

# TORRIDGE METHODIST CIRCUIT

## MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

### September 2023 - Issue 139

Welcome to Edition Number 139

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Any comments or items you wish to share, please contact the editor, Dave Watson by e-mail; phone 01237 451437 or to 6 Greenings Road, Buckland Brewer, Bideford, EX39 5LU.

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As well as the Circuit Facebook page – **Torridge Methodist Circuit**, we have a private Facebook Group where we care share thoughts, prayers & other material on **Torridge Methodist Circuit Group**. If you wish to join please push the Join button & I can add you.

Please pray for our Ministers, Rob Blackhall & Andrew Vidamour, for Frank Watson & Sarah Richards and all involved in the varied life of the Circuit; for those connected to the various Chapels & the communities in which they live & work.

#### **CIRCUIT ZOOM SERVICES**

The Circuit Services continue to take place ON VARIOUS Sunday's on Zoom using the Services that are printed in the Circuit Newsletter. The Services are on Sunday Evenings starting at 6.30pm – but the 'doors will be open' at about 6.15pm. The contact/entry details will be send out during the preceding week & the Service can be accessed via a computer/laptop with camera/microphone, I Pad/Phone or using a 'normal' phone. Even if you have a device with camera/microphone & do not wish to be seen – you can join in without the camera on.

If you do not receive an email or want further information – please contact Sarah Richards, Circuit Administrator on 01237 472649 or [sarahrichards185@gmail.com](mailto:sarahrichards185@gmail.com)

#### **FROM REV ROB BLACKHALL – SUPERINTENDENT MINISTER**

Dear Friends

28th August saw the 60th anniversary of the March on Washington to protest about the treatment of black people in the United States, particularly the Southern part. Thousands descended on the capital and on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial heard one of the great speeches of modern times. I am sure we have all heard at sometime Martin Luther King's "I have a dream". If not, You Tube, will provide various examples. King's vision was of a better world, based on the equality of all people.

*"I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the colour of their skin but by the content of their character. I have a dream today. I have a dream that one day every valley shall be exalted, every hill and mountain shall be made low, the rough places will be made plain, and the crooked places will be made straight, and the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together."*

Amen to that.

The Biblical imagery is deliberate as you would expect of a preacher; following in the great traditions of the Old Testament prophets; and indeed, the theme of Justice that runs through the whole of scripture.

Micah is a classic. He is asked how we worship God? Now that is great question. But the answer given is challenging, *“To act justly and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God.”* (Micah 6:8)

How can we truly worship God in a world that is riven by injustice? Just this morning on the news there was talk of the plight of women in Afghanistan; of migrants dying in the English Channel. Alongside that we have news of the increased activity of Food Banks; of the increasing divide between rich and poor, not only in the UK, but globally. Too many this day will go hungry, too many will be without clean water, have no access to medical services and education. And then there are the great environmental issues of our day.

The major report at this year’s Methodist Conference was one entitled

**“A justice-seeking Church: the report of the Walking with Micah project.”**

Walking with Micah has been a two-year project helping the Methodist Church to explore what it means to be a justice-seeking Church. It draws on Methodist history, theology, current concerns and practice, and recommends a framework of principles for justice which underpins our understanding of God’s justice and what it means to seek justice.”

We are asked to prayerfully consider this.

What does Justice look like in the 21st century?

For men, women, boys and girls; for the planet itself; what needs to be in place for all to flourish and enjoy the “fullness of life” that Jesus talks about?

King finishes his speech -

*“And when this happens, and when we allow freedom ring, when we let it ring from every village and every hamlet, from every state and every city, we will be able to speed up that day when all of God’s children, Black men and white men, Jews and Gentiles, Protestants and Catholics, will be able to join hands and sing in the words of the old Negro spiritual: Free at last. Free at last. Thank God almighty, we are free at last.”*

Amen to that.

Every blessing - Rob

## **NOTICE BOARDS**

It is the start of a new Methodist Year. New Year, new beginnings. A fresh start.

I have been having a look on my travels at notice boards in some of our Chapels. I see that there is a fair amount of stuff that is out of date – for example, dated Covid instructions. There is other material that is “dog eared” and faded.

Just a thought that maybe it is time for a tidy up of our notice boards? Might even leave some room for something fresh! Rob

## **COVID**

1.If you are feeling unwell, particularly with respiratory infections, you should think seriously about keeping away from others, and not going to Church events; especially if you test positive for Covid. Tests are still available.

2. Continue to be vigilant with regards to hygiene, especially where food is concerned.
3. Ventilation remains something to consider and keep under review.

### MAIN DATES

#### **SUNDAY 3rd September at 10.30am TORRINGTON CIRCUIT SERVICE**

On the first Sunday of the Methodist year, we are going to gather together. Part of the service will include the Local Preachers making their annual promises. It will be good to support them in that; but also to consider our own callings within the life of the Church. The other main theme of the service will be WORSHIP – something we all do together. We shall, appropriately, share bread and wine together.

#### **START OF METHODIST NEW YEAR**

Tuesday 5th September at 11am at **Torrington Methodist Church**

Please feel free to join Frank, Andrew and Rob for Holy Communion at the start of the new Methodist Year.

#### **SATURDAY 9th September 10-3.30 DISTRICT SYNOD AT SHEBBEAR COLLEGE.**

**Sunday 10th September at 6.30pm Zoom Service**

**Tuesday 12th September at 7.30pm at Northam CIRCUIT MEETING**

**Tuesday 19th September at Buckland Brewer at 1.15pm Young People's and Family Committee.**

**Wednesday 20th September at Torrington at 7pm MEETING FOR TREASURERS**

**Thursday 21st September at Torrington at 7pm CIRCUIT SAFEGUARDING COMMITTEE**

## DATES 2023/24

#### CIRCUIT MEETING

Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> September 7.30pm  
 Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2pm  
 Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2pm  
 Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> June 7.30pm

#### CHURCH COUNCILS

Oct 9-20  
 Mar 5-16  
 May 20-25, June 3-7

#### LOCAL PREACHERS 7pm

Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> September  
 Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> November  
 Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> March  
 Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> June

#### CIRCUIT SAFEGUARDING 7pm

**PASTORAL MEETINGS**

Sept 25-Oct 6

April 8-19

<b>ENCIRCLED IN CARE</b>	
<u>NORTHAM</u>	<u>TORRINGTON</u>
Tuesdays 2pm	Wednesdays 7pm
12th September <i>Connecting Care and Discipleship</i>	13th September
18th October <i>Children, Young People and Pastoral Care</i>	19th October
14th November <i>Across The Generations</i>	15th November
12th December <i>Health, Healing &amp; Well-being</i>	13th December
9th January <i>Mental Health Issues</i>	10th January
6th February <i>Loss and Bereavement</i>	7th February
12th March <i>Domestic Abuse</i>	13th March

Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> September  
Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> March

WAYS OF WORSHIP (TBC)

CIRCUIT CONVERSATIONS (Sunday 3-5)  
Once a Quarter  
22<sup>nd</sup> Oct at 3pm at Torrington

ZOOM SERVICES  
2 a month (TBC)

THY KINGDOM COME  
May 9 Ascension Day to  
May 19 Pentecost, 2024

BIBLE MONTH  
June 2024

SYNODS  
Sat 9<sup>th</sup> Sept Shebbear  
Sat 27<sup>th</sup> April TBC

HOLY WEEK  
Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> March Palm Sunday  
Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> March EASTER DAY

**LEADERSHIP MEETINGS**

2pm Kendor  
Sept 5                      April 23  
Oct 31                      June 4  
Jan 23                      (July 9)  
March 5

**ADVENT STUDY**

Wednesday 2pm  
Nov 29<sup>th</sup>  
Dec 6<sup>th</sup>  
Dec 13<sup>th</sup>  
Dec 20<sup>th</sup>

