

50p

October 2023

# GREETINGS FROM LUDLOW METHODIST CHURCH



St Aidan, first Bishop of Lindisfarne

Dear Family,

“I tell you the truth, anyone who welcomes my messenger is welcoming me, and anyone who welcomes me is welcoming the Father who sent me.” (Jn 13:20)

Whilst Maurice and I are just ordinary people, we recognize the truth of the statement by John in regard to the wonderful welcome which we have received from you. We have been quite overwhelmed and we both thank you very much.

Welcome and hospitality are keynotes of the Bible and we remember how Abraham showed great hospitality to three strangers, as did his nephew Lot. They turned out to be angels – messengers of God. Hence the instruction in Hebrews 13:2, “Don’t forget to show hospitality to strangers, for some who have done this have entertained angels without realizing it!”

As I said, we’re just ordinary people with one dog, not angels...but,... you never know who will walk through y/our door.

Bless you,

Denise and Maurice xx

## World Porridge Day

Mary’s Meals will be celebrating World Porridge Day on 10th October, and with oat-based events throughout October - we would love you to take part!

We would like to invite you to host a porridge event to raise funds and awareness for Mary’s Meals. This could be before or after a church service or at an event during the week. We have lots of information and ideas on our website, where you can also download our Porridge Party pack: [www.worldporridgeday.com](http://www.worldporridgeday.com)

### Why do we celebrate World Porridge day?

In Malawi, Zambia and Zimbabwe, Mary’s Meals serves children steaming mugs of vitamin-enriched porridge, helping them to learn and grow. That’s why we celebrate World Porridge Day on 10 October every year – we know that porridge has the power to change lives.

Please let me know if I can provide you with any further support or resources. I look forward to hearing about any porridge-based events in your community: [hannah.moore@marysmeals.org](mailto:hannah.moore@marysmeals.org)

**A huge thank you for the support that you have given to Mary’s Meals.**

*If you would like to organise an event for World Porridge Day please contact Hannah Moore directly on the above email*



The image shows the Mary's Meals logo on the left, which includes the text "mary's meals" and "a simple solution to world hunger". To the right of the logo is a photograph of three young children, a girl in the foreground smiling broadly while holding a green mug of porridge, and two boys behind her. The background is a solid blue color.

**It costs just**  
**£19.15**  
**to feed a child for a**  
**whole school year!**

## **My Christian Journey ..... So Far! Part 1 – The Early Years**

I was told, although I can't remember, that I attended Bethesda Methodist Chapel, Elland, West Yorkshire, when I was three years old – the minimum age of acceptance in the Primary Department. My earliest recollection was between five and six years old and that I didn't want to go there.

On arrival at 10.30am children, accompanied by their teachers, went into Chapel staying for the first hymn, prayer and, possibly a short address, before processing out to their respective Sunday School classes. In the afternoon Sunday School was between 2-3pm.

The reason I made various excuses, such as stomach or headache or feeling sick was because there was no-one there my age. They were all one or two years older and had their friends so didn't want to bother with a youngster like me. In those days most children attended Sunday School but all my friends went to other numerous Churches in the town. The age range in the Primary Department went from 3 to 8. All I wanted to do was go home and I can honestly say I can't remember a thing I learnt during those years. Nevertheless, because my mum said I ought to go, at the end of each year I won a first class book prize for 100% attendance.

However, not all things were bad. The Sunday School Superintendent (who happened to lead our Department) also trained children for performing little concerts. Each year in March we had two 'Sale of Work' events. These were huge fund-raising events held in our adjacent building. To put you in the picture, if you check on Google for 'Old Elland' you will see the large imposing Chapel complete with another building. Eventually, due to dry rot and high expense to do anything about it, that was demolished in the 1990s; the materials sold and a car park made which you can see today.

The now extinct building had lots of downstairs rooms for Sunday School Departments, both ladies and gents toilets and a very large kitchen. Upstairs was a stage with three entrances to it, all the footlights you could wish for, two large changing rooms in the back, toilet and washing facilities. The large auditorium completed the upstairs section. An actor's dream!

