



# The **Methodist** Church **Stamford Circuit**

Registered Charity :1160930

## MAY 2025

Well  
done  
my good &  
faithful servant.  
Matthew 25:21



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**The Circuit Newsletter exists to build up fellowship across the Stamford Methodist Circuit. Items for inclusion in the Circuit Newsletter should be:**  
*Inspiring, encouraging of faith and discipleship to promote the growth of church relationships within the Circuit.*

**Could you please send any articles for the September Circuit Newsletter  
by Monday 11th August 2025 to Email: [admin2322@gmail.com](mailto:admin2322@gmail.com)**

**Or by post to:**

**The Circuit Office at Stamford Methodist Church  
11 Barn Hill, Stamford, PE9 2AE**

The views expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily  
those of the Stamford Methodist Circuit or the Methodist Church in Great Britain

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**On Sabbatical from 5th May-5th August**

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## Pray without Ceasing May 2025

Suggestions for each day of the month. A few spaces have been left for your own concerns.



1. For people with Birthdays or Anniversaries this month
2. Uppingham Church
3. Give thanks for the life and ministry of Pope Francis
4. Thurlby Chapel
5. Rev Andrew Hollins as he goes on Sabbatical
6. Stamford Church
7. Rev Bekkie Wright
8. Bourne Chapel
9. Empingham Chapel
10. Ketton Chapel
11. Peace in a troubled world
12. Those who use our premises on Mondays
13. Those who use our premises on Tuesdays
14. Those who use our premises on Wednesdays
15. Phil Jones Pastoral & Discipleship Enabler
16. Circuit Administrator Rowan
17. All leaders asking for truth & integrity
18. Market Deeping Church
19. Oakham Church
20. Ryhall Chapel
21. Mental Health and Wellbeing
22. Circuit Administrator Rowan whose birthday it is today!
23. Those who use our premises on Fridays
24. Those who use our premises on Saturday
25. Circuit Officers
26. \*\*
27. The Methodist Church in a changing world
28. Circuit Leadership Team
29. \*\*
30. Those who use our premises on Thursdays
31. Supernumerary Ministers

Any suggestions or requests please let Nina Rawlins know on 01780 753649 or email [ninarawlins@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:ninarawlins@yahoo.co.uk)

Dear friends,

With some ideas in mind, which needed reforming/shaping into something appropriate. I set myself the task of composing this letter in Easter week. Then, early on Easter Monday, the news of Pope Francis' death was announced. Given his recent extended illness, and the frailty which was so obvious on Easter Day (in what was to be his final public appearance), Pope Francis' death was hardly a surprise. However, the waves of the impact of his death rippled far and wide around the world - including changing my focus for this letter!!

Within a few hours of the announcement of Pope Francis' death, messages of condolence and assurance of prayer had been sent from the Stamford Methodist Circuit to our local Roman Catholic siblings. Their responses showed how much these expressions of solidarity in sympathy and prayer were appreciated. This is a small but significant illustration of how far the ecumenical journey has progressed – something to which Pope Francis made his own significant contribution.

The other commitments which were close to Pope Francis' heart, and which he championed so vigorously, have been so well documented and detailed in the media that I don't need to rehearse them here. As was felt to be the case on his election twelve years ago, many of the explicit priorities of Pope Francis's papacy were very different to those of many of his recent predecessors. This seemed to be rooted, at least partially, in Pope Francis' background of ministry among and to the struggling people in Latin America.

I am reminded that Liberation Theology, which was prominent when I was training for ordained ministry in the early 1990s, has its roots in central and southern America. It was resisted and even opposed by the Vatican. However, liberation theology thrived and provided a foundation for so much of the church's contemporary mission of social justice and transformation.

We are reminded that the expression and application of our Christian faith in today's world is built upon the lives and witness of those who came before us. Ultimately, of course, we build on the lives of the first followers of Jesus, who built on the rock of faith which is Jesus himself.

It seems appropriate to include some Latin in a letter like this! A phrase which became popular in the 17<sup>th</sup> century (from the Reformed tradition in Holland, rather than the Roman Catholic Church), was *ecclesia reformata, semper reformanda*. This can be translated into English as 'the church reformed, always being reformed'. This call for the life of the Church to be constantly reformed was never intended to justify human innovation or attempts to be relevant, but rather for it to be constantly reformed according to the will of God.

This constant reformation also needs to take place in the lives of each and every follower of Jesus. Each Christian needs to be reformed and shaped to reflect more clearly the life of Christ in our lives. This is something which Pope Francis acknowledged as essential for himself.

*Continued...*

By the time you read this, the Cardinals may well have gathered for their conclave to elect Pope Francis' successor as they discern God's will for the Roman Catholic Church within the worldwide body of Christ.

