



Wesley Methodist Church Weeke

# Wesley Somborne Link

## One Church on two sites

19th July 2024



King's Somborne Methodist Church

### Ordinary and Extraordinary

He had escaped. Now he saw them everywhere; not his harassers but idols.

Paul's reflex response was to be deeply distressed (Acts 17:16). His radical response was to speak the Gospel in the commercial noise of Athens market-place and the considered worship of its synagogue - so much so that he became extraordinarily visible to those in governing control of the city (the Areopagus) who then summoned him to give account of the meaning of "Jesus and Resurrection" (Acts 17:18).

As regards Paul's speaking, on his own admission it was ordinary (2 Corinthians 10:10; 11:6); key was that it was under commission of the Holy Spirit (Acts 13:2).

As regards idols, I like this quote by C S Lewis:

"God knows how to describe himself  
much better than we know how to describe him."

The small groups at Wesley have been working through a series called "Names of God". One of its studies included this challenging thought:

"It is very easy to confuse how we prefer to think of God with how God wants to reveal Himself to us... we ... need to pray that we will be open to hearing and seeing what He wants us to hear and see."

Last Saturday afternoon a number gathered at Wesley to be led by Revd Dr Howard Mellor on the theme of "Being Alive to the Holy Spirit". We were helped to recognise this as ordinary (normative) for committed followers of Jesus; with the fruit and gifts (inspiration / demonstration / revelation) of the Spirit being both ordinary and extraordinary. We shared our (ordinary) responses to different names given to the Spirit; and in reflecting on the seal of the Spirit (Ephesians 1:13) were helped to realise this as being indicative of the continuing presence of God in those of faith.

As we see things in our prevailing culture which evoke reflex responses of deep disturbance, may our radical responses include:

- giving thanks and praying for those of faith who, under commission of the Spirit, engage in public debate in both ordinary places of everyday encounter and extraordinary places of accountable governance, on behalf of the Gospel;
- reflecting on our part in carrying the Gospel message into whatever ordinary or extraordinary places we find ourselves, just speaking in ways ordinary to us.

We also heard on Saturday of the Holy Spirit as "Parakletos"; one meaning of which is Advocate, illustrated as one coming alongside to "whisper in the ear".

So, whether our day be ordinary or extraordinary, may we go on listening for those "whispers in the ear" of the Holy Spirit alert to "hearing what God wants us to hear".

Blessings

Brian Merriman

**On Sunday 21st July at 10.30am, the Service will be led by Mr Tom Belshaw**

**On Sunday 28th July, at 10.30am the ReFresh Service will be led by the Local Arrangements Team**

**These services will be live streamed, the link to which can be found via the Wesley Website at:**

**[www.wesleychurch.org.uk](http://www.wesleychurch.org.uk)**

**Dates for Your Diary:**

**19th July: Feel Good Friday (7.00-9.00pm)**

**20th July: Café Wesley supporting the work of the Leprosy Mission 10.00am to 12 noon**

**21st July: Service led by Mr Tom Belshaw at Wesley 10.30am**

**25th July: Together Thursday 2.30—4.30pm**

**27th July: Saturday Connect 10.00am—12 noon**

**28th July: Local Arrangements ReFresh Service at Wesley 10.30am**

**28th July: Service of Holy Communion led by Dr John Evans at King's Somborne 10.30am**

**4th August: Service led by Mrs Pat Fry at Wesley 10.30am**

**4th August: Service led by Mr Tom Belshaw at King's Somborne 10.30am**

**8th August: Together Thursday 2.30—4.30pm**

**11th August: Service of Holy Communion led by Revd Peter Rayson at Wesley 10.30am**

**11th August: Service led by the Local Arrangements Team at King's Somborne 10.30am**

**18th August: Service led by Mrs Margaret Axford at Wesley 10.30am**

**22nd August: Together Thursday 2.30—4.30pm**

**24th August: Saturday Connect 10.00am—12 noon**

**25th August: ReRefresh Service led by Revd Peter Rayson at Wesley 10.30am**

**25th August: Service of Holy Communion led by Revd Tim Searle at King's Somborne 10.30am**

**The Methodist Chapel celebrates its 153rd Anniversary!**



On Sunday, 14th July we celebrated our 153rd anniversary at the Methodist Church, King's Somborne. Our service was led by Mrs Elizabeth Britton and was followed by lunch in the Epworth Hall. We were reminded in the service of how Methodism began in the village. A preacher travelled from Winchester to preach the word but on entering the village was ducked in the pond by some unsavoury characters! This happened on several occasions, but determined to try one last time, he succeeded and services were held.

To begin with these were held in people's houses but eventually the first chapel was built, and we continue to this day.

Marion and Marilyn

Please note the next edition of the Wesley Somborne Link will be on Friday 2nd August 2024, we need any items or notices to be sent to Paul and Brenda, by Wednesday 31st July 2024.  
Email: [brenda.yarrien@btinternet.com](mailto:brenda.yarrien@btinternet.com) or by phone on 01794389153.