**LENT STUDY**

Thursdays 2pm  
Feb  
15<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup>  
March  
7<sup>th</sup>, Wed 13<sup>th</sup>, Tues  
19<sup>th</sup>

**QUIET MORNING /  
TIME FOR GOD**

Time for Quiet and for  
reading 10-12.30  
11-12 Guided Meditation  
Wed 4<sup>th</sup> Oct Bideford  
Wed 1<sup>st</sup> Nov Alverdiscott  
Wed 6<sup>th</sup> Dec Torrington  
Thurs 4<sup>th</sup> Jan Buckland  
Thurs 8<sup>th</sup> Feb Langtree  
Wed 6<sup>th</sup> March Lake  
Thurs 11<sup>th</sup> April Northam  
Wed 1<sup>st</sup> May Black Torr  
Wed 5<sup>th</sup> June Milton D  
Thurs 4<sup>th</sup> July

**FROM REVD ANDREW VIDAMOUR**

Dear Friends,

One day over the summer, I went to Clovelly and visited a Fisherman's Cottage restored to how it would have been in the late nineteenth or early twentieth century. On the wall there, I saw an old sampler on which was embroidered the simple message: 'God is Love'.

So, this truth was at the heart of that household all those decades ago, and seeing those words every day may have helped the members of that household to make those words more of a lived reality.

'God is Love' is a simple statement with many profound repercussions. Some years ago, I read a book called 'Freedom of Simplicity' by Richard Foster, an American Quaker who takes the call of Jesus to live simply and makes clear how this may open doors for us and expand our awareness, rather than closing our options down.

Foster begins by discussing the Complexity of Simplicity before looking at the roots of this theme in the Old and New Testaments and the history of the Church. He then goes on to explore Inward, Outward and Corporate Simplicity, emphasising that this is a shared as well as a personal calling. One key figure whose words and practice we may look to and reflect on in this, is St Francis of Assisi.

And it becomes increasingly plain that Simplicity has a practical dimension: think, for example, of that mantra of the Lifestyle Movement in the 1980s: '*Live more simply, that others may simply live*'.

The urgency of this has grown in the forty years since the writing of this book, given the accelerating impact of climate change.

At the start of this Methodist Church year, I think we might do well to ponder not only on the words of the Methodist Covenant Service, but also on this calling to simplicity of being and life. This is not to be simplistic in our thinking and our living, but it is to ask, in a world full of fear and greed, over-consumption and the climate emergency, 'What do I/we need? What can I/we save, share and give, spiritually and practically, in Christ's Name?'

I leave you with some words of the poet T.S. Eliot who described the Christian life as '*a condition of complete simplicity, costing not less than everything.*'

Andrew Vidamour

## **EDI TRAINING**

- If you wish to do the EDI course online, can you let Sarah Richards know.

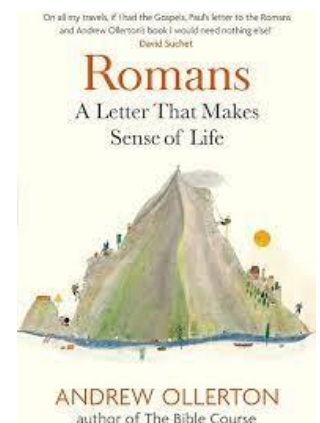
To do the training online please take the following steps:-

1. Go to <https://mcb.theologyx.com/> If you have already used Theology X (probably for the Advanced safeguarding module) use the same username and password to sign into MCBX (the new Methodist online training platform).
2. If you do not have a Theology X account, just go straight to the MCBX and register there to create an account.
3. There you will find the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Module
4. You do not need to do it all at once but can do as little or as much as your time allows.
5. At the end you will be given a certificate (via email). Please could you let Sarah Richards have a copy of that so we can keep a record.

## **FRANK WATSON – LAY PASTORAL WORKER**

Another September dawns and with it a new connexional year... therefore HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Over the summer Alice and I attended Creation Fest held annually at the Royal Cornwall Showground in Wadebridge. One of the speakers this year was Dr Andrew Ollerton. Those of you who came to The Bible Course which we ran as a circuit may recognise his name, as he is the author of the course and the man who appeared in all the videos. At Creation Fest, Andrew was leading a session about Romans, this is because he has just written a new course for the Bible Society on Paul's Letter to the Romans but also written a book entitled 'Romans: A Letter That Makes Sense of Life'.



The book takes you on a journey as part of which you read the whole of the letter to the Romans. Andrew uses the imagery of climbing a mountain to guide the reader through the different parts of Paul's letter. The book starts at basecamp and then you begin the journey on 'the route of the gospel' (Romans 1:1-17, 16:1-27), journeying down into 'the valley of sin' (Romans 1:18 – 3:20), then up 'the crux of salvation' (Romans 3:21 – 4:25), resting at 'the place of peace' (Romans 5), before continuing up 'the ridge of freedom' (Roman 6 & 7), reaching 'the summit of hope' (Romans 8), then travelling down the other side through 'the cloud of mystery' (Romans 9, 10 & 11), continuing down 'the descent of devotion' (Romans 12), before reaching 'the return to community' (Romans 13 & 14) finishing with 'the onward mission' (Romans 15 & 16).

I would recommend this book to everyone. After spending the last year studying Romans as a circuit it has been a great extra read, gaining wider knowledge especially on the background to the house churches of Rome whom Paul was writing to and some moments of reflection on how we apply Romans to the world we live in today. Some of the areas and problems are not too dissimilar to Rome in Paul's day!

Reflecting on how we can support our fellow Christian siblings and deepen are knowledge of the gospel of Christ Jesus. With autumn and winter approaching I have been thinking about potential new activities/groups which could be helpful for people should you think they are needed/wanted, most probably held on zoom so people do not need to travel but also so people are not feeling isolated.

**1. Weekly Morning Prayer, Coffee and Chat**

You will remember that during the pandemic Dave Watson ran this on a Wednesday morning. This would follow a similar pattern of starting with prayers leading into a time of chat over your preferred morning beverage. Because events and activities have started back up, the most suitable (and only free) morning is a Friday, time to be decided.

**2. Circuit Book Club**

I know there are some avid readers around the circuit and therefore was wondering if folk would be interested in starting a book club. There is a website called 'The Big Church Read' which provides videos from the authors and discussion session resources of many different Christian books to make it easier for people to engage with. These resources break the books into different sections making the book more manageable to read. You don't have to read the whole book before the club meets!

If this was something that people would be interested in then for the autumn and winter I would suggest meeting by zoom and then if people wanted to in the spring and summer we could meet in person. This is just an idea and I am open to other suggestions should people have any.

If you feel you would like to join in with either of these, the morning prayer and coffee or the book club please let me know by email, telephone or seeing me. Letting me know you are interested, is not a commitment to joining. I just want to gauge if it is worth pursuing both or one of these two activities.

**Encircled in Care Course**

The Encircled in Care Course continues after a break in August. A reminder that the course is designed as stand alone sessions and therefore gives you the option of attending some or all of the topic sessions. Below is a short description of what is contained within each session. The afternoon session takes place at Northam Methodist Church, starting at 2.00pm and the evening session takes place at Torrington Methodist Church, starting at 7.00pm. The dates of each session are listed below and will be in the Circuit Dates List throughout the year.

**ADVANCED NOTICE:** The October session dates have had to change due to staff commitments. Session 5, will now take place on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> October, 2pm at Northam and Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> October, 7pm at Torrington.

