

# Telford Methodist Circuit Newsletter

1st May 2025

## Meeting Father Salmon—A new novel by John Parkin

To believe or not to believe? The question that lies at the heart of this story of two men. Brought together by chocolate brownies on the motorway, they embark on a series of conversations in which they explore their relationship to religious belief.

To walk towards faith or to walk away from it? Which will they choose?

John explains: "This project started as a personal exploration of whether to hold on to religious faith in modern life, leading to the question of what happens if it is discarded. What do we accidentally lose, both as individuals and society, if we allow the echo of faith to drain away to nothing?"

Taken from the Amazon website:

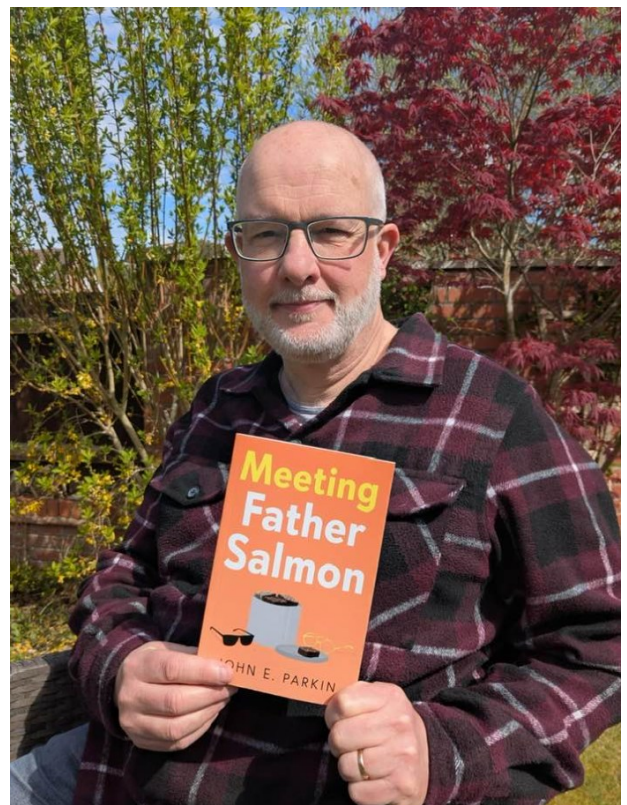
Revelling in the idiosyncrasies of travel experiences in modern Britain, *Meeting Father Salmon* describes three apparently chance encounters between Richard, a successful IT professional, and Father Salmon.

Richard lives with Michelle and their young family in a new residential estate, typical of those that have appeared across the UK. Richard appears to live a perfectly ordinary, untroubled, upwardly mobile life, but he wrestles with the challenges of work, family, and finding meaning in modern life. Richard's first impression of Salmon is as an anachronistic, God-obsessed, mystical crank. However, he becomes increasingly intrigued by his very different way of thinking and living.

As their conversations progress, Richard and Salmon find themselves exploring whether faith in God offers anything beneficial to a regular person in modern Britain. Richard is attracted to Salmon's solidity, but we discover Salmon is grappling with his own challenges following the death of his life-long companion. Salmon is acutely aware that what Richard is drawn to might be a mirage, the shadow of a faith that is draining away."

The book is available through all the usual channels but is also available to buy, as a book and ebook from **The Book-Ends**, 8 Duke Street, Telford, Shropshire, TF1 1BJ, which is a local bookshop in Wellington. Please support local shops where possible.

ISBN 978-1-83628-238-9



# Eco News from the Telford Circuit

"They will plant vineyards and drink their wine;  
they will make gardens and eat their fruit."  
*Amos 9:14:*



Last week we talked about using our outside church spaces to attract and support wildlife. You might be interested to know that the Methodist Eco Community Network are next meeting (via zoom) on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> May at 7pm and the theme will be 'Greening our Spaces: Window Boxes to Community Gardens'.

