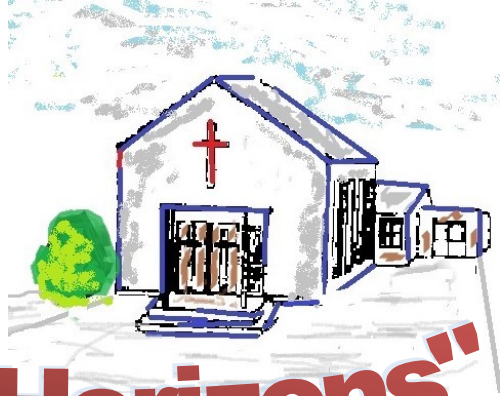


WHITTLESEY QUEEN ST CHURCH

Methodist / United Reformed



"Fresh Horizons"

Spring - 2025



From our Minister

Rev. Dr Langley Mackrell-Hey



As Lent Approaches

As we move towards Lent, I want to begin by offering my heartfelt thanks for the prayers and support following the passing of my father-in-law, Tony. Ro, Ben, and I, along with the rest of the family, have deeply appreciated the love and care you have extended to us. While grief is something we all carry in different ways, and I do not wish to make my own experience the focus, moments of this journey have resonated with me as I think about Lent. This season reminds us of Jesus' call that we should love and persevere through the trials of life, knowing that the Holy Spirit is at work. Even when we are finding it difficult, we care because we still want to make life that little bit easier for others.

One of the most profound moments came when on the day, outside of the crematorium, three of Tony's grandchildren wanted to bear the casket, leaving the funeral director to ask if there was a fourth volunteer (who was short in stature!) I stepped forward. It was a privilege, and a very different place for me to be (emphasising that I was a mourner rather than the one leading worship). As I stood shoulder to shoulder with my niece, we both, quite literally bore the weight of our grief between us. The scent of the pinewood lingers in my memory as a reminder of Tony's environmentally conscious life. That moment encapsulated something about being part of a family and from then on, what 'church' is about: bearing each other's burdens.

Lent, at its heart, is about this very thing. It is a journey of sacrifice, resilience, and ultimately, renewal. Over the past few weeks my recent experience of grief and community has deepened my understanding of ministry. Just a week after Tony's funeral, we supported another grieving family in Whittlesey in remembering David. Ten days later, we remembered Olwen. This was new territory for me. Whilst we are all changing, I was encountering a new set of emotions around what it feels like to help others grieve when you are

still feeling it yourself. Grief does not operate on a timetable; it does not switch off when duty calls. Yet it is in the midst of our vulnerability that the best of us, or rather God in us, that shines through. As the Apostle Paul reminds us in 2 Corinthians 4:7, "We have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us."

At Whittlesey, we have a remarkable way of caring for grieving families—going the extra mile to ensure funerals are deeply personal, whether through meaningful music choices, visual presentations, or simply the warmth of welcome. We bear one another's burdens, and I can personally testify to the power of that care. Yet, I also acknowledge the cost of this ministry—offered with great love and commitment by our team. As I said at Olwen's thanksgiving service before the family arrived, "Welcome. Other services are available!" There was a moment of silence—perhaps they expected something more. But I genuinely meant it. Our hope is that, through all we do, our care for people and the strength of our community will continue to draw others in, offering a place where people can love and be loved.

A Few Words of Thanks

Before I close, I want to acknowledge a few things. First, my thanks to Rhod and the property team for their tremendous work. You have done a fabulous job. Second, among others, my gratitude to the Holiday at Home team as I look forward to a fantastic couple of days this week. Lastly, congratulations to Tim on being accepted as a candidate for ordination training with the Methodist Church in September. The training process will involve important decisions about whether to pursue part-time or full-time study, and we hold Tim and his family in our prayers as they discern the next steps. Be proud that you have had a part in encouraging Tim, and be assured that God will honour you for this.

As we enter this Lenten season, I encourage us all to embrace it in the fullest sense—journeying together, bearing one another's burdens, and trusting that even through trial and tribulation, something greater is being prepared. Take care, and have a blessed Lent.