Session 4: Connecting Care and Discipleship			
In this session we <b>explore</b> the idea that our Christian caring is part of our discipleship and can be an opportunity to	Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup> September	Northam	14:00

nurture the discipleship of those we care for, and <b>increase</b> confidence in all to talk about issues of faith with those they meet.	Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup> September	Torrington	19:00
Session 5: Children, Young People and Pastoral Care			
In this session we... <b>explore</b> how we offer pastoral care to children and young people, and <b>consider</b> how best to listen to children and young people.	Tuesday 18 <sup>th</sup> October	Northam	14:00
	Wednesday 19 <sup>th</sup> October	Torrington	19:00
Session 6: Across The Generations			
In this session we... <b>explore</b> the idea that the Christian community is multi-generational, and caring takes place both from younger to older and from older to younger, <b>increase</b> our understanding of issues of spirituality and ageing, and <b>provide</b> information about the challenges of dementia.	Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup> November	Northam	14:00
	Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> November	Torrington	19:00
Session 7: Health, Healing and Well-being			
In this session we... <b>explore</b> how issues of health and wholeness are part of pastoral ministry, and <b>offer</b> guidelines for the ministry of healing and reconciliation.	Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup> December	Northam	14:00
	Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup> December	Torrington	19:00
Session 8: Mental Health Issues			
In this session we... <b>increase</b> our awareness of mental health issues, and <b>consider</b> how churches might support people affected by mental health problems, and their families and friends.	Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> January	Northam	14:00
	Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> January	Torrington	19:00
Session 9: Loss and Bereavement			
In this session we... <b>increase</b> the confidence of all in working through issues of loss with people, <b>consider</b> how churches might help people 'return' following the loss of a loved one, and <b>explore</b> the stages of grief.	Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> February	Northam	14:00
	Wednesday 7 <sup>th</sup> February	Torrington	19:00
Session 10: Domestic Abuse			
In this session we.. <b>recognise</b> that Domestic abuse affects people within the life of the Church as well as in the wider community, <b>reflect</b> on the issues of domestic abuse, and <b>consider</b> what appropriate responses we might make.	Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup> March	Northam	14:00
	Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup> March	Torrington	19:00

## TALKING ABOUT CHRISTIAN FAITH

Just want to give the Circuit heads up about a new series of conversations Frank and I will be leading this September. The discussions are aimed at people on the fringe of our chapels. Maybe people who support our coffee mornings or fundraisers, people we meet through Toddler groups, Sunday Breakfast, Youth groups or Messy Church. Anyone really who is faith aware but maybe not regular church attenders. Personal invitation always works best but towards September we will be issuing posters and advertising on social media. If you know of anyone who might want to come please give Frank or I a ring and we can explain more. The groups will be informal and limited to about 6-8 people.

Here's a flavour of the subjects for discussion....

Week 1 - What does Christian Faith mean today?

Week 2 - Does climate change impact our faith?

Week 3 - Does knowing Jesus really change peoples lives?

Week 4 - What does the word 'Church' signify today?

Week 5 - What does our Christian faith offer to those suffering in our world?

Week 6 - Has this series of conversations impacted you in any way?

More details to follow ...Rev. Lynne Burgon

## SAFEGUARDING INFORMATION

### Online Training Programme 2023

Jacqui would like to know if anyone books onto the Foundation Courses & when you have completed it – please let her have sight of your certificate for her records.

Please book via Eventbrite – Follow the online instructions

### ONLINE: Foundation Module – Creating Safer Space

This will be run at regular intervals.

To book:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/south-west-region-foundation-module-creating-safer-space-online-registration-367520251967>

## CIRCUIT IN-PERSON FOUNDATION TRAINING

**CIRCUIT SAFEGUARDING FOUNDATION TRAINING SESSION** – Dates for this will be announced later so people who need to do the training again as a 'Refresher'

### Advanced Module

The Advanced course is being delivered Online and Onsite across the region. So if you are just waiting to do the Gathering Signing Off Session please contact Jacqui for details. If you think that you do need to do the Online Advanced Course, please speak to Jacqui, who will confirm whether you need to do this Course.

**Online Advanced is to be booked through your Circuit Safeguarding Officer**, the course is an e:learning exercise through an online platform which delegates progress through at their own speed. On registration, delegates will be given the booking link to sign off your learning journey at the relevant gathered session.

After registering, the Gathered Session date will be given - **note you cannot attend a gathered session until you have completed all of the online modules;**



## NORTHAM METHODIST CHURCH

### Toddler Tune Time

TTT has changed day and time! We are now meeting on a Tuesday morning during term times. Church hall opens at 9.00am, refreshments and free play for the toddlers. Music session starts at 9.45am- 10.15am. Music session helps improve speech and language development and promotes positive interactions with peers and parents. Suitable for children 0-4 years. First session commences September 12th in Northam Church Hall.

### Messy Church

We continue to meet once a month on Sunday afternoon in Northam Church Hall. Next session is September 10th 4pm to 5.30pm. We enjoy singing together, learning Bible stories and Biblical values through watching film, craft activities and games. Our theme for September is "Feed the World" exploring harvest as seen in the Bible. Suitable for all ages, All families welcome.

## BUCKLAND BREWER

We continue to Live Stream Services on the Buckland Brewer Methodist Church You-Tube Channel on the 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in the Month & the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday if there is one.

The Weekly '**Time Together' Toddler Group** continues on Mondays, during Term Time at **Buckland Brewer Methodist Church** with both Methodist & Anglican volunteers being present. We meet on Monday's from 9.30am to about 12noon, The cost is £1.50 per family & the numbers have been steadily increasing – families do not just come from Buckland but from neighbouring communities – they often come as friendship groups – so if anyone is aware of any Babies & Toddlers, who with their parents, grandparents or carers are looking for a 'chilled out' session of play & chat with tea/coffee/biscuits – just point them in the direction of Buckland Chapel – Dave Watson 07484 223515 or [bucklanddave1953@btinternet.com](mailto:bucklanddave1953@btinternet.com)  
This resumes on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> September

The **Wednesday Weekly Coffee Morning** also continues at **Buckland Brewer Methodist Church** from 10am-12noon – this is for **ALL** but especially for those who have moved into the parish/village since lockdown or anyone who would like to meet others in the community over a mug of tea/coffee with Biscuits & possibly Cake!!

The **Monthly 'Mini Market'**, raising funds for Community Groups in Buckland continues at **Buckland Brewer Methodist Church**. The next one will be on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> September from 10am to 1pm with many items on sale – Tea/Coffee/Biscuits will be available for Chapel Funds.

The **Community Choir**, based in the Chapel is having a couple of months off & return to practice in September.

## TORRINGTON METHODIST CHAPEL

Torrington Methodist Church welcome all to their Coffee Mornings where delicious Bacon Butties are served and where cakes and bric-a-brac are sold. The next Coffee Morning is on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> September from 10am till 12noon.

## NORTHAM AND BIDEFORD BIBLE STUDIES UPDATE

**We will be starting again on Tuesday Afternoons at 2pm  
from September 19<sup>th</sup> 2023**

At the home of Diana Yendall.  
Led by Julia Spencer.

01237 477836 or 01237 425361  
01237 425361

This group is open to all: If YOU would like to join us you would be VERY WELCOME, even if you can only come now and then.

We are very much a discussion group where we all learn from each other.

