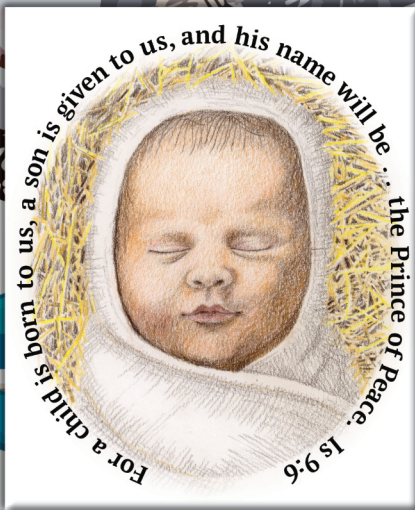


50p

December 2023

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS FROM LUDLOW METHODIST CHURCH



Advent and Christmas Greetings

A new year in the Christian Church has begun. We call this season "Advent", from the Latin *adventus* meaning "coming". This year it began on Sunday 3rd December and it will end on Sunday 24 December. It is a period of expectant waiting and preparation for the celebration of the Nativity of Jesus, our dear Lord and Saviour.

For Christians, the season of Advent serves a dual reminder of the original waiting that was done by the people of Israel (God's chosen people) for the birth of their Messiah as well as the waiting that we today endure as we await the second coming of our Lord.

Waiting for the Lord gives real meaning for the Christmas feast, and real purpose for all our lives. We just need to hope and firmly trust.

David writes in this Psalm 37: "Commit your way to the Lord; trust in him, and he will act." (Psalm 37:5). We too, will want to commit our life to Him for whom we are waiting this Advent.

There are also a lot of very young children waiting for the arrival of Father Christmas or Santa Claus. Sometimes when you are young it seems to take forever for Christmas Day to come, and the little ones often get over excited. But it eventually arrives, and children wake very early on Christmas Day to the dismay of worn out parents, I seem to remember.

Maurice and I would like to wish you all a very happy and blessed Advent and Christmas celebration, and hope that 2024 will bring you all new joy in your ongoing Christian journey.

Denise

17th December services are as follows:-

0830 Holy Communion led by Denise

1030 Service led by Mike

1500 (3pm) Cake and Carols

24th December Christmas Eve services are as follows:-

1030 Carol Service led by Adrian

2100 (9pm) Watchnight Service of Holy Communion led by Denise

25th December Christmas Day Service

1030 Jesus' Birthday Christmas Service led by Denise

If you had been in Wesley's sometime in 2023 you might have met someone from:

Barnard Castle, Barrow, Barmouth, Berkshire, Bewdley, Birmingham, Brighton, Broughty Ferry, Cambridge, Chester, Clitheroe, Driffield, Enfield, Glamorgan, Hereford, Liverpool, Norfolk, Nottingham, Rossendale, Somerset, Stoke on Trent, Stourport, Swanwick, Tyrone, Whitchurch, Wrexham, Wallingford, or Yarmouth (I. O. W.)

You might also have met two Americans, an Australian, a Canadian lady who worshipped here 60 years ago, and someone from Switzerland.

One person wrote, "*Here for church and back for the café on Friday! Thanks for the warm welcome, keep up the good work. Congratulations on the eco-church award and fairtrade status.*"

Another wrote, "*A lovely warm welcome, beautiful peaceful surroundings and delicious food with friendly volunteers.*"

Stephen Dalton

Once again this year we will have our giant Christmas Card available in December for us all to sign and send greetings to everyone else at Ludlow Methodist Church. It is hoped that this will reduce the expense and bother of sending cards to each other, with the added risk that we might leave someone out! There will be a donation box alongside the card and monies raised will go to support the Tear Fund Christmas Appeal.

Carols by Candlelight

Wednesday 6th December at 7.30pm

The service of biblical and festive readings, and carols, sets the scene for advent and the events of Christmas. The service is open to everyone, not just the immediate church family. Please pass the word around, especially to folks who might not otherwise hear about it.

Light in the Darkness: Neil and Rhiannon Richardson will lead Advent reflections in Church on Tuesday December 5th and 12th, (10-30 to 11.00 a.m).

Coffee available in Wesley's afterwards; stay if you can.