Whittlesey March — May

March

2nd—Nick Drury

9th— Lorraine Chaundy

16th—Rev Langley (H/C)

23rd—Monica Sturgess

30th Rev Dale Sherriff



April

6th—Own Arrangement

13th—Circuit Service @ Dogsthorpe

20th—Rev Langley (H/C)

27th—Zoe Drury



May

4th—Rev Dale Sherriff

11th—Nick Drury

18th—Rev Langley (H/C)

25th—Circuit Service @ Brookside

- “Do not let Sunday be taken from you. If your soul has no Sunday, it becomes an orphan.” – Albert Schweitzer
- “Sunday is a day of rest. Take a break from the stress of the week and recharge your spirit.” – Unknown
- “Sunday clears away the rust of the whole week.” – Joseph Addison

A very successful Holiday @ Home was held over two days last month for over 30 folk who would have otherwise been unable to get away for a break. Games, crafts and other activities including Upwood Ukuleles, singer Stevie B, card bingo and Ralph's monologues kept the guests occupied. A hot cooked meal was provided each day courtesy of Colin from The Falcon Hotel. The event was ably coordinated by Zoe Drury with a Team from our Church Family with others from Churches Together and the Lions Club. A further two days event is scheduled for August.





A fun filled time for our guests!





*Give me a sense of humour,
Lord, give me the grace
to see a joke, to get some
humour out of life, and
pass it on to other folk.*

Signs of our times? Pew-sheet notices that didn't come out quite right...

Would the person who took the church step ladder last week please bring it back, or further steps will be taken.

After Sunday morning coffee, please empty the teapot and stand upside down on the draining board.

Hymn of Invitation: 'Whoever He Leads I'll Go'

Our visiting monster today is the Revd Jack Bains.

Church toilet out of order. Please use floor below.

Worshippers are asked to wail, until the choir has been served Holy Communion.

Growing up

Your child has started growing up when he stops asking you where he came from and starts refusing to tell you where he's going.

How many church members does it take to change a light bulb?

What do you mean CHANGE??? That light bulb was given in memory of my grandmother! My father installed it with his bare hands!

He donated his time AND the use of his ladder to do it, too! My family's been members of this church for four generations! And if you think you're going to come in here and make changes all of a sudden, minister, you've got another think coming!

Retirement

The trouble with retirement is that you never get a day off.

Passwords

An elderly minister got a call from a scammer who said, "I've got all of your passwords." The minister replied: "Excellent! What are they? Just wait while I grab a pen."

Car wash

Ever feel like life is a car wash and you're on a bicycle?

Permission

Extract from an official letter notifying residents of a new boundary road: "It is hoped to take the new by-pass through the old cemetery, provided we can get permission from the various bodies concerned."

Egg

What did the egg in the monastery say? "Out of the frying pan and into the friar."

Last words

The Seven Last Words of the Church: "We never did it like that before."

Miscellaneous observations on life

Weight loss goal: To be able to clip my toenails and breathe at the same time.

On TV, people can flip a whole house in a month. Meanwhile, I've been 'getting ready to vacuum' for a week now.

What is good about Good Friday?

Paul Abel writes.....

For more than 40 years before 'coming to Faith' for every "good" thing about Good Friday there was a downside. Good Friday was good, but very much with a lower case 'g' if you will.

It was good to persuade my parents to let me have my Easter chocolate on the Friday, but it was not so good that I had no eggs left by Sunday. It was good to visit my nan and grandad (because I would receive more chocolate!) but it was not so good feeling travel sick in the back of the car in the holiday traffic home. It was good to know I had time off school to do what I wanted, but not so good that I still had my paper round & homework to do!

As I got into my late teens & early 20's it was good that I would plan to be on a holiday with my mates, but not so good that it always cost more than I'd thought and I would have to give up a few nights out in the weeks ahead to restore finances.

Then I had my own children and that was a kind of repeat.....endless badgering for chocolate on Good Friday, holiday traffic as we visited parents, expensive and overcrowded zoo trips, a kind of 'ground hog weekend' with Easter being good and not so good. However, there came a time in my 40's when my first genuine prayer brought a step change in my life.

There is no denying that prayer was absolutely answered within a few months - and so began my journey with Jesus, growing in Faith, learning and rejoicing. I began to truly understand why Good Friday was so named. So now, 20+ years later, I know the G in Good Friday is very much a great big capital one. Although it was not good that Jesus was so horribly put to death on the cross, we all can come to know of His love for us and how His sacrifice gives us opportunity to seek forgiveness for our transgressions and sin. To live our lives as per His teachings and to bring others to know this too, for by leaving the tomb on Sunday and subsequently ascending to Heaven, Jesus shows us the way to eternal glory.