It isn't our Methodist tradition to gather in secret conclaves. However, dedicating prayerful attention to wise discernment of the reformation (or shaping) of the Church, so that it might be fit for God's purposes and mission, is something which all Christians are called to engage in.

May God bless us as we seek to do this as disciples of Jesus Christ in the Stamford Methodist Circuit.

God bless, *Andrew*

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### **BIBLE MONTH: THE GOSPEL OF JOHN**

Every year the Methodist Church (in association with Preach magazine) produce a helpful guide to a Bible book with notes for preachers/all age material/home group discussions. In previous years we have covered various books – Mark, James, and recently Revelation and Genesis (last year's offering) – they offer us deeper insights and challenging thoughts for our full appreciation of that particular book.

2025 bring us the Gospel of John – a very familiar text and yet one with such depths. Someone once said about this gospel:

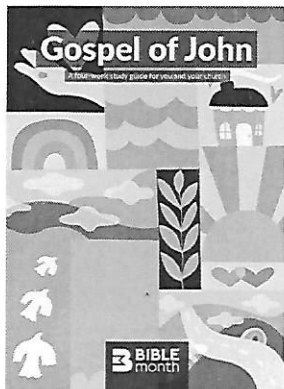
*"it is a book that a child can paddle in and an elephant can swim"!*

Our preachers will follow the themed chapters from the study during the last 2 Sundays in June and first 2 in July.

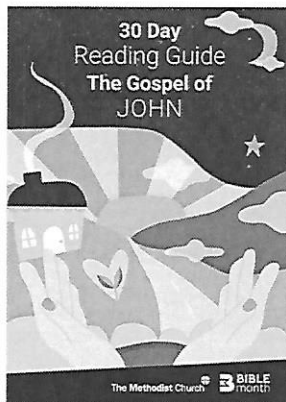
And there is also an accompanying free booklet for guided daily reading, available from your stewards nearer the time.

Andrew has limited copies of the main study book (mainly ordered for preachers) or you can order extra copies online at:

**<https://www.preachweb.org/books-and-diaries/bible-month>**



Phil Jones



## **Rev. Andrew Hollins' sabbatical (5<sup>th</sup> May to 5<sup>th</sup> August 2025)**

*This Article has been repeated—from the March/April newsletter*

The Methodist Church requires its ministers to take regular sabbaticals as a release from ordinary ministerial duties. In addition to normal holidays, sabbaticals enable the pursuit of an approved programme of study, research, work or experience as part of continuous ministerial development and for re-equipping, refreshment and renewal. Lasting three months, sabbaticals are normally granted every seven years. They are intended to be beneficial both for the individual minister and for the health of the wider Church, significantly enhancing the ministry of the whole people of God.

As sabbaticals need to be carefully planned well in advance, I have been working with an appointed Sabbatical Support Group. The sabbatical prospectus which I submitted to the Northampton Methodist District sabbaticals committee included plans for me to lead a pilgrimage to the Holy Land, undertake British Sign Language training, visit the Nixon Memorial Hospital in Sierra Leone, and also to give serious consideration to my personal circumstances and provision for retirement in a few years' time. The continued situation in the Holy Land means that the pilgrimage is highly unlikely to go ahead.

Whilst I am away on sabbatical I will be out of contact for any matters relating to the local churches and Stamford Circuit. The Chair of the Northampton Methodist District, Rev. Dr. Sonia Hicks, will be the acting Superintendent Minister. However, on a day-to-day basis, Rev. Bekkie Wright will be leading the circuit, supported by one of our supernumerary ministers, Rev. Paul Cockburn.

Each of the churches which Andrew has direct pastoral charge of have been represented on the Sabbatical Support Group. Those representatives (named below) will be the **first point of contact** for any matter which may require the attention of Bekkie, Paul and/or Sonia. They will also ensure that any information which they think that I would want to be aware of is passed on to me, e.g. so that I can be praying for significant pastoral concerns.

Stamford Methodist Church representative: Corinna Selby;  
Oakham Methodist Church representative: Adrian Arnold;  
Uppingham Methodist Church representative: David Greengrass;  
Ketton Methodist Church representative: Steve Fallow;  
Circuit staff representative: Phil Jones;  
Sabbatical Support Group Convener: Barry Streets.

Please hold me in your prayers as I prepare for my sabbatical, and please be assured of my prayers for the circuit, especially for those who will take on additional responsibilities.

*Rev. Andrew Hollins*



## **The Fund for Human Need**

I was fortunate enough to spend a day at the recent MWiB weekend conference at Swanwick. Apart from hearing inspirational speaking from our District Chair, Sonia Hicks, I also attended two very interesting workshops. One was given by the person running "The Fund for Human Need", a small Methodist charity founded in 1960 by people who believed they had a responsibility to heed Jesus' commands and offer help to the poorest and most needy people in the UK.

