

50p

June 2023

**GREETINGS
FROM
LUDLOW
METHODIST
CHURCH**



Dear Friends

My wife recently visited the RHS Malvern Flower Show. There the talk seemed very much to be of jettisoning ideas of neat, well-kept gardens in favour of abandoning dead-heading, allowing insects and soil to thrive.

We have nobly done our part, observing no-mow-May. I have to say that as I write this, only half-way through the month, I'm not sure that we'll be able to find our way to the garden shed without the use of a machete by June. I'm only glad we're not on the Open Garden list!

Driving up the A49 recently it was



clear that the Council too have adopted the policy of leaving the verges to grow, and how amazing they looked, especially at this time of the year with the variety of wildflowers (I've been educated not to mention weeds!) adorning the roadside. Perhaps there is

hope for the bees, moths and butterflies and the birds that feed on them. I wondered about the relationship between our past propensity to want to control nature, only allowing plants and trees to grow that we have put there, and to a size and shape that we think best, and our desire to control God. Do we like God to be in God's place, a certain hour of the week in a certain building, perhaps in a daily reading or prayer, hemmed in and leaving us in control of the rest of our lives. There was nothing tame about Jesus – do we stifle his Spirit? Is there blossom and fruit to flourish if

only we allow her space to blow, to inspire?

We sometimes speculate about what Jesus meant when he said, "Unless you become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven." But I think it has a lot to say about being open to new possibilities as opposed to being set in our ways. Perhaps as we become older we are freer to become more

child-like, to let go and to be open to fresh inspiration and the conviction that things don't have to be the way they are.

May God's dynamic Spirit flourish in each of us and in our Church.

Minister's Report – Ludlow Methodist Cluster – May 2022 to April 2023

The last year has been one of growing confidence and consolidation as the church settles to a post-pandemic norm, albeit that COVID still rears its ugly head among us.

Attendance at Sunday Worship has been steady, and it has been encouraging to see regular new faces. We are delighted to welcome a large family for Junior Church on a regular basis. Tea and Worship is much appreciated, and we have re-started monthly Church in the Café discussion evenings.

Tuesday afternoon bible study has been very well attended throughout the year, including ecumenically in Lent – we are very grateful to Rev Neil Richardson for leading these.

A highlight of the year has been the success in finding a new Minister, subject to confirmation by Conference. Rev Denise Hargreaves had identified Ludlow as her first choice and, after a very encouraging visit, the "match" was enthusiastically approved by both sides and the church looks forward to welcoming her with husband Maurice in September.

Last September saw a conversation and vote on the question of whether to register for same-sex marriages. The voting was very strongly in favour of proceeding, whilst recognising that some members continue to have legitimate reservations. We move forward in love and with sometimes contrary convictions. Registration documents have now been received.

Zooming of Sunday services has continued and technical issues have now largely been resolved. There is a core of regular users of the Zoom facility, together with others who use Zoom occasionally when unwell or away.

The Café is being well used on most days and is much appreciated. However, we have been very sad to see the retirement of Edith Blair as Café Manager. We are deeply indebted to her for the work she has cheerfully and faithfully done for many years. At present the work is being covered by volunteers but this is under review. We are delighted that Edith has agreed to continue as a Wesley's volunteer.

Zoom Coffee and Chat has been maintained and the group have hosted occasional meetings in person which draw in many new members.

Pastoral support has been provided by the Pastoral Team and Home Communion services are being held on a regular basis. Weekly Newsletters are delivered by hand, post or email, as well as being collected at church. Very many thanks to all who have been involved in preparing and delivering these. We have a new editor of the monthly magazine, to whom we are very grateful.

Worship opportunities at Care Homes have been increasing, led by our Community Chaplain and in conjunction with sister churches in CTAL. Open the Book Assemblies are delivered by teams involving our members in 5 local primary schools.

As an outreach event in December we held "Taste of Christmas" - a well-received and successful Fayre-with-a-message. Opportunities were available for people to make Christmas purchases as well as to share conversation and reflect on the meaning of the Christmas story.

