



Wesley Methodist Church Weeke

# Wesley Somborne Link

## One Church on two sites

26th June 2026



King's Somborne Methodist Church

### The Value of Giving

WOW isn't it hot! It seems the whole country has come to a stop. Keep cool and take care to drink plenty of water.

**We are so fortunate that we can just turn the tap and pure clean water is there, we can use the toilet efficiently and effectively, we have electricity for fans at the click of a switch. Or rummage in our freezer for food.**

The next Local arrangement Mission service will be based upon the Brickworks Charity. (*More details elsewhere in the WSL*).

South Sudan is so different to our country and we are blessed to be able to support Brickworks and John and Penny Spens who gallantly fly there and live with their friends and see how they really live, and support them with medicine and help with training and infrastructure.

Some of the people working in the schools and clinic have not been paid for 6 months. The Hospital has no medicines. Schooling has to be paid for, food is not easily purchased and is expensive. Such a comparison when here supermarkets throw away thousands of tons of food which is often just out of date.

It seems to me that in the Church universal of whatever denomination and indeed whatever Faith, God is expecting us to us to care for those in need.

This why we are called so often to give our money, our prayers and our gifts for the people who have so little. We sing so often hymns written by people of old or recently, which make us think. I really find Graham Kendrick, in his modern hymns, pitches it just right with good music and understandable words. The chorus of one we sing puts it like this:-

***God of the poor, friend of the weak, give us compassion we pray:***

***Melt our cold hearts, let tears fall like rain,***

***Come change our love from a spark to a flame. (STF 693)***

You cannot put it more simply, God loves us, we love God, Jesus Loves us and he died for our sins. The Holy Spirit empowers us to give the love we are called to by doing actions we should be doing.

Wesley Church over its 70 years has had a loyal tradition of supporting Methodist Missions- overseas, Home Missions in the UK, National Children's Homes (now Action for Children) and Christian Aid. In recent years the Brickworks, Water Harvest and Winchester Food and Basics Bank have been supported wonderfully well. What does the future hold?

If your response is "I cannot do things", "I cannot get out", "my income is limited", "I am too busy" or "not sure who to support", I suggest we all read again the story Jesus told of the value of the widow's mite.



Blessings

Richard

**On Sunday 28th June at 10.30am, the ReFresh Service will be led by Dr Mike Wood**

**On Sunday 5th July at 10.30am the Service will be led by the Mission 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:**

25th June: Mini-Marvels (9.00—11.00am): **Cancelled due to extreme weather conditions!**  
25th June: Together Thursday 2.30—4.30pm: **Cancelled due to extreme weather conditions!**  
**27th June: Café Wesley in aid of Brickworks (10.00am-12 noon) and Lego Church (10.00am—11.30am)**  
28th June: ReFresh Service led by Dr Mike Wood at Wesley 10.30am  
28th June: Service led by Mrs Sandra Timms at King's Somborne 10.30am  
**30th June: Worship and Fellowship Working Group Meeting at Wesley 7.30pm**  
2nd July: Mini-Marvels (9.00—11.00am)  
3rd July: Friday Fun Club (5.00-6.30pm)  
3rd July: Feel Good Friday (7.00-9.00pm)  
5th July: Service led by the Mission Team at Wesley 10.30am  
5th July: Service of Holy Communion led by Revd Peter Rayson at King's Somborne 10.30am  
9th July: Mini-Marvels (9.00—11.00am)  
9th July: Together Thursday 2.30—4.30pm  
12th July: Service of Holy Communion led by Revd Gary Watt at Wesley 10.30am  
12th July: Church Anniversary Service led by Revd Dr Howard Mellor at King's Somborne 10.30am  
**13th July: Church Council at Wesley 7.30pm**  
**14th July : Circuit Children and Youth Leaders Meeting on Zoom 7.00-8.00pm**  
16th July: Mini-Marvels (9.00—11.00am)  
17th July: Friday Fun Club (5.00-6.30pm)  
17th July: Feel Good Friday (7.00-9.00pm)  
19th July: Service led by Tom Belshaw at Wesley 10.30am  
19th July: Messy Church at King's Somborne (3.00-5.00pm)  
23rd July: Together Thursday 2.30—4.30pm  
26th July: Service led by Revd Peter Rayson at Wesley 10.30am  
26th July: Service led by Mrs Sandra Timms at King's Somborne 10.30am