Payments are made irrespective of faith, ethnic origin or social group to:-

The homeless and hungry

People whose benefits have been stopped or who have to wait 5 weeks or more for them to start

Refugees and asylum seekers living from one day to the next

Ex- prisoners trying to rebuild their lives

Those with mental health issues

Those whose relationships have broken down

Relief payments meet immediate needs, providing food, clothing and other living essentials, including electricity and gas, whatever the individual or family need most. Requests can come from the individual themselves or organisations such as Citizens Advice Bureau, Local Authority, Mental Health Services, etc.

One example of someone they have helped is Rachel, who bravely left a violent and controlling partner, and the only way to escape was to not return after a trip to the local shops. This meant she arrived at the shelter with nothing other than the clothes she had on, no personal effects and she had left behind lots of family items. The hostel was able to help her with clothing but awaiting her universal credit (minimum 6 weeks) she applied for help to pay for basic necessities such as her phone and the cost of storage for her the possessions which she had later been able to retrieve. Her award was £110.

As you can see the level of award is not enormously high but makes an incredible difference to those in need and they really do appreciate it. The charity says "It is not just about giving money, but love and hope besides".

I did purchase some cards which the charity produces for fund raising and these will be on sale in The Well at Barn Hill. There are also information leaflets available.

Jan Hetherington

### **Strawberry Tea at Bourne Methodist Church**

Saturday 21st June

from 3.00 - 5.00pm



## **Wednesday Fellowship in April at Stamford Methodist Church**

**At 2pm in the downstairs hall**

- 7<sup>th</sup> May Outing to Barholm Church Talk and Tea (£7) Start at Barholm at 2.30 pm Postcode PE9 4RA
- 14<sup>th</sup> May Join with the Circuit Easter Offering Dedication Service, in Stamford Methodist Church. Preacher Rev William Booker
- 21<sup>st</sup> May Speaker Mr Richard Bailey Subject The Lighter Side of Methodism
- 28<sup>th</sup> May Speaker Mrs Nina Rawlins Subject Desert Island Discs
- 4<sup>th</sup> June Annual General Meeting Chairman Rev, Julia Dowding

**The next meeting will be the 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2025**

Everyone is welcome to our Fellowship. There is no pressure to come every week.

If you are interested in any of these subjects do come along.

You will get a very warm welcome and light refreshment before you leave.

## **May Sale and Family Fun Day – at the Lodge Trust, Main Street, Market Overton LE15 7PL**

**Saturday 17th May 10.30am to 2.30pm  
Home of the late Miss Sarah Maley**

Join us for our May Sale and Family Fun Day! We're excited to invite you to a day filled with fun for all ages. Enjoy delicious treats from our café while you browse a variety of handmade crafts and beautiful plants, all lovingly produced by our talented residents. There will be fun games for the whole family to enjoy, so bring your loved ones and make some lasting memories with us. It's a wonderful opportunity to support our community and take home something special. We can't wait to see you there!


## **Notice**

**Due to unforeseen circumstances All future  
KALEIDOSCOPE sessions, including planned dates, are  
CANCELLED**



# Stamford and Rutland Circuit Diary

Date	Time	Event	Venue
<b>Monthly</b>			
Every Tuesday	8.30am	Circuit Staff Team Meeting	Via Zoom
<b>MAY 2025</b>			
11th to 17th May		Christian Aid Week	
Monday 5th		Rev'd Andrew Hollins ~ Sabbatical begins (ends 4th August)	
Tuesday 6th		Circuit Leadership Team Meeting	
Saturday 10th		District Synod	Oadby
<b>JUNE 2025</b>			
Sunday 1st	6pm	Circuit Service with Pastoral Visitors Dedication	Stamford MC
Tuesday 10th		Circuit Leadership Team Meeting	
Thursday 26th June-Wednesday 2nd July		Methodist Conference	Telford
Tuesday 8th July		Circuit Leadership Team Meeting	
Saturday 21st	3pm-5pm	Strawberry Tea	Bourne MC
<b>AUGUST 2025</b>			
Tuesday 5th	7.30pm	Northampton District Eco Meeting	Zoom
Tuesday 12th	7pm	Circuit Leadership Team Meeting	Stamford MC
<b>SEPTEMBER 2025</b>			
Tuesday 2nd	7pm	Circuit Leadership Team Meeting	Stamford MC
Sunday 7th	6pm	Circuit Service with Rev'd Dr Sonia Hicks ~ Northampton Methodist District Chair	Oakham MC
Tuesday 9th	2pm	Sabbatical Support Group	Empingham MC
Wednesday 10th	7.30pm	Local Preacher & Worship Leaders Meeting	TBC
Wednesday 10th	10.30am	Circuit Safe Guarding Meeting	Ryhall MC
Thursday 11th	7pm	Farm Weekend 2026 ~ or what?	Ryhall MC
Thursday 18th	7.30pm	Circuit Meeting	Oakham MC
Saturday 20th	10am	Circuit Property Meeting	Ryhall MC
<b>OCTOBER 2025</b>			
Saturday 11th	10am	Circuit Treasurers Meeting	Ryhall MC

