

Telford Methodist Circuit Newsletter

6th August 2025

Seeing churches through a different lens Philip Richter's photography and faith actively inspire each other. Here he reflects on capturing the beauty of church life on camera.

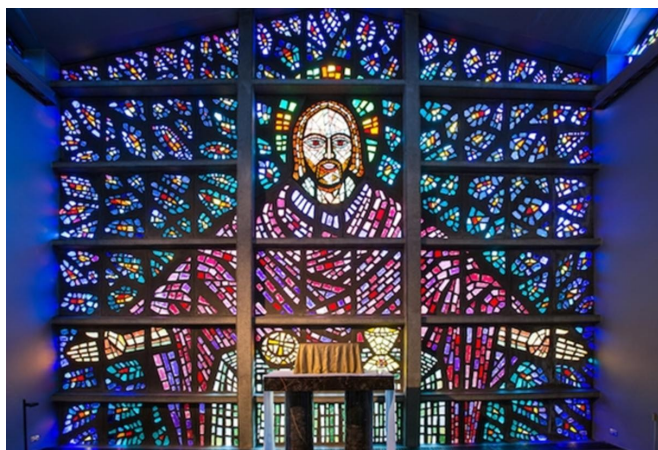
Why not take some pictures this summer in a church you're visiting or in one you know well? Your photography, whether with a conventional camera or smartphone, could capture some of the beauty, history, joy, holiness or sense of community that can be found in a church. Potentially, it can help you notice things you otherwise wouldn't see in greater spiritual depth.

Try simply immersing yourself in taking pictures. Don't worry about the time, just focus on enjoying finding pictures. You don't have to take brilliant photos, they are pictures that will help you re-experience the moment later. Photography is a great way of immersing yourself in the present moment and letting the past and future take care of themselves. That could enhance your well-being as well as help you see churches more deeply.

My faith is deepened by making and reflecting on photos. I hope you too might discover photography to be a real eyeopener, helping you notice the beauty of creation in new ways. May it help you to reflect on the world, your place within it, and what it means to be alive.

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I read the article and this photo came straight to mind. It's a photo of the stained glass window at Buckfast Abbey, in Devon, in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel's east window, which was created by Dom Charles Norris in 1968.



The window features a depiction of Christ offering his body and blood in the Eucharist, with a striking use of colours that reflects the Shroud of Turin, showcasing the artistic influence of Norris's work. When I saw it I felt instantly emotional. The window is huge and reminds you that our God is indeed a great big God and his love for us is immeasurable.

I'd love to see your photos too.

Sharon

Taken from the [West Midlands Methodist District](#) Facebook page:

One of our church members in the Black Country recently shared how a childhood love of foreign stamps became something unexpectedly meaningful - helping welcome Ukrainian refugee families with language, hospitality and open arms.

What began with a simple "Laskavo prosymo" (Welcome) turned into a mission that brought 39 Ukrainian families together for celebrations, support and community. From sourcing pianos to hosting Christmas events, our churches — with help from local groups and companies — have become a place of comfort and belonging.



"Darkuyou" - Thank You - from our Ukrainian friends who now call the Black Country home. This is what church looks like in action.



From stamp collecting to opening hearts and homes.



In this week's chaplaincy blog, Neil Baxter shares his experience as a Caravan Chaplain in the Lincolnshire Methodist District.

04 August 2025

What is it that you do as Caravan Chaplain?

We go to as many caravan and home parks as we can on the East Coast, between Skegness and Mablethorpe. We are dependent on site owners to let us go on there. Generally, we wander around and talk to people who want to talk to us. Conversations can be about winning a football match, or about a spouse who recently died. You never know what you're going to get. There are 38,000 caravans and homes on the East Coast in Lincolnshire. That's a lot to visit and we mainly help people whose caravan is their home. It's a seasonal lifestyle as many home parks are closed for a couple of months in the winter.

Why did you feel called to chaplaincy?

I'm a Methodist preacher. People approach me after services and want to talk about things. Becoming a chaplain is just an extension of that but now I am putting myself out and see if people want to come and talk to me. The Caravan Chaplaincy was set up five years ago, but, because of COVID, it's still developing. We've still got a long, long way to go, but the biggest problem is getting enough chaplains to be able to go around. If you've got 38,000 vans to visit, it's not easy for a team of 10 people.

What is it about Methodism that is different from other faiths and approaches to chaplaincy?

Being a chaplain is wanting to be there to help people. You don't have to be a Methodist to do it, we are an ecumenical team.

Tell me about one person you've met where you've had an impact on their lives.

We have a group that we formed at Inger Mills. The ladies there were familiar with each other from the site, but they didn't know each other personally. We organised a coffee morning and invited them to join us under a gazebo. As a result, we now meet every week to play games, have quizzes, enjoy coffee and chat for a couple of hours. They love it and look forward to it every week. It provides them with a place to go and they have gotten to know each other better through these gatherings. While they knew each other from the online site, this group has become more of a friendship circle where they can connect on a deeper level.



Eco News from the Telford Circuit



We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time.

