



September 2026



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Dear Lord, September – the month of new starts!

New terms, new groups, new friends, new hopes, every year.
Lord, be with us!

Lord, thank you for the new start you offer us when we put our trust in Jesus. A new start that we make once – and then can renew every day.

Every time we falter, you pick us up. Every time we come back to you, you forgive us and accept us.

Thank you, Lord, for never letting us down, for never leaving or forsaking us, that new starts with you are always possible, not just in September.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

Daphne Kitching



Minister's Letter

Progress not perfection – inspiration from the gym

It's just over twelve months now since we moved to Smethwick, so I could take up appointment with the Birmingham West & Oldbury Circuit. Sometimes people have asked me what it's like to live in this part of the West Midlands. Without doubt the best thing for me has been having the Sandwell Aquatics Centre, built for the Commonwealth Games, just a few minutes' walk from our front door. As well as having Olympic standard pools, for swimming and diving, it also has excellent gym facilities. I have a monthly membership and try to make good use of the swimming pool and the gym.

The gym is a good place to work on my physical health but has the added bonus of encouraging my spiritual health. I like to listen to worship songs on my headphones, rather than the centre's choice of music, and find God often speaks during the time I'm on the treadmill. Back in May I was feeling a little downcast about church life, even though we'd taken some good decisions at the Annual Church Meeting. God didn't speak that morning whilst I was running, but as I turned to leave the gym, I saw three words written above the mirrors: "Progress not perfection". Clearly a great message for people trying to go from 0 to 5K but it felt like a word from God for me, and perhaps for the church.

The new leadership team is settling into the responsibilities you have given to us (*see a separate article in newsletter*) and are starting a review of our mission statement. The current one was prepared back in 2020 after churches were encouraged to write something at the Circuit Mission Review. You will know to what extent that has shaped church life in the intervening period. I hope God will enable us to discover ways in which we can grow as a church, spiritually, numerically and in reaching out to our community.

This month the Leadership Team will be looking at our 'Learning and Caring', one of the four core areas of 'Our Calling', in particular thinking about the Place of Welcome and our pastoral system.

Place of Welcome is a really important service that our church provides to the community, but we are struggling somewhat due to a shortage of people willing to make and serve hot drinks, and others who will come to befriend those who are on their own or in need of support.

Over the next couple of weeks, the pastoral team will be preparing the Annual Membership cards which will be handed out at the Covenant service on the 6th September. The card provides a space to write the name of the pastoral visitor for each individual. At the time of writing some of our members do not have a designated pastoral visitor but have a pastoral contact instead, a person who will phone them up from time to time to make contact and see how they are. We would love to see others join the pastoral team either to visit people in their own homes or be in touch with them on the phone.

I wonder if God is prompting you to serve in a different way within church life. Could you offer one Tuesday morning a month or a quarter to help with Place of Welcome or would you like to explore joining the pastoral team. If so, then please get in touch with me.

God is working with us as individuals to bring progress as we seek to grow in faith. God is also at work in us as a church. Please pray for your new Leadership Team as we seek to discern God's will for the year ahead and see how God will enable us to progress in our faith together.

With every blessing,

Ann Varker



Church Calendar

September

Sun 6 th	11.00 am	Covenant Service	Rev Ann Varker
	4.00 pm	Welcome Service	Ladywood
Sun 13 th	11.00 am	All Age Service	Congregation led
Sun 20 th	11.00 am	Morning Service	John Cowan
Sun 27 th	11.00 am	Morning Service	Godfred Berchie
	6.30 pm	Evening Service	Rev Ann Varker

October

Sun 4 th	11.00 am	Morning Service	Tim Ding
Sun 11 th	11.00 am	Harvest Service	Rev Ann Varker
Sun 18 th	11.00 am	Morning Service	Dr Michael Hall
Sun 25 th	11.00 am	Morning Service	John Cowan
	6.30 pm	Communion	Rev Ann Varker

November

Sun 1 st	11.00 am	Morning Service	Congregation led
Sun 8 th	11.00 am	Remembrance	John Cowan
Sun 15 th	11.00 am	Communion	Rev Ann Varker
Sun 22 nd	11.00 am	Morning Service	Rev Andrew Wells
	6.30 pm	Evening Service	Tim Ding
Sun 29 th	11.00 am	Morning Service	Tim Ding



Church Leadership

Well, it's a Happy New Methodist Year to everyone and also a happy new leadership team to welcome in; Sue, Carolyn, Victoria, Ross and David – all familiar faces to everyone (we hope!). It is a privilege to serve the lovely people here at Quinton as many others have done before us. There is a lot to think about over the next few years as we lead and serve our church. There will be a lot of challenges but with your support, prayers and God's help and intervention, we will face them and resolve them together.