Amen

Messy Church Pre-Easter

Our next Messy Church session is scheduled for Sunday 6th April. If you are willing to help in any way then please let Tim know. Also, if you know of families who may enjoy coming along for a couple of hours of fun, fellowship, games and food between 4—6pm then direct them to the booking form on our Church website. Other sessions being arranged for:

22nd June

6th October

7th December



A rooster wakes up early Easter Sunday morning. He sticks his head out of the chicken coop and sees lots of multicoloured eggs all over the barnyard. He takes a look at the eggs, takes a look at the hens, takes another look at the eggs, takes one more look at the hens, thinks about it for a minute, then struts across the barnyard and beats up the peacock!

A vicar was standing in front of the fireplace in his mansion one morning. His eldest son, also a vicar, entered the room and stood next to him. "Good morning, son. How did you sleep?" "Good morning, father. I had the most wonderful dream. I dreamed I was in heaven, and you were there too."

The middle son, also a vicar, entered the room and stood next to them. "Good morning, son. How did you sleep?" "Good morning, father. I had the most wonderful dream. I dreamed I was in heaven, and you and my big brother were there too."

The youngest son, a hippie, entered the room. "Good morning, son. How did you sleep?"

"I slept terribly dad, I dreamed I was in hell!"

"Oh my, what was it like?" asked the father.

"Exactly like here. All the vicars were blocking the heat."

Queen St Movie Events

Just two screenings remaining for this winter season.

Sunday 2nd March at 2pm

“One Life” – cert 12A

Stars Anthony Hopkins

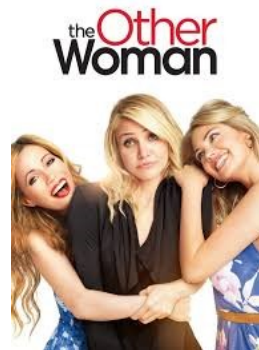


The true story of Sir Nicholas 'Nicky' Winton, a young London broker who, in the months leading up to World War II, rescued 669 predominantly Jewish children from the Nazis. Nicky visited Prague in December 1938 and found families who had fled the rise of the Nazis in Germany and Austria, living in desperate conditions with little or no shelter and food, and under threat of Nazi invasion. He immediately realized it was a race against time. How many children could he and the team rescue before the borders closed?

Saturday 15th March—7pm

“The Other Woman” - cert 12A

Stars Cameron Diaz



After discovering that her boyfriend is married, Carly Whitten tries to get her ruined life back on track. But when she accidentally meets the wife he's been cheating on, she realizes that they have much in common, and her sworn enemy becomes her greatest friend. When yet another affair is discovered, all three women team up to plot mutual revenge on their cheating, lying, three-timing SOB.

A Joke for Lent!

An Irishman moved into a tiny hamlet in County Kerry, walked into the pub and promptly ordered three beers. The bartender raised his eyebrows, but served the man three beers, which he drank quietly at a table, alone. The next evening the man again ordered and drank three beers at a time. Soon the entire town was whispering about the Man Who Orders Three Beers. Finally, a week later, the bartender broached the subject on behalf of the town. "I don't mean to be prying but folks around here are wonderin' why you always order three beers and drink them alone?". "Tis a wee bit odd I would be supposin'" the man replied. "You see, I have two brothers, and one went to America and the other went to Australia. We promised each other that we would always order two extra beers, whenever we would partake, as a way of keeping up the family bond."

The bartender and the whole town were pleased with his answer and with the reverence for family and soon the Man Who Orders Three Beers became a local celebrity and source of pride to the hamlet. Then one day the man came in and ordered only two beers. The bartender served them with a heavy heart. Word flew around the hamlet quickly. Prayers were offered for the soul of one of the brothers. The next day, the bartender said to the man, "Folks around here, me first of all, want to offer our condolences to you for the death of your brother"

The man pondered for a moment then replied, " You'll be happy to hear that my two brothers are alive and well. It's just that I, meself, have decided to give up drinking for Lent."