Creationtide, or the 'Season of Creation' is celebrated during September and early October, culminating on the feast day of St Francis of Assisi. It is a time to renew our relationship with our Creator and all Creation through celebration, conversation, and commitment. It is an annual ecumenical season where we pray and act together as a Christian family for our common home. I know that you are reading this in early August, but in order to make the most of the season, let's plan ahead!

Hold a Creationtide service in your church.

I have sent a beautiful Creationtide service to your worship leaders, perfect for a Local Arrangement service in September / early October. Will you take part in sharing this worship together with other churches across the circuit?

Include creation-themed prayers and activities in your church life throughout the season of creation.

There are lots and lots of links to resources and ideas on the Methodist Church website. Click [here](#) for more information.

Celebrate what you are doing!

Remember to please send me your creation prayers and pictures to share in our Circuit Newsletter so that we can celebrate together.

jokudlacik@gmail.com

Creator God, giver of life, you sustain the earth and direct the nations. In this time of climate crisis grant us clarity to hear the groaning of creation and the cries of the poor; challenge us to change our lifestyles; guide our leaders to take courageous action; enable your church to be a beacon of hope; and foster within us a renewed vision of your purposes for your world; through Jesus Christ our Lord, by and for whom all things were made. Amen

Might you feel called to help lead worship? Are you a Worship Leader in need of refreshment?

We will be holding a **Worship Leaders' Introduction and Refresher course** at Cartway on Friday afternoons in the autumn, 2-3:30pm. These sessions will use *some* of the WL training resources but we will *not be covering the whole course*.

* No previous experience or materials needed... just a willingness to think, be open and engage.

5th September - Delving into the Bible: What is it? Who wrote it and when? How do we interpret it? How do we best read the Bible aloud in worship? How far do we trust the authority of the Bible?

19th September - Exegesis: How do we dive deeper into a Bible passage? What questions do we ask and why is this important?

3rd October - God talk: names, metaphors and language for God. A multi-sensory approach and meeting God in our actions.

17th October - Trinitarian God and the creeds: What are the creeds and how can we express the nature of God meaningfully in our worship?

31st October - Church: What is church and what is our calling? What does it mean to be Methodist and part of a wider Connexion?

14th November - Worship: How has worship developed over time? Different expressions and patterns of worship. Inclusivity.

28th November - Resources: Getting the most out of our hymn book and the lectionary, ways to present scripture, how music and art might enhance worship, writing prayers and alternatives to a sermon.



For more information, to chat about whether this is for you or to let me know you are coming, contact Jo Kudlacik Tel: 07840 596074 Email: jokudlacik@gmail.com

*If you would like to commit to full Worship Leader training, please contact Rev Adrian, who will be running the full course.

Advanced Safeguarding Course

Stephanie Bradley, Assistant District Safeguarding Officer is doing Advanced Safeguarding Training in the Telford Circuit on **Saturday 6th September 2025**, starting at 10am at Wellington Methodist church

Registration will be from 9:30am with a prompt start at 10am, finishing around 2pm.

Please book your tickets through the Eventbrite website by clicking the link below:

<http://www.eventbrite.com/o/stephanie-bradley-81147774823>

If you are unsure if you need to attend you are always most welcome to contact Sharon in the Circuit office and she will check for you.

Thank you.

Safeguarding
Young people and vulnerable adults

Pray with us today....

Among our worries or despair, you are there.
Among those who are anxious or frail, you are there.
In the times when we care, you are there,
and in the times when we fail, you are there.
In our calling, open our minds and our hearts to your ways,
so that we may know how to help those in distress.
Enable your Church to be a voice that can be heard,
a people who bring hope to those who feel hopeless,
and to have the courage to face challenges together,
by the power of your Spirit,
Amen.

Find more ways to pray at methodist.org.uk/prayer.



District Launch and Chair's Welcome Service

Join us to celebrate the launch of the new West Midlands District and welcome our new Chair Rev'd Rachel Deigh.

Saturday 30th August
3pm followed by refreshments

The
Methodist Church
West
Midlands
District



Central Hall

Ablewell Street Walsall WS1 2EQ

Welcome to the Launch Service and Welcome for the new Chair of District!

Come join us at **Central Hall** as we celebrate the beginning of a new chapter. This event is the perfect opportunity to meet the new leader and connect with other members of the district. The service will begin at 3pm and join us afterwards for light refreshments and time to chat. Don't miss out on this special occasion to show your support and be a part of the excitement. See you there!

As part of the service we are going to creating a piece of weaving to symbolise our coming together - if you would like to contribute you are invited to bring a strip of coloured fabric – 5 cm width; up to 1 metre length.

[District Launch and Chair's Welcome Service Tickets, Sat 30 Aug 2025 at 15:00 | Eventbrite](#)

Dear lord,
we pray for those awaiting
exam results this summer.
May they be able to enjoy their
time without worry and know that
you are with them regardless of
what the results may be.
We pray for peace, and trust that
your plan for them will show the
way.
Amen.