Hands Together has continued to grow and has new premises in Galdeford so office space in the church is no longer needed, although the Church continues to be used for some Hands Together activities. It has been sad to see diminishing links between Hands Together and the church, but encouraging to see the Charity flourishing so well independently.

Finances are reported elsewhere, but we are delighted to be close to target in relation to our budget. We continue to be grateful to all who give regularly, and to our interim Treasurer, who has worked with our Administrator to deal with the closing of our bank branch and the lengthy and tortuous process of transferring our account.

The Church building has been maintained in excellent condition for which we are very grateful to our Property Steward, the property team and the cleaners for all their work. Lettings have returned to a healthy level and are carefully overseen by our Administrator – but more volunteers are needed to help with opening and closing, AV and refreshments. Among regular bookings are the Table Tennis evening, AA and the Mental Health Coffee Morning – all important services to the community.

The Caring for Creation Group continues to meet regularly on Zoom. We are about to host a significant environmental exhibition – the Loving Earth Project - recently displayed in the Palace of Westminster. There is a plan to develop the Cottage garden to make it more wildlife-friendly, whilst ensuring it remains low-maintenance.

Fun in Fundraising has been very successful in running events to raise money for the church as well as to provide joyful social and outreach occasions.

Church Membership stands at 98, holding steady despite sadly losing some of our much-loved members who have gone to glory. We are glad that some of our new members have been able to take up active roles in the life of the church. A very successful event welcoming new joiners was held in the Summer and will be repeated this Summer. A skittles evening will shortly be held as a social gathering for all members and friends.

Churches Together around Ludlow continues its regular activities, and now has a Chair for the year. Some church leaders are also meeting regularly for fellowship and prayer.

Blackford has held 4 services since the beginning of the church year, the Christmas Carol service being well attended and much appreciated. Caynham Chapel has been sold.

As this is my last Annual Report, on behalf of the family I would like to express huge gratitude for all the kindness and care shown to us and to express our thanks for the privilege of being able to serve here. We shall be leaving in difficult times for the Church as a whole, but with every confidence in the resilience of the faithfulness and love shown by Ludlow Methodist Church members as they seek to continue to Worship God and serve this community.

THE ROCKERFELLAS AND ST. LAURENCE'S HANDBELL RINGERS

Present a concert at Ludlow Methodist Church on Saturday 17th June, commencing at 7.30pm, to mark the retirement of our Minister Rev. Kim Stilwell.

There will be a Bring and Share supper. There will be no charge but donations towards Church funds would be greatly appreciated.

Our role in Circuit conversations

Following the recent Circuit Forum, a group of about 30 of us from Ludlow, Melville and Hopton Bank met for a special Church Life meeting to discuss what it means to us to be part of the Shropshire and Marches Methodist Circuit. We were joined in Wesley's Café by Rev Richard Hall (Circuit Superintendent) and Claire Evans (Senior Circuit Steward).

David Harlington (also a Circuit Steward) kicked off the afternoon's discussion by asking the question "What does it mean to be a Methodist in this Circuit". We found it difficult to provide a specific answer to this question, but our conversation did cover what it means to be a Circuit, including being part of a wider community where all the churches can support each other. Richard Hall encouraged us to think of the Circuit as a family – there are some members of our extended families that we rarely see, but we know that we can count on their support when needs arise.

The huge geographical size of this Circuit was noted, but this can be overcome by the use of technology (eg. Zoom meetings) and by working more closely with the churches and chapels in our immediate areas. It is impractical to expect every church to be in regular contact with the rest of the churches in the Circuit. For example, many of our Local Preachers limit the distance they will travel to take Sunday services, but together they cover the whole Circuit Sunday by Sunday.

At the recent Circuit Forum 17 of the 70 who attended gathered together at Broad Street to share in the meeting as a group. This 'hybrid' way of meeting has much to commend it, because it gives us the opportunity to have some discussion face-to-face while connecting with a much larger group. This can be a useful step towards creating new relationships across the Circuit; some of our 'extended family' can become strangers no longer.

