



Wesley Methodist Church Weeke

Wesley Somborne Link

One Church on two sites

6th September 2024



King's Somborne Methodist Church

Revd Peter Rayson has urged us all to reflect on the following article, written by the President of Conference, for the start of this new Connexional Year.

The urgency of now and the need to speak of and be loved

Revd Helen Cameron, President of the Methodist Conference

In August 1963 as part of his great, "I have a dream" speech at the Lincoln Memorial the Rev'd Dr Martin Luther King spoke of the "fierce urgency" of the present moment the world faced. He said,

"We are now faced with the fact that tomorrow is today. We are confronted with the fierce urgency of now. In this unfolding conundrum of life and history, there "is" such a thing as being too late. This is no time for apathy or complacency. This is a time for vigorous and positive action."

The violent racist disorder orchestrated by the far Right in UK towns and cities based on lies and misinformation this summer suggest we face a key moment in our own national life. It suggests that years of hate speech, persistent misinformation and lying, the promotion of hostility and the denigration of the humanity of others can create a climate in which some feel they can act with impunity.

In the "Steeler Lecture," one of five lectures that King delivered in November 1967 at the Dexter Avenue Baptist Church in Montgomery, Alabama King said,

"In the end, we will remember not the words of our enemies but the silence of our friends."

It has been encouraging to see communities resisting racism, reaching out to their neighbours of all faiths (and none), offering food, clearing up debris, escorting anxious people to their work. The group of faith leaders in Normanton, Derby who sat and drank tea together on the street and spoke with each other for the first time in the face of a far-right protest which never materialised having "found" each other after a threat of violence were keen to keep meeting and to build relationships.

The parable of the Good Samaritan (as we call that story Jesus told) contrasts the inaction of the religious leaders who walk past an injured man with the actions of a Samaritan who stops and helps the injured man, carrying him to help, paying for his recovery. We often assume that the Good Samaritan is the Christ figure and we are being invited to behave as he does. A more radical reading of that portion of scripture is to grasp that the wounded man, our neighbour, is Christ and we are being invited to see our neighbours, all of them, those who look like us and those who don't, as those made in the image and likeness of God.

Inter-faith engagement was once an urgent priority for the Church. It received generous funding and it received skilled resourcing. It remains a key priority for ministerial formation but I wonder how many of our preachers have engaged at depth with the history of, and the need for care in avoiding antisemitism, for example, in engaging with key scriptural texts.

On Sunday 8th September at 10.30am, the Service will be led by Dr Mike Wood

On Sunday 15th September, at 10.30am the Service will be led by

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

www.wesleychurch.org.uk

We must not wait for far-right threats of violence to discover our neighbours of all faiths, and none. We meet Christ as we meet the needs of the world. People all around us in our communities don't just need us when the far-right threaten. They need us now, they need our interest, our support and encouragement, and they need our love.

The beautiful film and excellent resources produced by the Connexional team "See the Love" in the aftermath of the violence are superb. I was sitting in the pews on a holiday Sunday when the film was played within worship leading to moving prayers of intercession.



This video can be accessed through: www.methodist.org.uk/about/news/the-urgency-of-now-and-the-need-to-speak-of-and-be-loved/

Silence, the failure to speak the truth and inaction in the face of racism and aggression towards people of colour and people of other faiths is a great temptation for many white people. We can tend to protect our privilege, walk by, stay silent, be glad we don't experience this ourselves. What do we do to counter clearly untrue rhetoric about migration, asylum seekers, Islam, Judaism and more?

I am led to ask what might we do in this next connexional year as Methodists to actively pursue paths of peace and reconciliation as people of faith?

1. Speak to your neighbours, those who live next to you and those who live in your community. Meet and talk, eat and plan together with your neighbours.
2. Educate yourself about another faith, about migration, about asylum and being a refugee from a variety of sources not just one. Be willing to change your mind. JPIT offers excellent resources.
3. Be brave and speak out when you hear prejudice and discrimination spoken even by those closest to you. Remember the Liverpool grandmother pictured with her "Nans not Nazis T shirt. See, and be the love.