Malcolm's Wordsearch

Weather

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|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| F | R | O | S | T | A | C | M | I | S | T | G |
| W | L | E | R | E | G | F | H | T | T | P | A |
| E | K | I | T | E | J | L | O | N | H | R | L |
| A | V | F | G | E | P | R | X | G | U | T | E |
| T | B | D | O | H | M | O | F | H | N | U | S |
| H | E | K | M | R | T | O | R | N | D | P | D |
| E | N | T | V | X | E | N | R | T | E | Z | R |
| R | O | M | C | E | E | C | I | A | R | G | I |
| N | L | A | H | L | S | M | A | N | B | O | Z |
| I | C | P | Q | S | N | U | W | S | G | Y | Z |
| A | Y | A | C | E | O | F | H | J | T | K | L |
| R | C | D | N | I | W | B | R | E | E | Z | E |

Find the following in the wordsearch __ Weather, Rain, Wind, Sun, Barometer, Storm. Lightning. Thunder, Cyclone, Ice. Snow , Frost, Map. Gale, Breeze Fog, Mist, Drizzle, Forecast, Report

Origins and Development of the Methodist/United Reformed Church situated in Queen Street Whittlesey.

The earliest record we have is dated June 1866 when the present site was purchased from William Southwell, a cooper. A photocopy of a deed records that in June 1866 at a meeting of the Court Leet and Court Baron of John Wallbank Childers, (who was Lord of the Manors of Whittlesey at that time) the transaction was completed. Property in the Manors was held by its owner as copyhold, which meant the Lord of the Manor retained an interest in it. The site was purchased from William Southwell by the following twelve men who became the first Trustees of the property:

John Poles, Alwalton, Farmer, James Aldgate, Peterborough, Draper
John Thurston, Peterborough, Ironmonger, Thomas Elderkin, Whittlesey, Miller, Edwin Burton Elderkin, Whittlesey, Farmer, William Hawkins, Whittlesey, Shoemaker, John Richard Dearing, Whittlesey, Grocer, Thomas Goodwin, Peterborough, Grocer, Richard Bright, Peterborough, Druggist, George Blunt, Turves, Whittlesey, Farmer, John Henry Beeby, Peterborough, Coal Merchant, George Fletcher, Coates, Whittlesey, Grocer.

It is interesting to speculate whether or not each of the twelve made the same contribution to the purchase price, or possibly there were already folk meeting in houses in the Town for the purpose of prayer and worship who also contributed. It was a well established practice in early Methodism for people to meet in groups, called classes, for the class leader to collect a small sum of money from each of them, on a regular basis, for the purpose of providing a building in which to meet.

The deed also records that the purpose behind the purchase of the site was to erect a Wesleyan Methodist Church. This was eventually

one of the foundation stones confirms this.

Meanwhile two other Methodist Churches flourished in the town. The Primitive Methodist Church in Woolpack Lane and the United Methodist Church in Church Street.

When various branches of Methodism united in 1932 the Primitive Methodist Church closed and the building became the local Freemasons Hall. Members of this Church relocated at either the Queen Street or Church Street premises.

In 1936 records show that the site in Queen Street was released from copyhold by the payment of £6 to the Lord of the Manor and the property became freehold.

In 1965 it was decided to close the Church Street Church and have one modern Methodist Church in the town. This involved remodelling the old Wesleyan structure and turning it into the building which now exists. The ceiling was lowered, the central pulpit was taken out, the choir galleries were removed and the entrance porch was modernised. In October 1966 the Church was reopened and became the sole Methodist Church in the town. The former Church Street Church was purchased by the Jehovah's Witnesses.

Since 1966 further changes have taken place. In 1982 the King's Dyke Methodist Church closed and its members joined the Church at Whittlesey. From the proceeds of sale of the King's Dyke property a large meeting room named the Wesley Room was built and paid for. This room joined the Church to the schoolroom.

A further change occurred in 1993 when the local United Reformed Church decided to close and form a local ecumenical partnership with the Methodist Church. A further two meeting rooms were added in a loft space and this part became known as the Robert Browne suite. The formation of the LEP brought a number of advantages in terms of

increases in the congregation, greater financial viability and the fact that we could now draw on the resources of both parent Churches. Our hope at that time was that the LEP would move into 21st century able to provide a strong worship centre within the town and with enhanced facilities serve the community more effectively. We continue with that sense of hope at the centre of all we do.