Going back to the 'Sale of Work' days, on the Tuesday afternoon a speaker was invited to 'open' the event. He/she was booked by the Trustees in those days but they were always people of affluence as they were expected to make a hefty donation to the Church.

All around the sides of the auditorium were stalls, manned by the 'old dears' of the Church who were probably in their 50s! Men and children would be at work and school respectively. Items sold were ice-cream, pop, sweets, cakes, preserves, bric-a-brac and what I called old fashioned stuff such as chair-back covers, pinafores, crocheted edged handkerchiefs, embroidered tablecloths etc. In the evening a concert was given by the Choir. Teas and pie and pea suppers were provided on each day.

It was the Saturday which affected me. Children between 5 or 6 to age 10 would 'open' the Saturday proceedings at 3pm. We sat on the stage in a semi-circle and were given little party pieces to do by the afore-mentioned trainer. The eldest child would be the actual one to declare the bazaar 'open' and the next eldest would be the compare. Some children would sing or play the piano whilst others, less accomplished at that age, would read the Bible, say a little prayer or, like me, be given a poem to learn. At rehearsals our trainer would stand at the back of the auditorium and say we had to speak up (no microphones then). I took to this like a duck to water and loved every moment. I had found my niche.

Between the ages of 8-11 we were in the Junior Department. Even though I still wasn't keen on going to Sunday School, something must have rubbed off on me because I listened to my teachers. So much so that what they said registered with me. When I got home I arranged my two dolls, two teddy bears and a gollywog (yes, you could have them then thank goodness) on my bed against a wall and gave them a full service, including sermon. Unknown to me at the time, my destiny had been mapped out.

*Maureen Farmery.*

**Next month – Part 2 - The Teenage Years**



## About Peter

Neil came to our home to give us communion and spoke about the call of Peter. Strange that Jesus proclaimed him as the rock on which the church would be built, when Peter was, as Neil said, quite wobbly. He was inclined to be impetuous and sometimes got the wrong end of the stick, apt to be influenced too easily (Gal 2:11) but 'the Lord looketh upon the heart' and Jesus knew what Peter could become.

For one thing, he didn't lack courage. Let's face it, would you have got out of a boat into a stormy sea, even with Jesus near, as Peter did according to Matthew 14:28. Given Peter's complete trust in Jesus, one might.

When Jesus was arrested the other disciples made themselves scarce, but not Peter, who followed into the courtyard of the High Priest. What took him into such danger? Only intense loyalty to his friend and Lord; reckless, yes, but it was brave. No wonder, when challenged, that courage failed.

And Peter was a do-er, he needed to be active. Some folk are made like that. After my mother died, my father kept his home tidy, but when his sister came, she still found plenty to do; it tried his patience (and he had a lot) to persuade her to sit for a cup of tea and a chat. Peter, it seems, was a bit like that. At the Transfiguration, Peter was lost for words, but filled with the urge to do something he offers to build three booths, one for Jesus, one for Moses, one for Elijah.

After the Resurrection, the disciples are back in Galilee, on the lake shore, waiting. Peter is not good at this. What happens now, he must be thinking. Can you picture him, wandering disconsolately along the shore, maybe kicking a stone into the water. Then suddenly he cries "I'm going fishing!". Now that sounds more like Peter. The others say, "We'll go with you". Of course, that didn't mean sitting quietly on the bank, idly watching a float, but standing in the boat, casting the net and drawing it in, again and again, so by morning they could truthfully say "We have toiled all night".

They have caught nothing. Jesus, now appearing on the shore, bids them 'cast on the right side of the boat' and they are rewarded with a huge catch. At this stage they have not recognised him; a watcher on the shore can help by spotting a different colour in the water and calling out. It's not until another disciple says to him "It is the Lord" that Peter, overcome with joy, leaps into the water and wades to the shore, desperate to be with Jesus again.

And Jesus, who came not to be served but to serve, has a fire going, and already some fish cooking for the hungry men; what could be more practical? Then Peter is given those three opportunities to declare his love, as it were, erasing the guilt of those denials. (John 21:15)

So, what do we make of this wobbly man? Led by the Holy Spirit he was indeed to become that rock in the life of the church. Clearly Peter loved his Lord from the very depth of his soul, here is one attribute we should all be striving for.