Whilst we have said goodbye to Illidio and Gisela from the circuit with a fond farewell service at West Smethwick, we hope to welcome a new lay pastor to join our circuit team – more information to follow. The reduction in the number of ministers will obviously impact on all our churches, but we are so thankful for the great work done by Tony and our stewards in getting preachers to fit in with our worship plans and for the continued efforts of our worship leaders in providing worship every Sunday. Long may this continue!

Over the previous June to August plan, we have a number of varied themes within our services from Eco Church services by Sarah Freeman and Liz Featherstone to the regular Pets' Service by John Cowan and his team- with the pets singing their hearts out as well as their owners. Ann continues to lead our All-Age worship service on the second Sunday in the month involving the GB and BB in more dramatic presentations with lively interactions through crafts and art work. It's really fabulous to see all the children involved in this.

Our current initiative 'Together Worship' is continuing to provide further involvement of our families and other congregation members – usually outside the regular times for worship. There have been three services so far, all with various themes and a great variety of activity from Bible study, craft work, cooking, science experiments, drama and best of all LEGO. Lots of singing, praying and using our good media facilities. We are continuing to review this and to get feedback from the people who attend including the children with our hope to continue into the next quarter and beyond. Remember this is NOT just for families and

children but for anyone who wishes to worship and praise God in a different way.

In May, we were unfortunate not to have Gary Hopkins preaching. However, he provided an excellent service and sermon – one that was very thought provoking and certainly hit the mark with many of the people who attended. Gary asked a number of key questions which he thought we might ask ourselves- we will share these with you:

What is going to happen to this church? What should we hold on to? What needs to change? How do we connect with children, young people and families? What about the building, the traditions we cherish, the future? Are we enough for what lies ahead? All perfectly human questions from us to show we care!

This calling is on all of us to continue with our efforts and to examine our personal calling to work for God's kingdom here at Quinton.

In July and August, we have had:

The GB and BB Awards evenings, two Eco Church services led by Liz Featherstone and Peter Bates, more 'Together Worship' meetings, Our Community link with Gower Gardens at their Fete and Car Show.

All of these show us our willingness to expand and develop community and family links.

So, what next! Our worship plan is full for September to November.

6th September- Covenant service led by Ann to focus and commit ourselves to God and the work of this church.

Our regular all age worship every second Sunday.

11th October All Age Harvest service led by Ann.

8th November -Remembrance Service led by John Cowan.

29th November- Advent Sunday service led by Tim Ding – the start of our preparation for the birth of Jesus.

Wow! Doesn't time fly when you put pen to paper – already thinking ahead to Christmas! There is probably a lot more, so watch this space and keep checking the notices.

So, new Methodist year!! New leadership! – Jesus thoughts:

*'Whoever wants to be a leader among you must be your servant.... even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve others'.
Matthew 20: 26-28*

Remember though! We are ALL servants of Christ. Let us together continue to build God's kingdom in this church and circuit. Please pray for us as we shall pray ourselves for God's guidance in service to you.

David Housley.



Pastoral Life

Greetings from Pamela and Tony

We start with news of two passings.

We celebrated the life of Colin Lewis in June, following his sad death in May. A packed service at church led by Ann, with many close members of Colin and Leah's family, relatives, friends, colleagues and carers, was followed by burial at Quinton ceremony, next to son Michael, (Michael had died in 2006). A reception with cultural food, music and dancing saw us sharing many memories and recollections of Colin and Leah's life. Leah continues to join us in worship and at Coffee Morning and Lunch Club (where she helped and cooked for many years before the pandemic).

Further sad news was the passing of Angela Harris in July. Angela had been a helper and cook at Lunch Club in past years, and member of Quinton Ladies, and she and her husband Philip were well known in the local Quinton community.

Our Pastoral Life at Quinton

A number of our members and friends are living in residential accommodation, some locally, others at a distance nearer family members. We remember them; those locally are visited regularly, those at a distance when it is practical and appropriate. We also keep in touch with pastoral cards, and where requested, magazines and notice sheets.

Michael Hall and Ann have referred to our aspirations to be a Community of Love, and this embraces all members and friends of church, whether locally or further away.

Each day offers opportunities to carry light into the world. Small acts such as a kind word, a patient response, a moment of genuine attention, hold great significance and can have a lasting impact. In Matthew 5: 14 to 16, we are reminded that we are light for all the world. We must shed light amongst everyone.

Thank you to everyone who offers fellowship and friendship to others, and a special thanks to all our pastoral visitors, for the valuable work you do for the church. It is hugely appreciated.

Pamela and Tony



Eco Church

Church Life and the Community

Big Green Week

In June, we celebrated Big Green Week, with a range of activities exploring our relationship with creation.