You can book a free space at the meeting via this link: [Methodist Church Eco Community Network Tickets](#)

Recent sunny weather has brought out butterflies but many of us have lamented the obvious decrease in the number and variety of butterflies we see around. According to *The State of the UK's Butterflies 2022 report*, released by Butterfly Conservation, 80% of butterflies in the UK have declined since the 1970s. One of the top tips for supporting butterflies is to let your grass grow. This alone is said to boost butterfly numbers by up to 93%. To find out more about No Mow May, click here:



[Plantlife's No Mow May Movement](#)

Other ways to support insects and wildlife in your garden might be just the activity you are looking for to engage with children and young people; at home, at church or in your local community. Not only will you be sharing your love of nature with them but it will also give you the opportunity to share why it is so important to you that we look after God's creation. See below for ideas of activities to do with children in a garden near you!

[How to Have an Insect Friendly Garden - Green Eco Friend](#)

[RSPB Wild Challenge for families](#)



## District Pilgrimage in Easter Week

In our open-air communion this year we shared in telling the events of Easter from memory. As we did so our own pilgrimage experiences became intertwined with the biblical narratives. We were there. For five years our District has enjoyed a pilgrimage in Easter Week, with participants from the Birmingham District joining us for the past three years. Lay and ordained, we explore different parts of the District walking about 10 miles a day between chapels in which we reflect, pray, cook and sleep. We had some great conversations, times of walking in silence, and reflecting on God's beautiful creation.

In our evening devotions this year, we were led in a theme of making our mark using simple artwork. Mornings were led by different volunteers. I was particularly struck by a quotation from a book by James Norbury: 'Which is more important', asked Big Panda, 'the journey or the destination?' 'The company', said Tiny Dragon. The destination this year was Church Stretton, and the journey was over too soon as the company had proved to be so good.

Rev. Roger Dunlop.



The photos are at the start of the pilgrimage in Ludlow Methodist Church, and at Brockton.

**Pilgrims on the Shropshire Way  
We gather first at Ludlow's door,  
Where saints have sung and prayed before.  
Through streets of stone, we start in grace,  
God's Spirit welcomes us to this place.**

**A table waits, warm food, warm heart—  
And strangers bonded ere we start.  
The morning breaks on wooded hill,  
We tread where earth and peace are still.**

**From Ludlow's charm to Craven's rest,  
We walk with silence, laugh and jest.  
Ten miles of fields, of sky and lane—  
Our burdens light, our souls made plain.**

**Then on to Clun, or Purslow near,  
With kindness ferrying those held dear.  
The road bends down through gate and stile,  
Each step a prayer, each pause worthwhile.**

**In rolling green, we sense God's hand—  
His voice in lark, His breath on land.  
To Bishop's Castle next we roam,  
A shorter path, yet heading home.**

**The way may flatten, but not our praise,  
We thank our God for gentle days.  
Through fallen trees we clamber and crawl,  
And Christ walks with us, e'en when we fall.**

**Then choose we shall, the crag or road,  
Each stone or curve a sacred ode.  
Through jagged rock or softer bend,  
We walk as pilgrims, friend with friend.**

**The Stiperstones may stretch our pace,  
But joy is found in every place.  
At last, the Mynd, both wide and high,  
We climb beneath the open sky.**

**Though legs may ache, our hearts ascend,  
To Church Stretton, where journeys end.  
But not the end of grace or call—  
God meets us in the rise and fall.**

**Rev. Roger Dunlop**

Our evening prayers on the Easter Pilgrimage were on the theme of "making a mark". Deacon Carys led us in the creation of an art work that we added to each day.

However from an environmental point of view we wanted the pilgrimage to leave the lightest possible mark upon the earth. This was summed up in this Pilgrims' Prayer written for us by Stephen Allen for our morning devotions.

Rev Rachel Parkinson





## "Sing to the Lord a New Song!"

Donnington Methodist Church, Wednesday April 23rd



A group of around 30 people, including Local Preachers, Worship Leaders and congregation members - from a variety of our Circuit churches gathered at Donnington on April 23rd to learn some new hymns/songs from Singing the Faith. The original idea for the event came from Barry Stephan (Donnington) and was taken up by LPs Kim Fitzwarine-Smith, David Corden & David Murray. We were delighted with the turn-out and it was both fun and a worthwhile way of spending a couple of hours in fellowship together. David C led the singing, David M played the piano and we were also joined by John Addison and Richard Wooley (Admaston) on guitars and Diane Parkin (Wellington) on clarinet! To add to the value of the evening, a retiring collection for Christian Aid raised £84.