My Christian Journey So Far! Part 3 – Adulthood

As I was now seated in the main body of the Chapel I began reading the Bible from the front and became a steward for the first time. We worked in pairs covering both am and pm Services the same day. We had three pairs of stewards and you were appointed for a six year period. Each year a new steward was brought in and the senior steward stepped down so you knew when you joined that being Senior Steward was inevitable. I can tell you now that I have been either a steward or senior one for more years than I've not been one. Through that I became a member of the Church Council.

I also attended Bible classes which were initially set up in people's houses but as the group got bigger and bigger we decamped to the Church. We never had any prayer meetings. I also became Circuit Secretary because of my shorthand skills and completed two stints of six years each time with a break in between.

However, I still kept the entertainment side going by writing broad Yorkshire poems involving situations and people of the Church who didn't mind being pulled to pieces a bit. I joined Bethesda Ladies' Choir who went around the district giving concerts. I was in two pantomimes, once as principal boy and the second time as a comical robber in Babes in the Wood. I organised and trained the younger end in lots of concerts and I participated in many of them either in singing, comedy, soliloquies, tap and ballet, the latter two being send-ups. I hired costumes for all the above concerts which were very successful and raised enormous amounts of Church funds. There again, what's new?

During my 20s and 30s we had three unsavoury Ministers.

The first was had up for soliciting in gents toilets. When he went to court I've always thought the jury must have been made up of all young women because his Superintendent, who represented him, was a fabulously good looking chap, tall with jet black hair, who walked about in flowing black robes looking like Christopher Lee as Dracula. The culprit got off!! After that he left and was not heard of again.

The second Minister thought he was God's gift to women. Married, with a three year old son at the time, he hadn't been with us two minutes before his philandering began. He started eyeing

up and propositioning young ladies in order of beauty. I was a bit peeved when I found out I was number 2! The first was our organist's married daughter who told him in no uncertain terms where to go. She told me this as we were firm friends. He got the same treatment from me. Further down the line, he eventually got his way with a plain looking girl who was desperate for his affection and they had an affair. The Minister's wife got wind of this and asked me to spy on them for her but I refused as I didn't want to be drawn into the situation. Anyway, when it was his time to move on, as he only went to the next town, his paramour thought the affair would continue. He had other ideas. It was unfortunate for his ex when she saw a write-up in the National Newspapers about him leaving his wife and son and eloping with a member of his new congregation. Much later we heard from one of our congregation who corresponded with his wife that she was now happily married to someone else.

The third Minister drank a lot and one late night he was found lying in a road kicking a policeman. That made the local paper. He wasn't suspended but was moved to Scotland so we had to manage for a year with local preachers and a trainee Minister. All this happened in little old Elland. Ever since I've been in Ludlow things have seemed pretty tame!!

At one time we had a Minister and his wife who liked to invite all the over 18s to their Manse after the evening Service for a get-together. When they moved to a suburb of Leeds four or five of us used to visit once in a while to meet his new flock as one of our young men had a car. We consisted of two men and either two or three ladies. One lady was older than the rest of us and to put it mildly she was a proper pest. Coming home one night she felt sick. The car was duly stopped while she got out to be sick over a wall. We resumed our journey but I realised she had lost her false teeth. On mentioning that the car driver turned the car round as she wanted the men to go back to look for them! Needless to say, they jumped over the wall and stayed still, returning to say they couldn't find them. They had no intention of looking for false teeth in a pile of sick.

Anyway, much later when I was in my early 50s, we had a lovely Minister in the Circuit who, during a send off party for another Minister, said, "Congratulations" to me. I replied "What for?" He said "For passing your Worship Leaders' Course". I said, "I've

never taken one'. "Oh, sorry, my mistake, it must have been another blonde, but would you like to do one?" I said, "OK". The course was at his house in a neighbouring town. I really enjoyed it. There were three of us but only me from Bethesda. We had quite a few meetings as the course was extensive with lots of homework if you were prepared to put the time and effort into it. The other two weren't very conscientious as one question asked us to put a service together. They only wrote an order of service and I wrote sixteen pages writing a whole Easter Service. One time we all went to our Chapel to read from the front without microphone to see if the Minister could hear us from the back. I passed the course. From then on I helped this Minister in all the services he led at our Chapel. I took a fair few myself in the evenings. I also helped him take Sunday afternoon services, when it was his turn, at the local Crematorium for all those bereaved during the last month. That was right up my street.

