



Telford Methodist Circuit Newsletter

14th March 2024

Proposal to merger and for a new West Midlands District

At the Circuit Meeting on 13th March there was a presentation by Rev Rachel Parkinson the District Chair and Helen Woodall, Birmingham Synod Secretary. They talked us through why the merger was being proposed between the Wolverhampton & Shrewsbury District and the Birmingham District. Our Circuits are getting smaller, our congregations are shrinking and also there are less Circuit Ministers to go around. There is also a desire to do things differently and this may be the time for evolution of the connexional church.

The Telford Circuit Meeting was asked if it supports the proposal to merge the Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury and the Birmingham Districts of the Methodist Church to form a single District with effect from 1st September 2025.

A vote was taken. 30 members of the Circuit Meeting were allowed to vote, 29 said yes and 1 said no.

The time line for the new merged District would be, final Synod votes in April 2024, vote at Conference followed by further preparation in July 2024 and if all goes through as hoped the New District will come into being in September 2025.



The Methodist Church

You are invited to a **Circuit Prayer Meeting** which will be held in John Fletcher of Madeley Primary School on Friday 15th March at 6pm. (In one of the halls or in The Den depending on numbers) Car parking is available in the South car park. This is the first set of gates on the left as you approach the school. Just drive down the slope into the car park at the bottom. Everyone will need to sign in at Reception and I will be there to welcome folk and direct as needed. We may be allowed to sign everyone in together. If there is anyone with mobility issues please let us know in advance. The school isn't wonderful for accessibility, (built on a hillside so lots of stairs) but we can arrange accordingly. Also does anyone require milk alternative as I'm providing tea and coffee afterwards? (Expected time to finish will be 7:30pm after refreshments)



DAWLEY CHRISTIAN CENTRE

DROP IN
SESSION

Tuesday 19th March 2024

Tuesday 14th May 2024

9am-11.30am

COME AND MEET STAFF FROM
TELFORD SENDIASS AND THE TELFORD
CHILDRENS AUTISM HUB.
ASK QUESTIONS, GET INFORMATION,
ADVICE AND SUPPORT

Come and say hello at the Dawley
Christian Centre Stay & Play Group

High Street, Telford, TF4 2EX

Oakengates United Church
Saturday 23rd March
9.30 – 12.30

Spring Fayre

Cakes, Plants, Books,
Nearly New, Aladdin's Cave,
& Name the Rabbit.

Easter Egg Tombola & Raffle
Bacon Sandwiches, Toast,
Tea & Coffee

Admission
Free



IONA WORSHIP

An evening meditation
for PALM SUNDAY
inspired by the Iona Community, Scotland

WELLINGTON METHODIST CHURCH
New St., Wellington
Telford TF1 1LU

Sunday 24th March 2024

5pm

ALL WELCOME

www.wellingtonmethodist.org.uk

www.iona.org.uk

Wellington Methodist Church *Maundy Thursday Service*



Thursday March 28th. 7.30pm

Communion in the form of an
AGAPE MEAL

Led by Rev. Roger Dunlop

All will be VERY WELCOME



Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury District
Methodist Women in Britain

Springdale Methodist Church, Penn WV4 4LF

**Tuesday 16th April
10.30am to 3.15pm**

*11.00am Final MWiB
District Thanksgiving
Service*

*Rev. Rachel Parkinson
1.30pm Happy District
Memories*

Please bring your stories and photos.

**Please bring packed lunch
Drinks provided**



Hello everyone

As some of you will know the decision has been made to suspend activities of the District MWiB.

Many of us have enjoyed District days and activities over a number of years and it is very sad that we no longer have people with the energy and enthusiasm to step forward as officers to continue.

But there is, in life and in God's plan, a natural cycle and we want to give thanks for all the joyful times of learning and sharing, and to remember the many charities we have been able to support. And so a final District Day is planned on April 16th.

Please do come if you can and encourage others to join us for worship and sharing of reminiscences of all that MWiB has meant to so many.

Best wishes
Claire (Acting Secretary)



I am holding an 'Open Morning'

at Seniors Hall Curriers Lane Shifnal TF11 8EQ

Wednesday 17th April From 10.30-12

An opportunity for you to learn all about our services
and the impact we make in this district.

We can explore the ways we can work in collaboration for
volunteering opportunities, fundraising and support for the
elderly in our community.

I will be talking at 11am

Drinks and cake provided.

Please join us at our wonderful new venue.