**There will be no Wesley Somborne Link after the 2nd August, the next edition after that will be on 6th September.**



The next Café Wesley will be on Saturday 20th July 10.00am until 12 noon and will be supporting the work of the Leprosy Mission.



The Handbook is the ideal way to guide our prayers and thinking. If you would like to order one please let Richard know as soon as possible (together with the money £4.50).

Every blessing, Richard

RomseyMethodistChurch  
building a community for Christ

**Free family fun**

**Stories that help us grow**

**Wednesdays 1.30 - 4pm**  
24th, 31st July and every Wednesday in August

**Fridays 10 - 12 am**  
26th July and every Friday in August

Romsey Methodist Church, The Hundred SO51 8BZ

**Stories, arts and crafts, and more fun activities!**  
**Our Beacon café will be open for refreshments**

For more info please visit:  
[www.romseymethodist.church](http://www.romseymethodist.church)  
or  
[facebook.com/RomseyMethodist](https://facebook.com/RomseyMethodist)

**Ages 0-11**



# WESLEY SUMMER WALKS 2024



All walks will be short and followed by refreshments

Those unable to walk are invited to join us for the 'afters'.



DATE and TIME	WALK	LEADERS	REFRESHMENTS
Monday 29th July 2.30pm parking at layby opposite the Church	Littleton A walk through the Littelton Stud	Faith and Nick	3.30pm Running Horse
Wednesday 7th August 2.30pm at Trout Fishery Car park	Trout fishery Headbourne Worthy	Dale	2.30pm Trout Fishery
Thursday 15th August 2.30 pm Alresford Station car park	Watercress Line	Ralph and Veronica (Special information below)	3pm On Train
Friday 23rd August 2pm Crab Wood car park	Crab Wood	Eileen	3pm Beechcroft Farm Shop and Tea Barn



**PLEASE INFORM LEADERS IF YOU  
INTEND TO JOIN US**



**On Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> August, starting from Alresford Station (meet at 2.30pm) twenty places are available for a return rail trip to Alton with a cream tea served on the train. Both the journey and the tea will be free of charge.**

A leaflet with more details is available in the church foyer, and to request a place please speak to Ralph or Veronica, phone 861139 or email [Sibbrings@btinternet.com](mailto:Sibbrings@btinternet.com)



# Churches Together in Winchester

## Opportunities to serve

We have two opportunities to serve Churches Together in Winchester and work with the new Chair, Revd Marianne Foster.

These are crucial roles but not onerous in terms of time. They are:

### **Secretary**

Preparing with the Chair agendas, taking Minutes and sending information to member churches and partner organisations.

Forwarding various requests for help from various partner organisations eg Street/School pastors, Basics Bank, The Night shelter.

Liaising with other external organisations who contact Churches Together.

The Secretary is a member of the Steering group – this is a coordinating role supporting the work of the Council and working with the Chair of Churches Together.

### **Communications**

Ensuring the website and social media are up to date with information about Churches Together.

Reviewing comments on either the website or social media feeds and approving/deleting regularly as necessary.

Receiving information from churches and partner organisations which need to be promoted. Deciding which need to be promoted where and when. (Previously there has been a policy of only promoting free events.)

### **Information**

The Council of Churches Together (CTiW), meets, normally, three times a year one of which will be the AGM. In the last two years it has met termly. The Council makes policy, and its decisions are acted upon by the Steering Group.

The Steering Group is a smaller meeting of key clergy and lay people who often undertake business by WhatsApp and email though they are met once a year in each of the last two years.

Revd Marianne Foster is the new Chair since the June 2024 AGM. She introduced herself in a recent CTiW Update and this is included on page two of this document.

CTiW is a charity and submit accounts to the Charity Commission. The Treasurer of CTiW is Bob Lord.

**Contacts:** At present both roles are held by the same person, but they could be undertaken by two people. For further information please feel free to contact:

**Secretary:** Isobel Tutt-Leppard – [administrator@ctwin.org.uk](mailto:administrator@ctwin.org.uk)

**Chair:** Revd Marianne Foster – email: [mariannefoster@yahoo.com](mailto:mariannefoster@yahoo.com)

July 2024

## Introducing - Revd Marianne Foster

Dear Friends,

I am delighted to introduce myself as the new Chair for Churches Together Winchester.

I am a priest in the Church of England and serve at St Luke's and St Mark's churches. My husband Tom and I both grew up in Brighton, where we met at a church youth group. Our journey together has taken us from Newcastle to Bristol, and now to Winchester, where we have made our home with our four children. Before my ordination, I worked as a Child Protection Social Worker and later in safeguarding in education for Hampshire County Council. My professional background has always been rooted in a deep commitment to the well-being of children and social justice.

I am passionate about building healthy, flourishing communities where everyone feels valued and supported.

Churches Together exists to promote church unity, a calling that resonates with the heart of the Gospel. In John 17, Jesus prays, 'that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me.' This prayer for unity is more than a call to coexistence; it is a summons to a deeper, transformative togetherness that reflects the nature of God.