Many thanks to Donnington for hosting and to all who led and took part. We hope to have another such event later in the year. For your information, the hymns/songs from StF that we learned (or attempted to!) were:

45 *Earth's creator, everyday God*

68 *Worship God with the morning sunrise*

144 *Here are my thoughts, Lord*

363 *My Jesus, my Saviour*

367 *When I was lost*

496 *God, beyond our dreams*

633 *My Soul finds rest in God alone*

703 *In an age of twisted values*



Dear All,

Cartway Church is holding a soup lunch on **Friday May 30<sup>th</sup>** from 12.00 - 2.00pm.

There is no charge but we will be grateful for donations which will go to support a Ghanaian Community Health Project.

Everyone is welcome and we look forward to seeing you at any of the times.

The soup will be served upstairs, in the church.

Blessings to all,

Ruth

### Pray with us today....

If we see the world through your eyes, Lord,  
then we see a vision of our world as your love would have it:  
a world where all who are weak are protected and none go hungry;  
a world where your riches of creation are shared for everyone to enjoy them;  
a world where mutual respect is expressed between different races and cultures and harmony descends;  
a world where peace is built with justice, and justice is guided by love.  
Give us the inspiration and courage to build it how you see it Lord!  
That all may praise together and the only power exerted is the power of your love. Amen

Find more ways to pray at [methodist.org.uk/prayer](https://methodist.org.uk/prayer).





## **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=RTZZa210Q1ZOWCtLTWk3NHoyWDVIQT09](https://zoom.us/j/96716434790?pwd=RTZZa210Q1ZOWCtLTWk3NHoyWDVIQT09)

Meeting ID: 967 1643 4790

Passcode: 355690

**God loves you**  
**unconditionally, no strings attached.**  
**That's the good news.**

**Faith Space - An online service for all**

**Starts at 6:30pm on the link below.**

Weekly zoom services for anyone and everyone wherever in the world you are!

Join Zoom meeting:

[https://zoom.us/j/95651019665?  
pwd=bGgyVEdvQ0cvNDRpWm5HTVB0UDRmdz09](https://zoom.us/j/95651019665?pwd=bGgyVEdvQ0cvNDRpWm5HTVB0UDRmdz09)

Meeting ID: 956 5101 9665

Passcode: 395669

God bless you all and see you soon!



The President and Vice-President of the Methodist Conference and the Secretary of the Methodist Conference have shared this prayer in response to the Supreme Court's ruling on 16 April regarding transgender identity, accompanied by a statement from The Revd Dr Jonathan Hustler, The Secretary of the Conference.

Read the full statement at [methodist.org.uk/about/news/supreme-court-gender-ruling/](https://methodist.org.uk/about/news/supreme-court-gender-ruling/)



**Holy God, you made us in love,  
and each of us bear your image and  
likeness,  
we are wonderfully restored and renewed  
by the work of your Spirit.  
Help us to see and value the beauty of the gift of  
your diverse creation  
and so treat one another with the same  
tenderness we receive from you.  
May those who are frightened, uncertain or  
anxious know your comfort and our support.  
Amen**

Revd Helen Cameron and Carolyn Godfrey, President and  
Vice-President of the Methodist Conference



# How will you take part?

 **3GENERATE** 2025

Methodist Children & Youth Assembly

3-5 October | NEC Birmingham

Join one of our  
fabulous volunteer  
teams



Care



Help



Engage

With roles to suit anyone,  
bring your gifts to a fabulous  
volunteer team and have  
a weekend to remember.

Find out more about the  
different roles and sign-up at

[methodist.org.uk/3GenVols](http://methodist.org.uk/3GenVols)





***"TEDDY BEAR TRAIL"***

**&**

***"V E CELEBRATIONS"***

**SATURDAY 3<sup>RD</sup> MAY**

**&**

**MONDAY 5<sup>TH</sup> MAY**

**FROM 11 am – 4.30 pm**

**Follow the Teddy Bear Trail starting at Leegomery Methodist Church**

**Collect the Trail Sheet, follow the Trail**

**And as you go award points out of 10 for each one.**

***Once you have completed the Trail hand your completed form back in at the Church then join in with other activities***