We will be Studying: The Book of Revelation

Andrew says: *One important distinction: I suggested that Revelation was written for a pre-Christendom Church (i.e. before the Constantinian Settlement around 320 CE), under persecution, and we may consider the Church in Western Europe now to be in a post-Christendom situation, which may be relevant.*

- Dates:
- |                                 |                  |                                  |
|---------------------------------|------------------|----------------------------------|
| September                       | 19 <sup>th</sup> | Bible Study Introduction         |
|                                 | 26 <sup>th</sup> | Bible Study                      |
| 1. The Church in the World      | Rev 1:9-3:22     |                                  |
| October                         | 3 <sup>rd</sup>  | Bible Study                      |
| 2. Suffering for the Church     | Rev 4: 1- 8:1    |                                  |
|                                 | 10 <sup>th</sup> | Frank's Encircled in Care Course |
|                                 | 17 <sup>th</sup> | Bible Study                      |
| 3. Warning for the World        | Rev 8:2 -11: 18  |                                  |
|                                 | 24 <sup>th</sup> | Bible Study                      |
| 4. The Drama of History         | Rev 11:19-15:4   |                                  |
|                                 | 31 <sup>st</sup> | Bible Study                      |
| 5. Punishment for the World     | Rev 15:5-16:21   |                                  |
| November                        | 7 <sup>th</sup>  | Bible Study                      |
| 6. Babylon the whore            | Rev 17:1- 19:10  |                                  |
|                                 | 14 <sup>th</sup> | Frank's Encircled in Care Course |
|                                 | 21 <sup>st</sup> | Bible Study                      |
| 7. The Drama behind the History | Rev 19:11-21:8   |                                  |
|                                 | 28 <sup>th</sup> | Bible Study                      |
| 8. Jerusalem the Bride          | Rev 21:9-22:21   |                                  |
| December                        | 5 <sup>th</sup>  | NO Bible Study                   |
|                                 | 12 <sup>th</sup> | Frank's Encircled in Care Course |
| January                         | 9 <sup>th</sup>  | Frank's Encircled in Care Course |

Do we want to start again on 16<sup>th</sup> January or February - depending on the weather?

### **ADAVU: SUPPORTING SURVIVORS OF TRAFFICKING IN THE WEST MIDLANDS**

Adavu was founded in 2011 by Deacon Kerry Scarlett and Revd Stephen Willey as a project of the Birmingham Methodist District to help people who had been trafficked into the United Kingdom. So far, 230 men and women have been helped by the charity.

Rose was a child bride. After she fled her marriage, she was groomed by her boyfriend and forced into domestic slavery and exploitation before being trafficked to the UK where she was further sexually exploited. When she discovered she was pregnant, her 'boyfriend' wanted her to have a termination, and at this point she managed to escape. She was helped and supported by Adavu and now knows that she has rights, responsibilities and the freedom to make choices.

Adavu started out as an organisation that put professionals and victims together, but the team soon realised that there were no professional services to help survivors of modern slavery. According to the charity, Walk Free, there are thought to be around 122,000 people living as modern slaves across the United Kingdom.

*"When we go upstream to explore the causes of trafficking and exploitation, we find ourselves lost in a complex maze of tributaries and hidden streams. As we look more closely, we begin to realise*

*that embedded poverty, corruption, discrimination and lack of opportunity are among the issues which leave people living precarious lives and open to exploitation. Our own systems and structures here in the UK are not only putting people at risk of being trafficked but risking the re-trafficking and exploitation of those left vulnerable by the lack of appropriate support they offer,”* explains Deacon Kerry Scarlett, Vice-President of the Methodist Conference 2023-2024. The field of anti-trafficking is complex and so is the support needed by survivors.

Adavu secured funding in 2016 to provide direct support to survivors in the West Midlands. *“We help survivors, raise awareness, provide training and create partnerships with local and national networks,”* explains Liisa Wiseman, Adavu’s Project Manager. The team is small but motivated with Liisa, two caseworkers and a well-being worker. They work across the West Midlands with the help of three volunteers. Adavu cannot operate on its own and has several collaborations with charities, local authorities and the police.

The support given to the survivors ranges from three months to four years, depending on the depth and complexities of their needs. The vast majority of their cases, have been confirmed by the Home Office as having been trafficked. Adavu gets involved when the Government’s work supporting them has finished. *“It’s long-term rehabilitative work. We get to know them as people, develop trust, understand them and help them understand what their trauma is and how to rebuild their lives,”* adds Liisa.

The team offers practical help to survivors and shows them how to navigate the housing system, the legal system, how to get legal representatives, find a job or finish their education, and access health services and social support, to name but a few. *“I cannot believe you helped me find a job. Things have changed so much for me and it wouldn’t have been possible without your help and support,”* said one survivor.

Yet, a huge part of the job is to offer emotional support as many of them are traumatised and have developed anxiety, depression and post-traumatic syndrome. *“I have not had support like I received from Adavu before coming to you and since leaving. I am so thankful, you really understood me and encouraged me to not lose hope and to look to the future,”* explains Rose.

Adavu only helps adults but, as some of them have children, they also connect their clients with toddler groups in their communities. *“There is a lot of work that we do, in whatever way they need, just trying to support them so that they can rebuild their lives,”* says Liisa. Most of them do not have contact with their family, so they are isolated socially. Many also are refugees and asylum seekers, which adds an extra layer of support to be provided.

Adavu’s team wants to expand their catchment area so they can increase the number of people they are supporting and they are also looking to develop their volunteer base. They are also hoping to expand their well-being work and provide survivors with tools to make their voices heard, notably on how Adavu can improve its work and have a say in the field of anti-trafficking on a national or even supporting and level. *“We need a collaborative, relational approach, which prioritises lived experience. It is through listening to and learning from victims and survivors, and working in solidarity with them, that justice and transformation occurs,”* adds Kerry.

Adavu has its roots in Methodism. *“Even though it is an independent charity, it still upholds Methodist values and offers survivors spiritual support if they want it. We are very proud of what we’ve achieved so far and are achieving,”* says Liisa.

Working collaboratively with many partners, Adavu has raised awareness and understanding of the issue of modern slavery in the region and advocated for justice. The charity has also

developed specific, quality casework to support more than 230 adult survivors and help them build lives of freedom and independence in their local communities. *"I appreciate what you've done and I can say that I am 100% sure you are the best,"* concludes Rose.

The names of victims have been changed to protect their identity.

Find out more about Adavu and how you can support their work at [www.adavu.org.uk](http://www.adavu.org.uk)

## **METHODIST YOUTH PRESIDENT ENCOURAGES GREATER INVOLVEMENT WITH YOUNG PEOPLE**

James Carver, Methodist Youth President 2022-2023, presented the 3Generate report to the Methodist Conference on Tuesday 20 June. The report highlighted the success of last year's 3Generate Children and Youth Assembly while emphasising the vital role youth ministry plays in the life of the wider Church.

Detailing the success of 3Generate 2022, it was announced that the event held at the NEC in Birmingham last year was the biggest yet, with over 1200 children and young people, 456 group leaders, and 252 volunteers joining together to share and be in communion with God.

Identifying some of the discussions that took place at 3Generate, the report encourages all Methodists to understand the importance of shared learning in the development of children and young people's faith story.

James explained, *"It is incredibly important that all adults within the Methodist Church engage with children and young people outside of the 3Generate weekend. Conversations about God are incredibly important, children and young people can feel as if they have been left on a platform, waiting for a train that will never arrive."*

In his speech to the Conference, James said, *"Over the past year I have been asked multiple times how we keep children and young people in Church and the answer is simple. Listen to them, support them, and make sure they know they are a true member of the Church family."*

*"Members of Conference, children and young people want to know they are part of something bigger! In a declining church, they want to see and learn more about the full extent of the Methodist Church including its young people."*

*"Children and young people are keen to meet across the year with other Methodist children and young people from across Circuits and Districts as well as gathering at 3Generate."*

**The Youth President for 2023/2024 will be Thomas Hart, who lives in Ashby-Cum-Fenby, a small village in Lincolnshire. He attends Keelby Methodist Church and will be welcomed at a service in the autumn.**

## **TOLPUDDLE WITH A DIFFERENCE!** - By the Revd Gill Newton, President of the Conference

Attending the Tolpuddle Martyrs Festival has been a feature of the Presidential calendar for a while, and it was an event which Kerry and I were looking forward to! However, a text received whilst still travelling to the South West on the Saturday morning, suggested our experience might be a little different than anticipated! The high winds, torrential rain and local weather warnings had prompted festival organisers to call off the event the night before. So how we might spend the weekend was unclear until I arrived in Dorchester.