**On Sunday 5th July John and Poppy Spens will be visiting us to update us on the current situation regarding the work of The Brickworks charity in South Sudan.**

**The latest Newsletter gives us more information, including details of their recent trip there (see pages 4 and 5).**

**John and Poppy have told me that since they have come back it has rained twice in Yei; a big answer to many prayers!**

**Cash donations can be made to The Brickworks at Café Wesley on Saturday 27th June, on Sunday morning 28th June or at the Brickworks Service on Sunday 5th July. If you would like to make a donation by cheque please bring it on Sunday 5th July and John Spens will bring forms and envelopes to use if you wish it to be Giftaided.**

Best wishes

Chris



**The next edition of the WSL will be on Friday 10th July, we will need any items for inclusion to be sent to Paul and Brenda, by Wednesday 8th July 2026.**

**Email: [brenda.yarrien@btinternet.com](mailto:brenda.yarrien@btinternet.com) or by phone on 01794389153.**

## TEA AND CAKE IN THE GARDEN

Where: 1 Mornington Drive

Date: **THIS** Friday, June 26<sup>th</sup>

Time: 3.30pm – 5.00pm

Come and enjoy time with your Wesley friends.

If you come by car, please bring a folding garden chair, if it is too hot or wet, we can come indoors!



**Advance Notice: Wesley Walks will be taking place in August!**



**Look out for the details in the next Wesley Somborne Link!**

**TIPS TO STAY COOL**  
DURING HOT WEATHER

- Stay in the shade from 11am to 3pm
- Wear lightweight clothing
- Limit outdoor activities
- Keep your curtains or blinds closed
- Stay hydrated and eat cooling foods



## June 2026 - Weeds of discouragement, seeds of hope

Dear Supporter,

We've just returned from our short visit to Yei and so wanted briefly to share some stories but mainly to thank everyone who prayed for us. We felt very supported and know that these prayers were answered. Travel went well; we stayed healthy all the time and we had some great meetings with all those whom we met. The war in the Middle East and the Ebola crisis has led many to cancel their travel to countries that border DR Congo and our plane from London was virtually empty. MAF also told us of a big drop in demand for their flights to the more remote areas of Uganda, putting strain on its finances.

Life in Yei is getting harder and the main issues we witnessed were:

- One pastor told us of the struggle he has to pay his son's school fees. His youngest son wants to study for three A levels but there is no money. All the family's animals were stolen by soldiers and even crops are picked before he can harvest them. Over the past few years, the family has become poorer and poorer and the pastor has nothing left. He says this is the situation for many.
- The virtual cessation of USAID means that many health workers have not been paid for 6 months. This affects 18 of the staff at the Martha Clinic and many staff throughout the country.
- We saw fields of maize that looked very weak and thin, due to the lack of rain since April. Families depend on their cultivation to supplement their meagre incomes and so a poor harvest will cause much hardship and hunger, maize being a staple crop. This is an effect of climate change.
- Ebola has not reached South Sudan but is a threat and the weak health systems would struggle to contain its spread.
- The villages outside of Yei remain insecure and annual inflation is still at around 20%.

But we also saw seeds of hope.

- We arrived at the Martha Clinic just after baby John had been born. The clinic is successfully delivering several babies a week.
- The new solar equipment that we donated earlier this year has made a big difference to the working of the Eye Clinic and Children's Ward, which share the power 24 hours a day.
- The Diocesan coffee growing project is in its fourth year. Each Archdeaconry now has its own coffee nursery beds with a plan for a co-operative in each location. Other Dioceses are now coming to Yei for advice on coffee growing.
- Those whom we sponsored at the teacher training college are now back in their schools and making a big difference.
- The Bishop of Panyana told us that 4 of the young people who had attended youth camps in past years were now ordained as priests and deacons.
- The Bishop Allison Theological College is doing well. It has a new Principal and an intake of 22 students. A new dormitory with spaces for 40 students is under construction, thanks to a legacy given to the Diocese of Salisbury for BATC.



