St John's	10.30am	Rev. Ruth Eldridge	

Keeping InTouch

Circuit contacts:

Rev Phil Warrey: t: 01531 634242 m: 07917 077785

e: phil.warrey@methodist.org.uk

Rest day: Usually Friday

Circuit Website: www.herefordshiremethodists.org.uk

Circuit Administrator: admin@herefordshiremethodists.org.uk

The deadline for the November edition of In Touch is **Sunday 12th**

October; ideally, please send material by email to

hfdscircuitnews@gmail.com

Or by Post to 18 Southbank Close, HEREFORD HR1 2TQ