Having had time to settle into our accommodation, the Vice President and I were taken to the Island of Portland where we met local minister, Revd Ruth Lownsborough. We visited Easton Methodist Church and heard the story of this Grade II listed building with an unusual, but beautiful pulpit carved from local Portland stone. We heard about the hopes and dreams of the all-age congregation meeting at the heart of the community and acknowledged the overwhelming size of the buildings in their care, whilst also hearing about the innovative steps they are beginning to take towards a different future.

During the visit we saw one of the church's "hidden treasures". A beautiful, handmade quilt from 1897, made as a fund-raising venture for the Easton Wesleyan Day School Bazaar.

From there we were taken to Portland Bill, where we experienced more strong winds, but also the beauty of this stretch of the Dorset coastline. Whilst there, we pondered on the questionable decision, recently taken by the Home Office, to house 500 vulnerable asylum seekers on the Bibby Stockholm barge in the port.. The irony of being in Dorset is to mark the stand taken against injustice almost 200 years ago by men from Tolpuddle, yet hearing of the ongoing injustice in our world today was not lost on us!

On Sunday morning, we attended Festival Worship at the Anglican Church in Tolpuddle. Where Bishop of Sherborne, the Right Reverend Karen Gorham, preached on the gospel lectionary passage featuring the parable of the Sower. She challenged us to consider how the small things we do and say can make a big difference, and acknowledged the impact of the decisions made by the Tolpuddle martyrs on the lives of others in the years since.



Later, we had an opportunity to join with Union representatives on a brief walk through the village. Where we laid a wreath from the Methodist Church alongside those from others, on the grave of James Hammett; whilst offering a few words and a prayer in memory of him and his colleagues. We were privileged to meet with some of his descendants and discovered that many family members had only become aware of their links with the Tolpuddle martyrs in recent years. The actions of the farm labourers had not always been spoken of within the families, but the descendants are now extremely proud of all their ancestors did to fight injustice.

We were also glad to speak with some of the Union representatives including the General Secretary of the TUC, Paul Nowak. We were delighted to hear his experience of and openness to

working in partnership with faith groups and of his knowledge of the place of the Methodist Church in the history of the Trade Union movement.

We had time in the afternoon to explore the village, see the Old Tolpuddle Chapel and the tree under which the farm labourers are reputed to have sworn their allegiance to each other. In the evening, a Circuit Service was held in Tolpuddle Chapel at which I had the privilege of preaching and the Vice-President led prayers of intercession. Afterwards we were given the opportunity to see inside the Old Chapel and hear of the exciting plans for its future development and use and the Circuit's hopes for partnering in this work.

The weekend wasn't all that we had anticipated, but nevertheless we were glad to have the opportunity to mark the stand taken by the Tolpuddle labourers all those years ago. To affirm the ongoing impact of their actions and to recognise the continued need to stand against injustice. I wonder what words we are speaking, what things we are doing or what choices we are making, that may seem small now, but which might make a big difference to someone else's life in the future? Who might have reason to be grateful in years to come, for the stand we are being called to make against injustice today?

### **CIVILIAN PROTECTION IN WAR**

Today is the eighteen-month anniversary of Russia's devastating invasion of Ukraine. Ukraine's summer counter-offensive has made little headway. Now, both Ukraine and Russia are trying to develop the ability to resource their troops for a longer-term conflict. They want to develop the capacity to sustain the fighting over the next year, two years, three years or however long it takes. As Christians and churches, we need to pray even more earnestly for peace yet at the same time we must address the excesses in the conduct of war.

On both sides, killed and injured are well in excess of 100,000. A country with a population of 43 million has 8 million refugees (the largest numbers are in Poland, Russia and Germany) and at least a further 5 million people internally displaced in Ukraine. That would suggest that as much as one in three of the population have had to leave their homes.

All war is barbaric but this one has been particularly brutal. In December of last year, Archbishop Justin Welby visited Irpin and Bucha as an act of solidarity following the mass executions of civilians. "Their blood calls from here, from this land, to heaven" he said while standing at the site of a mass grave. "A good ear must hear the cry of that blood". The evidence for such atrocities must be documented in the hope that there might later be an account of how and why they took place, and maybe also a reckoning for the perpetrators.

Civilian protection in war is a fundamental principle that we must strive to maintain. War is tragic but some actions in war are criminal. Russia was forced to make a major retreat in April 2022 and is now faced with the prospect of being beaten back in the Southern provinces. It has responded by taking war-fighting to a new level of destruction.

Fuel depots and power stations may well support an army when a country is on a war footing but the civilian population relies on this infrastructure. Port facilities and grain supplies in Odessa should not be a target for attack.

Dams and dykes get a specific mention in the second addition protocol to the Geneva Convention as "installations containing dangerous forces". The destruction of the Nova Kakovka dam has been described by one Ukrainian official as the worst environmental disaster in Europe since Chernobyl.

Anti-personnel mines kill civilians long after a conflict has finished. Although 80% of states have ratified the international landmine treaty others, such as Russia, still factor the use of landmines into their military strategies. Ukraine has signed the Ottawa Treaty but it has also been accused of using anti-personnel mines.

Cluster munitions litter civilian areas with unexploded bomblets that kill children and adults. We have come a long way in recent years in establishing a norm against their use and production[4], but evidently not far enough. President Biden's decision to supply Ukraine with cluster munitions will see over 1 million unexploded bomblets littering Ukraine within the short space of a year.[5] Russia's clumsy blundering missiles and artillery shells have flattened whole cities and towns. Mariupol, Bakhmut, Volnovakha, Chernihiv, and Popasna are just a few of the places where whole neighbourhoods have been levelled.

In the face of this destruction it might seem disingenuous to draw attention to the drone strikes on the residential neighbourhoods of elites and the business district in Moscow. The only plausible motivation must be to exert a psychological impact on Russian people in the expectation that this might cause more to turn against the war. President Zelensky has defended these attacks saying that "this is an inevitable, natural, and absolutely fair". While I feel pain for the suffering of Ukrainians, I would like to suggest that it is none of the three.

These excesses in war need to be named, as otherwise there is a danger that they become accepted as inevitable. In the midst of war, criticism from state leaders across the world will often be partisan and muted. As civilians have greater freedom to speak up for citizens wherever they may be. Mindful of God's love and grace to all let's name the abuses so that when this war comes to an end we can hope to re-affirm our common humanity and recover vital international norms.

A new resource is available to help us think broadly about the Russian invasion and ensuing conflict and the situation of churches in Ukraine and Russia. We welcome your feedback in order that in the midst of suffering we can think about peace and the roles that our churches might eventually play.

Steve Hucklesby - Policy Adviser - Joint Public Issues Team

### **FAITH IN POLITICS**

At The Mint, Exeter on Saturday 7th October 2023, from 10-4pm

#### **Keynote Speakers:**

Sir Gary Street MP

Andy Flanagan, Executive Director of Christians in Politics

Steve Hucklesby, Policy Advisor of Joint Public Issues Team

A development day primarily designed for Local Preachers and Worship Leaders, but open to all.

Join us for conversation, bible study and theological input.

Bring your own lunch, refreshments provided.

To book a place please email [admin@pemd.org.uk](mailto:admin@pemd.org.uk)

The event will also be accessible via Zoom.

