



# Telford Methodist Circuit Newsletter

23rd April 2026

## Rev Nik and Mark's Honeymoon in Jamaica

Rev Nik and her new husband Mark have been having a lovely time on their honeymoon in Jamaica. They've even found time for a day of relaxation, massage and spa, sauna, steam room, jacuzzi, swimming and there was also a cool plunge pool but neither of them felt brave enough to use it. Sounds lush doesn't it !

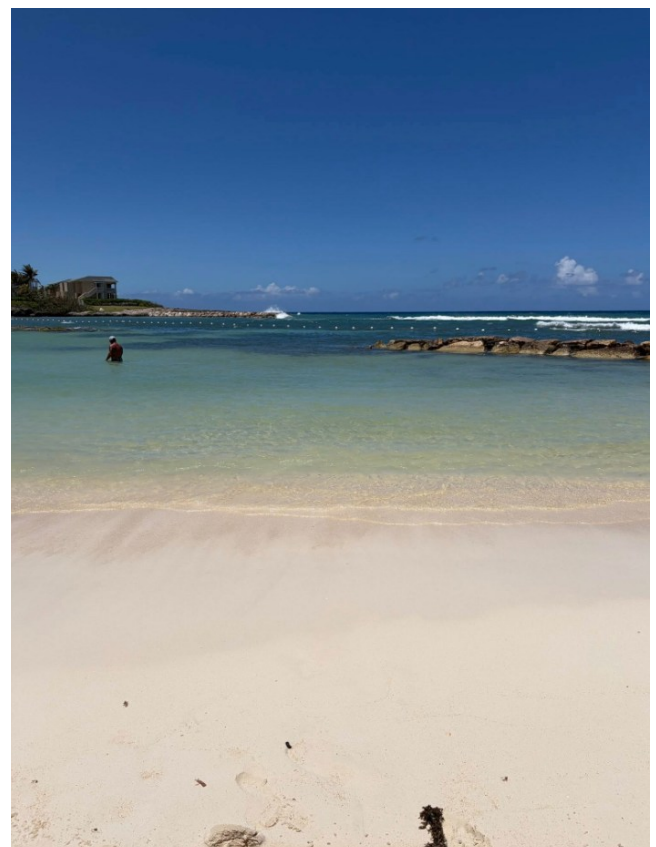
Over the next couple of pages are photos that Nik has posted on Facebook.

On day 3 they enjoyed a fabulous trip to Montego Bay and Nik got her hair braided too.

They also had a wonderful time river rafting up the Martha Brae river with Jafar (he's the one with the long wooden pole navigating his way along the river). They also visited the luminous lagoon, followed by a fire show on the same evening.

You may spot a bobsled which seems a bit odd to have in Jamaica but a dedicated Jamaican team made their debut in the 1988 Olympics. They didn't do very well but you have to admire them for trying, as they'd never seen snow before and didn't even have a proper bobsleigh.

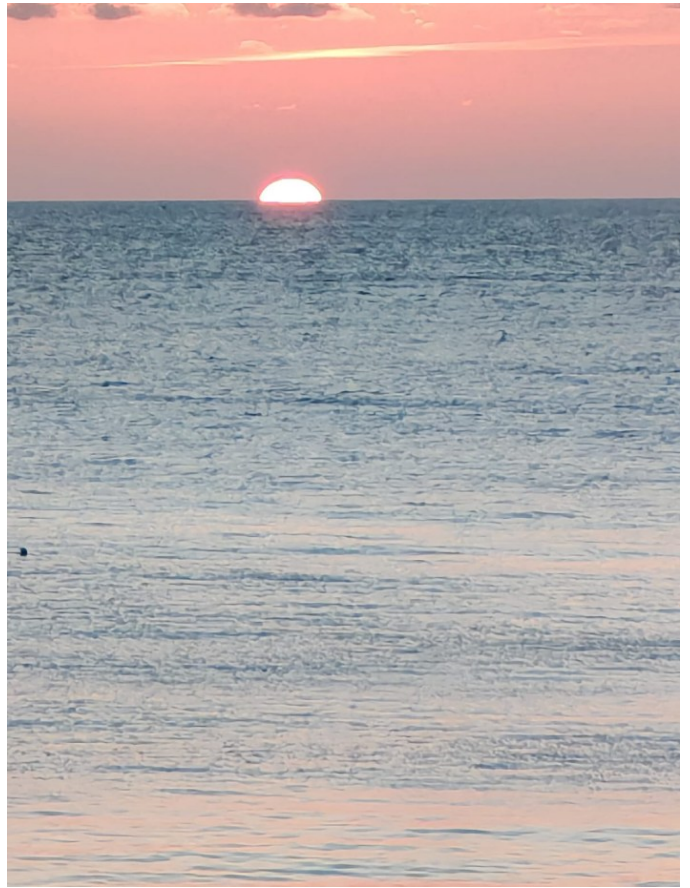
The last couple of days have been spent by the pool and the beach, but tomorrow is going to be very exciting as they are going swimming with dolphins!











# Eco News from the Telford Circuit



"Speak out for the one who cannot speak, for the rights of those who are doomed." *Proverbs 31:8*

## “What has happened this week that has given you hope?”

This is one of the questions we reflected on this week in our Methodist Way of Life themed Bible Study as we visited the station called ‘Tell’. ‘We tell the good news of the love of God’. It is also a very relevant question to us as Christians during the season of Easter, and the perfect time of year for noticing signs of hope in the natural world around us; so what has given you reason for hope recently?



Here is mine... On two separate occasions I have been sitting drinking coffee with church members this week when I have noticed people spontaneously starting to speak of environmental matters and to share examples of things they had been doing. One church member said that while she is waiting for the water in the kitchen tap to get hot enough to wash up, she fills empty milk bottles and uses them to water her plants. Another friend from the local community described re-using the drum from their old tumble drier as a planter in the garden. Each of these claims led to further conversation on the topic of saving or re-using resources. As you can imagine, I was delighted to hear these conversations going on... it feels as though my years of trying to spark interest in others are starting to pay off!



The thing about good news is that it is infectious; the hope spreads. So as you share good news about what God means to you this Easter season, remember also to share some news about what inspires you in nature, how you are saving or re-using resources, which flowers or creatures you have noticed that have delighted you recently or your church eco-plans. And if you have good news to share, why not send it in and give us all reason to hope and celebrate?