***For the young & young at heart bring along a Teddy Bear to the Teddy Bears Picnic***

***Or for everyone lunch or afternoon tea for VE Day***



**Cake Stall**



**Tomboles & Games**

**Admission Free - Donations for Church Funds**



You are warmly invited to join us for the official  
opening of

**Dawley Christian Centre  
Community Sensory & Prayer Garden**

**On 9th May 2025 between 1:00-3:00pm**

**Our garden has been designed to evoke the five senses: sight,  
sound, touch, taste and smell. It's a place to relax.... or if you  
prefer, you are welcome to pick up a trowel and do a bit of  
weeding. All are welcome.**

**Cream teas and scones will be served on the day and perhaps  
some beautiful fried chicken!**

Sponsored by:



**The  
Grimmitt  
Trust**



**The Methodist Church**



**Telford & Wrekin  
Co-operative Council**

# Oakengates United Church

Stafford Road, Oakengates, Telford TF2 6JH

## Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> May

2.30pm

### *Cream Tea*



Celebrating the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
of

## VE Day

With Casey's "Wartime Singers"



Free Community Event  
Everyone Welcome



# TABLE TOP



**Friday May 16th 2025  
at Dawley Christian Centre  
9:00am - 12:00 noon**

**Please call Sharon on 01952  
505108 to book a table  
Only £5!!!**

**Come along and grab  
yourself a bargain!**

### **Lawley Summer Pop-ups Planning.**

As part of our Circuit project in Lawley we would like to run a series of pop-up events over the summer. These might include outdoor coffee mornings, crafts, arts and a harvest festival.

If you would like to be involved in planning and delivering these events please come to a meeting at Wellington Methodist Church on Tuesday 6th May at 19:30.

We are looking to garner creative ideas and willing hands from across the Circuit.

Look forward to seeing you

John Parkin (Local Lay Pastor - Project Coordinator)



### **Circuit Children and Young People Growth Group - Thursday 8th May.**

There will be a meeting for all those involved in work amongst Children and Young People. The meeting will be held at Dunwell Methodist Church on Thursday 8th May. It will start at 19:30 and will finish by 21:00.

There will be some general discussion about opportunities for working together across the Circuit. There are some specific points on the agenda including:

- Circuit Summer Youth Event
- Plans for attending 3Generate

Appointment of Children and Young People Worker

If you are aware of anything else that needs adding to the agenda please let John Parkin know ([john@telfordmeth.org.uk](mailto:john@telfordmeth.org.uk)). John will be chairing the meeting on behalf of the Circuit Leadership Team.

Dear Friends,

I do a lot of "extreme" indoor rowing.

From 11<sup>th</sup> May, a group from my rowing class, will each be rowing 7 marathons in 7 days in aid of MND and Severn Hospice.

We are being encouraged to seek sponsorship from friends and contact groups etc.

If anybody is able to sponsor me for this event it will be greatly appreciated. I have attached the QR code for the giving page, but if anybody is not familiar/able to use this method, please let me know so that alternative arrangements can be made.

Thank you.

Dave

Dave Williams from Admaston Methodist Church

(Please contact Circuit office for Dave's contact details—thank you)





# VE DAY 80TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION IN MUSIC!

All Saints Parish Church,  
Wellington. TF1 1DG presents:

## Musical Memories

Matthew Richards

**Returning  
by popular  
demand!**

*Channel 4 "The Piano"*

playing Piano and Ukulele

**Saturday May 10th**

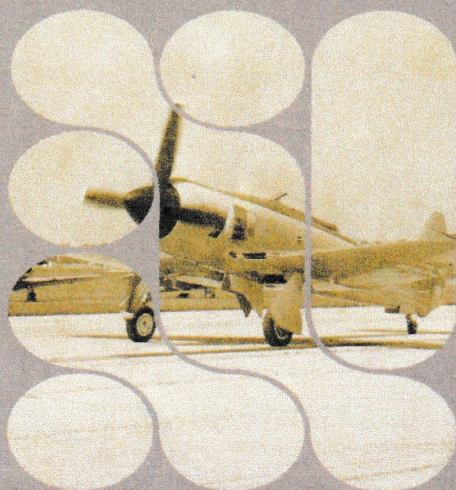
**3.30 - 5.30 pm**

**Cream Tea!  
(Booking  
essential)**

## Free Entry!

**Retiring Collection : Alzheimer's Society +  
All Saints Church Organ Fund**

**This is a dementia  
friendly event.**



**To book your free cream tea  
please use the QR code  
below**

**or phone:**

**07976 100321**



A tribute to those who served



# Singing the Lord's Song in a Strange Land

*Holiness, letting go, and being a fully present Church today*

## A Day of Exploration

with Rev Dr Gary Hall

**Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> May**

**10.30am at Church Stretton Methodist Church**

Rev Dr Gary Hall is a Methodist Minister and tutor in preaching and ethics at The Queen's Foundation, Birmingham