Livestream - to join the event via Zoom please use the details below.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/92723088874?pwd=cXMxd1pSL0JPS2t5WHV2WGU3WmxvUT09>

Meeting ID: 927 2308 8874

Passcode: 833685

## **“THERE’S ALWAYS THE OUR FATHER.” BY JENNIE HURD.**

My first Spiritual Director was a wonderful, older, Poor Clare nun called Mother Paula. Heaven knows what she made of the young Methodist probationer presbyter who came to visit her, but she listened patiently and offered words of wisdom that I treasure to this day. During one conversation on prayer and the challenge of praying, she floored me with the profundity and simplicity of her advice: “There’s always the Our Father.”

Until then, I had considered the Lord’s Prayer to be predominantly for corporate worship and not for personal devotion. The clue was in its grammar, surely – “Our,” “us” – and I had been taught from childhood that God wanted to hear from me personally, in my own words. Mother Paula’s wisdom transformed my attitude to the Lord’s Prayer. It became an essential part of my daily devotions, but it is especially precious now as a mindful meditation when I find myself on ‘Planet 3 a.m.’ and, over the years, in those pastoral situations and difficult meetings where other words simply fail. As Mother Paula said, “There’s always the Our Father.” As followers of Jesus, it unites us. As an expression of our relationship with God, it brings us into relationship with all who have prayed similarly in very varied circumstances over the centuries.

I am not a Greek scholar, and so my understanding of the Lord’s Prayer has been expanded by the nuances of other different translations and versions that are available to us. Always, however, the pattern remains the same: it begins with God – “Our Father...”; it moves to we who pray – “Give us today...”; it returns to God – “For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours...” For me, it gives a pattern for living, with God as our beginning and end, our context, the one in whom “we live and move and have our being”.<sup>[1]</sup> In spite of these three apparent movements through the pattern of the prayer, I perceive a pivot point which comes when we move from “Your kingdom come, Your will be done” to “Give us today...” – a kind of shift, if you like, as the prayer becomes a more of a conversation, a dialogue, and so the blueprint for all our prayers.

Two words from the traditional version of the Lord’s Prayer have recently repaid further reflection: “trespasses” and “temptation.” According to Nick Hayes, “‘Trespass’ is one of the most charged words in the English language.”<sup>[2]</sup> Even in its legal context, it still carries a “moral stigma.”<sup>[3]</sup> He points out the irony that it was the freethinking Bible translator William Tyndale who incorporated it into the Lord’s Prayer and therefore deeply into the English language. Contemporary versions use the word “sins” or “debts,” drawing on the gospels of Luke and Matthew respectively, and William Barclay commends the former for its simplicity<sup>[4]</sup>. I sense Mother Paula would approve.

Having worked in Wales for much of my ministry, I have learnt that the Welsh word used for “temptation” in the Lord’s Prayer is “profedigaeth.” It carries the sense of an experience of testing (“profi” means to test, to prove), but it is also the word commonly used for bereavement. A woman once told me after a bilingual service that she had never prayed the Lord’s Prayer in English before and that doing this had given her a new understanding. She realized that she was not actually asking for God to keep her from bereavement, an experience which, as she rightly said, is impossible, but rather asking for a different kind of help: “Save us from the time of trial,” as one version puts it. For me, the Welsh expresses this better than the English, leading to my interpretation that our prayer is for resistance to temptation and strength not to yield in the trying times. There are occasions when I cling to this like a lifebelt.



I offer a question in conclusion: What would be your 'Desert Island' word or phrase from the Lord's Prayer? To put it another way, what word or words distil the essence of the Lord's Prayer for you? For me, it is "Your will be done," but the Prayer is so rich, it will be different for all of us. Thank God for that.

[1] Acts 17: 28

[2] Hayes, N: The Book of Trespass: Crossing the Lines that Divide Us (Bloomsbury: 2020), p17

[3] Ibid, p18

[4] Barclay, W: The Lord's Prayer (Arthur James: 1998), p87

Jennie Hurd is District Chair of the Cymru Synod of the Methodist Church in Wales, and Superintendent of the Cymru Circuit. Originally from East Yorkshire, she started learning Welsh for her second appointment in the former Glannau Circuit, and this has been one of the great joys of her adult life. She studied English and European Literature at Warwick, and Theology at Birmingham. She is a member of the British and Irish Association for Practical Theology, and her particular interest is in pastoral theology and practice.

Every Monday, a short article is posted which brings some theology to bear on an issue or topic. This offers some theological reflection people can read quickly to start their week, ponder on and contribute to as the week goes on. It is a way of flexing and using our theological muscles to keep them fit, as well as an opportunity for those contributing to offer new ways of thinking about a topic or looking at an issue theologically perhaps for the first time.

The Theology Everywhere website is made available by the Methodist Church as one of the actions being taken to create a learning church. Contributors are from varied backgrounds; many but not all are Methodist. The views expressed are the responsibility of the authors and do not represent the position of the Methodist Church.

The moderator of Theology Everywhere is Rev'd Dr George Bailey. Enquiries should be addressed to him at [george.bailey@methodist.org.uk](mailto:george.bailey@methodist.org.uk)

### **BECOMING AN ACCESSIBLE HYBRID CHURCH**

Some disabilities can make attending services in person difficult with members preferring to attend online.

Pam Webster lives with a chronic illness and attends an online service at Brimington Methodist Church in the Derbyshire North East Circuit along with five other members, plus occasional guests.

*"Online church has made it possible for me to worship with others once again. The worship has been running since the second week of lockdown. Once people were allowed back to the church buildings, I made the case for sharing the physical worship via the internet."*

Brimington Methodist is now a hybrid church. Many of those who are online are people who could not come into the building and, in some cases, their carers as well.

Revd Sean Adair is Superintendent Minister of the Derbyshire North East Circuit. "When isolation

was enforced for everyone in early 2020, we soon found ways to keep one another connected. We sent letters by post, we circulated news by email, we set up WhatsApp groups, and soon found ways to use live video. Facebook videos, daily devotions, and online services were broadcast in all manner of experimental ways. YouTube became a place not only to watch videos, it became the place to upload and share ones that we had made ourselves.

“Then we discovered Zoom and, despite frustrations with the quality of broadband signals, we soon worked out ways to make really good use of the medium. Those who had often been left out, like Pam, suddenly had a way of connecting that had previously been denied to them.”

“Most of those joining now have accessibility and health issues,” says Pam. But there are others who join from around the circuit and some who join when they are on holiday. I think our furthest has been from Oman.”

“With the cooperation of the operator based in the church, we can put our prayer requests into the chat on the call and they are read out. We don't have facilities to appear live ourselves but we can pre-record prayers and the bible readings to be played into the service. We are not just consumers but participants and leaders.”

“Churches with an online aspect do need to remember us at home or we can quickly feel forgotten. As the physical congregation do not see us, they don't know our joys and sorrows, and vice versa.

“It is important anything given out at the service is emailed to us. Our church is brilliant at delivering us any crafts they are using. This helps us to feel part of things but obviously they can only bring them to people they know will be joining the service online beforehand.”

“The hymns that are being sung in church are streamed to us, with the same projection on our screens as in the church. My illness makes it difficult to sing, but others sing along enthusiastically at home (on mute!)

“Newcomers are welcomed by those of us in the "Zoom room". We know and support each other; we recognise newcomers and can welcome them and explain what happens, just like you'd welcome someone new sitting next to you in the building.

“Because we join via Zoom, rather than YouTube or Facebook live, we are our own little community. We have time to chat before and after the service and to support one another. The person running the online service hands the hosting over to me so we can carry on talking once they have finished the streaming.

“Good practice for how services are presented is important with consideration around colour, contrast, font size and spacing to ensure the text on a screen is readable and that closed captions are enabled on songs and videos.