We began with the Big Lunch, hosted by the Multicultural Community Group. We enjoyed home-prepared food, including vegetables from the allotments, while taking time to notice and learn about the plants, wildlife and foliage around us.

Sarah Freeman led our Eco Church service, using the acorn and growth as themes — growth in nature, in ourselves and in our church. We then scattered acorns in the Community Peace Garden, where we can watch them grow.



Liz Featherstone came in August and led another wonderful eco-themed service. This time, the service focused on sharing and looking more deeply at what ‘the Feeding of the Five Thousand’ represents, encouraging us to think about generosity, community and what we have to offer one another.

The Stitch Group displayed examples of their creativity in the worship area, including items made for care and hospital settings both at home and abroad. This included our long-standing support for Hamlin Fistula in Ethiopia.

Our outdoor Pets’ Service, led by John Cowan, reminded us of our care for all of God’s creatures — from snails to dogs! This was followed by our annual survey of plants, wildflowers and wildlife, with a particular focus on the adjacent Peace Garden.

The Community Peace Garden



Garden Church has developed into a time for reflection in the Peace Garden. The garden is also used by members of the congregation and the local community as a place for rest, prayer and reflection. It has become an important feature of our Eco Church services and a welcoming space for visiting groups. It is

also a valuable study resource for the Brigades, with the Girls’ Brigade helping to maintain it.

Children and visitors have taken part in practical activities such as scattering seeds, acorns and pine cones. These simple activities help people of all generations connect with the message of caring for Creation.

All Generations

In the spring, we welcomed a visit from Four Dwellings Academy Primary Nursery, giving the children an opportunity to experience our worship, church life and activities in the Peace Garden.



Perryfields School has also asked us to arrange a visit for their children to learn about worship and church life. You may remember that we hosted regular visits from the school before the pandemic, and we hope to welcome them back again.

These visits also give us an opportunity to explain how Stay and Play, the Brigades and QYfC contribute to the life of our church and provide important opportunities for children, young people and families.

Together Worship celebrates worship and church life across the generations. Through activities and different forms of worship, we also hope to encourage those who do not usually come to church to feel welcome and involved.

Helping Others

Our regular collections for the Black Country Foodbank are greatly valued. We also hold themed collections at particular times of the year, including Lent and Harvest.

Recently, the Boys' Brigade organised a collection and visited the Foodbank. Members were able to see how the Foodbank operates and took part in practical activities, sorting donations and assembling packs for distribution. The Girls' Brigade made a similar visit in previous years, helping young people understand how practical support is provided to those in need within our community.

We also continue to collect clothing, household goods and toys for Anderton Park School Shop, which provides particular support for newly arriving families and others who need additional help. Our links with refugee and asylum-seeker support groups in Bearwood provide further opportunities to collect and share clothing and household goods.

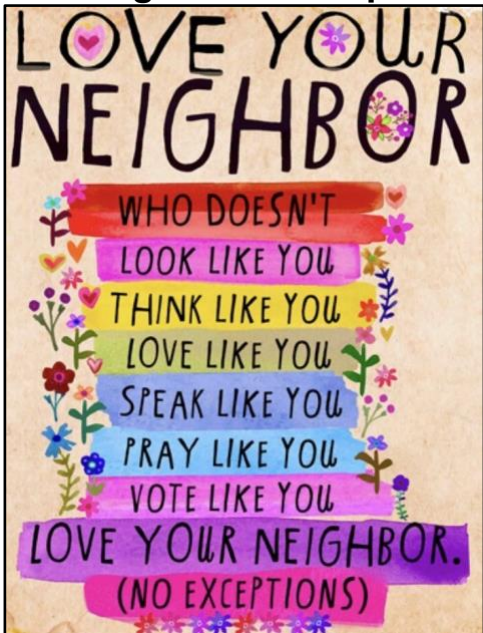
**Kindness is free,
but its impact
is priceless**



Community Peace Symposiums

We regularly attend events hosted by the Baitul Ghafoor Mosque, who are making good use of the former Long Lane Methodist Church for worship and outreach within the community. These events bring together representatives from different faiths, as well as the MP and local Councillors. They aim to inspire practical ways of living at peace — within ourselves, with our neighbours and with the wider community.

Building Relationships with Our Neighbours



Alongside our links with the Mosque, we are also seeking to build relationships with the Ethiopian Orthodox Church in Hurst Green. We have attended community events and shared information about our churches and activities.

At St Peter's Flower Festival, we exchanged information about our churches, discussed their community choir and the potential for links with QMC. We also arranged for their curate to lead a service for us in the spring.

Visits to St John's in Halesowen opened our eyes to ways in

which we can better support people with neurodiversity and become more welcoming and accessible to families and children with different needs. This includes considering the format and colours used in notices and printed materials, as well as the way we present information and features within our worship.