## The People’s Emergency Briefing



There are showings arranged for various locations in Shropshire (see below) but none yet within Telford. **Could your church help by hosting a showing in your area?** Help inform, start conversations and build connections with your neighbours over our common future. Find out more [here](#).

*Shropshire Wildlife Trust - Saturday 25 April, 3pm at the Cut in Shrewsbury.  
Stretton Climate Care - Tuesday 5 May, 7pm. URC, Church Stretton  
Broseley Climate Action Group - Friday 8 May, 7pm. Birchmeadow Centre, Broseley.*

Morning everyone,

I hope you're all well.

I wanted to share a quick update regarding our safeguarding contacts within the Connexional Team. As some of you may already be aware, Sue Holder has now retired after 12 years in her role, and Neil Hutchinson has taken over from her.

Neil will be working 21 hours, generally Monday to Wednesday. Steph Bradley remains our main Regional Officer for Safeguarding, working 33 hours across the week. However, both can be contacted out of office hours for any urgent safeguarding matters.

Please update your records with their contact details below:

Neil Hutchinson  
Email: [hutchinsonn@methodistchurch.org.uk](mailto:hutchinsonn@methodistchurch.org.uk)  
Mobile: +44 (0) 7384 810901

Steph Bradley  
Email: [bradleys@methodistchurch.org.uk](mailto:bradleys@methodistchurch.org.uk)  
Mobile: 07817 808557

If there are any further changes, I will let you know.

Many thanks,

Lauren



## **Lauren Baxendale**

Circuit Safeguarding Officer

Dawley Christian Centre, High Street, Dawley, Telford, TF4 2EX  
07904 814741  
[Safeguarding@telfordmeth.org.uk](mailto:Safeguarding@telfordmeth.org.uk) | [www.telfordmeth.org.uk](http://www.telfordmeth.org.uk)

Circuit 3/18 | Registered Charity 1134372

*Please note that I work part-time—my regular working hours are Tuesday to Thursday during office hours. This email and any attachments are confidential. If you are not the intended recipient, please inform me and delete the message.*



Plant Lady

19 April at 08:28 · 🌐



Hi everyone. Isn't it great to see sun shining today. Don't forget this cute plant stall in Abbey Road, Arlestone TF1 2GJ. Also selling lovely plants for Oakengates United Church. Really good selection and there are troughs and pots to place on the patio or round the garden to give pops of colour. Regards Sylvia



God promises to be our God  
and we His people



## Responding to Israel's new death penalty

The Methodist Church in Great Britain expresses its deep alarm and profound concern at the passage of Israel's new death penalty law, which will apply to Palestinians tried in military courts. We note with concern that some members of the Knesset appeared to glorify death by arriving for the debate wearing gold noose-shaped pins and that several lawmakers celebrated the bill's passage with champagne inside the chamber. We applaud those members who voted against this horrific bill.

Human life is sacred. It must be protected without exception.

B'Tselem, an Israeli human rights organisation, has warned that this law entrenches the dehumanisation of Palestinians and "normalizes the killing and injury of human beings," as Executive Director Yuli Novak stated in response to the legislation.

"Israel is reaching a new low in the dehumanization of Palestinians, enshrining their cruel treatment in state law. It already kills Palestinians systematically and faces no demands for accountability. Under the leadership of top ministers, the Israeli system is day by day becoming a system that normalizes the killing and injury of human beings."

This law has been widely condemned by international bodies, including the Foreign Ministers of the UK, France, Germany, and Italy, who issued a rare joint statement calling the law "de facto discriminatory" and the European Union, which called it a "clear step backwards" and urged Israel to uphold its obligations under international law.

We reaffirm unequivocally that life is sacred.

It must be safeguarded, whether threatened by war, terrorism, crime or by the power of the state itself. The normalisation of state-sanctioned killing erodes justice, undermines human rights and diminishes the dignity of all



## Methodists help persuade Cardiff Council to end the fossil fuel era

Cardiff Council has signed up to a fossil fuel non-proliferation treaty thanks to the work of Cardiff Methodist Circuit and others.

The circuit has been campaigning along with other Eco Churches in Cardiff from the United Reformed Church and The Church in Wales and has also been working with local councillors, Climate Cymru and Global Justice Now.

On Thursday 26 March, Cardiff Council decided by a majority of 53–8 to approve the global call for a Fossil Fuel Treaty, a landmark initiative aimed at phasing out fossil fuels worldwide.

To make this happen, Methodist members had met with councillors, wrote letters and prayed, held eco fayres and events. Junior church members got involved, sending messages and pictures to the local councillors and making 'Cymru cares' lanterns.

Cardiff Council is the first council in Wales to endorse the treaty and Cardiff now joins a growing international coalition of cities, organisations, parliamentarians and national governments, faith organisations and individuals supporting the treaty proposal. This includes London, Edinburgh and Birmingham, 45 UK parliamentarians, the European Parliament and 18 countries, including Colombia and Pakistan.

"We were delighted that Cardiff Council took the bold step and voted to endorse and sign up to the treaty", says Sarah Charlesworth, Cardiff Methodist Circuit Eco Church representative. "It is such a great witness to have churches campaigning together. It shows the local community what we care about, that church is relevant and that together we can make a difference.

"The treaty calls for a just and fair transition away from fossil fuels which, as well as caring for God's creation, means we are advocating for social justice for all. Next stop is the Welsh government!"

Fossil fuels remain the largest driver of climate change, responsible for an estimated 86 per cent of carbon dioxide emissions over the past decade, according to the IPCC. The International Energy Agency has also stated that expanding fossil fuel production is incompatible with limiting global warming to 1.5°C.

The motion, tabled by Labour party Councillor Bethan Proctor, had support from local groups including Cardiff Eco Churches and Climate Cymru and the national organisation Global Justice Now. Cardiff Eco churches is an ecumenical network of local churches committed to environmental stewardship and climate justice through the A Rocha UK Eco Church scheme. The group sees the agreement as an opportunity for Wales to demonstrate climate leadership and contribute to a more sustainable and equal future.

By adopting it, Cardiff Council formally approved the Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty's core objectives:

- Delivering a just global transition away from fossil fuels, ensuring no worker, community or country is left behind.
- Preventing new coal, oil and gas developments.
- Ensuring a fair phase-out of existing fossil fuel production.