In trying to explore what it means to be a Circuit, we also discussed what it means to be a church, including reaching out into the local community and nurturing our congregations by providing opportunities for prayer and Bible study.

Each part of the Circuit, or even each church, will probably have their own perspective on what the Circuit means to them and what changes could be made. Our next Circuit Forum on Zoom is not until October, so meetings like the one we have just held in Ludlow could be a helpful way to prepare for a more meaningful conversation when the whole Circuit meets at the next Forum. It seems to us that similar conversations would be beneficial in other parts of the Circuit - perhaps with several chapels getting together to do this.

I killed a fly

It leaves me with a dead fly to dispose of. And sets me thinking; here we have a fly, complete in all its parts – in fact a few moments ago it was alive, buzzing around, doing what flies do, and I suppose by its own lights doing no-one any harm. But now it's dead, lifeless, despite being in all other respects a complete fly.

Just what is the essential difference between the dead fly and the living one? Or for that matter, between the before and after existence of any of the thousands of creatures that get killed on our roads each day. One moment a bird is flying free and the next the life has been driven out of it by a passing motorcar. What is this thing we call life? This mysterious essence, this quality which we call life. I'm not talking of "quality of life" here of course but a living creature possesses a quality that is missing in the dead one and that quality we call life.

Life shows itself in so many forms – certainly in all animate things, animals, fish, birds, insects (in a different form in plants) – and human beings. Is there any essential difference between the life which animates a cow and that which animates me? There are considerable differences in the way that life is expressed according to the creature which uses it, but the essence itself – is that different too? Or is it the case that all life is one? Is this what John Donne was getting at – "No man is an island, entire unto itself...Any man's death diminishes me...therefore send not to ask..."

If all life is one, where does it come from? Is it a gift of God? If so what happens to a life when it ceases to inhabit the creature it was given to? Does He take it back? Is there some vast 'pool' of life and it is, as it were, returned to the pool to be handed out to another in due course?

We understand that the human body is directed and controlled by the brain, and the brain is a discernible part of the human body. We even know a few things (not all by any means) about how it works. Yet the brain is a physical part of the body and is still present in a cadaver when the 'life' has departed.

What do we mean by the 'mind'? The mind appears to be distinct from the physical though it works intimately with and through the brain. And what of the human personality – the soul? Yet again a thing apart yet so much a part of the brain and the mind we cannot clearly distinguish one from the other.

As Christians we are familiar with the concept of God within us and our scripture tells us we are made in his image so is this the difference? This could indeed mean that the kind of life we enjoy is distinct from the kind of life which animates other creatures.

The life I am thinking of is something which is passed on by procreation so is in a sense “from everlasting to everlasting”. Yet it has a finite, measured existence; and it can be snuffed out prematurely. If all members of a family die without issue the life that is in that family, or at least that branch of the family, comes to an end. Or does it? If a life once begun can continue beyond the death of the body we have to consider whether this only applies to human beings, and whether it only applies to certain human beings. We ask - does a cow have a soul? Do dogs go to heaven? *Or is there in fact a difference in the kind of life which animates a beast and that which animates a human.?*

What gives us the authority to say that it is wrong to kill a fellow human but OK to kill a cow. We have the supreme advantage that we make the laws which decide this; the cow doesn't get a say in the matter. Yet this same law seems to apply throughout nature – one species feeds on another in the spirit of “Ilkley Moor ba'ah't 'at”. “ Worms will eat thee up, ducks will eat up worms, we will eat up ducks”. This was brought home to me forcibly when I was able to visit the Kruger Park during a trip to South Africa. Until then I had not realised that no-one feeds the animals. When the lions are hungry they go out and catch a gazelle or something, kill it and eat it. In other words life goes on exactly as nature intended, 'Nature red in tooth and claw'.