As we departed after four days in Yei, we reflected on the many old friends we had met, particularly at the party organised for us by the Diocese on our last evening to celebrate 20 years since we first moved to Yei in June 2006. We saw how the work of the church continues and thrives against a backdrop of growing poverty. We attended diocesan devotions and prayed for rain and for the team of 30 evangelists doing an outreach in a remote rural area, at some considerable risk to their safety. We saw the daily work of the Martha Clinic staff and the high number of patients who come for treatment every day. We met with the Diocesan Health Committee and heard that although The Brickworks pays some of the staff, many of the other staff employed by UNICEF have not been paid for the last six months. We had useful discussions about how The Brickworks could pass responsibility for supporting the Martha Clinic to another organisation. We visited schools that were well led and doing very well despite many parents struggling to pay fees.

Our flights with MAF were brilliant, saving us lots of time and taking us direct from Entebbe to Yei. We were even able to help three South Sudanese friends with a free lift to Yei. Our youngest team member, Ben, whose dream is to be a pilot, was thrilled to be able to sit next to the MAF pilot on both journeys, finding out what life can be like as a MAF pilot.

As might be expected, we returned with quite a long list of things that we had been asked to help with, and the Trustees will need to consider these at their next meeting. We were very careful about our health while in Yei, particularly to avoid any risk from Ebola. Uganda has some Ebola cases and were checking every visitor entering or leaving the country. Yei airstrip had a health tent and we had our temperatures taken on arrival. Throughout our visit, we tried to touch elbows rather than shake hands but that's a funny way to greet an old friend. So far as is known, there are no Ebola cases in South Sudan and we pray that will continue and that South Sudan can avoid this terrible disease.

We haven't assembled all the photos we took in Yei but here are a few. We will show more at services we'll be speaking at in Andover, Winchester and Burton in Kendal, as well as at our Annual Meeting, which will be in the autumn.

On behalf of the Trustees and those we work with in South Sudan, thank you very much for your prayers and ongoing support.

John and Poppy Spens,

now at The Brickworks, 120 Ratcliffe Drive, Stoke Gifford, Bristol, BS34 8UB. Tel: 07900 070793.



New solar equipment at Martha Clinic, two new classrooms at St Philip's primary school, Poppy visits the Eye Clinic and a full classroom at St Philip's Primary.

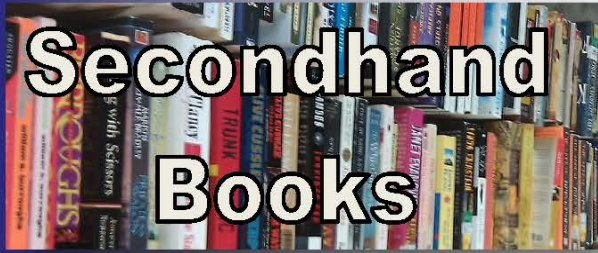
This Saturday Café Wesley is raising money for Brickworks



Cards



Drop in  
for a  
chat



Secondhand  
Books



Secondhand  
Jigsaws

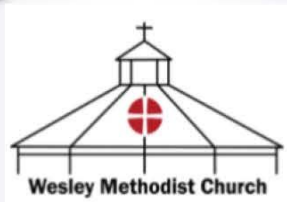
4th Saturday  
every month  
10:00 - 12:00

create a  
scene  
challenge



LEGO  
CHURCH

Bacon roll





Methodist Women  
in Britain

for women, for justice, for Christ

# Cream Tea at Canada Common Chapel

Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> July

2.30 – 4.30 p.m.

Cash donations invited. Proceeds  
to

The Honey-pot Children's Charity  
[less expenses]

Our annual celebration of Churches Together, to include the formal AGM, will take place at Wesley Methodist church, Fromond Road, Weeke on Thursday 9th July at 7.30pm. I will have a poster for you soon but if you can start publicising it now we would appreciate it. There will be an opportunity to hear about and pray for the work of Churches Together.