The Council has also committed to writing to the Welsh Government, urging them to endorse the treaty as part of its international climate commitments.



# The Methodist Church at National Wedding Show

The Methodist Church attended this year's National Wedding Show, which took place at London Excel on Saturday 11 and Sunday 12 April 2026. The National Wedding Show is the UK's largest and most well-known wedding planning event.

With only 15 percent of weddings now taking place in a church, the Methodist Church feels many couples are missing out on the richness and beauty of a church wedding and the support it offers in creating a marriage, while same-sex couples may not be aware of the warm welcome on offer to them.

The Methodist Church is the fourth largest Christian denomination in the UK, with over 4,000 local churches across the country, and the largest Christian denomination in Britain that celebrates same-sex weddings.

"This is the first time we will be attending the National Wedding Show," says Bryn Lauder, Festival Events Coordinator. "As an inclusive, loving and welcoming denomination we can't wait to invite couples to consider getting married in a Methodist Church.

"The Methodist Church offers a non-judgmental welcome to all," says Bryn. "We believe marriage is deeper and richer than simply a contractual relationship and a church wedding service reflects the deeper meaning. In a Methodist wedding service, not only are promises made, but God's blessing is invited and the couple held in the prayers of the whole community."

You do not have to have a particular connection with a local Methodist church to get married there. The minister will normally invite couples to marriage preparation sessions, these might be a full course or an informal conversation to choose the music, Bible readings and any particular prayers, poems or other elements to include.

One couple who had undertaken a Methodist wedding commented, "Our wedding day helped establish a strong foundation for the kind of marriage we aspire to have, one with God firmly at the centre."

[Order copies of the booklet 'Not your ordinary marriage: Celebrate your wedding in a Methodist church'.](#)

[Download a PDF.](#)



# Programme for Christian-Muslim relations in Africa

## Private audience with His Holiness Pope Leo XIV

### 28 March 2026

PROCMURA (Programme for Christian-Muslim Relations in Africa), a partner of the Methodist Church in Britain, was honoured to have a private audience with His Holiness Pope Leo XIV at the Vatican on Wednesday 25 March, in a moment that reaffirmed the shared commitment to advancing constructive Christian-Muslim relations across Africa.

During the meeting, the Holy Father recognised PROCMURA's long-standing work in building constructive relations and good neighbourliness between Christians and Muslims across the continent, noting that in a world marked by division and religious tension, such efforts demonstrate that people of different faiths can, indeed, live and work together in peace and harmony irrespective of their religious differences.

Pope Leo XIV further affirmed the Catholic Church's openness to truth and goodness present in other religions, drawing from the Church's teaching that it "rejects nothing of what is true and holy" in them, and emphasising the need for mutual understanding, respect and genuine encounter.

He encouraged continued commitment to dialogue between people of different religious backgrounds, noting that authentic efforts toward unity and peaceful coexistence require openness, humility and a shared responsibility to build communities rooted in fraternity.

The day before the meeting, the PROCMURA Team held a very fruitful meeting with the Cardinal and staff in charge of the Vatican Dicastery for Interreligious Dialogue, to discuss future collaboration in work across Africa in promoting interreligious dialogue and peacebuilding initiatives.

This engagement marks an important moment for PROCMURA's work, strengthening its role in advancing interreligious cooperation, peacebuilding and good neighbourliness across the continent.

The Revd Dr Andrew Ashdown commented, "It has been a huge privilege, both as Partnership Coordinator for Africa, and as Elected Chair of the European Partners of PROCMURA, to participate in these meetings with the Vatican. In the past six months, I have seen for myself in some of the most conflicted areas of Africa – northern Togo, northern Cameroon and northern Kenya – the transformative impact of PROCMURA's work amongst local communities in nurturing reconciliation, building peaceful coexistence where previously there was violence and radicalisation, and addressing some of the complex social challenges that contribute to social and religious violence.

"This work aligns perfectly with the Methodist Church in Britain's (MCB's) priorities of justice and peace and has the potential to help inform our own work in this country as we face challenges of social, political and interreligious tension. PROCMURA is committed to this work; is making a positive impact; and the Catholic Church's support is indicative of the global relevance of its mission and ministry."

The PROCMURA delegation was led by our general adviser, Bishop (Dr) Nathan Samwini, team leader, Ms Joy Wandabwa, and the chairperson of PROCMURA's European partners, the Revd Dr Andrew Ashdown.



# BSL Workshop in Telford

## **BSL Training at Wellington Methodist Church, 25th April**

This is a great opportunity to learn BSL in a Christian context in Telford. This all-day workshop will be provided by Signs of God. Signs of God write:

"Whether you are Deaf or hearing, have no BSL or you are fluent - we have something for everyone.

Teaching will be delivered by both Deaf and hearing tutors and an interpreter will provide support with communication."

For more details and booking please see the Signs of God website at this address:

<https://www.signsofgod.org.uk/events/124>

The opportunity is open to people from across the region and for them there is a course fee of £25. If you are part of the Church family at Wellington Methodist Church and/or the wider Telford Methodist Circuit this training will be funded as part of our commitment to being an inclusive Church. Please contact Barbara Murray, Sharon Hanson or John Parkin to access the relevant booking code.



Taizé Service  
Trinity Centre  
Sunday 26th April  
6:00pm

Come and join us for an evening singing beautiful taizé chants with times of silence and peaceful reflection.

A great way to start your week!

## Pray with us today.

Lord God, may we walk in love. May we walk slowly, step by step, so that we can be still in your presence. May we walk sometimes in silence, so that we can know rest and peace. May we walk with a spring in our step, and go forward with joy. May we walk gazing outwards, seeing the beauty of the world around us. May we walk looking more widely, conscious of other people and their needs. May we walk in faith, knowing that you are beside us on every path that we take. May we walk in love. Amen.

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



# IONA WORSHIP

for Eastertide

using words and music from the  
Iona Community

WELLINGTON METHODIST CHURCH

New St., Wellington

Telford TF1 1LU

Sunday 26th April 2026

5pm

ALL WELCOME

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

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



# THE FILLING STATION

Haughmond & Wrekin

## 27 April 2026

### 7pm for 7.30pm start



Haughmond & Wrekin Filling Station,  
Rodington Village Hall, Shrewsbury,  
SY4 4QS. 7:30 - 9pm, every 4th Monday.