The online services have been vital to Pam; “I am rarely well enough to get myself to church, to sit through the service and get home. Being immunocompromised, it stops the risk of me catching anything someone has come to church with. At home, I have the chair I need to be comfortable, all my medical equipment on hand and I don't have the travelling to do. On days when I am more ill, I can turn my screen off and let the service wash over me.

“Without the online service I wouldn't be able to be a part of the church and worship.”

## The following is the Plan for September, October & November

HC= Holy Communion

MC= Methodist Church

Café= Café Worship

T = Transport

PC= At Parish Church

C& F= Coffee and Fellowship

SB=Sunday Breakfast

### Post codes of Chapels

Alverdiscott – EX31 3PT

Black Torrington – EX21 5QF

Langtree – EX38 8NF

Milton Damerel – EX22 7DJ

Parkham – EX39 5PG

Sheepwash – EX21 5NA

Bideford (High Street) – EX39 2AN

Buckland Brewer – EX39 5LP

Littleham – EX39 5HW

Northam – EX39 1BS

Shebbear – EX21 5SJ

Torrington – EX38 8AL

### Lectionary Readings for September

3 Sept – 22<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

Exodus 3:1-15; Psalm 105:1-6,23-26,45c; Romans 12:9-21; Matthew 16:21-28

10 Sept – 23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

Exodus 12:1-14; Psalm 149; Romans 13:8-14; Matthew 18:15-20

17 Sep – 24<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

Exodus 14:19-31; Psalm 114; Romans 14:1-12; Matthew 18:21-35

24 Sept – 25<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

Exodus 16:2-15; Psalm 105:1-6,37-45; Philippians 1:21-30; Matthew 20:1-16

### Lectionary Readings for October

1 Oct – 26<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

Exodus 17:1-7; Psalm 78:1-4,12-16; Philippians 2:1-13; Matthew 21:23-32

8 Oct – 27<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

Exodus 20:1-4,7-9,12-20; Psalm 19; Philippians 3:4b-14; Matthew 21:33-46

15 Oct – 28<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

Exodus 32:1-14; Psalm 106:1-6,19-23; Philippians 4:1-9; Matthew 22:1-14

22 Oct – 29<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

Exodus 33:12-23; Psalm 99; I Thessalonians 1:1-10; Matthew 22:15-22

29 Oct – 30<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

Deuteronomy 34:1-12; Psalm 90:1-6,13-17; I Thessalonians 2:1-8; Matthew 22:34-46

### Lectionary Readings for November

5 Nov – 31<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

Joshua 3:7-17; Psalm 107:1-7,33-37; 1 Thessalonians 2:9-13; Matthew 23:1-12

12 Nov – 32<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

Joshua 24:1-3a,14-25; Psalm 78:1-7; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Matthew 25:1-13

12 Nov – Remembrance Sunday

Isaiah 25:1-9 or Isaiah 52:7-12 or Micah 4:1-8; Psalm 9:9-20 or Psalm 46; Romans 8:31-35,37-39 or Revelations 22:1-5; Matthew 5:1-12 or Matthew 5:43-48 or John 15:9-17

19 Nov – 33<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

Judges 4:1-7; Psalm 123; 1Thessalonians 5:1-11; Matthew 25:14-30

26 Nov – Sunday before Advent

Ezekiel 34:11-16,20-24; Psalm 95:1-7a or Psalm 100; Ephesians 1:15-23; Matthew 25:31-46

	<b>Sept 3</b>	<b>Sept 10</b>	<b>Sept 17</b>	<b>Sept 24</b>
	<b>Ord 22</b>	<b>Ord 23 Education</b>	<b>Ord 24</b>	<b>Ord 25</b>
<b>At Home Worship</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>Vidamour Zoom 6.30pm</b>	<b>Buckland Live Stream 10am</b>	<b>Buckland Live Stream 10am</b>
<b>Bideford 10.30am</b>	<b>@Torrington</b>	<b>Vidamour HC</b>	<b>Blackhall Harvest</b>	<b>St Mary's 9.30am</b>
<b>Northam 10.30am</b>	<b>@ Torrington</b>	<b>Harris  Messy Church 4pm</b>	<b>Vidamour HC  Fellowship 4pm</b>	<b>Hall-Tomkin</b>
		<b>SHEBBEAR</b>	<b>METHODIST</b>	<b>CHURCH</b>
<b>Black Torrington Friday 3pm</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>F Watson HC on 8<sup>th</sup> Sept</b>	<b>Blackhall Harvest on 22<sup>nd</sup> Sept</b>	<b>@Lake</b>
<b>Langtree 11am</b>	<b>@Torrington</b>	<b>@Parish Church</b>	<b>Ley - Harvest</b>	<b>@Lake</b>
<b>Milton Damerel 11am</b>	<b>@Torrington</b>	<b>F Watson AAW</b>	<b>Cafe</b>	<b>@Lake</b>
<b>Shebbear 10.30am</b>	<b>@Torrington</b>	<b>C&amp;F</b>	<b>United @Parish Church</b>	<b>Blackhall Harvest United</b>
<b>Sheepwash 11am</b>	<b>@Torrington</b>	<b>@Baptist Church</b>	<b>@Parish Church</b>	<b>Village</b>
	<b>TORRINGTO N</b>	<b>WITH</b>	<b>ALVERDISCOTT</b>	<b>METHODIST CHURCH</b>
<b>Alverdiscott 11am</b>	<b>@Torrington</b>	<b>Withall</b>	<b>Bate</b>	<b>X</b>
<b>Torrington 10.30am</b>	<b>LP Circuit Service HC</b>	<b>J Hill Harvest</b>	<b>Price</b>	<b>F Watson</b>
	<b>WEST</b>	<b>TORRIDGE</b>	<b>METHODIST</b>	<b>CHURCH</b>
<b>Alwington</b>	<b>@ Torrington</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>
<b>Buckland Brewer 10am (PC)  10am (MC)  10.30am</b>	<b>Skinner HC @Parish Church @9.30am   @Torrington</b>	<b>Blackhall</b>	<b>Tooke</b>	<b>Blackhall Harvest 3pm</b>
<b>Littleham 10.30am</b>	<b>@Torrington</b>	<b>Potter</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>Vidamour HC</b>
<b>Parkham 11am</b>	<b>@Torrington</b>	<b>SB 10am @Parish Church</b>	<b>Vidamour Harvest 4pm</b>	<b>Skinner HC @Parish Church</b>

	Oct 1	Oct 8	Oct 15	Oct 22	Oct 29
	Ord 26	Ord 27	Ord 28	Ord 29	Ord 30
At Home Worship	X	Potter Zoom 6.30pm	Buckland Live Stream 10am	Buckland Live Stream 10am	X
Bideford 10.30am	D Watson	Macbeth	Vidamour HC	Harris	Spencer 11am at URC
Northam 10.30am	Booth Harvest	Spencer T Messy Church 4pm	Bate Fellowship 4pm Vidamour	Burgon HC	Price
		SHEBBEAR	METHODIST	CHURCH	
Black Torrington Friday 3pm	X	Vidamour on 6 <sup>th</sup> Oct	D Watson on 20 <sup>th</sup> Oct	@Lake	X
Langtree 11am	Bate	@Parish Church Harvest	Blackhall HC	@Lake	LA
Milton Damerel 11am	X	Blackhall Harvest	Cafe	@Lake	X
Shebbear 10.30am	US @Parish Church Harvest	C&F	United @Parish Church	Ley United	X
Sheepwash 11am	Harris Harvest	@Baptist Church	@Parish Church	Village	X
	TORRINGTON	WITH	ALVERDISCOTT	METHODIST CHURCH	
Alverdiscott 11am	Blackhall Harvest	X	Hill HC	X	United @Parish Church
Torrington 10.30am	C Biggs	Harding	Hall-Tomkin	Blackhall HC 3pm Cons	Booth
	WEST	TORRIDGE	METHODIST	CHURCH	
Alwington	Vidamour @Parish Church	X	X	X	
Buckland Brewer 10am (PC) 10am (MC)	HC @Parish Church @9.30am	Price	Anglican	Booth	D Watson/LA
Littleham 10.30am	X	Vidamour Harvest United	X	Withall	X
Parkham 11am	Harvest @Parish Church	SB	@Parish Church	HC @Parish Church	Alternative Worship