Other activities that we have been asked to let you know about:

Tuesday 7th July 7.45am - National Parliamentary Prayer Breakfast. This takes place in Westminster Hall but is livestreamed to enable anyone to attend. The organisers suggest you can sign up to join them online individually, or consider whether you could organise a local event for members of your church or for local church and civic leaders to watch the Breakfast and to pray together. It is a great opportunity to pray for our parliament, government and politics and to reflect upon the relevance of the Christian faith to our public life. Their theme this year is 'Hope for the future' and the main speaker is Clare Williams-Sarpong, founder of Real Questions and an Associate Speaker at OCCA, the Oxford Centre for Christian Apologetics.

See their website Prayer Breakfast – Christians in Parliament, for more details and to sign up for the livestream

Nick Woodford at Hope Church has pulled together a list of places you can go in Winchester to get food or support, for people they come into contact with. He is happy for this to be shared - and would also be grateful to know about anything he has missed, or anything that needs correcting on the list. I have attached two versions of the list, one is an A3 poster, the other has the list twice on A4 size so it can be cut into 2 A5 leaflets. Contact Nick for further information on [Nick.Woodford@hopewinchester.org](mailto:Nick.Woodford@hopewinchester.org)

If you want to keep up to date with what Winchester Street and School Pastors are doing, please follow their Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100064515296029> and consider linking it from your church Facebook page

If you have any free events coming up that you would like us to publicise please let me know so that I can include it on these mailings. Also, if you have a church Facebook or Instagram page I would be happy to follow that from the Churches Together in Winchester account.

Hope to see some of you at our celebration in July,

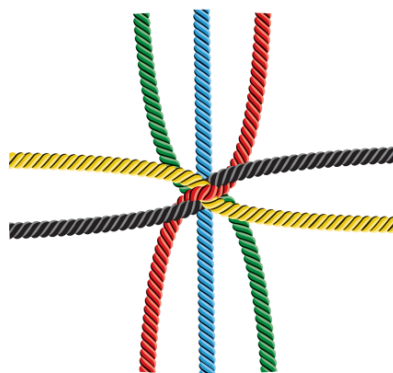
Kirsty

Kirsty Robinson

Secretary and Communications Co-ordinator

Churches Together in Winchester

[www.ctwin.org.uk](http://www.ctwin.org.uk)



## A Prayer for the Work of The Brickworks

*Heavenly Father,*

*We lift up **The Brickworks charity** and the vital ministry they carry out in South Sudan. Thank You for the vision given to John and Poppy Spens, and for every volunteer, donor, and trustee supporting this work from afar. We ask for Your continuous blessings upon their partnerships, particularly with the Diocese of Yei and local churches.*

*Lord, we pray specifically for their major areas of ministry:*

- **Healthcare & Healing:** *We thank You for the successful cataract surgeries at the Martha Eye Clinic. Guide the medical teams, protect the supply lines keeping medicines safe on the roads, and bring sight and hope to hundreds more patients.*
- **Education & Teacher Training:** *Bless the ten primary school teachers receiving scholarships. Grant them wisdom as they gain qualifications, so they can raise up the next generation of South Sudanese children with high-quality education.*

**Youth Discipleship:** *We pray for the youth leaders undergoing intensive training. Ignite their hearts to follow Jesus passionately and equip them to lead their local youth groups with confidence and grace.*

*Provide the necessary funding and resources so that every penny continues to directly impact those in need. Protect the staff, local church leaders, and communities from the challenges of regional unrest. Let Your peace reign in South Sudan so that families may thrive.*

*In Your holy name, we pray. Amen. (AI June 2026)*



# The Widow's Mite

But a poor widow came and put in two very small copper coins, worth only a fraction of a penny. Mark 12:42

Based on Mark 12:38-44



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

PENNY  
 JESUS  
 MORE  
 LARGE

PLACE  
 TREASURY  
 WIDOW  
 WEALTH

TRUTH  
 MONEY  
 COINS  
 EVERYTHING

DISCIPLES  
 POVERTY  
 RICH  
 COPPER

TEMPLE  
 AMOUNT  
 OFFERING  
 POOR