Don't forget to visit
this cute plant stall
in Abbey Road,
Arleston TF1 2GJ.
Selling plants in
aid of Oakengates
United Church.
Beautiful plants for
sale. Happy
gardening.
Regards Sylvia
(Bailey)



From 1st August 2025 Stephanie Bradley who looks after Advanced Training Course for the West Midlands District has a new email address: Bradleys@methodist.org.uk

Stephanie's phone number remains the same: 07494 734473

There are now 12 advanced courses available –
To book please visit:

www.eventbrite.com/o/stephanie-bradley-81147774823

September Saturday 6th 10am - Wellington Methodist Church

September Saturday 13th 10am - Lickey End Methodist Church

September Saturday 27th 10am - Upper Gornal Methodist Church

October Saturday 11th 10am - Brierly Hill Methodist Church

October Saturday 18th 10am - Bilston Methodist Church

November Saturday 8th 10am - Trinity Methodist Church

November Saturday 15th 10am - Selly Oak Methodist Church

November Saturday 22nd 10am - Mill Street Methodist Church

January Saturday 10th 10am - St Andrews Methodist Church

January Saturday 24th 10am - Mill Street Methodist Church

January Saturday 31st 10am - Ledbury Methodist Church

April Saturday 18th 10am—Mill Street Methodist Church

Thank you.

Safeguarding
Young people and vulnerable adults



Bereavement cafe

A support group looking forward, following loss.

Thursday July 3rd

Thursday August 7th

Thursday September 4th

10:30am - 12:00pm

The Trinity Centre, Victoria Road, Shifnal

Offering support, understanding & empathy

A small group brought together through loss.

We offer a relaxed, friendly and safe environment to talk with others, share memories and make new friends.

Everybody welcome

For further information contact Claire: 07955 688627





HeartSpace

worship for today

HeartSpace on Sundays

10:30am

Trinity Centre

Upcoming Dates

Sunday 20th July

Sunday 17th August

Sunday 21st September

The Church of
St Andrew
& Trinity
Church
Shifnal



Contact:

heartspace@shifnalbenefice.org.uk



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

Table Top

S A L E

at

***DAWLEY CHRISTIAN
CENTRE***

on

Friday 15th August 2025

9.00am – 12 noon

**Come along and grab
a bargain.**

**To book a table for only £5 please call
Sharon on 01952 505108**

SALE

Every item!



5th September 2025

from 9 - 12 noon

At Dawley Christian Centre

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!



Bible Study

Meet, read, ponder and share together
on a Friday afternoon at Broseley
Methodist Church.

Our starting theme will be **PLENTY**.
What does the Bible have to say to us
today about Social Justice?

All are welcome, no previous knowledge
or experience needed!

Meeting on monthly at 2.30-4pm on

- Friday 12th September
- Friday 10th October
- Friday 21st November
- Friday 12th December.



For more information contact Jo on
jokudlacik@gmail.com or 07840 596074

Interested in an evening group? Contact Kim on
kimfitzwarine@gmail.com or 07816 374414

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

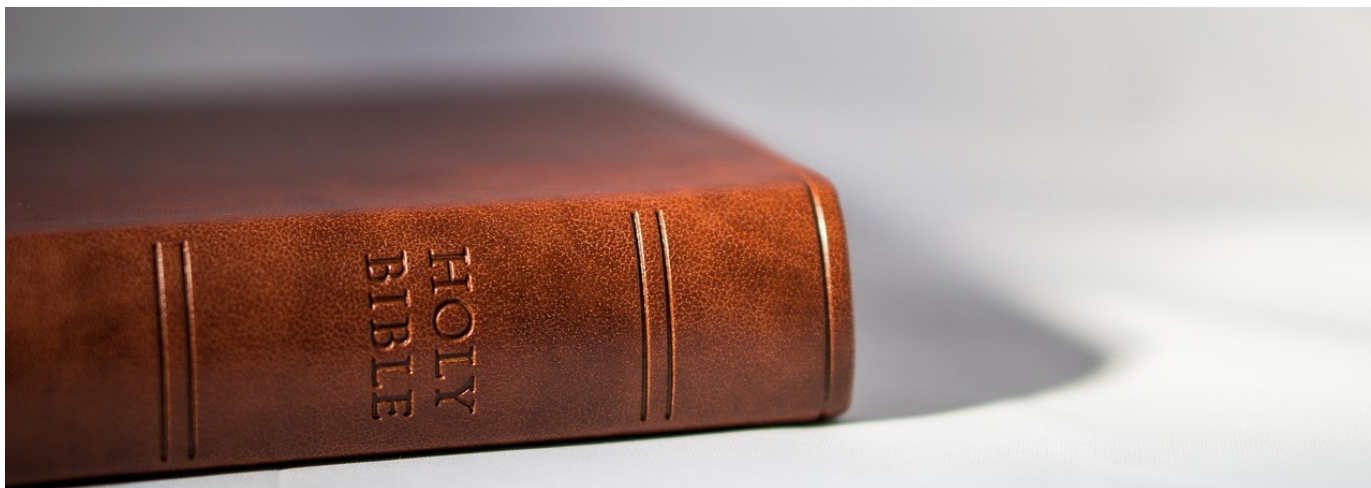
Greenfields Group meet 3rd Tuesday in the month at 2pm.

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 1:30pm, 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

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



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

Please come along and give it a go.

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 