



Wesley Methodist Church Weeke

# Wesley Somborne Link

## One Church on two sites

3rd October 2025



King's Somborne Methodist Church

I was doing a City and Guilds embroidery course and needed a project. Panic set in. What could I do? Then my husband showed me an article in the Hampshire Chronicle. WANTED PILGRIMS. It was to celebrate the millennium, the Normandy Accord and the reopening of an ancient pilgrim way from Winchester Cathedral to Mont St Michel closed by Henry VIII. A matter of a 100 or so miles. Could I do it? Maybe the bit down to Portsmouth! It was organised by the Hampshire County Council. I applied and we met for a trial walk from St Giles Hill to Cheriton and back 16 miles carrying no more than 20lbs in our rucksacks. Secretly I had already reduced it to 12lbs.

The day came. There were about a dozen of us including a lady -Nicole from France. We were a motley crowd rather akin to those pilgrims from Chaucer's Canterbury tales as we set off with a blessing from the Dean past St Cross Hospital, St Catherine's Hill and down towards Bishops Waltham. Monks and pilgrims of old probably ate fish from the pond there and picked blackberries along the way as did we! The path was quite narrow in parts and strewn with ivy, which in medieval days was called Mary's Mantle after the Virgin Mary. On another day we passed the pub where Churchill and Eisenhower met to discuss the DD Landings. With the help of P&O we crossed the channel. We gathered in Barfleur where the Duke of Normandy, later called William the Conqueror, left France to conquer England, where we were joined by many more French pilgrims. After a welcome feast we set off on our journey. Of course there were many places to see on our route but I will just mention a few things which stick to my memory. We had only been going about 3 days when one of our number didn't feel well, so we stopped for a break along the beach, I had particularly noticed this pilgrim as he walked with an enormous staff with the scallop shell carved on top. He was quite elderly and was obviously a seasoned pilgrim. After a while he felt better and we continued till lunchtime where we went into a church where we were shown a carving of St Martin on horseback who had given his cloak to a needy traveller. We came out of the church the heavens opened and our pilgrim friend fell to the ground. "Monsieur, monsieur" our French friends called, "Can you hear us?" But of course he couldn't. It was a shock. In the end it was said he died doing the thing he loved and that was true- not just a saying. We had to carry on. Mostly we stayed in gites, dormitories and nunneries etc. As we walked along with our washing flying from our rucksacks hoping our socks would dry in the sunshine, we often sang. By the end of our journey I knew every verse of Green Grow the Rushes O! Everywhere we went we were welcomed by the mayor and other dignitaries and a wonderful feast. In one village we passed through, a lady in her 90s came out waving the Union Jack as she had done when the troops marched through marking the end of World War Two in Europe. We had a couple of days off and on one of those we visited a museum in Avranches, which housed wonderful illustrated biblical parchments in brightly coloured inks painstakingly worked by monks, some of whom didn't survive as the inks often contained arsenic. I took inspiration from these beautiful works for one of my final pieces for my course. One day we got lost and as a result didn't reach our destination until 25 miles later. I hope never to repeat that day, particularly because it rained all day! The day dawned, 29th September 1999 St Michael's Day, when we assembled to cross the sands with Mont St Michel in view. There were hundreds of pilgrims waiting for their guides. We all wore maroon arm-bands to remember our pilgrim friend who never made it. About an hour later we reached our goal, but oh no, not quite. We still had to climb to the top. At the top we assembled in the refectory with pilgrims from all over the world. Suddenly a most moving moment, spontaneous singing broke out - Amazing Grace - no need for anymore words.

Maggie Goulding

**On Sunday 5th October at 10.30am, a Service of Holy Communion will be led by Mr Peter Castle**

**On Sunday 12th October, at 10.30am the service will be led by Mrs Pat Fry**

**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:

2nd October: Mini-Marvels (9.00—11.00am)

3rd October: Friday Fun Club (5.00-6.30pm)

3rd October: Feel Good Friday (7.00-9.00pm)

5th October: Service of Holy Communion and Bible Month 1, led by Mr Peter Castle at Wesley 10.30am

5th October: Service led by Dr Mike Wood at King's Somborne 10.30am

7th October: Property and Finance meeting at Wesley

9th October: Mini-Marvels (9.00—11.00am)

9th October: Together Thursday 2.30—4.30pm

12th October: Bible Month 2 Service at Wesley 10.30am led by Mrs Pat Fry

12th October: Service of Holy Communion led by Revd Robert Kitching at King's Somborne 10.30am

14th October: Circuit Children, Youth and Family Leaders Zoom 7-8pm

16th October: Mini-Marvels (9.00—11.00am)

17th October: Youth@Wesley Meeting at Wesley, in the church, at 3.00pm

17th October: Friday Fun Club (5.00-6.30pm)

17th October: Feel Good Friday (7.00-9.00pm)

19th October: Bible Month 3 Service at Wesley 10.30am led by the Wesley Team

19th October: Messy Church at King's Somborne (3.00-5.00pm)

21st October: Church Council, incorporating a talk about the City Centre Chaplaincy, at Wesley at 7.30pm

23rd October: Mini-Marvels (9.00—11.00am)

23rd October: Together Thursday 2.30—4.30pm

**25th October: Café Wesley 10.00am—12 noon, supporting the British Legion, with Lego Church 10.00am-11.30am**

26th October: Bible Month 4 Service at Wesley 10.30am led by Mrs Pat Fry

26th October: Service led by Mr Jeremy Sykes at King's Somborne 10.30am

31st October: Y@W Doorstep Light Event at Wesley 4.00-6.00pm

1st November: Service of Holy Communion led by Revd Peter Rayson at Wesley 10.30am



A huge “Thank You” to all who helped to make the Harvest Celebrations, last weekend, a wonderful occasion of fellowship and worship. The Harvest Lunch raised £136 towards Basic bank and further donations have brought the total giving for Basics Bank to £215. Our church was beautifully decorated, as you can see by the pictures, which also include a picture sent in by Rosie Mellor of the garden at Winchester Cathedral, a visual expression of the passage from Isaiah 32, referenced in Howard’s sermon.