Our Filling Station meetings are held on the 4th Monday, every month, except December. This month, Mark Woolley, a familiar face in this Filling Station reflects on the Word of God working in our lives.

### Main Speaker

#### Mark Woolley

Mark Woolley is a committed Christian, born in Birmingham and has worked as a Mental Health nurse. He was baptised at 15 and his ministry is as an encourager.



Mark is married to Charmaine who has a prayer ministry and they have two children, Faith and Joseph and a grandson, Samuel. Mark does not describe himself as a preacher, but he has a wonderful way of speaking God's truth into our lives.

### Future dates

- 25th May 2026
- 22 June 2026

More info at...

[www.thefillingstation.org.uk/station/haughmond-wrekin](http://www.thefillingstation.org.uk/station/haughmond-wrekin)



Dear Churches Together members

I am writing to invite you and your congregations in all the Churches and meeting houses in Broseley and surrounding area to attend a free local screening of the **People's Emergency Briefing** film on the threats to British life from ongoing damage to nature and to our climate.

**Location: The Birchmeadow Centre, Broseley TF12 5LP**

**Date: Friday 8th May 2026**

**Time: 7pm**

**Booking link:** <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/the-peoples-emergency-briefing-tickets-1984925347146?aff=oddtcreator>

The film features footage from last November's **National Emergency Briefing**, bringing together leading UK experts in climate science, food security, health, economics, national security and nature.

It presents a calm, evidence-based overview of how the climate and nature crisis is affecting everyday life in Britain - and what the science says about risks and responses.

The initiative is explicitly non-partisan and supported by a wide range of organisations, including the Church of England, National Trust, WWF, the Royal Meteorological Society and many others.

Faith communities have long traditions of stewardship, care for the vulnerable, and intergenerational responsibility. We believe this is an important moment for thoughtful, compassionate local dialogue.

Following the 45-minute film, we will host a structured discussion about what this means for our community.

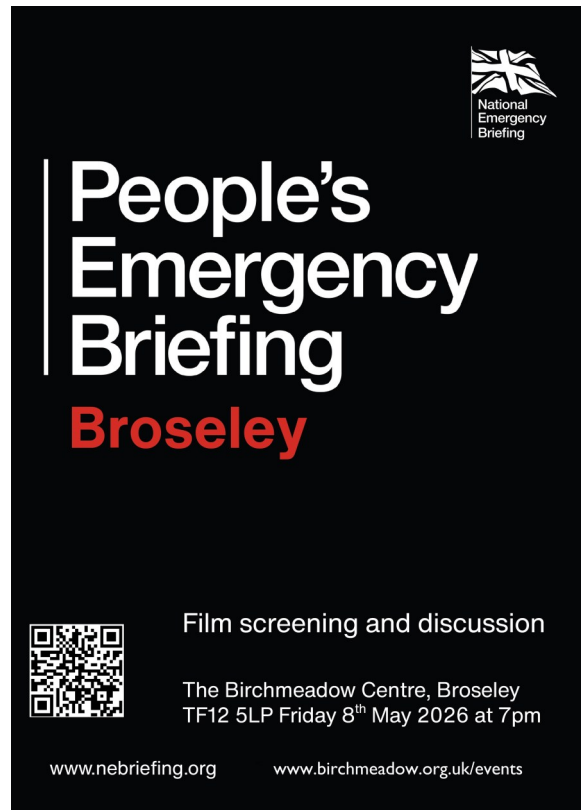
We would greatly value your presence.

I attach an event poster for your use to print and advertise as you think appropriate.

With best wishes,

Clare Cooper  
Broseley Resident and  
Broseley Climate Action Group member

Paul and Clare Cooper  
[cooperspc@fastmail.com](mailto:cooperspc@fastmail.com)



**SATURDAY 9<sup>TH</sup> MAY -  
SHIFNAL TOWN CENTRE**

**christian  
aid**

**Let's eat  
CAKE!**

**10AM ONWARDS**

**Come & Buy or Bring & Supply!**

For more info contact Cathy Clayton on  
[cathyclayton57@gmail.com](mailto:cathyclayton57@gmail.com)

**christian  
aid**



# Bereavement cafe

A support group looking forward, following loss.

**Thursday March 5th**

**Thursday April 2nd**

**Thursday May 14th**

**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 688677



Come along to our

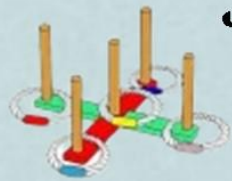


Coffee Morning



Admaston Methodist Church  
On Behalf of Christian Aid

Bratton Road, Admaston  
TF5 0AH



Saturday 16th May  
10.30 until 12.30



Cakes

Preserves

Refreshments

Tombola



Games

Raffle

Jigsaws

Gifts

Car Park Opposite Admaston House off Pemberton Road

# Our Story, Our Song: Growing your Calling in Worship

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**With the President of the Methodist Conference**

Do you feel called to lead worship or see it flourish in your church?

Join us for a day designed to encourage, equip and inspire everyone involved in worship across our churches.

**Saturday 9 May | 9:30–15:30**  
**Trinity Methodist Church, Kidderminster, DY10 2JL**

Save the date! More information coming soon...

9

5

26

Mark your  
calendar!





# Retreats

At Ashley Methodist Church

Upcoming retreat

## 'A DAY OF PERSONAL SPIRITUAL RENEWAL'

led by Rev Helen Kirk (Chair of District)

**SATURDAY 30<sup>TH</sup> MAY**  
**10AM – 3PM**

A day of prayer, quiet time  
and guided reflection,  
including lunch and refreshments

Ashley Methodist Church  
Wesleyan Road, Ashley. TF9 4JT

**£20**  
per  
person



We have a small number of funded places available for the day if finances are a barrier, so if you would like to access one of those, please mention on enquiry.