One thinks of Albert Schweitzer's “reverence for life”. To him it was wrong to end any form of life, yet even he accepted that as a doctor he had to be prepared to end a lower form of life (bacteria) where it threatened the well-being of a higher form of life – his patient. At least he would have understood why I killed the fly.

Maurice Coleman

Thanks to Maurice for his many memories, with yet more stored safely away for future editions! At his suggestion, I plan to start a feature page entitled 'Memories from the Congregation'. For this to be successful I obviously need memories from you - the congregation, so please don't be shy and email me your stories - religious, funny, sad, all will be welcome.

Green Pages

A round-up of environmental and climate-change news

including useful advice about what we can do and our progress as an Eco-Church

June 2023

Save the date!

The Circuit Care for Creation group invites you to save the date in your diary for the next Circuit Awayday.

This year it will be a single day only, on **Saturday 16th September 2023** from 10.00am to 3.30pm.

As last year it will be held at Minsterley Parish Hall (SYS 0EH), where the facilities and parking are excellent. There will be no charge for the day, but a contribution towards expenses is invited.

The key speakers will be:

Dr Hamish Leese: The Methodist Church's 'Action for Hope' National Officer.

Rev Rachel Parkinson: Chair of JACEI (Joint Advisory Committee on the Ethics of Investment).

Rev Dr Neil Richardson, who will lead the Worship.

Ludlow Green Festival

This year's Green Festival takes place in Castle Square on **Sunday 9th July** from 10.00 am to 4.00 pm.

There will be lots of activities and stalls, including the new Retrofit Toolkit produced by South Shropshire Climate Action (SSCA) and its partner organisations Marches Energy Agency and Stretton Climate Care.

The toolkit is designed to help you plan a Whole House Retrofit to make your home more energy efficient either in one go or in stages.

The Toolkit recommends the order in which to take the necessary steps to fully insulate your home, it enables you to reduce your use of energy for lighting, heating and other resources including water, and it helps you to make decisions about renewable energy generation for your home.

Shropshire verges are important in our landscape

Shropshire's road verges could be havens for wildlife. Our country lanes with their verges and hedgerows are a delight to walk, cycle and drive through. Managed correctly, they could also provide a vital wildlife corridor and habitat for insects, bees, butterflies and small mammals as well as a space for common (and not so common) wild flowers.

A group of conservation volunteers is leading a campaign to restore wildlife-rich roadside verges in Shropshire. The Restoring Shropshire Verges Project (RSVP) is working to reinstate some of the damaged verges across the county. With the help of Shropshire Council Highways department, Plantlife, the National Trust, Caring for God's Acre and Shropshire Hills AONB, volunteers have been 'adopting' verges across Shropshire, leaving them to grow wild until late summer and sowing or planting wildflowers.

To raise awareness and help people understand why adopted verges that are being restored are being left to grow, volunteers have put up eye-catching yellow signs that say: "Don't mow - late cut planned. These verges are being managed for wildlife."

Unfortunately many verges are cut too early in the year with the cuttings left to rot down. This type of management removes food sources for pollinators and destroys most finer grasses and wildflowers. Instead managing verges as mini hay meadows would store carbon, replenish the seed bank, restore floral diversity, save Shropshire Council money, create habitat and provide nectar and pollen.

You can follow Restoring Shropshire's Verges Project on Twitter and facebook: @ShropsVerge. If anyone is interested in starting a verge project please contact janet@janet.co.uk

*From Zero Carbon Shropshire
and Middle Marches Community Land Trust*



Going for Gold

This church was awarded a Silver EcoChurch Award a little while ago. We have now turned our attention to aiming for the Gold Award. Although the step from Silver to Gold is more difficult than going from Bronze to Silver, we still believe that it is possible for this church to gain the Gold Award ... but what would it take and is it likely to be cost effective?

Short answers to those two questions are that it would need more of our congregation to be engaged with the project, and if we do the right things they could save us more money than we would need to spend. However, we must be careful to ensure that we look at the issues in a sustainable and practical way.