RSVP to Rachel

on 07935202556 or rachel.powell@mha.org.uk

Advanced Safeguarding Course

Stephanie Bradley, Assistant District Safeguarding Officer is doing Advanced Safeguarding Training in the Telford Circuit on **Saturday 22nd June 2024**, starting at 10am at **Wellington Methodist Church**.

If you are unsure as to whether you are due to attend a course please contact either your Church Safeguarding Officer or Sharon in the Circuit Office on 01952 505108.

Registration will be from 9:30am with a prompt start at 10am, finishing around 12:30pm.

Safeguarding
Young people and vulnerable adults

Please pray for

Doug Hughes who recently had a spell in hospital with a possible mini stroke. Doug joined us last Monday for bible study and looked reasonably well, but tired. Doug needs a lot of rest and so has gone to stay with his son until he has recovered.

Jean and Steve Thomas.

Please continue to pray for Mark who will be starting his radiotherapy on his throat very soon.

Please pray for my daughter Stacey who is 23 weeks pregnant. Due to her having Ehlers Danlos Syndrome and the risk of her hips dislocating during the birth her consultant has agreed it would be best for Stacey to have a Caesarian section which is booked in for 3rd July. Very exciting. Thank you. Sharon

Lord Jesus, who went about doing good and healing all, we ask You to bless our friends who are sick. Give them the strength in body, courage in spirit, and patience in pain. Let them recover their health, so that, restored to the Christian community, they may joyfully praise Your name, for You live and reign for ever and ever. Amen.



Circuit Prayer Space

Circuit Prayer Space on a Monday morning at 8:30am.

Val Smith is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Circuit Prayer Meeting

Time: This is a recurring meeting Meet anytime

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://zoom.us/j/96716434790?
pwd=RTZZa210Q1ZOWCtLTWk3NHoyWDVlQT09](https://zoom.us/j/96716434790?pwd=RTZZa210Q1ZOWCtLTWk3NHoyWDVlQT09)

Meeting ID: 967 1643 4790

Everywhere and always,
O Christ, let us feel your
presence, the gift of grace
upholding us, the gift of
faith strengthening us,
our hope fortified and
our love reborn. Amen.

Online Bible Study is on a Monday 1.30pm, Monday 7.00 pm
and Wednesday 8.00pm

Enjoy a lively discussion as we explore the work of the
Holy Spirit in Acts.

Please contact the Circuit office if you'd like to know more.
If you're not sure why not give it a go?

Coffee Mornings at Horsehay

Every Wednesday:
10.30am - 12.00 noon

Join us for tea/coffee,
fellowship and lots of
chat and laughter!

Please use this space to
advertise what's going on
in your church.

:)

Calling all knitters!

Sylvia Bailey from Oakengates United Church has put out a request for people who enjoy knitting to knit Dementia blankets.

The Dementia Team at The Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust (SaTH) is looking for people to knit or donate knitted blankets. The colourful blankets help patients, particularly those with dementia, to find their way back to bed more easily – and also see the edge of the bed more clearly when getting in and out

The blankets are **usually 90cm x 90cm (or 3ft by 3ft), brightly (multi) coloured crochet or knitted new wool blankets. Please use double knitting wool.**

They are given to the patients when they are settled on the ward. The only thing we have to be careful of is that there are no knots as they love playing with the knots and undoing them.

So far Sylvia and her team of knitters have sent 177 blankets to the Dementia Ward.

“Due to infection control, the blankets are single-use items and they will be taken home with the patient when they are discharged. They must be knitted using new wool, or if anyone is planning to donate blankets, they need to be brand new. The blankets should also be brightly coloured or patterned, and 3ft wide.”

Dawley Christian Centre is happy to be a drop off point for the blankets and will ensure they get to Sylvia to pass on if it's easier.

And there's always an opportunity to pray for the patient who'll be receiving the blanket whilst you're making it.. Soak the blanket in prayer... what a wonderful gift indeed.



Sign up for The Methodist Church daily reflection emails during Lent.

Throughout Lent we are sharing daily email reflections that explore the theme of *Unbounded Love*. Sign up to receive these each day, beginning on Wednesday 14th February and discover a rhythm of reflection over Lent. You'll also be signed up to future reflection series.

What to expect?