(Posted on the Methodist Church website, 1st September 2024)



Dates for Your Diary:**8th September: Service led by Dr Mike Wood at Wesley 10.30am****8th September: Service led by Mr Peter Castle at King's Somborne 10.30am****12th September: Mini-Marvels (9.00—11.00am)****12th September: Together Thursday 2.30—4.30pm****15th September: Service led by Fiona and Kevin at Wesley 10.30am****15th September: Messy Church at King's Somborne (3.00—5.00pm)****19th September: Mini-Marvels (9.00—11.00am)****20th September: Youth@Wesley Meeting at Wesley at 5.00pm****20th September: Feel Good Friday (7.00-9.00pm)****21st September: District Synod at The United Church—All Day****22nd September: Service led by Revd Kate Cambridge at Wesley 10.30am****22nd September: Service of Holy Communion led by Revd Peter Rayson at King's Somborne 10.30am****26th September: Mini-Marvels (9.00—11.00am)****26th September: Together Thursday 2.30—4.30pm****28th September: Saturday Connect 10.00am—12 noon, followed by a Harvest Lunch, more details later!****29th September: Harvest ReFresh at Wesley 10.30am****29th September: Harvest Festival led by Revd Andrew de Ville at King's Somborne 10.30am**

The next Café Wesley will be on Saturday 21st September 10.00am until 12 noon and will be supporting the work of Water Harvest.

Summary Rota September 2024

DATE	1 st SEPTEMBER	8 th SEPTEMBER	15 th SEPTEMBER	22 nd SEPTEMBER	29 th SEPTEMBER ReFresh/ Harvest
PREACHER	REV PETER RAYSON	DR MIKE WOOD	LA	REV KATE CAMBRIDGE	TBC
LEAD STEWARD	CLEVER SAFURAWU	HELEN BREWAH	FIONA GREAVES	CLEVER SAFURAWU	FIONA GREAVES
COMMUNION STEWARDS	JANET CUNNINGHAM BRIAN MERRIMAN				
OTHER STEWARDS	EILEEN	MIKE AND VERONICA	KEVIN EILEEN	NEIL & JOY	KEVIN
ORGANIST	JAN	JAN	JAN	SYLVIA	JAN
COFFEE	MARGARET B AND MIKE	PAULINE AND CHRIS	FAITH AND NICK	HELEN EILEEN	PAULINE CHRIS
FLOWER ARRANGER	RICHARD	JANET	MARGARET H	FIONA	TEAM
FLOWER DISTRIBUTION		SANDRA	JANET	SANDRA	PAULINE
READERS	JANET CUNNINGHAM HELEN	GILLIAN FOEY BARRY	MARGARET AND JOHN HAYNES	JANET LANDON CLEVER	FIONA KEVIN
MULTIMEDIA MM OP. LS OP.	DAVID CLYDE	GORDON DAVID	BRENDA GORDON	ANDREW GORDON	ANDREW DAVID

Please note the next edition of the Wesley Somborne Link will be on Friday 20th September 2024, we need any items or notices to be sent to Paul and Brenda, by Wednesday 18th September 2024.
Email: brenda.yarrien@btinternet.com or by phone on 01794389153.

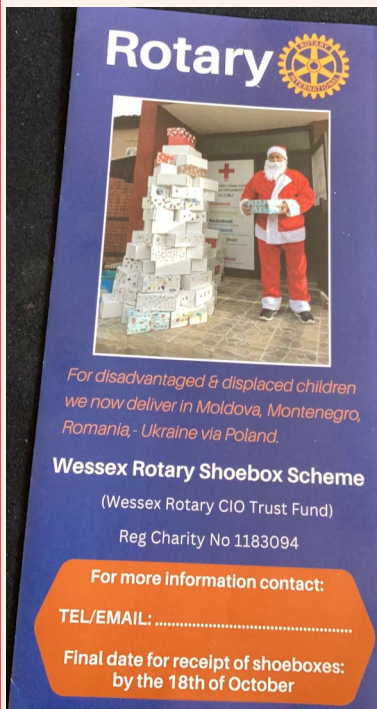
Sam writes:



News from the Barnes family, I am now officially a Grandad; Courtney gave birth to Elijah James McGovern on Friday 30th August at 17:47 weighed 7lb 14oz. Mum (Courtney), Dad (Liam) and Baby (Elijah) all doing well.

May the Lord bless you Elijah and your family, and make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you, always.