	Lectionary	1st June	8th June	15th June	22nd June	29th June	6th July	13th July
		Easter 7	Pentecost	Trinity Sunday	Ordinary 12	Ordinary 13	Ordinary 14	Ordinary 15
		Sunday after Ascension	Methodist Homes Sunday		Bible Month Week One	Bible Month Week Two	Bible Month Week Three	Bible Month Week Four
	Prayers	Pastoral Visitors	Thurlby Church	Uppingham Church	Deepings Church	Methodist Conference	Empingham Church	Stamford Church
Bourne	10.30am	P Jones	Bailey	Wright HC	Local Worship BM	Cockburn BM	Pursehouse BM	Pocock BM/HC
		6pm @ Stamford						
Deepings	10.30am	Law	Wright HC	Cameron	Cappitt BM	Pocock BM	Local Worship BM	Wright BM/HC
		6pm @ Stamford	4pm Wright Messy Church	6pm Deepings Music Group				4pm Messy Church
Empingham	10.45am	J Allen T		P Jones Café	Wright BM/HC		Hensman BM	
		6pm @ Stamford	4pm P Jones TTC			3pm Local Worship BM		4pm Wright TTC/BM/HC
Ketton	6.00pm	6pm @ Stamford	Bailey	Fyall HC	Shorley BM	1030 CT/U @ Tinwell Parish	Peach BM/HC	Wainwright BM
Oakham	10.45am	Ruzvidzo T	Cockburn Café	Gent HC	Shorley BM	Booker BM	P Jones BM	Craske BM/HC
		6pm @ Stamford	3pm Collins EAW			6pm CT @ Baptist Church		3pm EAW Local Worship
Ryhall	10.30am	Wright	Gent HC	Sworn	Pursehouse Café/BM	Collins BM	Wright BM/HC	Local Worship BM
		6pm @ Stamford						
Stamford	10.30am	Booker HC	Local Worship MWIB	Whatley	Hensman A/BM	Cameron BM	Peach BM/HC	Cappitt BM
	6.00pm	Mayo PV Circuit Service						
Thurlby	10.30am	Love	Local Worship	Collins	Lewis BM/HC	Wright BM	J Allen BM/T	Cockburn BM
		6pm @ Stamford						
Uppingham	10.45am	Cameron	Local Worship	Damen	Gill BM	Walker BM/HC	Cannings BM	Sworn BM
		6pm @ Stamford						
Sunday Prayers online	10.30am	Wright	Hensman	Pursehouse	P Jones BM	Cockburn BM	Atwell-King BM	Wright BM


#### REFERENCES:

A = All Age Worship (A) = No separate activities for children/young people, who may therefore be in worship  
BM = Bible Month (focussing on Gospel of John)

Café = Café Church CT = Churches Together EAW = Easy Access Worship HC = Holy Communion  
OA = Open Air

PV = Pastoral Visitors Dedication T = Transport may be required (Church Stewards to please check with preacher)  
TTC = Tea Time Church U = United Service

Local Worship is intended to be planned, prepared and led using the gifts of local church members.  
(Church Stewards are responsible for coordinating these arrangements).

	Lectionary	20th July	27th July	3rd August	10th August	17th August	24th August	31st August
		Ordinary 16	Ordinary 17	Ordinary 18	Ordinary 19	Ordinary 20	Ordinary 21	Ordinary 22
	Prayers	Local Preachers	Northampton District	Work with Young People	Ketton Church	Bourne Church	Oakham Church	Ryhall Church
Bourne	10.30am	Wright	Atwell-King	Cameron	C Allen	Collins	Local Worship	Wright HC
Deepings	10.30am	Bailey	Collins	P Jones	Atwell-King	Cappitt	Wright HC	Local Worship
		6pm Deepings Music Group				6pm Deepings Music Group		
Empingham	10.45am	Gent	Love Café	Cappitt	P Jones Café	Booker HC	Purshouse Café	
								3pm Local Worship
Ketton	6.00pm	Gill	Angele	Wright	Local Worship	Hollins	Wright	1030 Hollins CT/HC
Oakham	10.45am	Local Worship	J Allen T	Law	Hensman	Local Worship	Cockburn HC	Cameron
					3pm Hollins EAW/HC			6pm Hollins CT
Ryhall	10.30am	Cameron		Wright A Holiday Club	Pocock HC	Angele	Local Worship Café	Roberts A
			3pm Wright OA					
Stamford	10.30am	Shorley	Wale (A)	Cockburn (A)	Hollins (A)/HC	Local Worship (A)	Bailey (A)	P Jones
	6.00pm		6pm Booker Oasis					
Thurlby	10.30am	Local Worship	Wright HC	Gent	Purshouse	Cameron	Atwell-King	Booker HC
Uppingham	10.45am	Damen	Hicks HC	Ruzvidzo Café	Local Worship	Hollins HC	Hensman	Gent
Sunday Prayers online	10.30am	P Jones	Local Worship	Wright	Hollins	Law	Cockburn	Hollins