For example, if we were to replace all the lights in the whole church building with LED lamps that would give us enough credentials to apply for the Gold Award immediately, but the cost of doing this in one go may be prohibitive. More sensible would be to plan to fit LED lamps as and when lights come to the end of their normal life. This may take a little while, but we might soon reach a point where sufficient replacements have been made, leaving a small project to replace the remaining lamps.

There are a number of smaller things that we could easily do at little or no cost, and a number of issues that need more of us to pay attention to. The fitting of 'Buffaloo' water saving bags into toilet cisterns will reduce our water consumption, and the use of recycled paper for all our printing needs would be a good step towards sustainability.

For some things we need the cooperation of all those who volunteer. So we must ensure that things like washing-up liquid bottles are refilled and not thrown away, the use of 'oasis' for flower arranging is quickly phased out, and the waste and recycling bins outside are correctly used.

We're also looking at better ways to monitor our Carbon Footprint, both as a church and as individuals in our wider lives. There are many calculators available, some too complicated to be used easily, so we will look for one that is much more user-friendly and perhaps run surgeries to help individuals complete it for themselves. In this way we can not only demonstrate that we are encouraging good practice, but we should be able to help people save money too.

Carbon Offsetting could also be one of the possible solutions, enabling us to support projects in other places, such as tree planting or marine conservation. Some of our annual charitable giving could be used for such projects. We need to learn more about Carbon Offsetting, so look out for further information in next month's Green Pages.

please turn to next page

The process for gaining an EcoChurch Award starts by completing a questionnaire showing the different sorts of things (like those listed above) that we have done to help us sit more lightly on this planet. Bronze and Silver were awarded on the basis of our response to those questions, however to achieve the Gold standard we will also have to be examined by an assessor who will want to see evidence of physical changes and of our behaviours as a 'green' church. So it will be up to all of us to do our bit and engage with achieving this milestone and an ongoing commitment.

Church Garden

There are a number of reasons for wanting to do something with the small garden space in front of the cottage.

It is currently something of an eyesore and desperately needs tidying up in a way that can be easily maintained in the future. This will not only be of benefit to ourselves and the many visitors who come into the building via the side door for mid-week bookings, but it will provide a more pleasant outlook for any tenant of the cottage. We cannot guarantee that whoever rents the cottage in future will want to maintain this space, so we will take back responsibility for it and turn it into something more pleasant that can be maintained without disturbing the privacy of the resident.

It makes environmental sense to turn this space into a wildlife friendly space in the centre of town. Our previous design proposals majored on this theme, but it would have required too much intervention to keep it looking respectable. However, things like bird boxes and bug hotels can be installed and left alone, while carefully chosen planting can be done in a variety of containers surrounded by refreshed gravel and other permeable landscaping.

The EcoChurch Award includes an optional section about the use of church land, which is not particularly relevant for a building such as ours that has no more than this tiny space to call 'land'. We have decided not to include the garden in our bid for a Gold Award, therefore not needing us to undertake this project in such a complicated way. However, for the reasons already stated, we still want to improve this space and keep it looking good for all to see and use.

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

Bible Month 2023

Over recent years we have followed the Bible Month themes during our Sunday morning services and in mid-week study groups. This has given us the opportunity to look deeper into the books of James, Jonah, Colossians, Ruth, Mark and Isaiah. This year Bible Month will help us delve into the book of Revelation.

So throughout the month of July our Sunday services will be led by Neil Richardson, Adrian Williams, Mike Owens and Joyce Evans; each taking a few chapters in turn as a preaching theme, and then following it up by leading an informal mid-week group on Tuesdays at 2.30pm in the Garden Room. This will provide an excellent opportunity to discuss the previous Sunday's sermon with the preacher!

To kick-off the series, Neil will lead an introductory session on Tuesday 4th July (2.30 in the Garden Room) to provide an overview of the whole book of Revelation.

