

Telford Methodist Circuit Newsletter

8th May 2025

Please offer a warm welcome to our newly appointed Circuit Safeguarding Officer - Lauren Baxendale, who joined the Telford Circuit on 5th May 2025.

Lauren will initially be working 5 hours a week until September, and then she will be working 12 hours a week from then on.

Once Lauren has settled in to her role, she will be arranging a Foundation Safeguarding course. We will of course keep you up to date when a date has been arranged. Lauren can be contacted by email on: safeguarding@telfordmeth.org.uk.

Hello!

My name is Lauren Baxendale, and I'm really pleased to be joining Telford Methodist Circuit as your new Circuit Safeguarding Officer.

I'll be working from home in this role, supporting and advising on safeguarding across the Circuit. Over the first few months, I'll be reviewing current processes and practices, with a focus on establishing training opportunities.

My journey into this line of work has been an interesting one!

I originally studied and worked as a textile designer, but this path, and a sense of calling in my faith, led me into youth work - a field I've found incredibly rewarding.

For the past 13 years, I've worked with children and young people from military families, and I continue to serve as a youth worker in the Stafford Methodist Circuit, where I've been based since 2012.

I'm passionate about helping young people explore their aspirations and supporting them as they grow and thrive.

I live in Telford with my husband and our two young children. When I'm not working, I love staying active - whether that's walking, cycling, Pilates, or playing tennis. And like many, I'm always up for a good catch-up over coffee and cake!

I'm really looking forward to getting to know people across the Circuit. Please don't hesitate to reach out - it would be lovely to connect.

Every blessing,

Lauren



Eco News from the Telford Circuit

For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is also dead. *James 2:26*



In the next few days Christians across the country will be raising money for Christian Aid. A key aspect of Christian Aid's work is their campaign for climate justice and their work in equipping and enabling farmers with drought resistant crops and sustainable farming practices.



Could you and your church take part in their Restore Campaign? Find out more and sign their petition [here](#)

'It's the poorest, who have done the least to cause the climate crisis, who are paying the greatest price. Poverty and a deepening debt crises means poorer countries are struggling to respond. Meanwhile, the biggest polluters make vast profits from fossil fuels.'

'Pray for justice', the Christian Aid website

Could you commit to praying for Climate Justice? Christian Aid have produced prayers and prayer activities which you could use in your services or in your individual prayer time [here](#)

If you are unable to get involved in any other fundraising activities you could think about sponsoring our Faith Space friend Steve Allen, who is planning a sponsored walk to every church in the Black Country Circuit, a distance of over 18 miles.

[Stephen's fundraiser - Christian Aid Fundraiser](#)

Dear All,

Cartway Church is holding a soup lunch on **Friday May 30th** 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....

Loving Lord, who made me for your delight,

bless me with good use of the senses you created:

that I may use my sight to see the injustice in your world, and respond with my heart;

that I may use my hearing to listen to the voice of suffering, and respond with my heart;

that I may voice what is your will at all times, in all places

and respond with my heart.

Loving Lord, who made me for your delight,

bless me in your service.

Amen.

Find more ways to pray at 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!



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:



**BENEFACT
TRUST**

**The
Grimmitt
Trust**



The **Methodist** Church



**Telford & Wrekin
Co-operative Council**

Oakengates United Church

Stafford Road, Oakengates, Telford TF2 6JH

Saturday 10th May

2.30pm

Cream Tea



Celebrating the 80th Anniversary
of

VE Day

With Casey's "Wartime Singers"



Free Community Event
Everyone Welcome

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

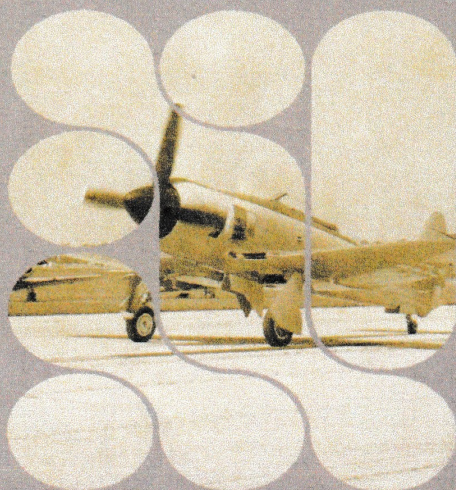
3.30 - 5.30 pm

**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

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!**



LEEGOMERY METHODIST CHURCH

(Hadley Park Road)



On

Sunday 18th MAY 2025

Services to be held at

**11 am led by Rev Fiona Brown
and 4 pm by The Sunday School**



Special items by the Sunday School Members at both Services

**Come and support the Young People
On their Special Day**

EVERYONE WELCOME

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 17th 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.