*"It's about trying to be faithful, relating to each other and being connected; in so doing being an example to the wider community"*

**Rev Dr Gary Hall**

**Please join us for a day of reflection and conversation as we explore what it means to be a faithful, present and adaptable church in today's changing world**

*Tea and coffee will be served from 10.00am*

*We expect to finish around 3.30pm*

***Bring a packed lunch, drinks will be provided***



**Scan this QR code**

**to watch an interview with Gary Hall**

**or go to:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=szjT2eb-RoQ>

Church Stretton Methodist Church is just off the A49, and very close to the railway station.

*This is an initiative of the Shropshire and Marches Methodist Circuit.*

*Friends from other Circuits and ecumenical partners will be welcome to join us to explore faith together.*

## Advanced Safeguarding Course

Stephanie Bradley, Assistant District Safeguarding Officer is doing Advanced Safeguarding Training in the Telford Circuit on **Saturday 24th May 2025**, 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 1pm.

Please book directly with Stephanie by calling 07494 734 473 or email: [StephanieBradley@birminghammethodist.org.uk](mailto:StephanieBradley@birminghammethodist.org.uk)

Thank you.

**SAFEGUARDING**  
Creating Safer Space



**Please get in touch if you have something to share.**



**Contact:**

**[circuitssupport@telfordmeth.org.uk](mailto:circuitssupport@telfordmeth.org.uk)**

**or 01952 505108**

# Who Cares? An introduction to pastoral care



## Who Cares?

In response to Our Calling, Methodist people are to help others to grow and learn as Christians, through mutual support and care.

Who Cares? is a series of four 2-hour online sessions that introduces participants to pastoral practice.

- Session 1: Introduction to Pastoral Care
- Session 2: Discipleship and Hospitality
- Session 3: Listening and Prayer
- Session 4: Pastoral Care in Difficult Times

The **Methodist Church** 

In response to Our Calling, Methodist people are to help others to grow and learn as Christians, through mutual support and care. *Who Cares?* is a series of four 2-hour sessions that introduces participants to the possibilities of pastoral care – creating appropriate environments and developing practices that welcome, support and care for others in their role. It draws on insights and underpinning knowledge in the areas below:

Session 1: Introducing Pastoral Care (4/6)

Session 2: Welcome and Hospitality in Pastoral Care (11/6)

Session 3: Listening and Prayer in Pastoral Practice (18/6)

Session 4: Care in Difficult Times and Self-care in Pastoral Practice (25/6)

All sessions will run from 7-9pm.

Link to [book](#).

#### DATE

04 June - 25 June

#### TIME

7:00pm - 9:00pm

#### ONLINE

This is an online event at On Zoom [Go to event website](#)

#### TAGS

[Pastoral Care](#)

#### CATEGORIES

[Open to everyone](#)

#### ORGANISER

[James Devenish](#)  
[devenishj@methodistchurch.org.uk](mailto:devenishj@methodistchurch.org.uk)  
[07799902567](tel:07799902567)

## Event website link:

[Who Cares? An introduction to pastoral care Registration, Wed 4 Jun 2025 at 19:00 | Eventbrite](#)

JUN  
4

Who cares? Training  
for Pastoral Care (4  
sessions)

By James Devenish



## **Bible Studies in the Circuit**

**Admaston** meet on the 2nd Tuesday of the month between 10-11:30am. They currently meet in the home of one of the church family but if the numbers increased they would be happy to transfer the bible study to church.