Enquiries / Bookings  
[retreats@ashleymethodist.co.uk](mailto:retreats@ashleymethodist.co.uk)

For more information  
[www.ashleymethodist.co.uk/retreats](http://www.ashleymethodist.co.uk/retreats)

# TABLE TOP



**Friday May 15th 2026  
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!**

# ***A justice seeking church***



## **Eco News and sources of funding!**

The West Midlands Methodist District (to which we belong) recently held an Eco Forum to listen to the work we are doing in circuits and to consider the support they can offer. They will soon be offering funding to circuits to cover the cost of providing energy audits for our churches (giving advice on energy efficiency and how to cut costs and energy use in our church buildings). More information to follow over the coming months!

Meanwhile, the Learning Network host an Eco Community Network with good news stories from churches around the connexion and advice from experts. The community meet online four times a year (though you can just join when you are interested) and the next meeting is on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April at 7pm with a focus this time on funding and grants. To reserve a place click [here](#).

Some important dates in **April** as we seek the flourishing of our communities and wider world. Could you include these in your worship and/or prayers?

## **April**

### **2 World Autism Awareness Day**

An opportunity to find out more about Autism as a church and to consider and pray about how we might become more welcoming spaces for Neurodivergent people. Click [here](#) for a video about autism. The [National Autistic Society](#) also offer information, guidance and support.

### **22 World Earth Day**

Jo has developed resources to use for a LA service during April or May... please get in touch with her if you would like her to send them to you!

### **25 World Malaria Day**

Malaria is curable and preventable and yet there were still an estimated 610,000 deaths from malaria in 2024 (95% in Africa and 75% in children under the age of 5). Can we pray for sustained investment in the control and eventual elimination of the disease?

### ***Did you know...?***

The Methodist Learning Network host a range of free webinars entitled 'Equipping for Equality'. To find out more and book a place click [here](#).

The next meeting of the Circuit Team for Justice and Inclusion will be on **Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> June at Dawley at 7:30pm** All are very welcome!  
Contact Jo if you would like more information [jokudlacik@gmail.com](mailto:jokudlacik@gmail.com)

## Garden Volunteers Wanted

Do you enjoy gardening and have a couple of hours a week spare?

If so, we'd love you to join a small team to help us maintain our sensory garden at the back of Dawley Christian Centre Methodist Church, situated in the middle of the Dawley High Street.

For more details please call Sharon on 01952 505108.

Thank you.



## 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 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

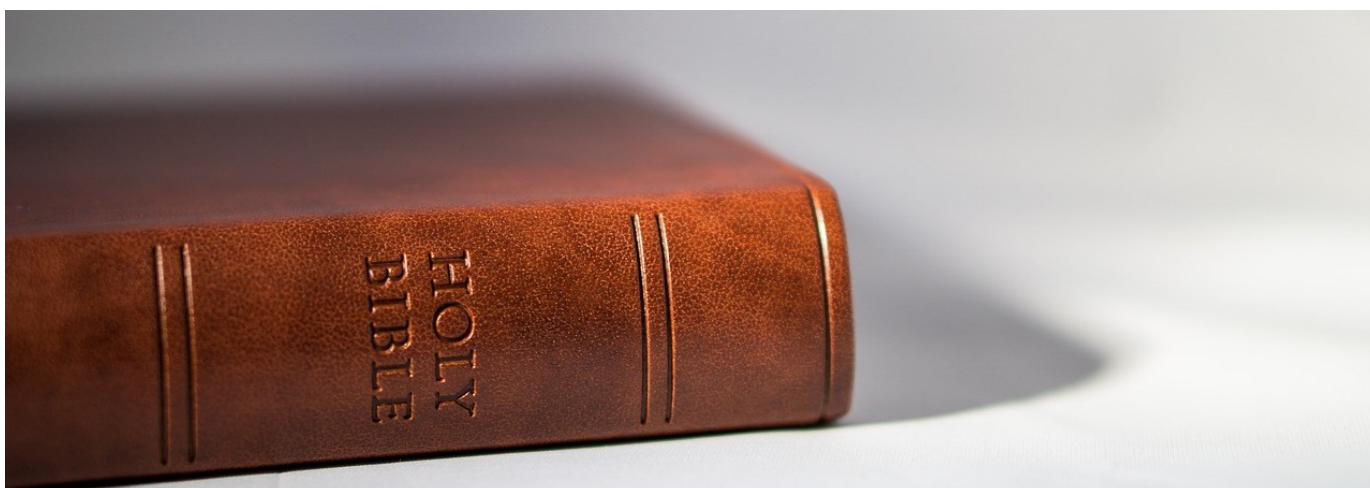
Orchard House Group meet on 3rd Monday in the month at 10:30am

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 (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.



## **Notification of Research Project involving the Telford Methodist Circuit**

Dear Friends,

Most of you will know me as a Local Preacher and Local Lay Pastor. Some of you will be aware I have been undertaking some study at the Queen's Foundation in Birmingham. The last component of my current programme of study is a research paper. With the agreement of the Circuit Superintendent, I have decided to put our Circuit at the core of my research. The purpose of this letter is to:

- alert you to the area of Circuit life that I will be exploring,
- set out how I will be doing my research,
- explain how you can get more directly engaged in the research,
- advise you what will happen with the research.

### **What I am researching**

My research considers the phenomenon of Ghanaian Methodists in the Telford Circuit. Building unity is at the heart of my research. The writer of Ephesians encouraged groups from diverse backgrounds to be "built together in the spirit into a dwelling place for God." (Ephesians 2v22) I hope my research will help us to work together to develop a unifying response to our new context. In the Telford Methodist Circuit, the proportion of the community who have a Ghanaian heritage has increased rapidly over a short period of time. I hope this has the potential to be a sign of unity across ethnic identities. In this research I want to explore the robustness of that unity and start a conversation about how we might strengthen it further.

### **How I will be doing my research**

I have been part of the community of the Telford Circuit for over twenty years and so I am what is called an "embedded researcher", and this leads to my choice of method. The data I will use for my research will be my daily journal. Between 1st March and 31st May 2026, I will maintain a dedicated section of my journal, paying special attention to observations, conversations, and behaviours which relate specifically to the phenomenon of Ghanaian Methodists in Telford. I will be particularly alert to points of divergence where I sense differences in "unspoken rules, habits and styles." I will also be interested to note aspects of the community life where there seems to be greater convergence between Ghanaian and non-Ghanaian members.

The only data that will be collected during this research are the notes in my journal and this will be available only to me, my markers and my supervisor. No observations will be attributed unless someone specifically requests it.