SHROPSHIRE

WORSHIP GATHERING

JUNE 7TH 2025 | HALFWAY HOUSE | 9AM - 9PM



WWW.SHROPSHIREHOPE.CO.UK

We are looking forward to hosting a **12 hour worship event** bringing together bands and acoustic sets from across the county on **Saturday 7th June 2025**, the day before Pentecost Sunday, at the **Halfway House Pavilion on the Wrekin**. Transport will be available for those unable to manage the 15 minute walk up the hill.

This year is the 10th anniversary of Thy Kingdom Come with a theme of the Lord's Prayer. We would love to hear what you are doing in your area.

We hope that you can join us on Saturday 7th. Please do let others in your churches and networks know. It would help if you are able to share transport on the day, as parking is limited.

For more information click on: Shropshire Hope

Dear Friends,

I do a lot of "extreme" indoor rowing.

From 11th 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



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). John will be chairing the meeting on behalf of the Circuit Leadership Team.



The Plant Stall in Priorslee Village has benefited from the good weather recently. There is lots of colour. Bearded Iris are ready to burst into flower and the Viola hanging baskets are looking good. Come along for a browse, there is no obligation to buy. All plants sold are in aid of Oakengates United Church. Happy gardening bank holiday weekend.
Regards Sylvia

3 Generate - We need to start planning now!

Tickets available NOW!

We can't wait to welcome you all back to the NEC! Keep an eye out for announcements of what you can expect from the 3Generate programme this year!

Event times

- Friday 3 October: Groups arrive from 7pm (Programme starts at 7:30pm)
- Saturday 4 October: Programme starts at 9am
- Sunday 5 October: Programme starts at 9am and groups depart at 1pm

4-7s Area: Saturday 4 October ONLY 9am-7pm (Programme runs from 10am - 6pm)

What's New for 3Generate 2025?

This year we're delighted to announce 6 new venues:

- **Orb Stage** - for even bigger performances and communal worship
- **Sound Studio** - hosting music workshops and spaces for free-play and jamming
- **The Lounge** - for those in school year 11+ to go deeper on key topics that relate to them
- **In The Beginning** - a storytelling-focused venue hosting workshops and talks from authors
- **Leisure Centre** - an even bigger sports venue with lots more space to get involved

Comms Corner - a space for young people to learn about all things social media and communications, from influencing to consuming media responsibly.

Stay tuned for further announcements on the 3Generate 2025 programme!

[Book Main Event Tihttps://www.methodist.org.uk/for-churches/ministries/children-youth-family-ministry/3generate/attending-3generate-2025/](https://www.methodist.org.uk/for-churches/ministries/children-youth-family-ministry/3generate/attending-3generate-2025/)

A promotional poster for the 3Generate 2025 event. The top half has a purple background with the text 'How will you take part?' in white. Below this is a red banner with '3-5 October | NEC Birmingham'. The main body of the poster is light blue and features the '3GENERATE 2025' logo, which includes a red cross icon. Text on the poster encourages joining volunteer teams, listing roles: Care (with a red heart icon), Help (with a question mark icon), and Engage (with a speech bubble icon). It also mentions 'Methodist Children & Youth Assembly'. A photo of a smiling woman in a green hoodie with the 3Generate logo is on the right. At the bottom, it says 'With roles to suit anyone, bring your gifts to a fabulous volunteer team and have a weekend to remember.' and 'Find out more about the different roles and sign-up at methodist.org.uk/3GenYols'.

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

Thank you.

SAFEGUARDING
Creating Safer Space



Please get in touch if you have something to share.



Contact:

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
[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

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:

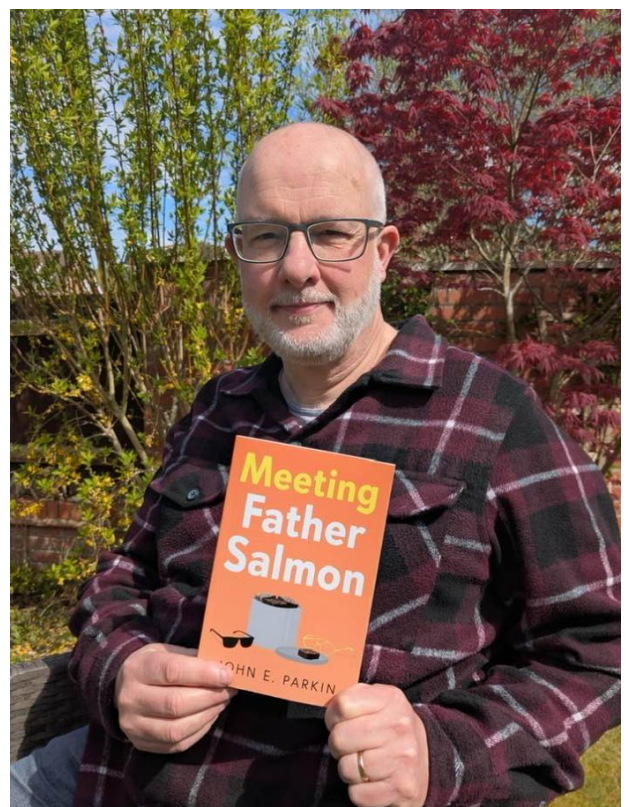
Revelling in the idiosyncrasies of travel experiences in modern Britain, ***Meeting Father Salmon*** describes three apparently chance encounters between Richard, a successful IT professional, and Father Salmon.

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



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

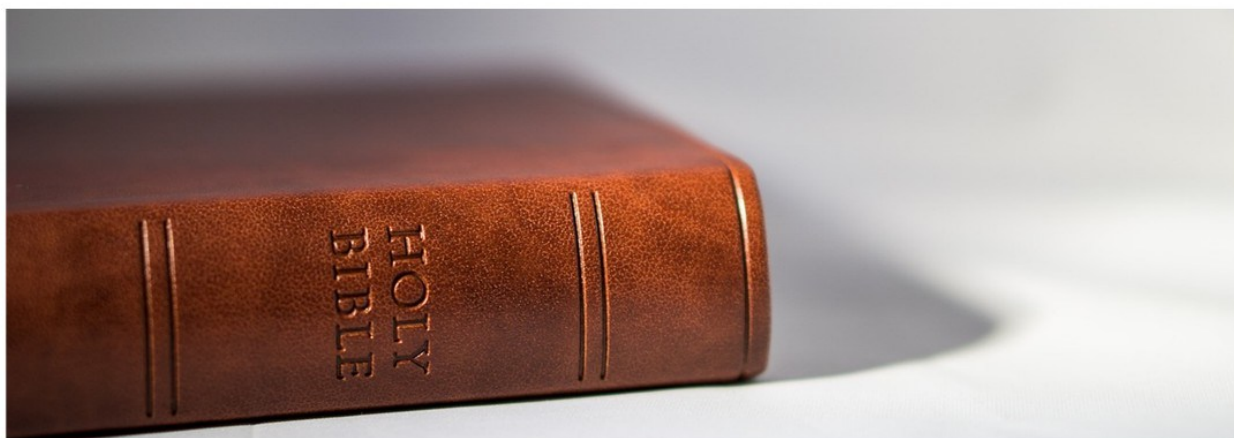
Greenfields Group meet 3rd Tuesday in the month at 2pm.

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
2022-23

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**

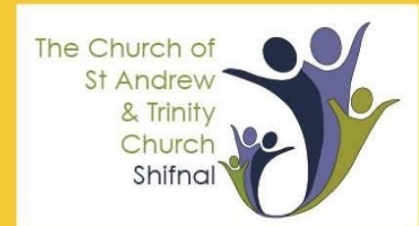
**Come and join us - there's a warm
welcome and a friendly atmosphere.**

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

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

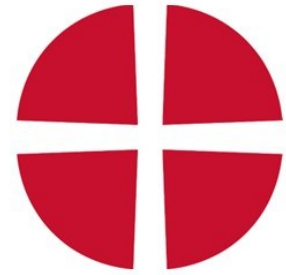
Please note there's no bread church during May



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

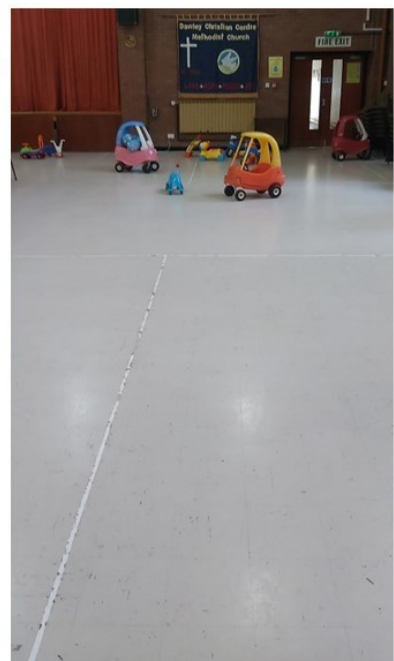
Please come along and give it a go.

**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

2nd and 4th 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** 