**Cartway, Bridgnorth** has 3 bibles study groups.

Shambles Group meet on 2nd Monday of the month at 10:30am

Orchard House Group meet on 3rd Monday in the month at 10:30am

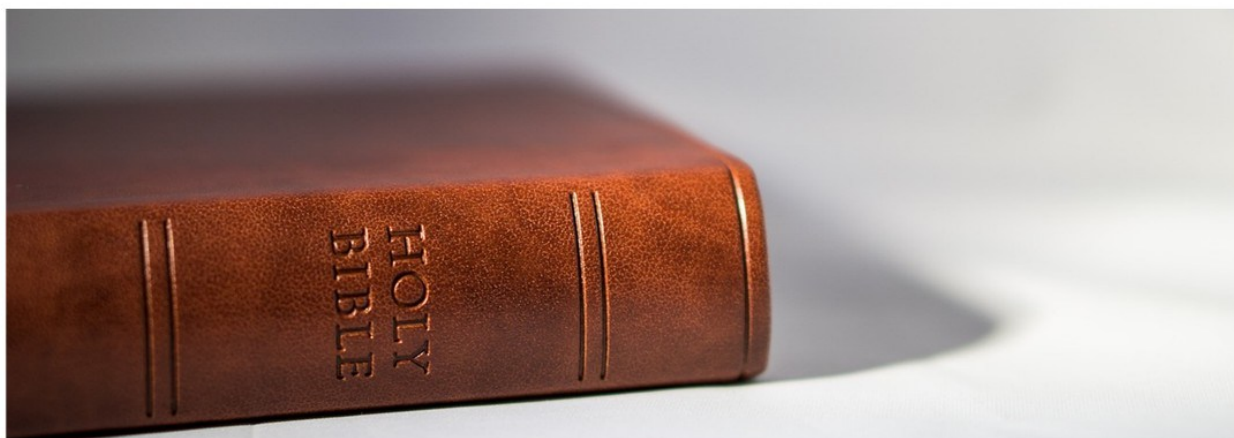
Greenfields Group meet 3rd Tuesday in the month at 2pm.

**Dawley** - Bible study group meets for two 5-6 weekly sessions each year. One during Lent the other during Advent.

**Dunwell** - has a bible study before church service each Sunday which (service starts at 10am)

**Oakengates** Bible Reflections Group meet for two series of 5-6 weekly sessions each year. One of these is in Lent and the other in the autumn. As they usually meet in someone's home, we do not include the venue in general publicity.

**Online Courses: Monday afternoon at 1:30am, Monday evening at 7:30pm and Wednesday evening at 8pm. Please contact the Circuit office for the Zoom link. All are welcome.**





The Church of  
St Andrew  
& Trinity  
Church  
School



Dementia  
Friendly Church  
2024-5

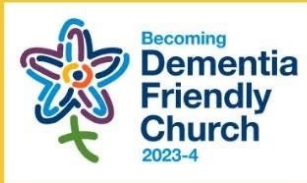
Reaching out together to share  
God's amazing faith, hope and love.

# **Forget me not Group** for people affected by dementia. **Third Thursday of** **the month at 2:00pm**

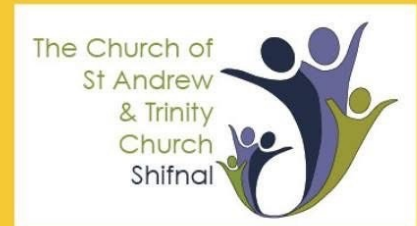
**Come and join us - there's a warm  
welcome and a friendly atmosphere.**

For more information, or for if you want to have a  
conversation about memory difficulties or  
dementia, contact Sarah Thorpe on 07982 248949 or  
[sarah.thorpe121@gmail.com](mailto:sarah.thorpe121@gmail.com)

2025



2025



## Everyday Welcome

**We will re-open on Monday 13th January  
at St Andrew's Church.**

**Wishing all our visitors and volunteers a blessed  
and Happy New Year, and looking forward to  
providing a warm welcome for everyone in 2025.**

Open Monday, Wednesday , Thursday, Friday  
10:30am - 2:00pm

Tuesdays 10:30-12:30pm

Come and join us for a friendly chat &  
refreshments. Delicious light lunches served  
from 12 Noon each day except Tuesday.