Previous Ministers

1926-1929—Rev W Croxford

1929—1932—Rev Harry Johnson

1932—1935—Rev W Watson

1935—1944—Rev Ernest Fisher

1944—1948—Rev Harry Robson

1948—1951—Rev W Nicholas

1951—1959—Rev George East

1959—1963—Rev Peter Stanley

1963—1968—Rev Eric Cox

1968—1975—Rev W Herbert Mountford

1975—1985—Rev Jack Staples

1985—1989—Rev John Beebe

1989—1996—Rev Derek Jaggard

1996—2000—Rev Lawrie Sharp

2000—2007—Rev Julian Pursehouse

2007—2009—Rev Jan Tate

2009—2013—Rev Kerry Tankard

2013—2019—Rev Lesley Moseley

2019—2025 Rev Dr Langley Mackrell-Hey

Why do I LOVE Queen Street Church?

By Laure Christelle Fofeh

“Hello everyone! Today, I want to share something close to my heart: why I love Queen Street Church.”

Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 12:12–17 that every professing believer is part of the body of Christ. As individual body parts, we can't do much by ourselves. Instead, the power and the potential of the church are in what we can do together..

“Why do I LOVE Queen Street Church?.

Welcoming Atmosphere

“From the moment I first walked through the doors, I felt accepted and valued.”

- Regular shared meals where everyone contributes a dish, fostering a sense of community.
- Decorations that change with liturgical seasons, like Advent wreaths, Easter lilies, or harvest displays.
- Celebrations for baptisms, anniversaries, or dedications, allowing the whole community to share in these significant moments.
- Seasonal Events such as the Candlelight services during the Christmas season.
- Personalized Welcomes: Greeters who take the time to learn and use your name.
- Coffee Hour Conversations: Informal chats after the service over coffee and snacks.
- A sense of inclusivity where people feel welcomed regardless of background or appearance.
- Members asking each other about life, health, and family with genuine interest.

Supportive Community

Our church often holds prayers of intercession in support of those undergoing hardship, those unwell at home or in hospitals.

Church members are also very willing to help during joyful times.

I remember vividly the tremendous help and support we received when we were baptising our baby Elsa in September last year. It was

truly amazing to see how virtually everyone helped and supported us in some ways. First, we were touched to see that the church community decided to change the date of Festival Lunch which was meant to take place in the church hall so that we could use the hall to host our reception.

Some people took their time right from the preparation stage to share ideas and even picked items they were going to work on. Members came and met with us on the eve to arrange the hall, on the days of the reception, everyone played a role in tidying up and cleaning. In no time the hall was clean and tidy without any special effort. It was to us a true manifestation of LOVE.

“Being part of this church has made me a better person.”

My family also shares my view of the beauties of this church.

Finally,

“Queen Street Church is more than a place—it’s a source of hope, love, and connection.”

I wish to express my heartfelt thanks and gratitude to you all.

“Thank you for letting me share why Queen Street Church means so much to me.”



Trapped in the Desert (submitted by Ian)

“We left Egypt in triumph. God had sent plagues to afflict the Egyptians, in whose land we were slaves, culminating in sudden death of the first-born son of every Egyptian family. Only our own children were spared - we had painted the doorways of our houses with blood from a sacrificed lamb and God’s messenger of death passed over our families leaving them untouched.

Following that last plague the Egyptians lost the will to oppose Moses’ demands for us to go free. They were suddenly eager for us to leave, even showering rich gifts on us to encourage us to go at once. We had no time even for bread dough to rise, so on that journey we were eating unleavened bread. We were in triumph, singing on our way. Not that we were quick, slowed by children and animals, as we struck out eastwards into the desert. Most of us were overawed by the emptiness, such a sea of sand. But Moses confidently led the way.

After a few days we pitched camp at Pi-hahiroth, by an arm of the Red Sea, which we would have to skirt. It was a desolate place. That evening our lookouts came into camp with fearsome news. A cloud of dust on the horizon had resolved into an army of heavily armed troops, mostly mounted on chariots. Pharaoh, the Egyptian king, had changed his mind, and his troops would either drive us back to slavery in Egypt or kill us all – morning would decide which.

We were trapped – ahead the sea, behind the Egyptian army, and even if some of us broke through the Egyptian lines we would be in the desert, without food or shelter, and visible to our pursuers from miles away. It was the end of our hopes; no future anymore. We turned on Moses with anger and complaint. But he was little moved: in that commanding voice he has he told us, “Don’t fear; stand firm; the Lord will fight for us and we shall come through”. Empty promises, we thought, but did as he instructed and were ready to move quickly in the morning. We would go across the sea, “that way”, he said, stretching his hand toward the waters.