Margaret writes:



If anyone is interested in doing a box or giving me a donation towards a box on behalf of myself and Rotary, I say thank you! If £2 for postage is attached to the box and if I could have them back before 18th October I would very grateful. For more information, either see me at church or contact me on: 01962 841521

Brian writes:

The Letters of John

From this month our two “small groups” at Wesley will start exploring the Letters of John. We will be using Waverley Abbey Trust Bible Study material to prompt, challenge, and inspire our times of sharing together. If you do not yet come to one of these groups then please do think about whether you might wish to join one: you will be most welcome. As both groups will be using the same material this offers some flexibility in engaging with the series.

The first meetings of the Autumn will be for the:

Tuesday evening group on 10th September at 7.30pm

(further details from Richard and Margaret)

Thursday afternoon group on 19th September at 2.30pm

(further details from Brian and Libby)

We do hope you will give thought to these opportunities.



Join us for our coffee morning!



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October

£5 includes
coffee & cake

Drop-in between 9-11am
Rick Stein, Winchester

[RSVP: Click here or use the QR code](#)

Please join us for coffee and cake to raise
money to support Young Carers, aged
8-17, across the Winchester district.





Spotlight Special



United Church Winchester

August 2024

United@50

WE ARE 50 THIS YEAR!

In 1974 the Methodist and United Reformed churches in central Winchester came together to form the United Church at Jewry Street. The building was subsequently redeveloped to the beautiful multi-purpose building we have now, used by a wide community of people.

ANNIVERSARY BOOKS - AVAILABLE FROM 1 SEPTEMBER

50 PRAYERS - with contributions from members

STREAMS OF LIVING FAITH - a history of United Church and its founding traditions

FRIDAY 6 SEPTEMBER - FRIDAY 20 SEPTEMBER (MON-SAT 10AM-MIDDAY)

CREATION AND ENVIRONMENT TEXTILE EXHIBITION BY PAMELA PAVITT

A set of embroideries by Pamela Pavitt, these beautiful, intricate works invite us to reflect on questions of climate justice and get inspired to take action. Many thanks to Westhill Endowment for the loan of this exhibition. Pamela Pavitt was an Elder of a United Reformed Church and trained as a textile artist at Bromley Art School. Pamela was inspired by her Christian faith in creating these works, but the themes will resonate with people of all faiths and none.

And

LOVE THY NEIGHBOUR - PHOTOGRAPHIC EXHIBITION BY SIMON BRAY

SIMON BRAY grew up at United Church Winchester and is now a photographer, artist and writer exhibiting widely and undertaking commissions. 'Love Thy Neighbour' is a simple way of acknowledging the things that bring us together. Simon asked people at United Church to tell him about a time when someone showed them kindness. The answers were simple and beautiful. Some representing lifetimes of care, others momentary gestures. It visualises our inherent reliance upon one another and demonstrates that although it often feels like it, we are not alone. Our coffee bar is open Mon-Fri 10am-midday.

SATURDAY 7 SEPTEMBER

We welcome members, past members and everyone who is part of our community to join us in our anniversary weekend.

10AM-MIDDAY OPEN CHURCH

The church will be open to all, also welcoming visitors for Winchester Heritage Open Days. Our exhibitions will be open, and you can view our history timeline. Come and share your memories of the church and its history. Free tea, coffee and refreshments available. No charge.

6PM FOR 6.30PM CELEBRATION DINNER

£15 per person. Tickets must be booked by 31 August at <https://ucw.org.uk/50th-anniversary>

SUNDAY 8 SEPTEMBER 10.30AM CELEBRATION SERVICE LED BY REV TIM SEARLE

MIDDAY ONWARDS PICNIC AT RIVER PARK (weather permitting, otherwise in the hall) – bring your own picnic. There will be plenty of chairs and food for those who are visiting!

SUNDAY 15 SEPTEMBER

10.30AM THANKSGIVING SERVICE LED BY REV TIM SEARLE AND REV RACHEL BENDING, SOUTHAMPTON METHODIST DISTRICT CHAIR

21 – 29 SEPTEMBER – WINCHESTER GREEN WEEK

MONDAY 23 SEPTEMBER 10AM-12

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FRIDAY 27 SEPTEMBER 6PM-9PM LIGHT SHOW

Inspired by Winchester Green Week, this light show invites you to reflect on creation and the environment. Come any time between 6pm to 9pm. Refreshments available. Free entry.