Please note the next edition of the Wesley Somborne Link will be on Friday 17th October 2025, we need any items or notices to be sent to Paul and Brenda, by Wednesday 15th October.  
Email: [brenda.yarrien@btinternet.com](mailto:brenda.yarrien@btinternet.com) or by phone on 01794389153.



**With your support 10,000 Ugandan school children now have access to water!**



Words cannot describe how proud we are to have just completed our first school rainwater harvesting programme in Uganda. Since April 2023 we have been working with our local partner *Masaka District Land Care Chapter* (MADLACC), to build 107 rainwater harvesting tanks using eco-blocks.

**These tanks provide water to 10,000 pupils and staff in 22 schools, delivering a wide range of benefits to health, education and the environment.**

**Our tanks generate a range of powerful outcomes far beyond clean water.**

**For example many schools are now able to provide pupil meals for the first time, with crops such as cabbage, maize and bananas being grown in school gardens.**

There are many more schools in the Masaka region that are in need of clean water. We have completed an extensive research programme to identify schools with the most need and will commence a second new tanks programme in November this year. [Taken from 'Water Words' Summer 2025]

**We are truly grateful for the £90 raised at Café Wesley during the Harvest Celebrations, which will be forwarded to one of our other charities, Water Harvest—thank you!**

### **Bible Month: The Gospel according to John**

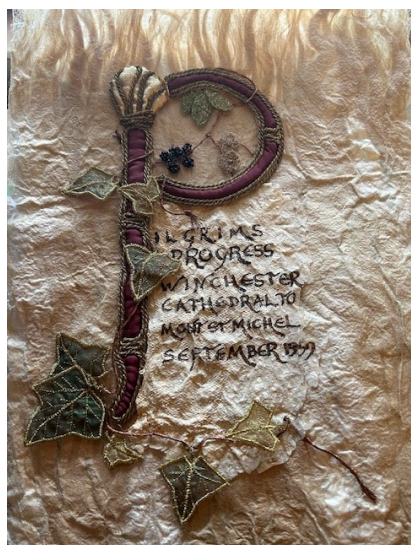
Every year the Methodist Connexion prepares material for churches to spend one month focusing on a particular Bible book. This year it's John's Gospel. I guess your first reaction is much the same as mine – "Rush through such a wonderful book in four weeks? That's impossible!". But when the reasoning behind the idea was explained, it did make sense. We have a three year lectionary, a year each for Matthew, Mark and Luke, with extracts from John scattered over the three years. So, we never see how the book is structured, how John set about presenting his account of the life and teaching of Jesus. In the four weeks we have chance to look at the book in four parts and see how John developed the ideas he wanted his readers to understand: how in Jesus, God "pitched his tent among us", lived alongside us, knew the reality of human experience, so that all people might "have life, life in all its fullness". Like the other gospel writers, John had to select a few from the many stories circulating at the time, and he chose carefully to illustrate his main themes. We will have to be even more selective, we will have to miss out much that is important and deeply precious, but hopefully, as the story unfolds, we will see how Jesus' life, death and resurrection show forth the love of God in the most powerful way.

At United we added two extra weeks; it just happened that Pentecost came immediately after our Bible month, so we kept the section teaching about the Holy Spirit till then; and we had a follow-up local arrangement service when we invited people in the congregation to share their thoughts on what was important to them in John's Gospel. I hope the services Peter Castle, and I lead will encourage you to explore this wonderful book for yourselves again.

Pat Fry



In the back of the church, for the next two weeks, is a table displaying some of the beautiful pieces Maggie made as a result of her pilgrimage—the photos below do not do them justice, so please come and admire her amazing work. Thank you Maggie for sharing your story with us.







Oasis bookshop at 25 Church Street in Romsey is part of Oasis Christian Trust. It aims to:

- be a welcoming Christian presence on the high street
- be a place where Christian books and resources can be browsed or bought
- be an outlet for fairly traded goods
- pass on excess income to charitable causes

## *COULD YOU BE A TRUSTEE ?*

We are in urgent need of trustees if our work is to continue. No specific expertise is needed, but experience in finance, HR, IT or listed buildings would be useful.

Please consider whether you could serve God and the community in this way.



Further details from

[john.pennells@oasisromsey.co.uk](mailto:john.pennells@oasisromsey.co.uk)

or call in at the shop and talk to the staff

Oasis Christian Trust  
Registered charity 1171906  
[www.oasisromsey.co.uk](http://www.oasisromsey.co.uk)



# THE GREAT BIG GREEN WEEK



*Dear Lord, you have made us the guardians of this world. I pray that we all take a step back and look at what needs to be done to protect it and care for it for future generations. We know that it is never too late to start. Open our hearts and minds that we may see the wonder of the planet and start to maintain it in a way that you would be truly proud of. I ask this in your name. Amen*

Fran Lewis

## God's Creation

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

BEGINNING  
FRUITFUL  
ANIMALS  
BLESSED

CREATED  
HEAVENS  
FEMALE  
PLANTS

BIRDS  
EARTH  
IMAGE  
LIGHT

NIGHT  
STARS  
WATER  
FISH

LAND  
MOON  
GOD  
MAN

SKY  
SUN