I'd like to see more Worship Leaders' Courses in Ludlow. How about it Denise?

I've also presided at lots of Ladies' Meetings where I made up a poem to introduce each speaker once I knew what their subject would be.

In the 1990s we had alterations done in our Chapel but not half as many as here in Ludlow. We replaced pews with chairs, brought the organ to ground level, provided a meeting room and three toilets, one being for the disabled, plus the car park. We had a service of dedication which I took a leading part in. Twenty years later I was asked back to read the Bible at their 20 year celebration of the alterations.

Looking back I still remember the time when I said to myself "I could never get up to lead a meeting let alone take a service". God thought otherwise. He has guided me all through my life, even when I didn't want to go to Sunday School as a child. He knew there was potential when I didn't. We never know what we can accomplish, do we?

Maureen Farmery.

For Valour

Prior to the Crimean War (1854-1856) British soldiers and sailors received no award for conspicuous gallantry in battle. They could be Mentioned in Despatches (MiD) or promoted, but there was no official or visible recognition of their bravery. Until that war, officers above a certain rank could receive the Order of the Bath, be promoted or mentioned in despatches.

It was during that war, also, that the Distinguished Conduct Medal and the Conspicuous Gallantry Medal were instituted for other ranks in the Army and Navy. But they weren't a universal recognition, officers had their own versions which were often considered to be 'more upmarket'.

The suggestion of a gallantry award that was the same for all ranks was actually initiated by the Duke of Newcastle, the Secretary of State for War, in 1854. It was finally endorsed by Queen Victoria in 1856, to be issued retrospectively to include the recent war, and she signed a Royal Warrant to that effect. The medal was called the Victoria Cross (VC). We should remember that this was the time when rank and privilege were so dominant in society, so this decision by the Queen was very far-sighted.

Initially, the medal could only be awarded for gallantry in the face of the enemy. The warrant was later amended so that the award could be made beyond the battlefield for 'conspicuous gallantry and bravery under circumstances of extreme danger'. Just a few months later the warrant was again amended to include civilians who fought alongside troops in battle.

The medal itself is cast from the cascabels (the large knobs at the breach end of the cannon) of two Russian cannons taken from Sebastopol, the bronze being safely secured at the Ordnance Depot at Donnington and rarely seen. The ribbons were originally red for the army and blue for the navy. With the formation of the Royal Air Force at the end of the Great War it was decreed that the ribbon should be crimson for all services.

Winners received a small tax-free pension, it was never envisaged that the medal should be won for monetary gain, but 'should be highly prized and eagerly sought after'. In 1920, the Royal Warrant was further adjusted, in view of the horrors of the First World War, to

reflect the post-conflict practice of awarding posthumous, as well as retrospective awards. It's been calculated that the chances of surviving an action worthy of an award of the medal are just 10%.

The medal could be taken away for discreditable acts - eight such medals were forfeited. King George V, however, in 1920, was prompted to disagree with this and the eight medals were restored.

The first winner was Charles Lucas in 1854. Serving as a Mate on *HMS Hecla* without hesitation he rushed forward to remove a live shell that had landed on the deck and threw it overboard. He was promoted to lieutenant immediately.

The last award was made to Private Johnson Beharry in Iraq in 2004. His story is remarkable and too long to include here, but see his published story *Barefoot Soldier*.

It's not uncommon to see medal recipients win the same medal several times (Bars). Lt Col Paddy Mayne, 22 SAS, for example was awarded the Distinguished Service Order (DSO) three times, yet there have only been three people who have been awarded the VC twice. One such winner was Noel Chavasse, a doctor, who gained his double award for saving lives, not taking them. He lost his life near Ypres, Belgium, in 1917, as a result of several shrapnel wounds. He was tending the wounded to the end. The rarity of the double award must surely point to the bravery needed to win it even once.

General Sir Peter de la Billière writes 'Each of us has a bank of courage. Some have a significant credit balance, others little or nothing'.