That night there was a fierce wind, but at the same time dense fog as clouds swept down over the land. During the night we saw the sea had retreated. There was dry land right across the sea bed, and we made haste to move forward. The Egyptians were bogged down in camp by the awful weather, and were at first in no hurry. But when they saw we had gone they hastily struck camp and followed us. We crossed safely; Moses paused at the other side and looked back, stretching out to point the way we had come. We were terrified to see the Egyptian army in hot pursuit; but then the sea suddenly came back, overwhelming them, and we knew we were safe. God be praised!

I don't know to this day how it happened, just that somehow Almighty God had protected God's people. We journeyed on: there have been many trials for us since that day, and we have not yet come into the promised land. But we will – if not ourselves, our children or their children will see that day.

Most of us may know this story. It is taken from the Old Testament, Exodus chapter 14. A story almost of pre-historic time, it has often inspired hope in Christian as well as Jewish people. God looks after his people, whether individuals, a church or a nation, and there is always hope for the future, even when we seem to be trapped in a desert place. Life does have a habit of offering unexpected new directions, in which we see the hand of God.

I like Charles Wesley's take on this story:

Forward? But whither shall we go?

*The desert is on every side,
Behind us the Egyptian foe,
Before, the interposing tide!
Yet while we thy command obey,
Our road impassable pursue;
The ocean yields an open way,
And lets thy ransomed people through.*

Appropriate Names

I don't know why I remembered this at Christmas 24, maybe something to do with not being well enough to go to church. One Christmas in my student days I was staying with my grandparents and on Christmas morning I walked down to the local Methodist Church. I remember only two things. Firstly, the old lady next to me said the Lord's Prayer with an obvious understanding I'd not heard before, but secondly the amazing fact that the Rev'd **Weary** was not able to take the service and his place was taken by a local preacher called Mr. **Readymarcher**!

Linda C

From Ed—I found this reflection on a web page, thought it worth sharing!

Today is a day I have been longing for, for at least a month. The church bells are playing, the sun is shining, the temperature is rising, and I can see bits of grass under



mounds of snow. In some ways, the dreariness of winter has been most appropriate. We are in Lent after all, so the feeling of weariness seems appropriate. Any hint of spring would only tease us into a sense of relaxation – something we do not associate with Lent. And yet, today feels like a little taste of Easter – a promise of what is to come in just a few short weeks. For some reason, I really needed that taste today.

Of course, we always live our lives in a state of “already and not yet.” As Christians we understand that the kingdom of God is already present and not yet fulfilled. We live in a strange state of in between

– of knowing that the Saviour has come, and yet a time of waiting for the return of the Messiah. It is an odd reality, and yet how we also understand this odd time.

Lent can be that way too. We already know what happens after the crucifixion of Jesus. Therefore staying in the moment, staying in the state of repentance and thoughtfulness about our sin feels contrived or forced – like pretending those birds aren't chirping when we clearly hear them. But that is also the beauty of Lent. In fact, I think that is why we can experience Lent at all. How else could we agree to delve into the depths of our sinfulness, our separation from God and others, without the promise of the Resurrection. The Resurrection does not excuse us – it simply anchors us so that we can do the hard work that we need to do during Lent.

So today, I will breathe in the little promise of Easter. I thank God for the gift of sun on my face and the trickle of melting snow. And then I will get back to Lent with a little more energy and hopefulness.

.....

RIP

Olwen Cornwell Pettit

17-1-32- 13-1-25

Loved and not forgotten



At the time of going to print there were no details available concerning Lent and Easter. You are encouraged to sign up for “Soul Food,” a Lenten daily study guide from the Methodist Church which can be found at:

[www. Methodist.org.uk/for-churches/soul-food/](http://www.Methodist.org.uk/for-churches/soul-food/)

Full details of services, etc through the season will be available via Notices and the Church website.

*My jelly beans tell a
wonderful story,
All for God's own glory.*

☐ Red is for the blood of
God's only son,
☐ Black is for the sins
we've done.

An Easter Promise

☐ Yellow is for the morning
so bright,
The day He arose
to make all things right.

☐ Green reminds us that
He is risen,
☐ White is for the
forgiveness we find in Him.

☐ Purple is for Jesus'
throne,
☐ Pink reminds me
that I am never alone.