Our journey towards unity is ongoing. It requires continuous effort, open hearts, and a willingness to listen and learn from one another. In the coming year, let us continue to deepen our relationships, explore new ways to serve together, and remain steadfast in our commitment to unity.

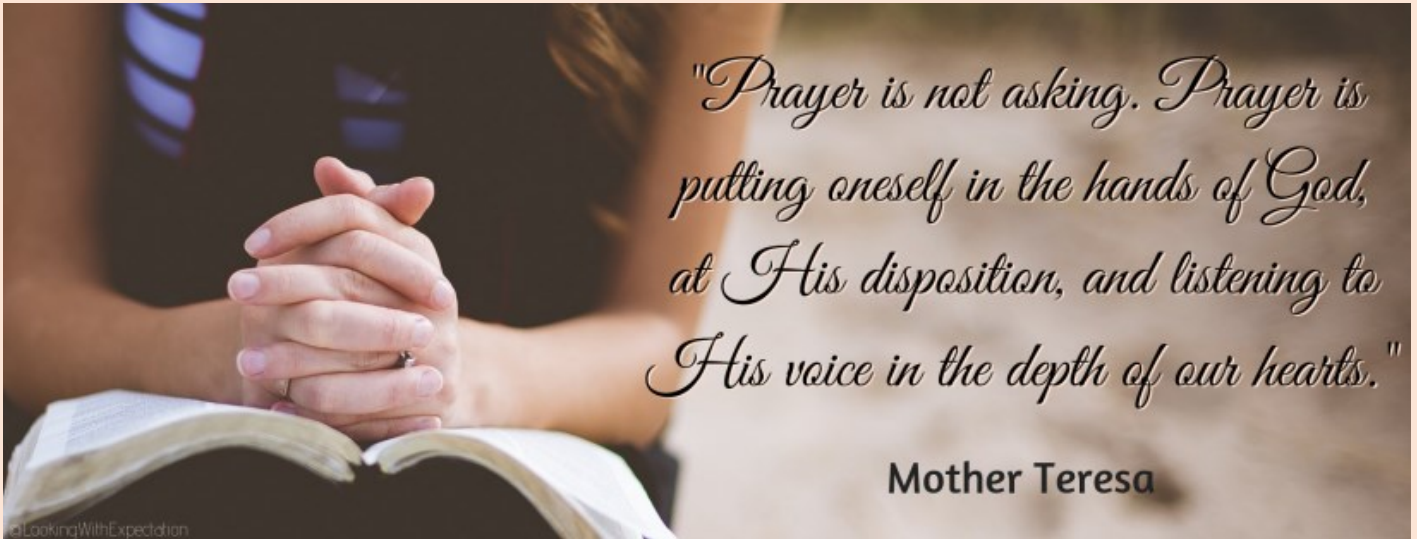
As I step into this new role, I am praying that our unity will be a beacon of hope and a witness to the transformative power of the Gospel.

Yours in Christ,

*Marianne.*



As Brian reminds us in his reflection “whether our day be ordinary or extraordinary, may we go on listening for those “whispers in the ear” of the Holy Spirit alert to “hearing what God wants us to hear”.



*The Lord came and stood there,  
calling as at the other times,  
“Samuel! Samuel!”  
Then Samuel said, “Speak,  
for your servant is listening.”  
1 Samuel 3:10*

**Lord, thank You for hearing me when I come to You in prayer. Help me to be still so that I am able to recognize when You are speaking to me. Help me to shut out the noise of this world so that I may hear You clearly. I don't ever want to miss out on what You have to say to me. Amen**

**When you pray,  
God listens.  
When you listen,  
God talks.  
When you Believe,  
God works.**

# The Names of God

O	E	R	D	E	L	I	V	E	R	E	R	E	T
H	L	O	R	D	Y	S	R	A	H	P	L	A	D
E	M	T	A	F	A	T	H	E	R	A	M	A	J
G	N	I	K	B	E	L	E	U	N	A	M	M	E
D	O	G	I	T	B	H	O	O	R	E	A	Y	S
R	T	R	U	T	H	A	R	O	I	V	A	S	U
E	D	A	G	E	M	O	O	M	A	O	P	C	S
P	L	T	R	I	N	I	T	Y	M	L	P	H	G
L	A	U	M	O	S	T	H	I	G	H	L	R	R
E	N	W	M	I	G	H	T	Y	O	N	E	I	O
H	R	B	R	I	D	E	G	R	O	O	M	S	S
O	E	M	C	G	H	A	L	M	I	G	H	T	Y
H	T	G	G	L	E	H	E	W	H	A	Y	H	I
O	E	R	F	R	A	D	V	O	C	A	T	E	L

ADVOCATE  
 LOVE  
 ABBA  
 MIGHTYONE  
 GOD  
 ALPHA  
 EMMANUEL  
 FATHER  
 BRIDEGROOM  
 DELIVERER  
 TRINITY  
 ALMIGHTY  
 MOSTHIGH  
 YAHWEH  
 CHRIST  
 TRUTH  
 ETERNAL  
 OMEGA  
 HELPER  
 LORD  
 JESUS  
 IAM  
 KING  
 SAVIOR