Perhaps the last word should go to Field Marshal Lord Slim, who said in a radio broadcast 'I don't believe there's any man who, in his heart of hearts, wouldn't rather be called brave than have any other virtue attributed to him'.

Ron Gittings

Source: 'Supreme Courage' by General Sir Peter de la Billière



Books of the Bible

Here are the answers to October's crossword puzzle:

Across: 1. Jude 4. 8. Proverbs 10. Romans

13. Deuteronomy 14. Job 16. Ruth 17. Acts 18. Luke

Down: 2. Daniel 3. Judges 5. Hebrews 6. Jonah 7. Amos

8. Philemon 9. Matthew 11. James 12. Numbers 14. John 15. Mark

When I'm feeling sorry for myself, I sometimes don't ask God for anything. I just say thank you for one thing after another. It ends up being a long prayer. Afterwards, I feel rejuvenated as if I've been blessed.

Source: Simon Bartz, Editor of *Word in Action*.

Supplied by Margaret Taylor

CONFUSION

I know its here somewhere, I really do.
I put it here somewhere – or gave it to you
to file away safely so we could refer
to it when we needed – or gave it to her
for her to keep with hers. Yes, that's it I know,
for she's good at filing and she'll always know
what she did with it. But wait, I recall
that she said she was leaving and couldn't keep all
of these things any more, so she had to return it.
So I know its here somewhere. Or did I just burn it ?

Lynda Young

For all you chocolate lovers:

Chocolate is made from cocoa, cocoa is a tree, therefore chocolate is a salad. If only...

Green Pages

A round-up of environmental and climate-change news
including advice about our progress as an Eco-Church

December 2023

Wildlife Trusts identify five priorities for politicians ahead of the next general election

1. Bring back the UK's lost wildlife

The UK Government must work across departments to put nature into recovery by protecting and restoring at least 30% of land and sea for nature by 2030. Beavers should be in every county, a nature recovery network should join up wild places, and damaging fishing practices (such as bottom trawling) must be banned.

2. End river pollution and water scarcity

With the UK among the worst countries in Europe for water quality, the Government must sufficiently fund enforcement agencies to do their job. By 2030, nutrient pollution from farming, sewage and development must be halved, there must be stronger protections for chalk streams, and more wetlands should be created to tackle flood and drought.

3. Fund wildlife-friendly farming

The destruction of nature and impacts of climate change are the biggest threats to food security in the UK. Farmers must be supported and incentivised to help wildlife recover by creating more space for nature, significantly reducing pollution, and halving harm from pesticides by 2030. The budget for nature-friendly farming should increase to at least £4.4 billion.

4. Enable healthy communities

More than a third of the population – nearly 9.5 million households in England – are unable to access green places near their home. Government must support the creation of more green space in neighbourhoods, fund and integrate green prescribing into community-based health services and enable all children to access outdoor learning opportunities.

5. Protect and restore natural habitats

Nature can make a huge contribution to achieving net-zero targets if habitats are restored because peatlands, woodlands, and other wild places store carbon. Additionally, the next UK Government must integrate climate adaptation strategies across all departments, create a nature recovery network to help wildlife adapt to change, protect blue carbon stores from damage, and invest in energy efficiency.

“Shropshire’s hills, rivers, meres, and mosses are home to an extraordinary variety of plants and animals; they are also key to our wellbeing, to climate resilience and to flood management. But nature is still threatened, by habitat loss and climate change. To help wildlife recover we must restore our rivers and wild areas, and work with land managers to produce food as part of a thriving natural landscape. Nature recovery is the answer to so many social challenges and it’s up to Shropshire’s elected representatives to make sure that is reflected in policies ahead of the next election.”

Richard Grindle, Chief Executive of Shropshire Wildlife Trust



Shrewsbury's last green corridor

It is disappointing, but not surprising, that Shropshire Council's planning committee has voted by the narrowest of majorities to go ahead with the North West Relief Road. Shropshire Wildlife Trust submitted a detailed objection to the proposal in 2021 and alongside other organisations they have sought to make the case for practical alternatives.

We are told that the road has been designed to minimise impact on nature, but the damage will still be significant: one site of special scientific interest will be directly affected along with two local wildlife sites and one ancient woodland; four kilometres of hedgerows will be lost, and a number of irreplaceable veteran trees including the 'Darwin Oak'. Shropshire Council acknowledges that biodiversity net gain will not be achieved.