*Maurice and Brenda Coleman*

## The SARBE and the Helicopter

In the 1960s, the ability for ground troops to communicate with support aircraft was still very primitive. There was a radio, the SRA43, that could talk to the fighter aircraft supplying close air support, but these were for specialists and not for the likes of poor infantrymen. They had to rely on the Search and Rescue Beacon (SARBE).

In fact, this was a piece of equipment designed for ditched aircrew. Once activated it transmitted a beep that could be followed by any rescue craft. It had a very short voice range, about two miles, which enabled the down fliers to talk to their rescuers, but in order to do so you actually had to have line of sight with them, if they were over your horizon, you could forget it! They were about the size of an old-fashioned video cassette and bright yellow. Great if you were lost at sea but not so good if you were trying to stay hidden in the jungle.

We used to carry one during our jungle patrols in case of emergencies. I remember one occasion when a soldier fell into a hornet's nest and was in a very bad way. We called for help using our normal radio comms and then used the SABRE to bring the helicopter in when it was close. It probably saved his life.

Of course, being the signaller, it fell to me to carry it! We normally walked into the jungle at the beginning and walked out again at the end. The part of Malaya we were operating

in was very hilly and thickly wooded, making walking exhausting, in some places you were lucky if you covered two miles a day.



Towards the end of one exercise, we were informed that Wessex helicopters from HMS Ark Royal, now in Singapore, would lift us out and take us home – a luxury. But first we had to build a landing site. Being so hilly it would have to be on

the side of one, meaning that the helicopters would have to fly in sideways. This shouldn't have been a problem as Royal Navy fliers do this regularly when landing on carriers.

Felling the trees was easy, just wrap explosive detonation cord around the bottom of the trunk and ignite it = one downed tree. The problem was then moving it off the site, it took us a day's hard work and sweat to clear everything.

The next morning several helicopters appeared, and I was talking to the lead pilot via the SARBE. We threw coloured smoke to identify the site and slowly the first Wessex started to descend and then moved sideways to settle down on its wheels. The pilot started talking to me telling me that he didn't think the landing site was big enough. We carried aide memoires which gave details of this sort of thing, and I told him that we had built it to the dimensions in that.



Suddenly there was a very loud noise and parts of the jungle canopy started falling all around us - the rotor blades had hit the trees.

The helicopter, at this point perhaps three feet off the ground, dropped like a stone and bounced several times on its suspension before settling. The pilot and co-pilot in a Wessex sit high off the ground and over the two engines. These were quickly closed down and as they came to a stop the ends of the rotors were just a mess.

My boss and I exchanged a few choice words that can't be repeated here. The pilot looked down and could see that I was the one he had been talking to, the bright yellow SARBE was a bit of a giveaway. He climbed down, walked towards us and said 'Well I didn't think it was big enough, but it certainly is now. Any chance of a cup of tea?' (expletives removed to protect the innocent). Which was promptly provided.

What happened then? Well, we walked home – as usual. And the helicopter? Goodness knows, we never heard anything further about the incident. I suspect the Navy recovered it, or the jungle did!

*Ron Gittings*

As we find a pearl hidden in an oyster,  
may we find something of Christ in those who irritate us;

As we find beautiful grain patterns revealed in a plank sawn from a tree;  
may we find something of Christ in those with a rough exterior;

As we find a profusion of flowers from dull seeds hidden in the ground,  
may we find something of Christ's beauty in the most unprepossessing person;

As we find a polished shiny conker hidden in its spiky case,  
may we find something of Christ's light shining in even the most prickly character.

Remembering always that the treasure of the light of Christ is found in earthen vessels.

*(2 Corinthians 4:7 KJV.)*

Methodist Prayer Handbook page 18

*Courtesy of Stephen Dalton*

# 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*

**October 2023**

## **What happened at the Circuit Away Day?**

On Saturday 16<sup>TH</sup> September approx. 50 people from all over the Circuit gathered at Minsterley for an 'Away Day' on the theme of Hope in our Care for Creation.