	<b>Nov 5</b>	<b>Nov 12</b>	<b>Nov 19</b>	<b>Nov 26</b>
	<b>Ord 31</b>	<b>Ord 32 Remembrance</b>	<b>Ord 33 Safeguarding</b>	<b>Sunday before Advent</b>
<b>At Home Worship</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>Blackhall Zoom 6.30pm</b>	<b>Buckland Live Stream 10am</b>	<b>Buckland Live Stream 10am</b>
<b>Bideford 10.30am</b>	<b>Ley</b>	<b>Booth</b>	<b>Burgon HC</b>	<b>Vidamour</b>
<b>Northam 10.30am</b>	<b>Potter</b>	<b>Parish Church 10am</b>  <b>Messy Church 4pm</b>	<b>Vidamour HC</b>	<b>Withall</b>
		<b>SHEBBEAR</b>	<b>METHODIST</b>	<b>CHURCH</b>
<b>Black Torrington Friday 3pm</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>Blackhall HC on 10<sup>th</sup> Nov</b>	<b>Vidamour on 24<sup>th</sup> Nov</b>	<b>@Lake</b>
<b>Langtree 11am</b>	<b>Hall-Tomkin</b>	<b>@Parish Church</b>	<b>Blackhall HC</b>	<b>@Lake</b>
<b>Milton Damerel 11am</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>D Watson AAW</b>	<b>Cafe</b>	<b>@Lake</b>
<b>Shebbear 10.30am</b>	<b>C&amp;F</b>	<b>Parish Church Remembrance</b>	<b>United @Parish Church</b>	<b>Hill United</b>
<b>Sheepwash 11am</b>	<b>Withall</b>	<b>@Baptist Church</b>	<b>@Parish Church</b>	<b>Village</b>
	<b>TORRINGTO N</b>	<b>WITH</b>	<b>ALVERDISCOTT</b>	<b>METHODIST CHURCH</b>
<b>Alverdiscott 11am</b>	<b>Blackhall HC</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>Potter</b>	<b>X</b>
<b>Torrington 10.30am</b>	<b>Harris</b>	<b>Blackhall Remembrance</b>	<b>Macbeth HC</b>	<b>F Watson &amp; Sheriff</b>
	<b>WEST</b>	<b>TORRIDGE</b>	<b>METHODIST</b>	<b>CHURCH</b>
<b>Alwington</b>	<b>@ Torrington</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>
<b>Buckland Brewer 10am (PC)</b>  <b>10am (MC)</b>	<b>HC @Parish Church @9.30am</b>	<b>Anglican at 10.45am @Chapel</b>	<b>Anglican</b>	<b>Blackhall HC</b>
<b>Littleham 10.30am</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>United @Parish Church</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>Harris HC</b>
<b>Parkham 11am</b>	<b>SB</b>	<b>United @Parish Church</b>	<b>Spencer T</b>	<b>HC @Parish Church</b>

## Activities, Events and Meetings - September 2023

Fri 01	Season of Creation (until Wed 04 Oct) World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation		
Sat 02	Coffee Morning	10:00-11:15	Northam
Sun 03	Circuit Service of Reaffirmation for Local Preachers	10:30	Torrington
Mon 04	'Time Together' Toddler Group	09:30-12:00	Buckland Brewer
Tue 05	Circuit Leadership Team Meeting	14:00	Torrington Manse
Wed 06	Coffee Morning	10:00-12:00	Buckland Brewer
	Coffee Morning	10:30-12:00	Shebbear Village Hall
	Worship and Community Lunch <i>(Booking for Lunch required)</i>	11:30	Northam
Thu 07	Coffee Morning	10:00-12:00	Alverdiscott
	Thursday Fellowship	14:15	Northam
	Bible Study	19:30	Langtree
Fri 08	The Birth of the Blessed Virgin Mary		
Sat 09	Coffee Morning	10:00-11:15	Northam
	District Synod	10:00-15:30	Shebbear College
Sun 10	Education Sunday		
	Coffee and Fellowship	10:30	Shebbear (Lake)
	Harvest Festival	10:30	Torrington
	Sunday Breakfast	11:00	St James's, Parkham
	Messy Church	16:00-17:30	Northam
Mon 11	'Time Together' Toddler Group	09:30-12:00	Buckland Brewer
Tue 12	Toddlers' Tune Time	09:15-10:15	Northam
	Encircled in Care Course (Connecting Care and Discipleship)	14:00	Northam
	Circuit Meeting	19:30	Northam
Wed 13	Coffee Morning	10:00-12:00	Buckland Brewer
	Encircled in Care Course (Connecting Care and Discipleship)	19:00	Torrington
Thu 14	Holy Cross Day		
	Bible Study	19:30	Langtree
Fri 15	Talking about Christian Faith – Session 1: What does the Christian faith mean to us?	19:30-21:00	
Sat 16	World Week for Peace in Palestine and Israel (until Sat 23)		
	Coffee Morning	10:00-11:15	Northam
	Coffee Morning	10:00-12:00	Torrington
Sun 17	Disability Awareness Sunday		
	Harvest Festival	10:30	Bideford
	Café Worship	11:00	Milton Damerel
	Harvest Festival with Bring and Share Lunch	11:00	Langtree
	Harvest Festival with Tea	16:00	Parkham

	Sunday Fellowship	16:00	Northam
Mon 18	'Time Together' Toddler Group	09:30-12:00	Buckland Brewer
Tue 19	Toddlers' Tune Time	09:15-10:15	Northam
	Circuit Young People and Families Meeting	13:15	Buckland Brewer
	Local Preachers Meeting	19:00	Buckland Brewer
Wed 20	Coffee Morning	10:00-12:00	Buckland Brewer
	Coffee Morning	10:30-12:00	Shebbear Village Hall
	Church Treasurer's Meeting	19:00	Torrington
Thu 21	Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist		
	UN International Day of Peace		
	Thursday Fellowship	14:15	Northam
	Circuit Safeguarding Committee	19:00	Torrington
	Bible Study	19:30	Langtree
Fri 22	Harvest Festival	15:00	Black Torrington
	Talking about Christian Faith – Session 2: How does climate change impact our Christian faith?	19:30-21:00	
Sat 23	Coffee Morning	10:00-11:15	Northam
Sun 24	Freedom Sunday		
	Peace Sunday		
	Harvest Festival	10:30	Shebbear (Lake)
	Harvest Festival with Bring and Share Lunch	10:30	Littleham
	Harvest Festival with Bring and Share Tea	15:00	Buckland Brewer
Mon 25	'Time Together' Toddler Group	09:30-12:00	Buckland Brewer
Tue 26	Toddlers' Tune Time	09:15-10:15	Northam
Wed 27	Coffee Morning	10:00-12:00	Buckland Brewer
	West Torridge Pastoral Committee	14:00	Buckland Brewer
Thu 28	Bideford Pastoral Committee	10:00	Bideford
	Bible Study	19:30	Langtree
Fri 29	Michael and All Angels		
	Northam Pastoral Committee	14:00	Northam
	Talking about Christian Faith – Session 3: How does knowing Jesus change people's lives?	19:30-21:00	
Sat 30	Coffee Morning	10:00-11:15	Northam
	Coffee Morning	10:00-12:00	Bideford