The Boys' Brigade also has long-standing links with Gower Gardens, visiting and talking with residents and staff and sending cards of greeting. During August, our presence at their Community Fete and Car Show provided another opportunity to highlight the life of our church, Eco Church and our involvement with the community.

Communications

Notice Sheets

We hope you appreciate and find helpful the innovations introduced into our weekly notice sheets. You will see changing formats, headings and images reflecting the content and themes of our worship, together with varying colours for printed versions. We hope these changes make the information easier to notice and more engaging. Thank you to those who have already commented so positively and offered suggestions. If you have not yet shared your views, we would be pleased to hear from you.



Magazine

We also hope that the changing formats and content of our Magazine, together with the accompanying pictures and images, make it helpful, interesting and informative. Good News Stories, suggested by Val B, are a new feature. These are opportunities to share things happening in your life, your neighbourhood or our wider community. Beth and Tony would love to receive your contributions — and you can already see some examples in this issue.

Notice Boards

Information about worship and church life is displayed both outside and inside the building.

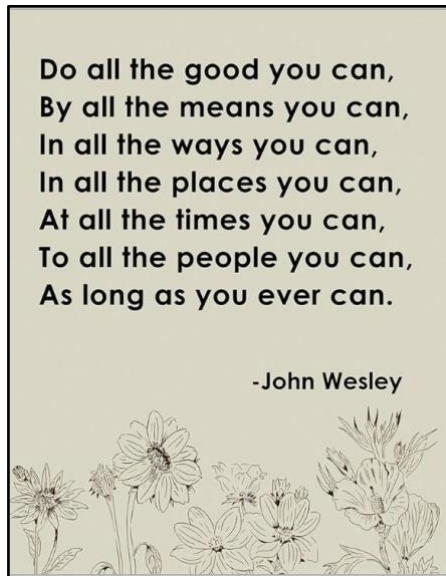
Eco Church information and Eco Tips can be found on notice boards in the Worship Area, Hall and Parlour.

And remember: **Reduce • Reuse • Recycle**

We hope the displays are not only informative but also inspirational. Please let us know your thoughts and suggestions for future information and displays.

John Wesley's Rule of Life

John Wesley's Rule of Life provides both an incentive and a practical guide for the way we seek to live out our Mission. It reminds us that our worship, church life, community involvement and care for creation are not separate activities. They are all part of who we are as Christians and how we seek to live out our faith.



As we look to the future, may we continue to grow the church, care for God's creation, support those in need and build positive relationships with our neighbours and the wider community.

Together, through care, prayer and practical action, we can make a difference.

Beth and Tony



The Sower

He works beneath the morning sun
He scatters wide the seed;
Rests not before the work is done
That bread may fill our need.

Some fell upon the hardened way
Where clay was hard as stone,
Birds ate the seeds right where they lay
And none was left alone.

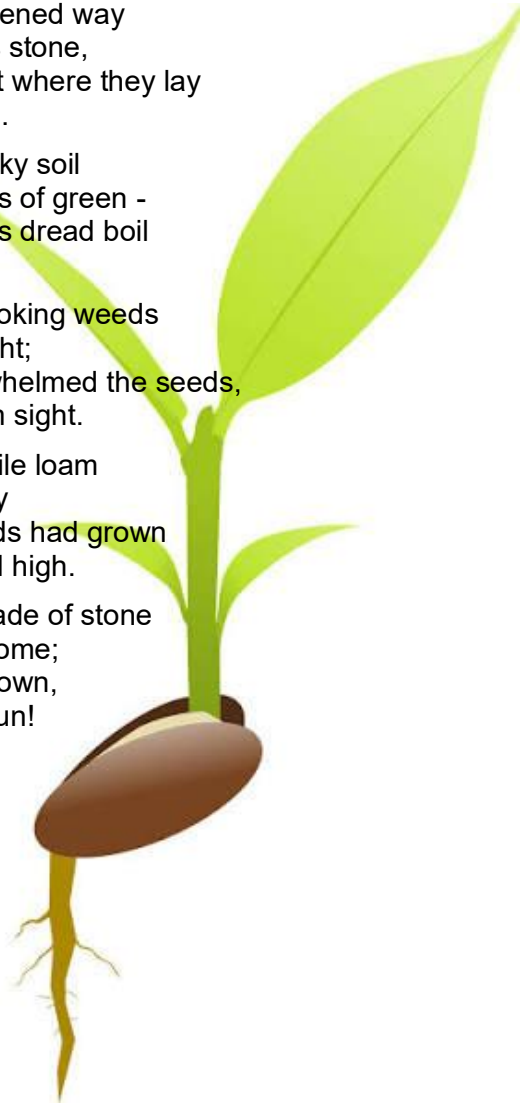
Some landed on the rocky soil
Soon sprang their leaves of green -
To wilt beneath the sun's dread boil
As if they'd never been.