### **How you can be more directly involved (if you want to be)**

I think my observations will be richer if they informed by informal conversations with you as members of the Circuit community and I would like to hear many voices from across the Circuit. To avoid any risk of people being involved without their consent these conversations must be initiated by you. I am very interested in your experiences and perspectives, but this must be on a voluntary basis. I am happy to talk to both individuals and groups and am equally interested in talking to people with and without Ghanaian heritage.

The conversations will not be recorded or documented but will inform my journal entries for the days on which they occur. To avoid the risk that you think I am speaking on your behalf, I will be explicitly locating my findings as coming from my point of view as a white, middle-class male who kind of “knows the ropes” in UK Methodism.

For these conversations to be considered as part of my research they must take place between 1st March and 31st May 2026. If you or your group would like to participate then please contact me at [john@telfordmeth.org.uk](mailto:john@telfordmeth.org.uk). If you are organising a group session, then it is mandatory that members of the group must have seen this letter in advance and must be given the opportunity to exclude themselves. This applies to everyone but is especially true of young people.

After the research period I will be undertaking reflection and analysis and placing my journal findings in conversation with some wider reading. The final part of my paper will be to suggest what my findings might mean for pastoral practice.

I have committed to the Superintendent that I will provide a summarised version of my findings, analysis and recommendations to them. My hope is that this summary will be a useful conversation starter that will help us move into a process of co-creating a unified future together.

The Superintendent and I are aware that any conversations about defining characteristics have the potential to surface strong and difficult feelings. If this applies to you then the pastoral team in the Circuit will be available to provide support and care.

I look forward to hearing from and learning from you.

Love in Christ



John Parkin  
Local Lay Pastor, Telford Methodist Circuit



**A Prayer Meeting is held at  
Horsehay Methodist Church on the  
first Thursday of each month**

**For the Autumn/Winter months, the  
meetings will start at the earlier  
time of 2.30pm**

## Spiritual Abuse Awareness training dates 2026



**Spiritual Abuse Awareness Training**

Developed by the Methodist Church Safeguarding Team, Learning Network and Survivors Group in conjunction with Dr Lisa Oakley, Chester University & Thirtyone.eight

Course overview:

- What is spiritual abuse?
- What is the impact of the experience
- How to build healthy cultures

10.30 – 15.30

**29th January 2026**

**4th June 2026**

**24th September 2026**

**19th November 2026**

on Zoom

To book your place, please follow this link:  
<https://imethodist-spiritual-abuse-training.eventbrite.co.uk>

For more information please contact Christine Kennedy ([ckennedy@methodistchurch.org.uk](mailto:ckennedy@methodistchurch.org.uk))  
Bridget Down ([bridget@methodistchurch.org.uk](mailto:bridget@methodistchurch.org.uk)) or David Knight ([davidknight@methodistchurch.org.uk](mailto:davidknight@methodistchurch.org.uk))

The **Methodist Church**

We are pleased to announce 4 new dates for the Spiritual Abuse Awareness Training in 2026:

29 January

4 June

24 September and

19 November

All the sessions are on Thursdays, from 10.30 – 15.30

To book, please use the Eventbrite link: [Book on Eventbrite for Spiritual Abuse Awareness training](https://imethodist-spiritual-abuse-training.eventbrite.co.uk)

See the [Spiritual Abuse - The Methodist Church](https://www.methodistchurch.org.uk/spiritual-abuse) webpage for further details.

Download a poster [Spiritual Abuse Awareness training poster](#)

Please get in touch if you have something to share.

Email:

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

or phone 01952 505108

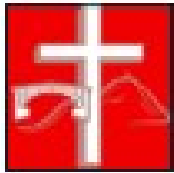


**Sunday 26th July 2026  
at 4pm**

**At Wellington  
Methodist Church**

**Farewell service for  
Rev Roger Dunlop**





# Telford Methodist Circuit International Project 2026



*together with*

## Ajumako Osedzi Methodist Primary School, Ghana



Our aims:

- 1) the provision of an outside canteen
- 2) the renovation and repainting of the classrooms & offices



Can you help us raise £6500 by the end of 2026?

**Can you provide a plain cotton T Shirt (both for men and woman) to someone in a mental health institution (Pantang Psychiatric Hospital) in Ghana?**

The newly inaugurated Sussanah Wesley Mission Auxiliary (SUWMA) within the congregation of Dunwell Methodist Church, Ketley are making their Easter project to provide clothes to the people who are living in Pantang Psychiatric Hospital. They would very much welcome your support. Very often, when families take their loved ones to the institution, they are just left there. They don't get any visitors and there's little hope of them ever leaving. Their families don't provide for them, so it's left to a few people to look after them. And they are struggling.

People taken to the institution include those who have had a breakdown, life in Ghana can be very hard and people struggle to cope.

**We can help make their lives more comfortable and respect their dignity by providing clothes. It's very hot in Ghana so cotton T shirts are ideal.**

If you can help please pass your T shirts on to a Church Steward and we will arrange a way to collect them. Thank you.

**Best sizes to buy/donate would be size 14 and above for woman.**

**Large for men.**

**Bright beautiful coloured T shirts would certainly brighten their day!**

**Any help would be greatly appreciated.**

**Feel free to add a note too which could be read to our friends in Ghana.**

**It's a wonderful way to show love to a stranger.**





## 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.



## Broseley Bible Study (Friday afternoon group)

Read, ponder, share and grow  
together at  
Broseley Methodist Church

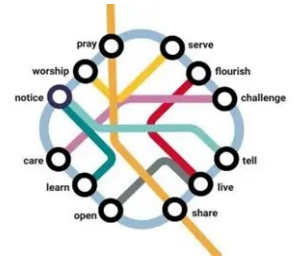
In 2026 we will base our conversations on  
the **Methodist Way of Life**.

How can the Bible inspire and encourage us  
in our discipleship?

All are welcome, no previous knowledge or  
experience needed!

Meeting at 2.30-4pm on

17<sup>th</sup> April - Tell



For more information  
contact Jo on

[jokudlacik@gmail.com](mailto:jokudlacik@gmail.com) or 07840 596074

Don't sit at home feeling cold and hungry.

Come and join us at the **Dawley Christian Centre**.  
**Our Coffee Bar is open between 9-12:30pm from  
Monday - Thursday as a Warm Space.** (We are open  
Friday mornings as usual for cooked breakfasts.)