**VISITING PREACHERS (contact details available from the Circuit Administrator):**

Mrs. Jill Cannings - Lay Reader, Uppingham Parish Church  
 Rev. Jane Craske - Methodist Oversight Tutor, The Queen's Foundation, Birmingham  
 Rev. Peter Damen - Minister, Uppingham Congregational Church  
 Rev. Andy Fyall - Chair of Nottingham & Derby Methodist District  
 Mrs. Miriam Gill - Local Preacher, Leicester (Trinity) Methodist Circuit  
 Rev. Dr. Sonia Hicks - Chair of Northampton Methodist District  
 Rev. Malcolm Peach - Supernumerary Presbyter, South Kent Methodist Circuit  
 Rev. Kim Shorley - Northampton Methodist District Mission Team member  
 Canon Vyv Wainwright - Lay Minister, Oakham Anglican Team Ministry  
 Rev. Wendy Wale - Minister, Bar Hill Local Ecumenical Partnership, Cambridge  
 Rev. Heather Waljker - Supernumerary Presbyter, St Neots & Huntingdon Methodist Circuit

<b>Sunday 1st June</b> Acts 16:16-34 Psalm 97 Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21 John 17:20-26	<b>Sunday 20th July</b> Genesis 18:1-10a Psalm 15 Colossians 1:15-28 Luke 10:38-42
<b>Sunday 8th June</b> Acts 2:2-1-21 or Genesis 11:1-9 Psalm 104:24-34, 35b Romans 8:14-17 or Acts 2:1-21 John 14:8-17, (25-27)	<b>Sunday 27th July</b> Genesis 18:20-32 Psalm 138 Colossians 2:6-15, (16-19) Luke 11:1-13
<b>Sunday 15th June</b> Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31 Psalm 8 Romans 5:1-5 John 16:12-15 Luke 13:31-35	<b>Sunday 3rd August</b> Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12-14; 2:18-23 Psalm 49:1-12 Colossians 3:1-11 Luke 12:13-21
<b>Sunday 22nd June</b> Isaiah 65:1-9 Psalm 22:18-28 Galatians 3:23-29 Luke 8:26-39	<b>Sunday 10th August</b> Genesis 15:1-6 Psalm 33:12-22 Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16 Luke 12:32-40
<b>Sunday 29th June</b> 1 Kings 9:15-16, 19-21 Psalm 16 Galatians 5:1, 13-25 Luke 9:51-62	<b>Sunday 17th August</b> Jeremiah 23:23-29 Psalm 82 Hebrews 11:29-12:2 Luke 12:49-56
<b>Sunday 6th July</b> Isaiah 66:10-14 Psalm 66:1-9 Galatians 6:(1-6), 7-16 Luke 10:1-11, 16-20	<b>Sunday 24th August</b> Isaiah 58:9b-14 Psalm 103:1-8 Hebrews 12:18-29 Luke 13:10-17
<b>Sunday 13th July</b> Deuteronomy 30:9-14 Psalm 25:1-10 Colossians 1:1-14 Luke 10:25-37	<b>Sunday 31st August</b> Proverbs 25:6-7 or Sirach 10:12-18 Psalm 112 Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16 Luke 14:1, 7-14



## **Stamford Dog Show & Family Fun Day Sunday 14th September**

The Stamford Dog Show has now been going for twenty years - originally arranged to help with the fundraising costs of refurbishing the Stamford Methodist Church. It has become a well established and well organised event supported by everyone in Stamford. During these past years this

event has raised £30,000 to support our Church's Mission Projects in both the local area and overseas.

Organising this event has been the responsibility of a small group of dedicated people who are now ready to hand over to another local organisation. We are very pleased to announce that the 2nd Stamford Scouts have agreed to take on this role.

For this, their first year, we shall be supporting them in whatever way they would like and Stamford Methodist Church will continue to hold our morning service on the Meadows at 10.30am and we will also run the Refreshment stall and some other stalls at the Show.