In the opening worship, Rev Neil Richardson explored the Biblical justification for hope, looking in particular at what St. Paul says in Romans ch.8. Neil commented that the "wrath of God" is best understood as the consequence of human failing, pointing to the effects that humankind has had upon the climate. When the environment is in crisis we suffer and God weeps. God's wrath can therefore be better understood as God's anguish.

Our main speaker for the day was Hamish Leese, the Action for Hope Implementation Officer for the Methodist Church, who talked about the challenges of the Methodist Church's commitment to net zero by 2030, and the opportunity to see it as mission. The commitment is across all aspects of the church's life; our buildings, events and investments. However, this cannot be an initiative delivered from the top – it needs everyone and every church to be involved. Nor can this be achieved 'over night'; there is a recognition that we need to start small in order to seek transformation. In fact, a desire to reach net zero carbon emissions demonstrates our hope in God's future as an opportunity for mission. Mission can be described as joining in with what God is doing – caring for God's creation. Importantly, this also gives us an opportunity to engage with, and partner with, those who are not affiliated with the church, but are passionate about environmental issues.

*continued on next page*



Our journey to net zero needs to be seen in the way we maintain our buildings, in being thoughtful about making travel arrangements, by making sensible use of technology where appropriate, in how we engage with our local communities, and by expressing our concerns through prayer and worship.

These are complex issues that will need patient planning, starting by understanding where we are now, creating a pathway to where we want to be, and asking ourselves how our actions fit this plan. There are some useful resources to help with this, such as the **ECO Church** programme that this church is already pursuing, having gained the Silver Award and now working towards the Gold standard. Other resources include [creationcare.org.uk](http://creationcare.org.uk) and a carbon footprint tool for churches at [360carbon.org](http://360carbon.org)

The whole process may well take time so it is important to make a start by embedding the principles of creation care into all of our church life, through things like special Sundays, guest speakers, carefully chosen liturgy and prayers, small group studies, enquirers courses looking at green issues as well as evangelism, and coffee mornings (and other forms of catering) using sustainable supplies.

Hamish left us with two guiding principles in our care for God's creation:

- As people made in the image of God, we believe we are called to reflect God's nature in being present and active in caring for creation.
- The principle of 'connexionalism' is important in reminding us of our own network of belonging and believing, and that individual Methodists and their congregations never view themselves apart from a wider body of believers, nor the wider work and purposes of God.

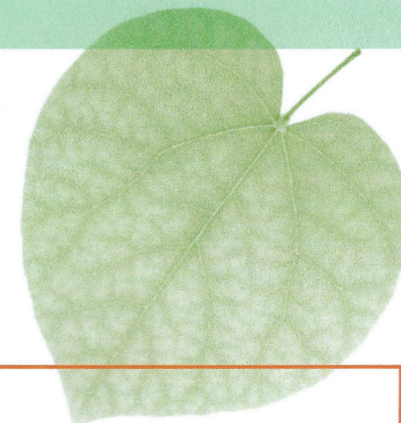
In the afternoon our District Chair, Rev Rachel Parkinson, introduced the work of the Joint Advisory Committee on Ethics of Investment (JACEI) to which she has recently been appointed as Chair. JACEI acts as advisor to the Central Finance Board (CFB) and its offshoot Epworth Investment Management. It is important to note that CFB is run by Christians as part of their Christian commitment. This is evident in the way that they can model ethical values to the investment market and provide an evangelistic witness in so doing.

Rachel illustrated this with stories of work done by companies in which CFB invests and has shareholder influence, such as improving the working conditions for tea plantation workers in Sri Lanka and the rights of farmers in Brazil. Often the best way to influence companies is to continue to invest so that we can have a voice in the boardroom, backed up by 70 million Methodist people worldwide; but at other times the best course of action is through disinvestment. Currently the Methodist Church does not invest its funds in oil, armaments, tobacco and gambling companies.