*A bag full of jelly beans,
colorful and sweet.
It's a prayer, a promise,
and an Easter treat.*

by Rachael Strickland





choose Kindness

As the world fights to figure everything out,
I'll be holding doors for strangers,
letting people cut in front of me in traffic,
saying good morning,
keeping babies entertained in grocery lines,
stopping to talk to someone who is lonely,
being patient with sales clerks,
smiling at a passersby.

WHY?

Because I will not stand idly by and
live in a world where love is invisible.

Join me in showing kindness,
understanding, and judging less.

Be kind to a stranger,
give grace to friends who are having a bad day,
be forgiving of yourself - today and every day

BE the change, BE the light,
start today and never stop.

Audrey Loves Paris

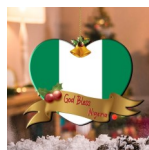
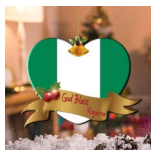
As folk may know, Bola returned home to Nigeria for the Christmas period. She is safely back home, working hard and on Sundays among her Church Family friends. Bola submitted this message with the photographs for our Magazine.

Merry Christmas from The Covenant Church Lagos, Nigeria.

Christmas service was warm, full of hope and the prayer session on the eve to welcome the new year also packed with messages of Hope.

Hope for me could be seen on the streets of Lagos well lit up with Christmas decorations and lighting. Families visiting with their children to celebrate the season of the birth of our Lord.

Let's spare our thoughts and prayers for all Nations to be full of Hope not only at Christmas but at all times.



Paul's Piece Spring 2025



It has been a particularly busy time this winter as we project managed the restoration work following the flooding during our Harvest service & celebration. The understanding and support of you all and the groups who meet in our community space has been commendable. I am extremely pleased that our buildings are much appreciated by the Whittlesey Town Band and

Whittlesey Sax Choir who have offered to perform in support of our "Raise the Roof" appeal. I hope many of you and your family, friends and neighbours will enjoy the performance on Saturday March 8th from 7pm and make a suggested £10 donation to help restore our church finances after the flat roof replacement works.

In mid-February Queen Street Church hosted the first Winter Holiday@Home event over two days in support of some 30 older/vulnerable people. Working with volunteers from Queen Street and other churches and organisations like Whittlesey Lions Club, the event provides entertainment, activities, conversation and friendship with a hot meal and copious hot beverages with 'Community Cars' transportation for those requiring it. Feedback from last Summer's event included many who commented that it was a wonderful time and seemed so long to wait for next August.....so Zoe and her team have worked very hard with an organising committee to make it just a 6 month wait for the guests and thanks go to all from our church who volunteer in various ways to make Holiday@Home a success.

Of course we also have our weekly Saturday Friendship Club and Friday coffee mornings which are open to the wider community and led/facilitated by lovely volunteers from our church family and beyond. The Winter Movie screenings have been much appreciated with reasonable attendances from townsfolk whose donations are also helping our fundraising.

As your church secretary I have oversight of all of this and some! I enjoy working with Rhod on the property side of things and liaising with the groups using our space. Administration by way of church returns and work with our URC friends has also kept me busy as your church secretary and I have also been challenged with my work as a Circuit steward.

Your church trustees have had a lot to discuss and plan since the last Fresh Horizons magazine went out, so much so that we will have had four meetings by this Spring publication. The trustees work to ensure compliance of our public buildings and also with our Circuit of churches in Peterborough and the wider Methodist church in Britain. Part of our time has been spent working on the "God in love unites us" conversation and the teaching that our church is compelled to have as the trustees journey with you towards an indicative ballot on same sex marriage. This fits with the Methodist Church calling for us to be a growing, inclusive, evangelistic and justice seeking Church. The trustees are aware this is a sensitive matter and that we may feel challenged or insecure in varying ways as we journey through to a ballot. At the time of writing we had our first compassionate and learned lesson from Rev Langley supported in excellent prayer by Linda and I have distributed transcripts via email to many of you. Your pastoral visitors can offer printed copies as requested and will be the distributors of the future ballot papers to us all.

Yours,

Paul





Musical Evening

**Featuring Whittlesey Concert Band
& Whittlesey Sax Choir**

Saturday 8th March

**at Queen St Church
7pm (doors 6.30)**

**Refreshments available during interval
A community event - open to all!**

Suggested entry charge at door— £10 (children half) - cash or card

All proceeds for "Raise the Roof" fund for Church flood repairs!