And it's not just the impact on the line of the road itself. When this is built we can expect that new housing and commercial developments will spring up along the route, completely cutting off the last green corridor into the heart of Shrewsbury.

In 2019 Shropshire Council declared a climate emergency, and a goal of reaching net zero emissions by 2030. It is very hard to see how the release of 48,000 tonnes of CO₂ from construction can be squared with this laudable goal. Offsetting is promised for some of that figure, but this aspiration rests on unproven technology and might take decades to achieve.

Wildlife Trusts and climate action groups are not opposed to all development; people and businesses need decent modern infrastructure. But this seems a very twentieth-century response to a twenty-first century problem. Decision makers have to find the right balance between costs and benefits - are they doing that here?

It is true that some communities suffer from 'rat running'. Understandably they feel that the new road will help - but it is not clear from the traffic modelling that it will. Other traffic management techniques are available but have not been tried. Meanwhile communities along the new road will see increased traffic and great disruption.

It is reported that the scheme will now cost around £200m. Surely there are more forward-looking ways of using the available funds to benefit the county as a whole. For example Shropshire Council is now trialling on-demand electric buses. Could not some of the money be spent on extending this, and improving rail connections, cycle routes, and park & ride schemes?

With the climate and nature emergency starting to bite, public opinion is changing: there were over 5,000 objections to the scheme, but less than 300 comments in favour.

Events in 2024

There are two important events being considered for next year, but at the time of going to press more information is not available, so please look out for further publicity.

There is a possibility of organising a **Climate Fresk** in January in Ludlow to be facilitated by a science teacher. It will be a conversation about the science of climate change, hosted by South Shropshire Climate Action and Ludlow Quakers.

In the Spring the Caring for Creation Group are planning to invite the **Green Christian** organisation to run an ecumenical event at the Methodist Church.

The Green Pages of the Ludlow Methodist Church monthly magazine are brought to you by the Caring for Creation Group. For more information please contact Elizabeth Wright.

Three kings, several saints and a monk.

Part Three: Two kings behaving very badly - so why did they become saints?

Even for the Anglo-Saxon era, the accession of kings like Edwin and Oswald arose from intense violence. Anglo-Saxon kings owed much of their 'right to rule' because of their prowess as war-leaders. In societies where this mattered, this meant victory in war, and the relationship with military chiefs to maintain his rule. In Edwin's case, his forced exile led to sanctuary with Rædwald, king of the East Angles, who fought with Edwin to reclaim his birth-right at the battle of the river Idle in AD616. Would you call this saintly behaviour?

As with all history, the records may demonstrate questionable accuracy, and need a tolerance regarding authors' interpretations of 'the facts'. With Edwin and Oswald, we are dependent on Bede (and *The Ecclesiastical History of The English People* that he completed in 731) to provide the positives. Bede describes glowingly the Northumbrian 'longing' to be baptised, as a confident influence by Edwin and his wife, Æthelburh, who was the Christian sister of the king of Kent. In travelling to Northumbria to marry Edwin, she brought with her Paulinus, who was her personal chaplain. He spent many days instructing the crowds 'who flocked to him from every village'. Bede describes the peace pervading Britain under Edwin's rule as providing a safe environment so 'a woman with a newborn child could walk throughout the island from sea to sea and take no harm'. Upon hearing that Edwin and his Northumbrian people had been converted, an impressed Pope Honorius I sent his blessing.

Bede described Oswald as a model of kingship, setting out his achievements in a generally eulogising way, to demonstrate Oswald's success as a holy king. According to Bede, Oswald's Christianity is shown by his faith, his humility, his generosity, and his efforts to expand the Church. For Oswald's generosity, there is the story of the poor, clamouring at the gates of Bamburgh Castle when Oswald was celebrating a banquet with his family and nobles. The feast was displayed on a silver platter. This Oswald instructed should be given to the poor, not just the food but the platter too, to be divided between them so that all had a fair share. Aidan was deeply moved by Oswald's generosity, as the Lindisfarne brothers received many practical gifts to establish their abbey and school. There are suggestions too of Oswald's calling to God prior to battle:

'Let us all kneel together and pray the Almighty, everliving, and true God to defend us in His mercy from the proud and fierce

enemy; for He knows we are fighting in a just cause for the preservation of our whole race'.