Some fell among the choking weeds
The tares took all the light;
Their growth then overwhelmed the seeds,
Which disappeared from sight.

But some fell on the fertile loam
The rain fell from the sky
A hundredfold their seeds had grown
As they grew strong and high.

Let not your heart be made of stone
Nor fail when troubles come;
By no foul sin be overgrown,
But thriving 'neath the sun!

Nigel Beeton





An Appointment with Dr Porter.



On Saturday 1st August I travelled to see our oldest (ex) church member Dr Alan Porter in a home at Disley where Stockport meets the Peak District.

As I have a strong interest in public transport, I took a slightly indirect circular route which, with my newly acquired Senior Citizen bus pass and a concession on WMT, was to cost me only £6.50!

I travelled to Kidsgrove where there was time to walk up the hill and purchase Staffordshire Oatcakes from the maker (still hot!) which myself and Alan both love microwaved with cheese

.... or a banana. Returning to Kidsgrove, I discovered a sumptuous waiting room with easy chairs, coffee tables and current magazines labelled 'read but don't take'. Quite lovely! On by another train to Macclesfield and a service bus to Whaley Bridge, a town I took hundreds of people to for the legendary "hot pot canal cruise". After a few minutes the last bus with a very friendly female driver who asked where I was going in Disley and warned me about the steep hill. "Use the benches for a break my lovely - you are not as young as you were!" Point taken!

So up the STEEP hill I went into this lovely home. 26 residents have a large en-suite bedroom with kitchenette and in Alan's case an admin corner with room for the beloved computer! Next to this are patio doors leading out to a small private garden with a view of Kinder Scout which Alan climbed as a young man. He still walks to a point with a better view of it most days with his rollator! There was time to have a (first rate) meal with Alan which they served in a private room with a lovely view. Alan is well - looks 5 years younger and wishes to be remembered to all his Quinton friends. His mind is still as sharp as my razor. He is in good hands. The lovely man who owns the home and still waits on tables every day is 80 and shows no signs of slowing down!

Leaving Alan I continued north to Stockport and a delightfully eclectic bus ride to Macclesfield for my trains home. A super day.

Mark Smith.

A Glimpse of Africa

The start of August saw Liz Featherstone lead our Eco Church service, arranged with Beth.

Philma accompanied with her Glimpse of Africa display, with Liz's clothes featuring scenes from Africa. The unequal availability of food and water, including in parts of Africa, underlay much of Liz's message. Liz highlighted how the story of 'the Feeding of the Five Thousand' interlinked with Eco Church and how small everyday actions that we can take make a big difference. She mentioned the development of Fairtrade products, recycling and plastics reduction as examples. The hymn 'Bread of Heaven' stresses how a total spiritual dependence on God provides our daily sustenance.



Tony and Beth

A 60th Birthday in the Community.



In early August we were pleased to host the 60th birthday party for Roslyn and her family and friends from the Multicultural Community Group. Some 35 people enjoyed a variety of cultural food, music and dancing.

The convenient location, attractive grounds and facilities in our church buildings attract a wide range of groups and organisations from the local community, who contribute valuable revenue for us and bring a variety of activities and opportunities for many local people - and some from further afield - into the building.

Tony for Roslyn

The Saving Grace of the Piano



Philma's piano playing is always a delight for us at church, and as many of us know, she plays voluntarily weekly at the QEHB hospital, directly helping to put anxious patients at ease and improve the hospital environment.

For Philma the piano is her voice and solace and expresses her deepest feelings and helps her with the impact of her autoimmune gene on her personally, and on her two children who also had the gene that resulted in the virus that took their lives.

Philma was formally honoured during the QEHB 15 Year Anniversary celebration for her investment of significant personal time to play, as well as for being the primary musician for major hospital milestones including the QEHB annual Christmas lights switch on events. While playing at the hospital she accepts donations for Cancer Research.

Her contribution to music and enjoyment extends to her and Tom's holidays when she always takes music in her suitcase 'just in case' and recently, joining the local Methodist Church in Looe for worship, had such an opportunity being asked by the minister to play as the organist was not available.

Philma always enhances our worship and her hospital playing with a little display feature on and around the piano. These reflect some of her and Tom's personal life experiences. Do take the time to look at these and perhaps hear more about their significance.

Tony with Philma



A Hot Summer's Day at Gower Gardens



We were pleased to have a presence at the Summer Fete and Car Show at Gower Gardens on Saturday 15th August. A display of cars from our childhood eras, craft stalls and music saw residents, staff, carers, families and friends from the community enjoying the ambience.