**We take this opportunity to wish the Scouts every success and hope that you will support them on the day !**



**Come join us at The Well ~ Stamford Methodist Church**

for a Coffee morning in aid of The Leprosy Mission

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



**Friday 16th May**

**10am-12noon**



There will also be a home made cake stall!



## The future of the Church, our church?

There appeared on Facebook one day a quote from Dietrich Bonhoeffer questioning the future of the Christian Church. He was suggesting that the future of the church, as we know it, is failing, and will not survive. This, he believed, is because we are focusing too much on worship and what we need to do is follow the actions of Jesus in his short life. We should, like him, feed the poor, wash feet, and speak out against injustice.

So where do we stand? Well, we're OK I hear you say; we have second-helpings, we *are* feeding the poor. Are we? Or does our community feed the poor? We have given them the space. I remember church council agreeing that it was a good idea, but, we did not have enough folk to do it. So I formed a 'church and community' project. This was some 12 years ago when we had a much larger membership, all doing what they had been doing for a long time. Probably I would get the same answer today if I brought the project to church council. But I would ask how many of our church members have ever been to second-helpings, to sit among those in need: surely, an ideal place for all church members to 'wash feet'? I would interpret the washing of feet as sitting with, talking to, and understanding those seeking help! Befriending, being a listening ear, and sharing food together. One of the best things that I saw shortly after starting second-helpings was a Catholic millionaire (?) lady sitting down and eating with a 'rough sleeper', and in deep conversation - a truly Christian act of compassion. Try it one Saturday: 'wash feet'... and the food is very good as well! You will meet some very interesting folk and make your life richer. There are approximately just over 3,000 people living in food poverty in Stamford, with many children going home from school to no evening meal.

How do we as a church speak out against injustice? Well we walk the town at Easter, with other Christians. We raise funds to help various projects with our Missions Committee, and we pray for justice. But I would ask: what do the town or wider community, our local councils, our Members of Parliament know about our concerns, our distress and our anger? Do we have any? Or do we dismiss this saying the Church should not be involved in politics?

While on holiday in Vancouver, our hotel was near St Andrew's Wesley United Church and on the front of each step up to their church they advertised their mission. All of the street notice boards made sure those passing by knew what they were about. I googled their missions statement for fuller details. One was their "Commitment to Justice. Their faith drives them to work for change in the community and globally, focusing on compassion, peace and justice." AND "St. Andrew's is an open affirming congregation where people are welcome regardless of race, class, economic background or sexual orientation." Could we at Barn Hill let people know where we stand, what our mission is. Or are we too comfortable, unable to change with the times? I've often thought that the church language in the bible, and hymns particularly, is a like a foreign language to today's people. I once brought to our church an ex youth club boy, an ex-prisoner; he understood nothing at that service. Are we able to change our language or are we comfortable with where we are? I have been a member of the Methodist church for 80 years now and want us to survive. Can we find a way forward? I have exchanged some thoughts.

George Hetherington.

Phil Jones comments: George challenges us to think fully about what it means to LIVE the gospel. I have listed out George's questions – maybe you could talk this over in your Home Group - and then decide on some action:

1. Does our community feed the poor?
2. Have you ever been to second-helpings, to sit among those in need?
3. How do we as a church speak out against injustice?
4. Do we say the Church shouldn't be involved in politics? Why?
5. Could we at Barn Hill let people know where we stand, what our mission is?
6. Are we able to change our (church) language or are we comfortable with where we are?

## The Rhythm of God

Eternal God,  
Let darting insight pierce the commonplace of every day,  
imagination find new soaring wings,  
perception probe the surface of well-trodden life,  
so that out of fading patterns,  
weathered by customs loved too long,  
we find the newer rhythm of your purpose,  
and finding it,  
begin to share the life you freely offer.