Listed below are the themes for the four weeks, each covering several chapters. There probably won't be time in the service or study group to read all these chapters so you might like to look at them yourselves as personal preparation for each week:

Tue 4th July study group led by Neil Richardson - introduction and general overview of Revelation.

Sun 9th & Tue 11th July, led by Neil Richardson: The Church Then and Now, Rev. 1-3.

Sun 16th & Tue 18th July, led by Adrian Williams: The Triumph of the Lamb, Rev. 4-5.

Sun 23rd & Tue 25th July, led by Mike Owens: Witness, Worship and Waiting, Rev. 10-13.

Sun 30th July & Tue 1st Aug, led by Joyce Evans: Heading Home, Rev. 17-22.



The King's first Garden Party at Buckingham Palace

When you are invited to a party, would you think it rude not to respond with either an acceptance, or otherwise? However, that is not necessary when the Lord Chamberlain, who has been commanded by His Majesty to invite you to a Garden Party, sends his crested CRIII card in a tasteful buff envelope stamped with 'Lord Chamberlain, Buckingham Palace'. The preliminary 'phone call some weeks before from the Rifles Office in Winchester came as such a surprise that Ron and I thought it was a joke! But no, it was a genuine query – 'would we like to go?' How many people are likely to decline?

So, with expectations rising, off we went to Shrewsbury to investigate 'acceptable dress'. Thankfully, experienced advice was available at Halons Gentlemen's Outfitters. We were the third couple that morning to enquire about a new suit for their Buckingham Palace visit. Also, with guidance from a ladies' boutique owner, Theresa, my dress was chosen in five minutes – that must be a record!

Having made all the arrangements for travel, safe keeping for our Border terrier Tyr, plus overnight accommodation at the Victory Services Club, we were off. The final mile was by taxi, and oh dear, did the driver have a problem – police and traffic everywhere, pavements barriered off, horns tooting. I'm glad I don't have his job. We successfully joined the queue at the Hyde Park Corner Gate entrance where police checked our two forms of identification against the green 'Under no circumstances can this card be replaced' Admittance Cards.

The gardens are lovely, though not as fussy in design as you might imagine. Azaleas coming into flower in a blaze of colour, bird song, fluffy young moorhens on the lake, and no evidence of the many boots on the lawn from the King's Coronation, when he took his escorts' Oath of Allegiance, only three days before.

We all gathered round the back of the palace, wondering what was going to happen. An equerry announced that if there was a throng on the path



Royalty will go the other way'. It was later that we discovered that seven members of the Royal Family attended, with around 8,000 guests. Many in the crowd were much taller than we are, so we had no chance to see anyone!

For tea, there were three substantial marquees – one for the Royal Party, one for the VIPs (not us), and the largest one for everyone else. The service in this tent was amazing. Every tea station assistant had about four feet of space, with a tea urn and a delectable array of finger-sandwiches and miniature cakes, that was being constantly replenished. The whole serving area stretched the length of the marquee. There was even a special plate of gluten-free goodies (though not just for me, of course). The sun shone, and contrary to the London weather forecast, it didn't rain until that evening. The only unfortunate part was that, sadly, Princess Alexandra, who had been behind the initial Light Infantry invitation as she is the regiment's Colonel-on-Chief, was unable to attend. We wondered, as she is in her 80s, whether her involvement with the Coronation had proved too demanding. All in all, a wonderful experience. God save the King.

Barbara Gittings

Church bulletin notices that didn't quite work...

- ~ The Revd John Adams spoke briefly, much to the delight of his audience.
- ~ The students will present Shakespeare's 'Hamlet' in the church on Friday at 7pm. The congregation is invited to attend this tragedy.
- ~ A new loudspeaker system has been installed in the church. It was given by one of our members in memory of his wife.
- ~ The outreach committee has enlisted 25 visitors to make calls on people who are not afflicted with any church.
- ~ The Pastor would appreciate it if the ladies of the congregation would lend him their electric girdles for the pancake breakfast next Sunday morning.