Although Oswald was not venerated until after his demise, it was his good deeds and behaviour as king that were so significant.

Amazingly, there are similarities too surrounding these two kings' deaths. Edwin was killed on the 12 October 633, at the battle of Hatfield Chase (possibly in Northumbria). Edwin had fought and lost to the joint forces of Cædwalla, British king of Gwynedd and Penda of Mercia. Bede acknowledges that Cædwalla, 'although a Christian by name and profession, was nevertheless a barbarian in heart and disposition'. He describes Penda 'and the whole Mercian race... [as] ...idolaters and ignorant of the name of Christ'. Oswald was killed under almost identical circumstances at the battle of *Maserfelth* on the 5 August 642. *Maserfelth* is supposedly near Old Oswestry. There is still a spring named after him; see OS map 240. Legend says a raven dropped his severed right arm, having flown into a tree (Oswald's tree), and water poured from that spot.

Traditionally, the body parts of slain kings were recovered from the field of combat, usually by female members of their family, then buried in separate locations. However, they rarely remained there for long. A year later, Oswiu, Oswald's brother and successor 'came thither with an army and took them [Oswald's head and hands] away'. The head was buried on Lindisfarne with the hands being enshrined in a purpose-built church on Oswiu's instructions, at the royal centre of Bamburgh. Bede gives no indication where the remainder of the body was placed, but c.679 Oswald's bones were retrieved and 'translated' (meaning 'moved to' with honour and often great celebration) to the monastery at Bardney (now Lincolnshire). Bede reported 'the head of King Edwin was brought to York and afterwards placed in the church of the apostle St Peter, which he himself had begun to build ...'. Some of Edwin's other bones went to Whitby. Possession of a saint's bones, or other artifact of their lives and particularly death, boosted that abbey's prominence. Unfortunately, these shrines, sometimes of considerable beauty and encrusted with gold and jewels, were mostly destroyed during the Reformation. But that's another story.

Saintly legends and miracles provided comforting reassurance in a vulnerable and unstable world. Yet Edwin and Oswald were no ordinary saints. Having both fought, and died at the hands of the heathen Penda, they were seen as defending the faith, providing a moral lesson for the uneducated 'with awe and reverence', and amusing the listener. For example, when a rider's horse collapsed, and writhing in agony touched Oswald's death-spot, it was cured immediately. The rider spread the word in gratitude. One awestruck Briton removed some soil, the holiness of which was later used to explain why the post to which the bag of soil had been attached was the only part of the Briton's house not destroyed later by fire.

BMG.

Sources:

J F Webb (trans.) *The Age of Bede*, 2004.

Barbara Yorke, *The Conversion of Britain, 600-800*.



Floral decoration 5th November

Flowers provided and arranged by John and Wendy Mountford

AI - Helpmate or threat?

The advent of computers has certainly, even for those who never touch one, made an enormous difference to our world and especially the world of work.

Fifty years ago, I was working for a company in Smethwick which had, in a hundred years of existence, built up a worldwide customer base, and in consequence a number of agencies. There came an opportunity to quote for a large development in Canada, and with a deadline to meet, I spent the night working on our offer and dictating onto tape. Come morning, I drove to the office and handed in my tape, which was then typed up, and put on a train to London, where someone from London office put it on an overnight flight to Toronto. It was met by our Canadian agent and delivered to the Commission with an hour to spare. (And since you ask, no, we didn't get an order).

Today, my son has a similar job and before Covid forced us all into isolation he travelled the world, but now he sits in his home office, writes on his computer and sends it to customers across the world; it's there in moments. They don't even need to know English, for Google kindly translates it. He did recently have two weeks in India, the lucky lad, but in the main his employer is being saved the considerable cost of sending a man overseas, enabling his time to be better spent, and incidentally saved him sitting for hours breathing recycled air. Yes, the computer and the internet have delivered great benefits.