WHITTLESEY
CONCERT BAND

A man took a vacation to Israel with his wife and mother-in-law. During their time in the Holy Land, his mother-in-law unexpectedly passed away. The following day, the husband met with the local undertaker to discuss funeral plans.

"In cases like these, there are a couple of options to choose from," the undertaker explained. "You can ship the body home for £5,000, or you can bury her in the Holy Land for just £150." The man took a minute to think about it, and then announced his decision to ship her home.

The undertaker, intrigued by his decision, said, "That's an interesting choice. Can I ask why would you pay £5,000 to ship your mother-in-law home, when you can easily bury her here for £150?" The man promptly replied, "About 2,000 years ago, a man died and was buried here. Three days later he rose from the dead, and I can't take that chance!"

Part 1 Hong Kong Forsyth Trip

Why Hong Kong? That is probably the first thing to address before anything else. In June 2024, I (Matt) was designated Vice President of the Methodist Church for 2025-2026. Now, this in itself most likely causes even more questions! The role dates back to the 1932 Deed of Union when Methodists came together. In this union, it was decided that there would be a president (ordained) and a Vice President (layperson) who would, for a year, help lead the Conference, which, until recently, was the governing body of the Church. My year in office begins in June 2025, but before I take this up, it is customary for the designates to go on an overseas trip. The purpose of this trip is:

Give an experience of worldwide Methodism to the Vice President that might enrich their year in office.

To strengthen relationships with our global Methodist partners.

For me, this trip was extra meaningful because Amy and the girls were able to go.

So, we went for a week to Hong Kong, leaving at 5:50 pm UK time to arrive the next day at 2:50 pm (they were 8 hours ahead of us). Upon arrival, we took a taxi to the hotel where we would be staying. Immediately, you notice the juxtaposition between the extremely tall high-rise apartment blocks and the green of the mountains—fun fact: around 40% of Hong Kong is green space. We arrived at our hotel in Wan Chai, and our trip started quickly with a quick refresh and an evening meal with the Hong Kong Methodist Conference Secretary Keith Lee and his assistant Hoyan. We walked to this meal and some ten minutes to the restaurant, but our senses were overloaded. The sounds of the beeping walkways, the noise of the taxis, the smell of the food from the fish market or the restaurants, and not forgetting the lights of the buildings, to name just a few. The food experience from day one until the very end did

not disappoint. The flavours are nothing like any Chinese food we might have from the Whittlesey takeaways. Despite jet lag and travel, the kids were more than happy to try much of what was offered to them (which was a lot!). At that meal, I understood the Hong Kong Methodist Conference a bit more and learned about its issues and challenges. A declining membership due to recent 2019 troubles meant members emigrated abroad. Coupled with this was a reduction in youth participation in Church for various reasons. Keith shared with us their 50th-anniversary celebration (tracing our roots and progressing with gratitude).

The first full day brought meetings with the Hong Kong Conference President and Vice President. It was fascinating for me to meet them and hear about both the similarities and differences in roles. The biggest is a 3-year post rather than one year. Their challenges felt strangely similar to ours. Meeting them was a great opportunity and experience for me. After this meeting, we all visited the International Church, which has a long history in Hong Kong. On the other hand, the building is still relatively new, with 23 floors (you read that right!) We were greeted by the best coffee I have ever had at a Church, served in the lobby by baristas who were training. Notably, these baristas in training came from several SEN organisations and the Church family itself. This free coffee on offer during the week every day is a part of the church's outreach and was indeed something to behold. It was so encouraging to see the church finding innovative ways to connect with the community and its needs and have the boldness to share the good news of Christ.

After this, our day would continue with further activities, which I will reflect on in part 2 of the trip in the following Church Magazine.

Please see photos on next page





The Fofeh Family have become a much valued addition to our congregation and for several months we have been blessed by having Job's mother Cecile joining them. Sadly, Cecile has now had to return home to Cameroon—her smiling joyous presence will be missed but we hope to see her here again before too long!

Photo taken on Cecile's final visit on 9th February.

Why not use space in this publication to advertise your goods or services? There's always room—just let the editor know in good time for inclusion.

Copies of this Newsletter are placed in Vestibule. Would those **pastoral visitors** with “non email” members on their list who are unable to attend Church please ensure they receive a copy.

Do you have any items you wish to be inserted into the next Magazine? Please email or send via social media to Tony by mid May.

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