**Between 11am—12noon** we are offering a tasty  
bowl of soup, with a slice of freshly made toast and  
a refreshing cup of tea or coffee and **it's all free!**

We can get through this winter together.



**Dawley Christian Centre**  
High Street  
Dawley  
Telford TF4 2EX



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 248049 or  
[sarah.thorpe121@gmail.com](mailto:sarah.thorpe121@gmail.com)

## **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 Craft and Chat Group meet on the 2nd & 4th Friday of each month from 10am-11:45am.

There is a small charge but this does include a drink

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



## Safeguarding Reminder: Contact Your Church Safeguarding Officer First

Keeping everyone safe in our church community depends on clear communication and following the right channels.

If you have a safeguarding concern, no matter how small or uncertain, your first point of contact should always be your Church Safeguarding Officer (CSO). They are trained to provide guidance, support, and ensure the right steps are taken in line with Circuit safeguarding policy.

If your church does not have a CSO, or if an issue cannot wait, you can contact:

**Lauren Baxendale, Circuit Safeguarding Officer**

[safeguarding@telfordmeth.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@telfordmeth.org.uk) | 07904 814741

**Stephanie Bradley, Regional Officer for Safeguarding**

[bradleys@methodistchurch.org.uk](mailto:bradleys@methodistchurch.org.uk) | 07817 808557

Reporting concerns promptly to your CSO helps ensure that any issues are monitored, addressed, and escalated as needed.

Thank you for your vigilance and for helping keep our churches safe, welcoming, and supportive for everyone.

## Safeguarding – Dates for Your Diaries!

Calling all those in the Circuit who require Safeguarding training, whether it's a refresher or your first time attending the course (it's the same course for both). There are three upcoming courses in the next few months, so book your place early by emailing me, Lauren Baxendale, Circuit Safeguarding Officer, at [safeguarding@telfordmeth.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@telfordmeth.org.uk).

### Important Information:

- The refresher interval for safeguarding training is **four years**. This ensures that everyone in key roles receives good quality, up-to-date training.
- If you last attended a course in **2022**, it's time to get yourself booked on another!
- If your role requires the **Advanced Module**, you must **first complete** the **Foundation Module** before progressing.

Options for completing the Foundation Module now include an **online module** that can be done at your own pace. Please see the information in the article below for more details on accessing the course.

### Which Safeguarding Training Do I Need to Attend?

Please see the following documents on the [Methodist Church website](#) for details on who needs to attend each module:

[Safeguarding Foundation Module Training: Who needs to attend?](#)

[Safeguarding Advanced Module Training: Who needs to attend?](#)

Many thanks,  
Lauren



**Lauren Baxendale**

Circuit Safeguarding Officer

Dawley Christian Centre, High Street, Dawley, Telford, TF4 2EX  
07904 814741  
[Safeguarding@telfordmeth.org.uk](mailto:Safeguarding@telfordmeth.org.uk) | [www.telfordmeth.org.uk](http://www.telfordmeth.org.uk)

Circuit 3/18 | Registered Charity 1134372

Please note that I work part-time—my regular working hours are Tuesday to Thursday during office hours. This email and any attachments are confidential. If you are not the intended recipient, please inform me and delete the message.

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](mailto:Bradleys@methodist.org.uk)

Stephanie's phone number: 07817808557

Dear Friends,

Please see latest link for advanced courses -

We have courses on -

- 18/4/26 Cannock Chase Circuit
- 9/5/26 Bromsgrove & Redditch Circuit
- 25/7/26 Bromsgrove & Redditch Circuit

[www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/stephanie-bradley-81147774823?msocid=39ddb784e41769a00dcea183e5f8680a](http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/stephanie-bradley-81147774823?msocid=39ddb784e41769a00dcea183e5f8680a)

Thank you.

Steph

**Safeguarding**  
Young people and vulnerable adults

## Safeguarding Training – Now Available Online

The Safeguarding Foundation Course is now available online via [MCBX](#), making it easier than ever for church members to complete their safeguarding training.

This flexible option is ideal for those who find it difficult to attend face-to-face sessions, as the course can be completed at your own pace. MCBX ([mcb.theologyx.com](http://mcb.theologyx.com)) is the Methodist Church's online learning platform, providing access to safeguarding training, supporting materials, and a downloadable certificate on completion.

This online course complements, rather than replaces, face-to-face and participatory training, which continue to be an important part of safeguarding learning.

If you need to complete the Safeguarding Foundation Course, please speak to your Church Safeguarding Officer for further guidance.



**Lauren Baxendale**

Circuit Safeguarding Officer

Dawley Christian Centre, High Street, Dawley, Telford, TF4 2EX  
07904 814741  
[Safeguarding@telfordmeth.org.uk](mailto:Safeguarding@telfordmeth.org.uk) | [www.telfordmeth.org.uk](http://www.telfordmeth.org.uk)

Hi all

Please see link for online advanced if you have anyone who prefers online ~

<https://www.eventbrite.com/cc/nd-methodist-district-safeguarding-training-4444573?utm-campaign=social&utm-content=creatorshare&utm-medium=discovery&utm-term=odclsxcollection&utm-source=cp&aff=escb>

Dates available:

June 30th 10am & 7pm

Any questions please ask.