We highlighted the life of the church, Eco Church and our activity in the community.

A display by Stitch Group celebrated their 47 years of creations for health settings and support groups, here and abroad, with one of their founders, Beryl, helping to highlight their work.

A delightful day in the community talking to people about our services and activities, Brigades and Stitch Group.

Tony Burridge



Morning Has Broken

Morning has broken,
Like the first morning,
Blackbird has spoken
Like the first bird;
Praise for the singing,
Praise for the morning,
Praise for them springing
Fresh from the Word.

Sweet the rain's new fall,
Sunlit from heaven,
Like the first dewfall
On the first grass;
Praise for the sweetness,
Of the wet garden,
Sprung in completeness
Where his feet pass.

Mine is the sunlight,
Mine is the morning,
Born of the one light
Eden saw play;
Praise with elation,
Praise every morning,
God's re-creation
Of the new day.

Eleanor Farjeon



Stitch Group

We meet on a Monday morning 10:30 to 12:30 to knit and natter. Approximately 23 to 25 ladies join us each week with others if they can join us.

We met throughout August as the ladies wanted to continue. We baked in the sun but it was good to get together and have our usual tea and biscuits.

We knit long scarves and join them together to make shawls/blankets for girls and ladies who have completed their treatment in our Ethiopian hospital and are ready to return home with their babies.

We welcomed new ladies to our group who crochet beautifully. They share patterns and teach each other different stitches. The shawls they produce are always very colourful and they love doing them. I can't crochet, I can't go around corners, and they have offered to teach me.

We always knit something for Russells Hall Hospital. The chaplain tells us what they need and we start working the pattern out. We have previously knitted stars and angels and these are put on the beds of patients who are in hospital over the Christmas period and are unable to go home. We hope they give them some comfort.

My sister asked if we could knit some mice for her harvest festival at her church (she can't knit). She was thrilled. Before long ladies were knitting them, all colours, all sizes for our own service at harvest time. See how many you can find.

Do come and join us. We would love to see you.

Pegasus Ladies

The ladies live in Pegasus Court and a new knitting group started about two years ago.

The first time I went there were four ladies knitting. Now the lounge is full of ladies who meets on a Tuesday afternoon. Some couldn't knit at first, some weren't sure but Frances Kings, who started the group, always encouraged them and helped with drop stitches and tangled wool.

This is a lovely group. The laughter is sometimes very loud and it is evident that they enjoy each other's company as they always help each other out. Some ladies carry their knitting around with them whilst waiting for nurses or carers to arrive and can now knit very quickly. They make beautiful shawls and are very proud of the shawls they have knitted.

The shawls go to the hospital in Ethiopia for girls and ladies who have completed their treatment and are ready to go home with their babies. We have received photos of these girls wearing the shawls and they have beautiful smiles on their faces. To finish the shawls off we tie some lovely ribbon around them to make a parcel for them.

This group is very special. It's lovely joining them and they always make us welcome. We know that, when we leave, they will be thinking about the girls who may be wearing their shawls. It's lovely knowing where your knitting is going and that it is giving pleasure to someone. The room is always full of smiles.

Val Brown



Quinton Youth for Christ

Quinton Youth for Christ continue to have a presence in our building – using part of Classroom 1 as the office and our Hall for regular Friday evening Youth Nights known as ‘Diverge’. It commenced as a Youth for Christ centre from 2010.

In 2026 we have struggled with finding committed volunteers so have not been able to maintain fortnightly Diverge gatherings, which has resulted in a fall-off in numbers attending.

The Trustees (Chairman remains as Bob Retallak-Cheel from St Boniface Church) have now appointed a part-time youth worker, Adam Hall, who attends Life Central Church in Halesowen. He is an experienced youth worker who has a Theology degree. He will be running Diverge from September with autumn dates set at 11th and 25th September, 9th and 23rd October, 13th and 27th November and 11th December. As usual they will run from 7pm to 9pm in our Hall for secondary school ages (11 to 18). We welcome interested teenagers who wish to give us a try (we have a new snooker table).

We welcome new volunteers, who will need DBS checks – Adam will be reporting to Gary Bonnick from Quinton Christchurch who has dedicated himself to take a lead. We also welcome prayers and financial contributions too. We continue to look for opportunities to work with local schools.

Any more information from Chris Haynes (trustee representing Quinton Methodist Church).

Chris Haynes



Property Report

The hottest summer on record has meant our volunteers have found it quite energy sapping so work has slowed. Last time I reported on the need to replace the bench in the Peace Garden – two large hardwood seats have been positioned. Scaffolding has been erected on the Hagley Road frontage allowing access to the remaining top asbestos which will be removed and disposed of. The void has been inspected and the likely leaks identified with replacement work needed to the rear of the brickwork. Once dry, we will need to re-plaster and paint on the auditorium side. The annual outside work includes clearing the drains, edging the lawns and cutting back the hedges and the trees. The dumping of green waste on our car park has had to be cleared.