But it has also brought us Artificial Intelligence. This new software is advancing at such a pace that even its creators are becoming alarmed; it seems to be managing its own development, to the point where some software engineers are afraid of where it is leading, and calling for a pause while we consider where we are going. If it goes on like this, could it eventually displace us as the most intelligent species, possibly the end of the human race?

What was only envisaged by writers of science fiction is becoming a reality. Of course, it is still possible to unplug it and stop all future development, but it would require worldwide agreement. As the saying goes, "Don't hold your breath." So where does this leave us as Christians? I once spoke with someone who was about to drive to a customer in Glasgow with a quotation and I asked the obvious – why not post it? "They like to see your face now and then" he replied. It's great to join our Broad Street congregation service on

Zoom but it's not the same as being there; how lovely when friends visit, Kim brings communion to our home, or we get a hug and a kiss from family members. It is all about relationship surely. We may be 'happy with our own company' but continual solitude is not natural for those made in the image of God – the God of love, who bids us 'love one another as I have loved you'.

Maurice Coleman

The Adjutants Horse

Following on from Maurice's last story about Colonel Union Jack:

As young recruits we always worried about inspections by senior officers, hoping that we wouldn't be asked a difficult question.

After the inspection by the Colonel and warnings from the Drill Sergeant, my squad was chosen one morning to be inspected by the Adjutant.

We all learnt his name, Stevenson, and even learnt how to spell it this time. He appeared on parade astride his horse and proceeded to inspect the squad from up on high.

He stopped his horse halfway along the front rank and shouted at one recruit, "You there!" The recruit looked up. "Do you know the name of my horse?"

No-one in the squad knew this information and we wondered what the unfortunate recruit would say.

The recruit thought long and hard before replying,
"Is it called Neddy, Sir?"

How we all didn't all laugh out loud I don't know. The Drill Sergeant had to turn away. Even the horse, now forever known as Neddy by all squads under training, showed his teeth. The Adjutant looked very angry and moved 'Neddy' on quickly, before talking to the Drill Sergeant at length.

More extra drilling on the parade ground later that day followed!

Maurice – The Man in the Manse.

Dear Friends,

New Church Bank Account

Have you been made aware of our new bank account with Lloyds Bank in Broad Street? I am reassured that all existing Standing Orders have been transferred automatically and that there is no need to go online and update your details. You might like to make a note of the following details:

Account name: Ludlow Methodist Church

Sort Code: 30-99-50 Account Number: 57571268

Unfortunately, once the new account has been up and running for approximately a year, the Church will be charged a management fee of £7 per month by the bank. Not only that but paying in cheques and cash will incur additional charges which this September would have amounted to an additional £17.

By the very nature of our outreach the Church is not in the business of giving up the use of cash, but it would be very helpful if those of us who can use the modern online banking systems would do so. This would keep our costs down and also save the valuable time of our volunteer stewards who regularly count the collections.

Therefore, if you have previously made regular donations to the church, either in the offerings plate or by the envelope system, please would you consider setting up a Standing Order. This involves contacting your bank (if you hold a suitable bank account) and using the bank details above.

May I also suggest that, with the increase in costs faced by the church due to soaring utility prices, this might be a good time to review your donation. If you can increase your donation and need help in setting up a Standing Order, please complete the attached form and take it to your bank. Or you can put it in an envelope marked confidential and place it in the Treasurer's in-tray located in the vestry.

If you are a UK taxpayer and wish to boost your donation by 25p of Gift Aid for every £1 you donate, please also complete the attached **Gift Aid Form** and send it to the Treasurer in the same way.

I would like to thank all of you for ALL that you do give.

Yours faithfully,

Rev Denise Hargreaves

Ludlow Methodist Church
52 Broad Street, LUDLOW SY8 1NH

Gift Aid Declaration Form

Boost your donation by 25p of Gift Aid for every £1 you donate.
Gift Aid is reclaimed by the charity from the tax you pay for the current tax year.

To Gift Aid your donation please tick the box below:

I want to Gift Aid my donation of £_____ and any donations I make in the future or have made in the past 4 years to:

Name of Charity: LUDLOW METHODIST CHURCH

I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations in that tax year it is my responsibility to pay any difference.