Thanks

**Stephanie Bradley**

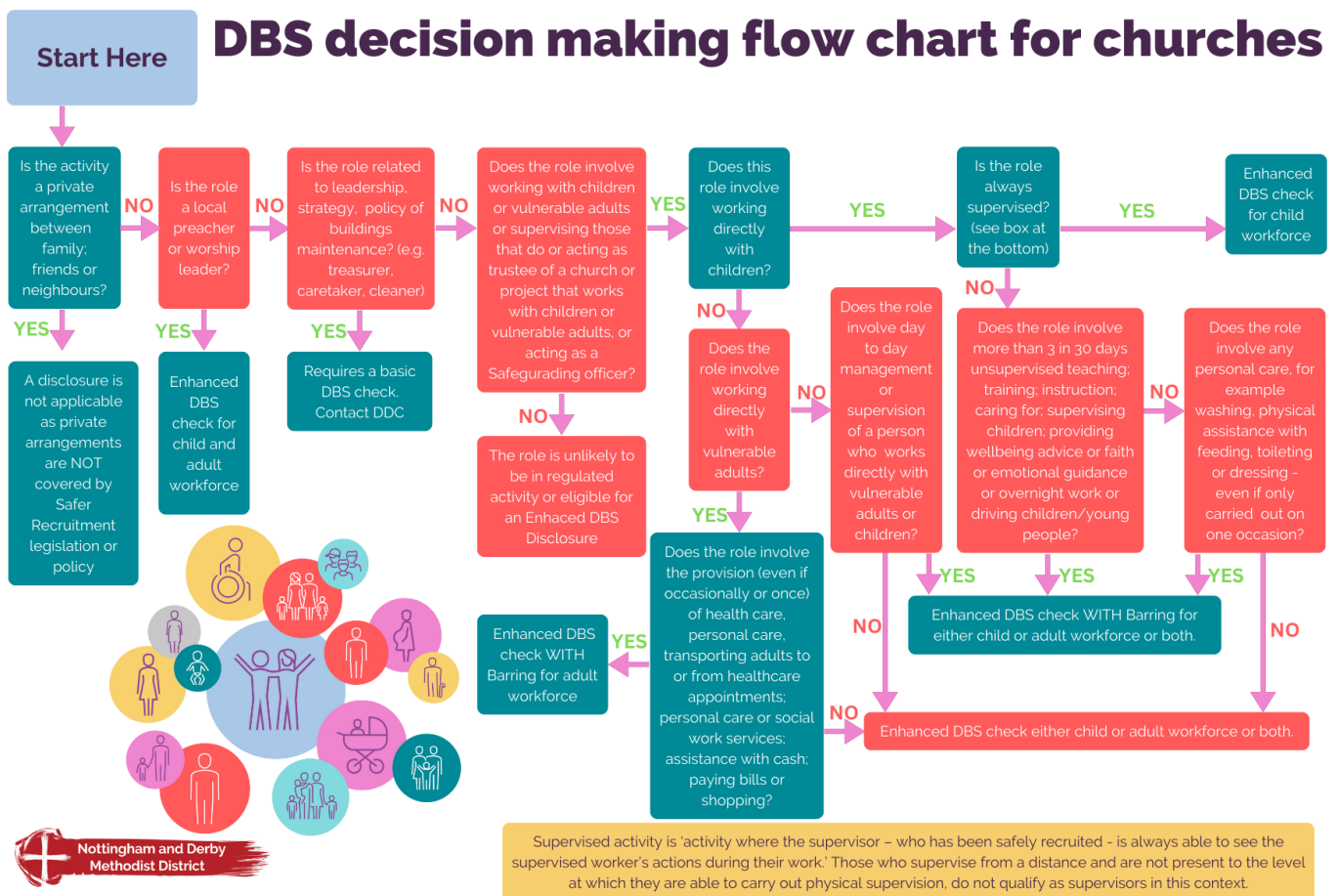
Regional Officer for Safeguarding - North West (West Midlands) |

The Connexional Team

Phone: 020 7467 5296

The **Methodist Church** 

**Safeguarding**  
Young people and vulnerable adults



## New Safeguarding Reporting Form

Safeguarding is everyone’s responsibility, and clear communication is key to keeping our community in the Telford Methodist Circuit safe and supported.

A new **Safeguarding Reporting Form** is now in use across the Circuit. Copies have already been shared with your **Church Safeguarding Officers (CSOs)** and should shortly be **appearing on the Circuit website and your church safeguarding noticeboards**.

If you don’t see a copy, or if you have a safeguarding concern, please notify your **designated CSO** as soon as possible. If your church does not have a CSO appointed, you can contact:

**Lauren Baxendale**, Circuit Safeguarding Officer [safeguarding@telfordmeth.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@telfordmeth.org.uk) | 07904 814741

**Stephanie Bradley**, Regional Officer for Safeguarding [bradleys@methodistchurch.org.uk](mailto:bradleys@methodistchurch.org.uk) | 07817 808557

By reporting concerns promptly using the new safeguarding reporting form, you help ensure that issues are recorded appropriately, responded to quickly, and escalated where necessary.

Thank you for helping us maintain safe and welcoming places for all.



### CHURCH SAFEGUARDING CONCERN FORM

(Any person can complete this form)

**PLEASE NOTE:** If you are worried about contacting us and giving your details, please be assured that we will do what we can to support you. Please telephone your District Safeguarding Officer and they can talk with you about this. Your District Safeguarding Officer can also help you to complete this form or take details over the telephone.

We can arrange pastoral care for you if you would find this helpful. If you would like this, please tick here  or contact your District Safeguarding Officer.

#### Your details

Name:			
Role/Position:			
Tel:			
E-mail:			
Circuit/District:			
Date:		Time:	

#### Details of the person you are worried about

Name:			
Address:			
	Postcode:		
Tel:			
E-mail:			
Child or Adult:	Approximate age or date of birth if known:		
Role (if applicable):			
Church/Circuit:			

If the person you are worried about is a child or vulnerable adult, it would be helpful if you could give some details about their carer.

#### Parent/Guardian/Carer

Name:			
Address:			
	Postcode:		
Tel:			
E-mail:			

Please tell us what you are worried about, when this happened and where:

Could you tell us what action has already been taken (if any)?

Please let us know of any other information you think would be helpful for us to know:

#### PLEASE NOTE:

We may need to share the information you have provided with other agencies to help ensure the person you are referring and others are safe. If the information is passed on to the statutory authorities your name may be disclosed to the person you are referring.

West Midlands District cares about your privacy and your trust is important to us. Our Privacy Notice explains how Local Churches, Circuits and Districts within the Methodist Church in Great Britain collect, use and protect your personal information. It also provides information about your rights (paragraph 9 of the Privacy Notice) and who to contact (paragraph 1 of the Privacy Notice) if you have any questions about how we use your information. You can find our Privacy Notice online ([www.tmc.org.uk/about/data-protection/managing-trustees-privacy-notice](http://www.tmc.org.uk/about/data-protection/managing-trustees-privacy-notice)). Your Circuit Safeguarding Officer will try to deal with any questions as a local point of contact. Alternatively, if viewing this form on line [click here](#) to read our Privacy Notice.

Thank you for completing this form.

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** 