SATURDAY 28 SEPTEMBER

6PM – 7PM LIGHT SHOW

Inspired by Winchester Green Week, this light show invites you to reflect on creation and the environment. Refreshments available. Free entry.

7.30PM – 9PM ORGAN RECITAL

Joshua Stephens is the sub-organist at Winchester Cathedral, with performances on Radio 3 and national TV to his name. Refreshments available after. Tickets £10 from

<https://ucw.org.uk/50th-anniversary>

SATURDAY 19 OCTOBER

7PM – 9.30PM JONATHAN VEIRA CONCERT

Jonathan Veira is a nationally acclaimed singer and entertainer. His performances are enjoyed by all ages. Tickets £10 from <https://ucw.org.uk/50th-anniversary> and on the door.

Southampton Eco District Webinars

Helping our District reach **Net Zero by 2030**

Creation Mondays 7.30 -9 pm

• October 14, 2024

- **Baby steps to Bronze: become an Eco Church**
- Emma Nash, Evangelism & Growth team

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/baby-steps-to-bronze-registration-991127387697?aff=odcleoeventsincollection>



• December 16, 2023

- **Action for Hope: How can we become net zero of 2030?**
- Hamish Leese, Action for Hope Implementation Officer

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/action-for-hope-with-hamish-leese-registration-1005200049407?aff=odcleoeventsincollection>



• January 20, 2024

- **Eco Church – venturing beyond bronze**
- Jim Gillings, Salisbury Methodist Church
- Rose Gosling, Summerbridge Methodist Church

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/beyond-bronze-registration-1005215244857?aff=odcleoeventsincollection>



• Information & registration:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/cc/southampton-eco-district-events-2606229>

Address any queries to: ecodistrict@sdmc.org.uk

Southampton District Synod - Helpers Required.

The Winchester Eastleigh and Romsey Circuit are hosting the Southampton District Synod on Saturday 21st September at The United Church Winchester.

We would be very grateful please for the offer of help from volunteers from our Circuit churches in advance of and during the Lunchbreak (11.00-14.00pm) to set out and serve refreshments. We are also appealing for some cakes please (10-15 for up to 150 people) which can accompany the packed lunches that people will bring.

If you can help with either please, or if you have any questions, please contact Pat Fry or Tim Clifford (please see below).

Many thanks for your help,
Pat and Tim.

Pat Fry: E: pefry16@hotmail.com T: 01962 880748

Tim Clifford: E: timclifforduk@gmail.com T: 07885733938

The start of the New Connexional Year sees a variety of meetings, where reflections and future plans are discussed. Below is a prayer entitled Meeting Together and Nick Fawcett urges us to bring our deliberations to God (Prayers for all seasons, 1998):

Living God, we come, as your people across the years have come, seeking your guidance, hungry to know your will and understand your purpose. You have called us to be your people; **help us to hear your voice.**

We come bringing the life of our fellowship before you—our practical and spiritual needs, our hopes and fears, joys and sorrows, successes and failures. You have called us to be your people; **help us to hear your voice.**

Give us faith and wisdom to discern your will, vision and courage to respond to it. Give us patience and understanding in our discussions together, openness to other opinions, and a spirit of love where we disagree. You have called us to be your people; **help us to hear your voice.**

Living God, we do not think only of ourselves but also those not with us at this time—those prevented from meeting by ill-health, age, infirmity, or other commitments; those who have lost their faith or their sense of belonging to fellowship; those still uncertain of their commitment; those who have not yet reached the point of expressing their faith. Teach us to respond sensitively to each one, making real our love in Christ, and showing a genuine concern for all. You have called us to be your people; **help us to hear your voice.**

Living God, we thank you for the privilege of meeting together. Open our hearts to you, to one another, and all around us, so that we may truly meet in heart and mind and soul. You have called us to be your people; **help us to hear your voice, through Jesus Christ our Lord.**
Amen.

My Community

Note: Words are hidden in all directions including backwards and diagonally.

G	N	I	H	C	I	R	N	E	G	G	N	I	R	I	P	S	N	I	E
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Caring

Green

Inclusive

Healthy

Multicultural

Thriving

Inspiring

Educational

Dynamic

Diverse

Enriching

Artistic

Harmonious

United

Engaging

Supportive

Energetic

Friendly

Connected

Vibrant

Neighborly

Resilient

Active

Peaceful

Historic

Progressive

Lively

Empowering