A range of resources that connect the Gospel readings from the Sunday lectionary throughout Lent to weekly themes, each one a line lifted from "Love divine, all loves excelling". The themes are:

- **Week 1** - "Unbounded love": Jesus' baptism and wilderness experience – God's love bursts the barriers of heaven, and then bursts into the realms of darkness.
- **Week 2** - "Visit us with thy salvation": Losing our life (psyche) to find it – the ways we attempt to insulate ourselves from God's love.
- **Week 3** - "Pure and spotless let us be": Turning the tables in the Temple – corporate religious attempts to boundary God's love.
- **Week 4** - "Finish then thy new creation": God's unbounded love for the cosmos.
- **Week 5** - "Changed from glory into glory": Like a seed that has to die before it bears fruit, death is no barrier to God's love.
- **Week 6** - "Till we cast our crowns before thee": As Jesus entered Jerusalem the people responded by taking off their cloaks. What's our equivalent?

Holy Week - "Lost in wonder, love, and praise!": As Jesus becomes bound by his opponents, will God's love stay bound?

What will be available?

For individuals

Forty daily discipleship prompts, delivered straight to your email inbox every day of Lent, excluding Sundays. Daily emails will include Bible studies, creative activities and challenges to take an action.

[Unbounded Love - Lent 2024 reflections \(methodist.org.uk\)](https://methodist.org.uk/UnboundedLove)

Charles Wesley's famous hymn [*Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*](#) (*Singing the Faith* 503) talks about Jesus as 'unbounded love' – a kind of love that cannot be contained, that works in our lives and in our world to free us and heal us. *Unbounded Love* is the theme of the Lent campaign of the Methodist Church in 2024 – holding together our commitments to be a justice-seeking church, and a people who experience and proclaim the good news of God's uncontainable love.



Admaston Methodist Church— the little church with a Big Welcome

Sunday Services

These are informal services at 10.30am led either by a Minister or Local Preacher / Worship Leader. There is often an opportunity for tea, coffee and chat after the service. Please check the Notice Board outside church or our website for details.

We also offer prayer meetings, bible study and fellowship meetings.

Community Activities

Community lunch The first Thursday in the month at 12.30pm. A two-course lunch and a chance to meet up with others for companionship.

Fabulous food (Donations approx £5)

Table Top Games The third Thursday in the month at 12.30pm for a soup lunch or just come along at 2.00 – 4.00pm to play board games or simply chat with others. Always fun!

Craft and chat Every Monday afternoon - 1.00 – 3.00pm. Come with your own ideas or share with the activities offered (small charge for tea and coffee).

Coffee mornings Occasional Saturday mornings from 10.30 – 12.30pm, often with table top sale.

Munch and Meet An opportunity to meet for supper at 6.00pm followed by sharing fellowship at 7.00–8.00 pm. Normally held on the second Thursday of the month.

Warm space We will be opening the church on Monday mornings for those who need a warm, safe space to sit quietly and reflect or would like to meet up with others for tea/coffee and a chat.

The church will be open from 10.30am

All these activities take place at Admaston Church but we have an open policy and you do not have to be a churchgoer. We are keen to provide activities for the local community - so please do come along.

For more information please check the Notice Board outside church or visit our website:

www.admastonmethodist.org.uk.

If you have any queries please email: amcenquiries@outlook.com

Minister: Rev Roger Dunlop

Email: roger@telfordmeth.org.uk

Tel: 01952 640079

Church Activities taking place in
Albrighton Methodist Church on a regular basis:

Weekly, Thursday cafe 10-12

Monday (2nd and 4th Monday of the month) Coffee and T4U 10-12 (A quiet coffee morning for people who want a bit of time out it's FREE!)

Friday (2nd and 4th Friday of the month) Sing a long 2-3.30pm (For anyone who likes to sing 'old time' songs or from the musicals. £2)

Saturday morning 1st Saturday in the month 10-12. with bric-a-brac and bookstall.

Tuesday eve Open Door. 7.30-9pm This evening has a variety of speakers ranging from singing, talks about wildlife, travel logs, health related talks.....£2

We have a Quiet Corner open for prayer/quiet reflection when there are church run events, located in the Meeting Room. Gill is available for anyone who wants to chat on a Thursday morning and has planned a 'Food for thought' time for a short while after the cafe closes.

All are welcome

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Module and Unconscious Bias Training Links

To register for online learning via the Methodist Church in Britain learning page:

Click on this link: [MCBX \(theologyx.com\)](https://theologyx.com)

Click on **sign in** (in the top right corner) and **create an account**. You will need your email address and you will need to choose a password.

Once you have signed up to the website click on **Courses**. The two mandatory courses are:

- **Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Module**
- **Unconscious Bias Training** (unless you have already completed this training eg via a zoom training opportunity)

Click on **Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Module** and then on **Go to course**