Ons Plek Projects

for girls at risk of becoming street children

Ons Plek (meaning Our Place) is a charity in Cape Town, South Africa catering for girls at risk. It is connected to the Methodist Church there. Ludlow Methodist Church has supported it once (or maybe twice) through our annual tithing. We, ourselves, have supported it for many years and this story was in the latest newsletter we received. It gives some idea of the ongoing work of Ons Plek and its help for young girls. (Elizabeth Wright)

A 15 year old girl from Khayelitsha (large shanty town in Cape Town) was found in a broken down shack. After the death of her mother, her Aunt could no longer cope with her behaviour and she was abandoned.

She arrived at Ons Plek, making no eye contact, barely being able to talk in her mother tongue. The first few weeks we would find her digging in our bins, stealing and hoarding anything she could find (toilet paper, food etc). She had become so accustomed to not knowing when her next meal would come so would steal and hide food. She was filled with anger and would lash out at others or have extreme outbursts, not being able to control her emotions and she struggled to communicate her thoughts.

She became part of our life skills programme where she learnt how to cook weekly in a group of 2/3 supervised by a Child Care worker. She learnt how to clean and do her washing. On a Friday they would go to the local shop to buy the weekly food encouraging them how to shop wisely within a budget, supervised by staff.

Her weekly counselling sessions allowed us to unpack her life story, work on the trauma (loss, rape, abuse, neglect, rejection) she had faced and started to restore her emotional wellbeing. Slowly the eyes lifted, and slowly we started to see the smiles.

Our weekly group work sessions empowered her with developmental skills where she learnt more about anger management, friendships and making good choices and so much more. Through our in-house Bridging School programme, our teacher assessed that she had significant learning needs; the long gap in her education hindered her further.

At 15, she could not read or write in any language, she could barely count to 10.

She was offered a place in a skills school but after several weeks they asked us to remove her because she could not cope with the work.

Although we aim to get all girls into a community school (mainstream or alternative), it is not always possible due to several challenges the child might have.

So she returned to our bridging school where the teacher could equip her with basic maths, language and life skills.

At 17 years old she became part of our exit programme focusing on independence and work readiness once back in the community - CV writing, job hunting etc. Due to her academic challenges, we found a supported work programme in the community, learning a basic skill, whilst earning a stipend. Ons Plek's main purpose is to reunite girls with family in the community. If the conditions they come from remain unsuitable then we explore alternative family. Due to a long standing family feud, she was separated from quite a large family. We worked alongside the family to rebuild this relationship and equip the family with skills to manage her needs. When she was 18, they agreed to welcome her back home after several months of weekend visitation and intervention.

To many success means completing matric, going off to study and getting a good job . . . but to Ons Plek success can look so different. For this young person, after a 3 year tough journey, at 18 she was reunited with family, she could cook, clean, access community clinic and travel independently and do her weekly shop within a budget. She was equipped with skills to manage her emotions and to help her build on relationships. Although she could still not read fluently she left being able to speak 3 languages, was confident in who she was and equipped with lifelong skills to help her cope in the community.



On Easter day the children made Easter gardens. We talked about the 3 crosses and how sad everyone was. The joy Mary felt when she found that Jesus was not in the tomb and was alive: is reflected in the flowers put in the Easter garden.

Ruth Owens

Church Directory

I have had a number of people ask about when our church directory will be updated. This is done every two years and so is due this September - which is timely for the arrival of our new minister.

It would be good to get it ready to go as early as possible so if you are not yet included or if you know of anyone who you think should be there but isn't, please let me know so we can get a consent form to them. Pastoral visitors - could you check your lists please?

Also let me know of any changes of address, contact numbers or emails since the last time. Please tell me of anything you see that needs changing - even if it might seem obvious that I know already!

Thank you

Joyce Evans 890670

Contact Numbers:



Minister: Rev Kim Stilwell
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
Christine Paulden 01584 319072

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 Church Office 01584 879233