There are things that we can all do as individuals:

- Keep ethics in mind when you do your shopping.
- Find out about the work of JACEI and the CFB - sign up for Client Conversations.
- Take an interest in your private pension, if you have one. Is there an ethical policy?
- Find out about your bank, and if you're not happy, consider switching.
- If you have investments, how do they match up with your Christian principles? What options are available to you?
- For practical guidance visit the website [justmoney.org.uk](http://justmoney.org.uk)

The closing worship was led by Deacon Carys Woodley (from the north of our Circuit) who had also led an alternative afternoon activity experiencing Forest Church. She emphasised the importance of being still and observing, as a way of engaging with all that nature and creation has to teach us.



### A prayer for Creationtide\*

God of all people, of all creatures; we thank you for the world that you have created, where each ecosystem lives in delicate balance and where the world produces the food and the clean water that we all need to sustain life.

The bounty of the harvest is a testament to the wonder of creation. And yet we know that all creation is groaning. The weather isn't what it was and that throws out the created balance, making it harder for farmers to grow the food we all need.

Thank you for the efforts of people locally, nationally and globally to care for your world. For the people who use their creative energy to work for solutions, for the people who raise their voices to call for justice, for the people who make small changes every day to tread more lightly on the earth. May we all learn to live simply, so that others can simply live. **Amen**

*\*Creationtide is marked during September/October each year*

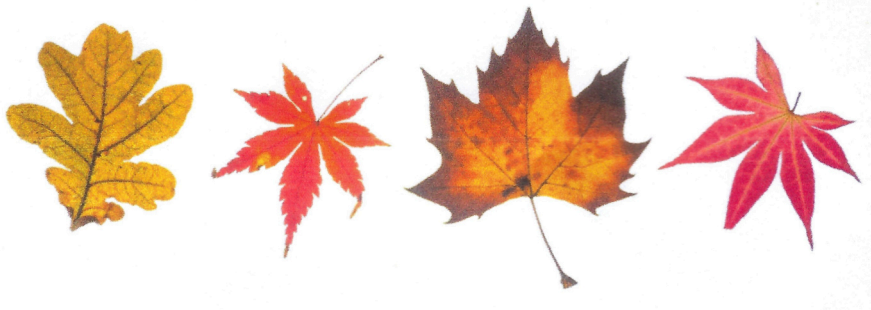


## Autumn Eco Tips

A Rocha Eco Church suggests some ways you could green your home this autumn, in a bid to tackle climate change.

Reduce your heating bill by testing how draughty or leaky your home is. Find the gaps that let cold air in and warm air out (think keyholes, letterboxes, gaps around the edges or bottoms of windows and doors, loft hatches, floorboards etc.) and fix these gaps using the correct materials (there are lots of handy tutorials on how to do this online). Now is also a very good time to prepare for winter by sticking tinfoil or reflective panels between the wall and radiator; these will help reflect heat back into your room during the colder months.

Provide food and shelter for wildlife, now and in preparation for next year. Clean all your bird feeders to avoid the spread of disease to winter migrants and put up a nest box well in advance of the breeding season. A nest box could also prove a cosy spot for small birds to spend the night, particularly on cold winter evenings ahead.



## Green News from Zero Carbon Shropshire

'Big Solar Co-op' is forging ahead with large-scale rooftop solar panel installations. The Big Solar Co-op has completed its first installation of a large rooftop solar array at Kerry Taste & Nutrition, near Tenbury Wells (*where Joyce Evans used to work*). Kevin Oubridge, local coordinator for Shropshire and Telford Big Co-op, said: "We're very excited about what is the first of many planned installations across Shropshire and Telford."

This is a big one at 290kW and 762 panels, and will reduce Kerry's carbon emissions by something like 50 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub> (equivalent) every year, quite apart from saving the firm significant amounts on their monthly electricity bills. Kevin, whose role is part funded by Shropshire Council, is always on the lookout for potential sites.