**It's free. Donations welcomed!**



**All you keen or would be bakers please**  
**Join us for Bread Church at**  
**Dawley Christian Centre**

**On the last Wednesday**  
**of every month between 1-3pm**  
**And the last Saturday of every**  
**month between**  
**9:30-1:30pm (with a light lunch)**

**ALL ARE WELCOME**

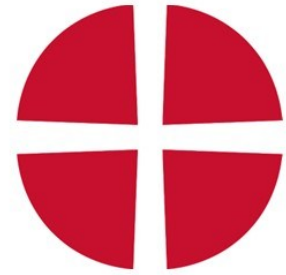
**Please note there's no bread church during May**



**Everything will be ready for you to make your**  
**own bread and it's FREE!**

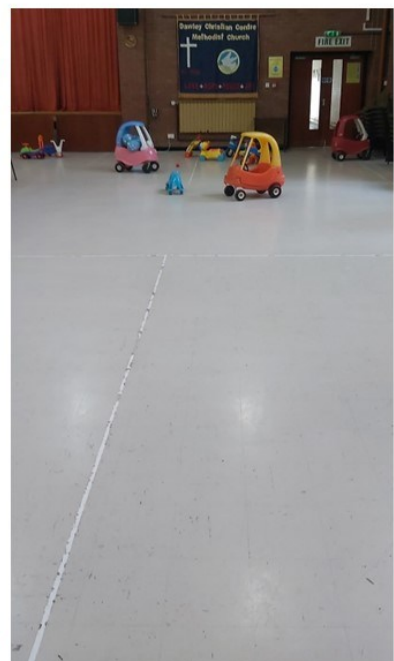
**Please come along and give it a go.**

**Stay & Play Under 5's Playgroup  
at Dawley Christian Centre  
High Street  
Dawley  
TF4 2EX**



**Every Monday & Tuesday from  
9:30-11:30am.**

We have lots of space and plenty of toys so  
bring the kids and let's make some noise!



### **Coffee Morning at Cartway Methodist Church, Bridgnorth**

On the 1st Saturday of each month between 10am –12 midday there is a Coffee Morning at Cartway Methodist Church.

There's going to be a great raffle,.

All are welcome.



### **Wellington Methodist Church**

Are having All Age Drop-in Craft Sessions on the second Saturday of each month.

The sessions are FREE and start at 10am-11:45am.

You are welcome to drop in any time.  
Everyone is welcome.



## **Coffee Mornings at Horsehay**

**Every Wednesday:  
10.30am - 12.00 noon**

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





## Ladies' Fellowship at Horsehay Second Tuesday of each month

in the vestry @2.30pm

**ALL WELCOME - BRING A FRIEND!**

## Painting for Pleasure at Horsehay Methodist Church

Informal art groups (no tutor, but lots of chat and helping each other with tips and techniques). Whatever your skill level, if you enjoy drawing and/or painting, why not come and join us? **Thursday and Friday mornings** 10.00 - 12.30. £5.00 per session.

### Wool Wanted

If anyone has any spare balls of wool they don't need, can you let Sharon (01952 505108) in the Circuit office know please?

At Dawley we are making knitted and crocheted blankets for the dementia patients at the Princess Royal Hospital.

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. They also provide a more homely feel to the wards. Thank you.

[Calling all knitters: blankets wanted for patients with dementia – SaTH](#)



## Bereavement Cafe

A monthly opportunity to meet and chat with others who have been bereaved, hosted by members of local churches.

Second Monday of each month

2:30-4:00pm

Wellington Methodist Church





# Albrighton Methodist Church

Regular church activities

## Cafe Central

Every Thursday 10.00 to 12.00

Excellent coffee!

Meet with friends, old and new.



## Sing a Long

2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Fridays in the month.  
2.00 to 3.30

Join in with "Old Time" songs  
and songs from the musicals.  
£2 per head.



## Monthly Cafe

First Saturday in the month 10.00 to 12.00  
With high quality bric-a-brac and  
book stalls.



## Open Door

First Tuesday in the month  
7.30 to 9.00

Wide variety of speakers  
ranging from singing, wildlife,  
travel logs, health related.....



£2 per head. Speaker usually puts fees to a charity.

The **calling** of the  
**Methodist Church**  
is to respond to the  
gospel of **God's love**  
in **Christ** and to live  
out its discipleship in  
worship and mission

Our Calling

The **Methodist Church** 