Internal jobs include continued work in the Minister's Vestry where a new toilet is being acquired and fitted before plastering and painting. An electrical lead has been provided between the Vestry and the Choir Vestry allowing the photocopier to be moved (and the photocopy paper). The shelves and the books have been transferred into the Vestry area. Julian has tidied the wires serving the Wi-Fi, cctv and copier and installed a small cupboard on the Vestry wall. The old door from the Choir Vestry has been positioned on the fire exit from the Parlour and a new rain-strip fitted. Albany Catering have attended to fit a new heating element to the dishwasher (which is quite old) – thanks to Luncheon Club for covering the cost of this. The door frames to Classroom 4 have been refreshed.

We have not yet made a decision on whether to go ahead with WH Austin's recommendation to replace the solenoid within the multi-functional gas valve of the boilers – it will be looked at by Finance and Property Committee in September. There has been damage to the strengthened glass in the Fire Exit door to the Choir Vestry but we are thinking of having a new door fitted as part of the wooden frame is rotten.

As usual, thanks to our gang of regular helpers and those who help with the gardens. We continue to have the benefit of Len Harris's grandson, Dan, as he looks for employment (any ideas for this would be gratefully received).

Church Finances

This is the first of occasional articles from your church treasurer. Thanks go to Laurence Parkes for his training so far. We are about to complete my first year and the preparation of the 2025/26 accounts have started with requests for linked organisations to provide financial information for this Methodist Year which runs from 1st September 2025 to 31st August 2026.

Each church is part of a Circuit (in our case the Birmingham West and Oldbury Circuit). Each Circuit is part of a District (now West Midlands). Together these three organisations comprise the 'Connexion' within the Methodist Church. All are charities and are required to comply with charity law including responsibilities which lie with the 'Trustees' - in our case members of Church Council. The church treasurer must be a member of the church and is required to be a trustee. The Annual Conference of the Methodist Church in August is the decision-making body that oversees the guidance to church treasurers through the resultant 'Constitutional Practice and Discipline of the Methodist Church' which is regularly updated.

Each church is expected to produce an annual budget, setting out how costs such as the Circuit assessment (to pay for ministers and manses), insurance, upkeep of the building etc will be met. An effective reserves policy is required to ensure effective stewardship of its financial resources. The running balance is held in cash and a Barclays account with surpluses invested through two funds: the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes, which holds the title for Methodist Churches and is the recipient of bequests using the Trustees Interest Fund and the Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church which provides an investment service and pays the quarterly stipend.

Documentation is essential for all transactions to satisfy the auditor and the Charity Commission - hence the need to provide receipts for monies paid out from collections or otherwise. Next time we will look at giving including gift aid and Connexional Funds.

Chris Haynes

Safeguarding/GDPR

I have recently taken over this role in our church from Helena and Brian Taylor. I would like to give my personal thanks to them both for all their hard work in developing and fulfilling their roles as safeguarding officers for this church and circuit. They have supported me in lots of ways over the years and have helped me to decide on taking this role on from them. To be honest they are a hard act to follow! I have really admired their professional approach to safeguarding and maintaining a high profile and standard in all aspects of the role. I know that they will be around for advice and support if I need it. I will continue to promote safeguarding throughout the church. Helena and Brian were often asked questions as to 'why we have to do this?' or 'is it really necessary?' There is a very simple answer 'YES'.

Safeguarding is about not only our legal duty but our Christian duty to keep everyone safe- not just children, young people and vulnerable adults but ALL OF US.

We have so many volunteers in a variety of roles - BB/GB officers, pastoral visitors, lunch club drivers, Church Council members and many other roles within our church. These people need support, DBS and safeguarding training- which is part of my role.

Why do we do it? Because we all care

Who is responsible? All of us. You could say it's me now, but it cannot be left to one person. I will manage, lead and support on safeguarding but your support is essential for all of us to remain safe.

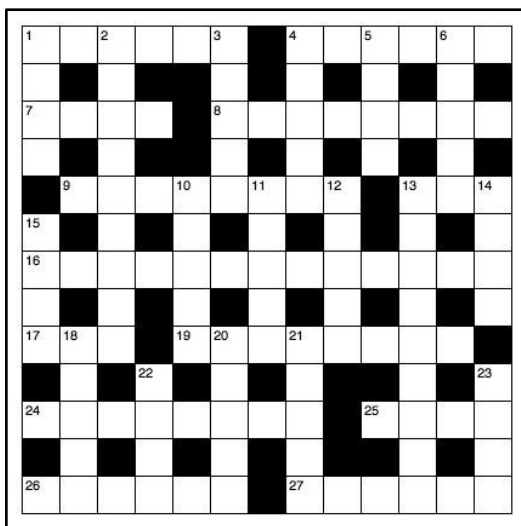
This is not meant to be scary! It is to protect all of us to show our love and care for each person. I welcome your continued support and pray for God's guidance in all I do.