## Buying new clothes isn't always a simple choice

The average consumer now buys 60% more clothing than they did 15 years ago. Cheap 'fast-fashion' clothes are produced in high volume, which means a high cost to the planet: 10% of global CO<sub>2</sub> emissions are caused by the textile industry – that's more than international aviation and shipping combined! The fashion industry produces 20% of global wastewater, and it is anticipated that its water use will increase by 50% by 2030.

In the UK, we buy more clothes per person than any other country in Europe. Around 300,000 tonnes of clothing end up in household bins every year, with around 20% going to landfill and 80% incinerated. One report shows evidence that when synthetic textiles are incinerated or go to landfill, they can leach harmful microfibres into the environment. According to another report, 20-35% of all primary source microplastics in the marine environment are from synthetic clothing. A single 6kg domestic wash has the potential to release as many as 700,000 fibres.

Clothes are produced cheaply which often means low wages and poor working conditions for garment workers. With rising labour costs in countries like China and Bangladesh, garment brands are looking to new markets where labour costs are even lower, often because there is no legal minimum wage in those countries where governments are keen not to discourage foreign investment by increasing these costs.

*Oxfam report*



*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.*



## WALK A MILE TO END POLIO

Members of Ludlow Rotary Club are inviting residents of Ludlow and the surrounding area, young and old, to join them in “walking a mile for polio”.

For almost 40 years Rotary International has been battling to eradicate polio from the world. When it launched its global campaign to fight the crippling and sometimes deadly disease, more than 350,000 children were being paralyzed by polio every year in 125 countries. Today, as a result of an intensive immunization programme, the incidence of polio has been reduced by 99.9% and the wild polio virus is now only endemic in Pakistan and Afghanistan where less than 10 cases have been identified so far this year. Rotary International, along with other agencies, continues to raise funds to bring this devastating and crippling disease to a world-wide end.

Ludlow Rotary is supporting this global effort, and invites all to join them in “walking a mile for polio” any time between 10am and 12 noon on Sunday 22 October. *(A collection box will be made available in church this Sunday for those unable to participate)*

A number of routes starting from a registration point by the entrance to Ludlow Castle and suitable for all levels of fitness have been selected for the purpose. No individual will be asked to give more than £1 - but as many pounds as possible will be welcomed!

Every donation to Rotary will be trebled by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, so every £1 will become £3.

Speaking about this initiative, Ludlow Rotary organiser Tom Hunt said “Until polio is totally eradicated, every child is at risk of this highly infectious, potentially life-threatening and paralysing disease.”

“There is no cure for polio but there is a safe and effective vaccine which we need to continue to roll out until there are no more cases.”

“When the world is finally declared polio free, it will be just the second human disease ever to be eradicated, after smallpox.”

“Please help Rotary to wipe the life threatening and disabling poliovirus off the face of the earth simply by walking a mile for polio, and donating £1.”



### For further information

Please contact Barry Forrester on 01584 878872 / 07786 078470 or at [forrester.ludlow@gmail.com](mailto:forrester.ludlow@gmail.com)

## CAN YOU HELP CHURCHES TOGETHER?

**Churches Together Around Ludlow (CTAL)** works to develop deeper relationships among local churches and:

- Organises collective witness such as the Good Friday Walk, the Living Nativity enactment in the town centre, our presence in schools and the Christian Unity Week programme.
- Supports and publicises partner groups that support local people such as the Food Bank and Ludlow Under Pressure.

**We are seeking to recruit two volunteers to be Secretary/Administrator and Treasurer:**

- The Committee **meets in Ludlow** once every 3 months on a Thursday at 2:00 pm
- The **Secretary/Administrator role** involves collaborating with the Chair and Treasurer via e-mail to (i) circulate an agenda, take meeting notes and publish minutes; (ii) process occasional e-mail requests from partner groups for help and publicity.
- The **Treasurer role** involves (i) using CTAL's bank account on-line to monitor income and make occasional payments following authorisation by the Chair; (ii) adding together the transactions to provide a simple quarterly report to the Committee. The volume of transactions is very light and no experience of accounting is needed.