My Details:

Title _____ First name or initial(s) _____

Surname _____

Full Home address _____

Postcode _____ Date _____

Signed: _____ Email: _____

Please notify the treasurer if you want to cancel this declaration, change your name or home address, or no longer pay sufficient tax on your income and/or capital gains.

If you pay Income Tax at the higher or additional rate and want to receive the additional tax relief due to you, you must include all your Gift Aid donations on your Self-Assessment tax return or ask HM Revenue and Customs to adjust your tax code.

Registered Charity No: 1182508

Circuit/District No: 28/03

Minister – Rev. Denise Hargreaves

Treasurer – David Harlington

Administrator – Sarah Kellett 01584 879233

Ludlow Methodist Church
52 Broad Street, LUDLOW SY8 1NH

Standing Order Mandate

I hereby authorise my bank to make regular payments by Standing Order to the account of Ludlow Methodist Church, as follows: -

Account Name: Ludlow Methodist Church
Sort Code: 30-99-50
Account Number: 57571268

Amount: £ **First payment date:**

Subsequent Payments to be made at:
4-weekly / monthly / quarterly / annual intervals (please delete as appropriate) until further notice

My Bank Details
Name and Address of Bank (including post-code)

Name on the Account:

Sort Code: - -

Account Number:

Signed: _____ **Email:** _____

If you need the church to forward this mandate to your bank on your behalf, please return the completed form to the treasurer. You may cancel this authority at any time by contacting the treasurer.

If you wish to Gift Aid your donation – please [tick here](#) for a form and thank you for your generosity.

Registered Charity No: 1182508

Circuit/District No: 28/03

Minister – Rev. Denise Hargreaves

Treasurer – David Harlington

Administrator – Sarah Kellett 01584 879233

6	1			7				
					4	5		2
				8				3
	7		8			9		
		2				6		
		3			2		8	
4				5				
1		6	3					
				4			9	7

Test your general knowledge:

1. What is the name of the longest and largest nerve in the human body?
2. The Drake Passage is a body of water between which two continents?
3. Daniel Quilp is a character in which book by Charles Dickens?
4. What was Adele's first number one in the UK singles chart?
5. What is Abyssinia now called?
6. World War 1. The 3rd battle of Ypres in 1917 is often called by another name. What name?
7. Who was the first American female astronaut?
8. Rosalind is a character in which play by William Shakespeare?
9. The northern most point of the European Union is in which country?
10. In 1939 -1940 a special operation took place in this country, code named Operation Pied Piper. What was all this about?

*Geoff Farmery
Answers next month*

Carol Singing in the nursing Homes will happen on Wednesday 20th December:

Hendra House 1.30pm,

Four Rivers Nursing Home 2.30pm,

Churchill House 3.15pm,

Hagley Place 4.00pm

For history the really strong argument in favour of the virgin birth is the difficulty of accounting for the story otherwise than on the assumption of its truth. – H R Mackintosh

At Christmas, play and make good cheer; for Christmas comes but once a year. – Thomas Tusser

Christ veiled His deity, but He did not void it. – Anon

The times we find ourselves having to wait on others may be the perfect opportunities to train ourselves to wait on the Lord. – Joni Eareckson Tada

Contact Numbers:



Minister: Rev. Denise Hargreaves
01584 318628

Church Administrator: Mrs Sarah Kellett
01584 879233

Community Chaplain: Mrs Ruth Downes
01584 890186

Website: www.ludlowmethodistchurch.org.uk

Church Stewards

Geoff Edwardson	01584 879895	Maureen Farmery	01584 874590
Janet Williams	01584 875220	Annie Jones	01584 876105
Cathy Pritchard	01588 660579	David Evans	01584 890670
Roger Clayton	01584 319413		

Church Secretary Joyce Evans 01584 890670

Church Treasurer David Harlington 01584 879614

Junior Church Cathy Pritchard 01588 660579

Prayer Coordinator Heather Price 01584 876480

Pastoral Secretary Elizabeth Wright 01584 874548

Sunday Church Notices John Eadie 01584 877761

Magazine Ron Gittings 01568 780733
rongittings47@yahoo.co.uk

Room Bookings Church Office 01584 879233

Church Website Mike Owens 07925 173857
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Social Media Lindsay Beavon 07783 511262
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