Donald Hilton

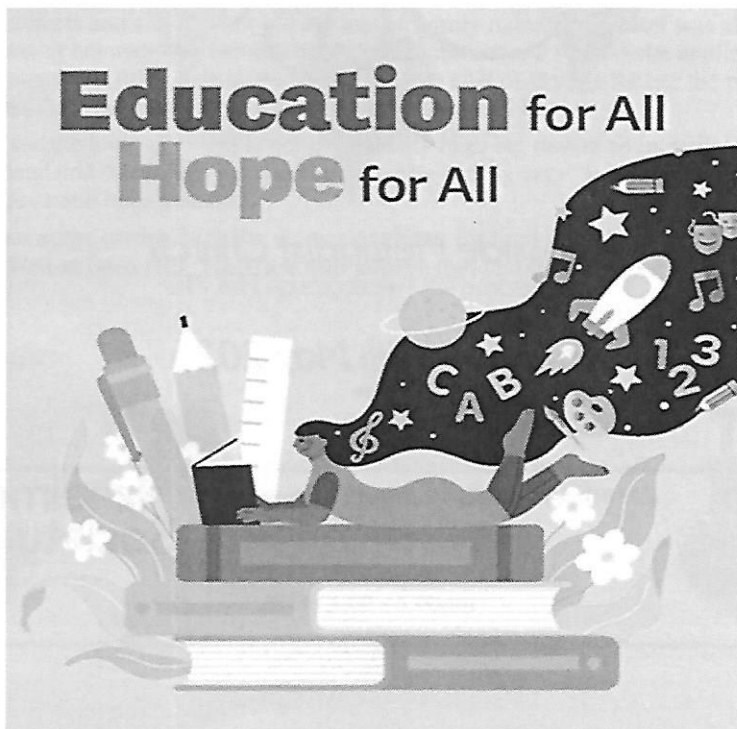
*Contributed by Beryl Teasdale*



## Easter Offering Dedication Service

Wednesday 14th May 2pm at Barn Hill

Light refreshments will be served, offers of a cake welcome.



Yarwell & Nassington Britannia Band  
presents



*Brookside Methodist Church*  
40 Gunthorpe Rd, Peterborough PE4 7TG

*Saturday 17th May 2025*

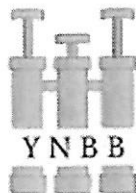
3.00pm

Tickets £6

Proceeds towards Alzheimer's Society

Tickets available from church and band members.

Further details tel 07725 558580



**Alzheimer's  
Society**



# District Ordinands Testimony Service

Sunday 18th May 2025  
at 6.00pm

Celebrate with us the testimony of the  
Rev'd Rachael Prince

&

Rev'd Dr Samantha Gillard

Kidlington Methodist Church  
Oxford Road

Kidlington OX5 2BP

Followed by refreshments

Please contact the District Office if you would  
like to attend, at:

[office@northamptonmethodistdistrict.co.uk](mailto:office@northamptonmethodistdistrict.co.uk)



Karibuni Children

# Community Conversations

**Celebrating 30 years of Transforming Young Kenyan Lives.**

Join us to find out more:

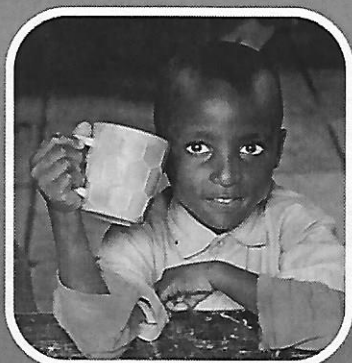
Stamford Methodist Church  
11 Barn Hill,  
Stamford PE9 2AE

Tuesday  
20th May 2025

2:00pm

Everyone is welcome - No  
ticket necessary

- ☒ Meet the team
- ☒ Presentation
- ☒ Questions & Answers
- ☒ Tea/Coffee & biscuits



Call 01296 614887  
[www.karibuni.org.uk](http://www.karibuni.org.uk)

## **'Wesley Day' May 24th also known as 'Aldersgate Day'**

The churches in Uppingham and Belton are arranging a service "Celebrating the Wesleys".  
You are warmly invited to join what promises to be a splendid commemoration of a very significant annual event in the life of the Methodist Church.

**Uppingham Parish Church of SS Peter & Paul, Market Square LE15 9QH**  
**Churches Together in Uppingham & Belton**

**Aldersgate Day, Saturday 24 May 2025 : 7pm**



*The sculpture of John Wesley stands outside Wesley's Chapel, City Road, London*

## **Celebrating the Wesleys**

**A SERVICE OF MUSIC, SCRIPTURE & REFLECTION**

featuring the character and words of John Wesley  
including anthems and hymns by Charles Wesley

***UPLIFTING SINGING FOR ALL!***

led by the choir of Uppingham Parish Church

# Please PRAY for:

## ***Bourne***

We pray for our ministers, Andrew as he begins his sabbatical and Bekkie as she takes on more responsibilities.

We pray for the Cardinals as they meet in Rome to elect a new Pope.

We pray for the wider world that the on-going wars will soon come to a peaceful end.

We pray for our own congregation in particular those who are in hospital or ill at home and for those who are grieving, may you wrap your loving arms around them Lord that they may feel your care.

## ***Deepings***

We pray for our Church Anniversary weekend as we celebrate 35 years in our new building on May 4th,

For the Churches Together Barn Dance on Saturday May 17th in aid of Christian Aid,

For our Churches Together Service on Pentecost Sunday at St Guthlacs, Our Lady Catholic Church.

## ***Empingham***

We give thanks for the wonderful truth of Easter, the joy of knowing that Jesus is Alive.