David Housley

Please note that the new QMC safeguarding email from 1st September will be: gmcsafeguarding@quintonmethodist.co.uk

Ed

Crossword



Across

1 'Unless the Lord builds the house, its builders — in vain'
(Psalm 127:1) (6)

4 Season of the year (Psalm 84:6) (6)

7 'My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. — here
and keep watch with me' (Matthew 26:38) (4)

8 It came over the whole land from the sixth to the ninth hour on the
first Good Friday (Luke 23:44) (8)

9 Paul invariably did this in the synagogues he visited on his
missionary journeys (Acts 17:2) (8)

13 'It is God who works in you to will and to — according to his good
purpose' (Philippians 2:13) (3)

16 Members of the Church of Scotland (13)

17 'Now when he saw the crowds, he went up on a mountain side and
— down' (Matthew 5:1) (3)

19 Mock (Luke 14:29) (8)

24 Disgrace (Psalm 44:13) (8)

25 First month of the Hebrew calendar (Exodus 13:4) (4)

26 Christianity of the Britons before Augustine arrived from Rome (6)

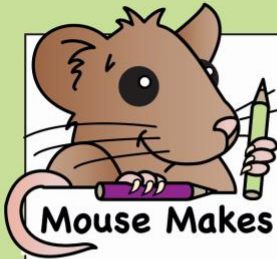
27 Mean (Numbers 35:23) (6)

Down

- 1 'Whoever finds his life will — it' (Matthew 10:39) (4)
- 2 'My lord the king, let the — — on me and on my father's family, and let the king and his throne be without guilt' (2 Samuel 14:9) (5,4)
- 3 O raid (anag.) (5)
- 4 'If two of you on earth — about anything you ask for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven' (Matthew 18:19) (5)
- 5 Take care of (1 Samuel 17:15) (4)
- 6 What the older son heard as he came near the house the day his prodigal brother came home (Luke 15:25) (5)
- 10 'Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with — judgment' (Romans 12:3) (5)
- 11 Do ten (anag.) (5)
- 12 Architectural style first used in Greek temples in the sixth century BC (5)
- 13 Capable of being used (1Kings 7:36) (9)
- 14 'Each one should — his own actions' (Galatians 6:4) (4)
- 15 Among the items imported by Solomon's fleet of trading ships (1 Kings 10:22) (4)
- 18 'But I am afraid that just — was deceived by the serpent's cunning, your minds may somehow be led astray' (2 Corinthians 11:3) (2,3)
- 20 Outstanding 18th-century hymn writer — Watts (5)
- 21 One of the four sons of Asher (Genesis 46:17) (5)
- 22 Be distressed (Proverbs 24:19) (4)
- 23 He was the father of Gaal, who threatened rebellion against Abimelech (Judges 9:28) (4)



Mouse Makes



THE TRUE VINE

Who is the vine?

John 15:1

What does Jesus ask us to do?

"Go and bear

John 15:16

What happens to the branches that do not remain in the vine?

Thrown into the

and

John 15:6

How many times does Jesus use the word FRUIT?



READ
John 15:1-17

What does Jesus command?

To one another.

John 15:12,17

How many times does Jesus command us to LOVE one another?

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

JESUS • I AM • TRUE • VINE • FATHER
GARDENER • FRUIT • FRUITFUL
BRANCH • PRUNES • CUT • WITHERS
CLEAN • THROWN AWAY • FIRE • BURNS
REMAIN • ABIDE • DISCIPLES • JOY

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Crossword Solutions

ACROSS: 1, Labour. 4, Autumn. 7, Stay. 8, Darkness. 9, Reasoned. 13, Act. 16, Presbyterians. 17, Sat. 19, Ridicule. 24, Reproach. 25, Abib. 26, Celtic. 27, Intend.

DOWN: 1, Lose. 2, Blame rest. 3, Radio. 4, Agree. 5, Tend. 6, Music. 10, Sober. 11, Noted. 12, Doric. 13, Available. 14, Test. 15, Apes. 18, As Eve. 20, Isaac. 21, Ishvi. 22, Fret. 23, Ebed.





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Minister: Rev Ann Varker

Please send contributions for the December edition by Sunday 15th November 2026.

Email magazine@quintonmethodist.co.uk or place in pigeon hole L.