**If you would like more information please e-mail the CTAL Chair, Tony Davies at [tonydavies234@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:tonydavies234@hotmail.co.uk)**

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

### From medical records....

- ~ On the second day, the knee was better and on the third day it had completely disappeared.
- ~ The patient has been depressed ever since she began seeing me in 2022.
- ~ Alive, but without permission.
- ~ She slipped on wet leaves in late September, and her legs went in separate directions.
- ~ The patient was released to the Outpatient department without dressing.

## Three kings, several saints and a monk.

### Part One: Christianity is coming.

Medieval history has always fascinated me, especially the early period. Romantically known as 'The Dark Ages', this stretches from AD410 when the Romans finally withdrew from Britannia and the invasion by the Duke of Normandy, William the Bastard, forever known as 'the Conqueror', following his victory on 14 October 1066.

This month's magazine cover is a photograph taken by Ron on Lindisfarne of St. Aidan. So, who was he, and why is his life so important? What was it about the Cult of Saints that dominated early believers, and how was Christianity introduced to this island's pagan population?

Towards the end of the C6, there were seven Anglo-Saxon kingdoms – Kent, Wessex, Mercia, East Anglia, and Northumbria, which absorbed Deira and Bernicia. Their rulers were the elite of the tribes known as Angles, Saxons and Jutes, that had arrived from northern Europe (some say invited by the Romano-British for their mercenary prowess) and settled across the land, driving a proportion of the Celts into the extremities of Wales and over the water into Ireland. The incomers practised many faiths, worshipping diverse gods, with a tradition that the warrior caste should be revered, as this homage was deserved when kings gave their lives for their people. And that happened frequently – it was a violent time.

Once the Christian faith arrived with Augustine in AD597, those writing the lives of saints (known as hagiographers) broadened their scope to include martyrs, because their mode of death would, undoubtedly, bring them closer to God. As well, warrior saints were distinctive and popular, demonstrating a spiritual level in excess of ordinary men. It was thought that both would fulfil the vital role of intercessor and 'friend of God'. This led to an obsessive portrayal of warrior saints with undiminished virtue, sometimes ignoring their brutality, hostility towards neighbours driven by invasionary fervour, whilst emphasising any background of childhood signs of saintly behaviour, suggested by them overcoming early crises and trials of life.

Relevant examples are King Edwin of Deira (modern-day East Yorkshire) who ruled AD616-633, and his nephew by marriage, Oswald (born 605, ruled 634-642). As a result of typical wars, both young men were driven from their homes, seeking refuge elsewhere. In Edwin's case, ultimately it was to the king of the East Angles, Rædwald (later recognised at Sutton Hoo). However, for Oswald his escape with his brother Oswiu was more meaningful, as they made their way to the sanctuary of Iona, where they both converted to Christianity.

The Augustinian bases of Canterbury, Rochester and later London, were the original hubs from which Irish, Frankish and Italian missionaries spread this new religion, and yet the Celtic people of Ireland had been Christian for many years. It was their ruling family who had the education, literacy, and administrative skills to encompass the western isles off the coast of what we now know as Scotland, with their chosen monasticism. When Oswald became king, he requested assistance from Iona, to bring his love of God to his people. It was Aidan who came, creating the most important Christian centre in Northumbria, based on the island of Lindisfarne. The monk, the Venerable Bede describes Aidan as 'a man of outstanding gentleness, devotion and moderation who had a zeal for God ...' for which Aidan was later sanctified.

### As they say at the end of all the best tv shows – 'Next time... Part Two: Iona v. Rome, and the tricky question of timing'.

*BMG.*

---

### Don't mention it!

As part of his annual talk to our local Town Council, our minister told some funny stories. Since he planned to use the same anecdotes at the forthcoming Harvest Dinner at church, he asked the young reporter covering the event not to include them in his report.

Reading the newspaper on the following morning, he noticed that the well-meaning reporter had ended his story on the banquet with the observation "The minister told a number of stories that cannot be published."



## 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](http://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](mailto:rongittings47@yahoo.co.uk)

**Room Bookings** Church Office 01584 879233

**Church Website** Mike Owens 07925 173857  
[owens.redtails@gmail.com](mailto:owens.redtails@gmail.com)