We continue to pray for justice and peace in our world. Amen

## ***Ketton***

We praise God for the beauty of springtime and give thanks for our many blessings as we celebrate Easter and our risen Lord.

We thank God for the life of Pope Francis and all that he achieved for the underprivileged in his lifetime.

We pray for friends who await test results and/or procedures, may they know the power of our prayerful support.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Rev. Andrew as he takes a much needed sabbatical to refresh and restore him. But we pray too for Rev. Bekkie as she undertakes a greater workload; may each of us offer whatever support we can in the difficult months ahead.

## ***Oakham***

We have been remembering with great thankfulness the life of Maggie McLester, a member at OMC for over 30 years, who with her husband Brian spent the first year of their retirement as mission workers on Likoma Island – a very poorly resourced small island in Lake Malawi. From that time they launched the Likoma Link charity which until very recently supported medical, spiritual, and educational needs of the island, with several people giving time to go for a few weeks to support the work. Maggie died on 3<sup>rd</sup> April, and her funeral service will probably be on 14<sup>th</sup> May. We pray for her family at this time, and for all those who have been close to her through the Likoma Link charity.

We also remember this month the work of Christian Aid who in their 80<sup>th</sup> year are still on the front line against injustice and poverty with programmes for real change, and responding to humanitarian crises as they occur. Offering the immeasurable gift of hope.

*Blessings*  
COUNT THEM ONE BY ONE

# Please PRAY for:

## *Ryhall*

Lord, we bless you for the Easter message.

Thank you, Lord, that we could share the walk of witness with our brothers and sisters from St Johns.

We pray for the teachers and students from the church as exam season is upon us.

We ask for travelling mercies for those who are going on holiday and for Andrew during his sabbatical.

We pray for the stewards as we plan for ways to go forward.

Lord, we pray for those in the congregation who are not in good health.

For Bekkie as she takes on more responsibility as Andrew is away.

Thank you, Lord, for the warmer weather.

Amen

## *Stamford*

Lord, we pray for our minister Andrew as he begins his sabbatical, that he may find refreshment, inspiration and peace during the coming months.

We pray for Bekkie and all local preachers and stewards during this time. Strengthen Bekkie and give her all that she needs.

We pray for the Church here in Stamford as we look to the future. Guide us in all the planning as we work together for You.

Lord, we pray for peace in Your world and think of all who need healing from their suffering, here or far away. Bless each one with comfort and assurance of Your presence.

## *Thurlby*

With the problems and strife in the world at the moment it is easy to feel stressed but God has promised that He is in control. We only have to rely on His unfailing love. We pray your guidance on the leaders of the world and trust in you Lord. Praise you and thank you.

Amen

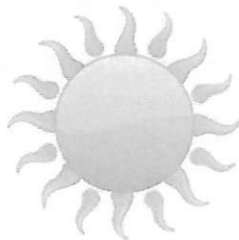
## *Uppingham*

Please pray for the summer recess of the winter groups on Monday and Wednesday. Pray that the friendships made will continue in the coming months.

Pray for the church (in general) in Uppingham and churches together - who help us to work together in all we do.

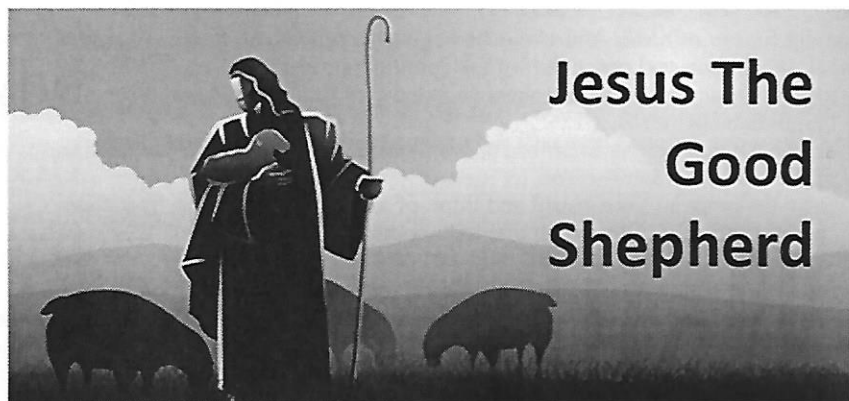
## Summer Blessings: A Short Prayer

Our Father, in this season of warmth and light, we seek Your presence in our days. Guide our hearts to embrace the beauty of summer, filling our souls with gratitude. May each moment be a reminder of Your love, and may we share joy and kindness with all around us. Amen.



Stamford Methodist Circuit  
**Circuit Service**

Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> June at 6:00  
Stamford Methodist Church



**Speaker**

**The Rev Anna  
Mayo from St  
George's Church,  
Stamford**



*Includes act of rededication of our  
Pastoral Visitors*