

Donations

September 2025

**GREETINGS FROM
LUDLOW
METHODIST
CHURCH**



Osborne House, Isle of Wight

Trust God.

Psalm 56:10-12 NLT

I praise God for what he has promised; yes, I praise the Lord for what he has promised.

I trust in God, so why should I be afraid? What can mere mortals do to me?

I will fulfil my vows to you, O God, and will offer a sacrifice of thanks for your help.

As many of you know, I went on my first ever holiday alone last month. Holidays have always been in the company of either my parents or Maurice: but this year has been very different. I decided that if I didn't go abroad on my own now, then I never would.

Some kind neighbours suggested Mallorca giving me a DK Guide. I liked the look of it and booked.

During this ghastly year, I have always felt supported and loved by God, whether through his presence or the loving kindness of you all and others nearby. Nevertheless, this next episode seemed daunting as the time grew near. Then I visited with Felicity, Tom and James. At the end of the visit, Felicity gave me a copper ring upon which was inscribed, "Trust God." Our eyes met, and I understood. On my return to Blighty's terra firma, I did indeed offer a sacrifice of thanks for all of His protection, goodness, grace and blessing.

Denise

Pray for Armed Forces amid 'uncertain' times, General Synod hears

A senior Army officer has urged the Church to pray for and support members of the Armed Forces "who put themselves in harm's way to protect our nation".

In a recent address to the General Synod, Brigadier Jaish Mahan, Deputy Commander of the 1st UK Division – who has served in Kosovo, Sierra Leone, Iraq and Afghanistan – spoke of how the world is in a "complex place" currently with conflict in Europe and in the Middle East, and several other "unstable" regions around the world.

He said the Army is "hugely privileged" to be supported by "truly exceptional" chaplains who, he said, are "part of the fabric of our family".

"Their role is complex, from pastoral and spiritual, through to moral, often helping our leaders make the right decisions on a difficult day," he said.

"My own personal experience of chaplains across my career and deployments has been that they have been truly exceptional people," he added.

Brigadier Mahan, a practising Christian, asked members to pray for and support members of the Armed Forces who face dangers to protect the nation.

He drew a connection between the place of the Armed Forces and the Church which he said had "always stood fast in times of crisis".

He said: "First, please continue to pray for and support those men and women, and their families, who put themselves in harm's way to protect our nation.

"Secondly, please consider how you as the church leadership might support our nation, now in this time of uncertainty and should, heaven forbid, we find ourselves in a largescale conflict.

"The military, like the Church, is part of the fabric of our nation, fundamental pillars that hold together our house, our society."



Lindsay Beavon

The Fun in Fund-Raising Group has met since April 2022 with some members serving much longer. During that time we have come up with some excellent fund-raising ideas. Now, after much discussion, it was agreed to disband at the end of December 2025 to let other people in the Church either form a new group or come up with individual ideas to organise themselves. We, like many of our Church community, are getting older and feel that we have done our bit over the last few years so now it's over to others to have a go. Thanks for all your support since April 2022.

Church Directory

The church directory is currently being refreshed and will be distributed in November.

Could I ask you all please to check the details against your name in the current version, and, if there are any corrections to be made, please pass them on to Ron Gittings, in writing please. You may have moved, changed your email address or mobile 'phone number etc.

If you are not already included in the directory please contact either Joyce Evans or Ron Gittings for the relevant form to complete.

Thank you.

Dates for your Diary at Ludlow Methodist Church

Friday, the 12th September. Geoff's second Quiz of the year in the café area at 7pm.

Saturday, the 11th October. Rockerfellas Concert with guests Ruth Owens & Jane Hughes in the Church at 7.30pm. Donations in lieu of tickets to be split between the Church and Christian Aid.

Saturday, the 29th November. Celebrate Christmas in the Church and café areas between 10am - 2pm. Come and share the fun, sing carols, browse the stalls and learn more about the true meaning of Christmas. More details at a later date.

Maureen Farmery



Church skittles at Bitterley
Village Hall, Saturday 2nd
August



Orleton celebrates 135 years:

On Sunday 10th August, Orleton members held a celebratory service, led by Richard Hall, to celebrate 135 years of Methodism at Orleton.

The service was followed by a superb lunch, generously hosted by Paul and Sarah Burnham. Good food and good company!



Save the date:

25th September, Thursday at 7.30.

Neil Parkinson will be coming to us at Broad Street to describe his experiences volunteering with EAPPI (Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme for Palestine and Israel) and what life is like on the West Bank..

EAPPI practises “principled impartiality” which means it is neither pro-Israel nor pro Palestinian, though it is pro – human rights and international humanitarian law.

Neil spent 3 months based in the South Hebron Hills and it should be interesting to hear a first hand account of life in the region.

Adrian Williams



As far as Reg could tell, the burglar had
disturbed nothing in the vestry

Green Pages

A round-up of environmental
and climate-change news

September 2025

Praying for climate justice

*“Hope has two beautiful daughters;
their names are Anger and Courage.
Anger at the way things are, and
Courage to see that they do not remain as they are.”*

Augustine of Hippo

We thank you, God, that you call us as your Church to be an inclusive justice-seeking community in which each person is valued and all that might hurt or harm them is challenged.

Give us a holy anger against all that diminishes human life and dignity; courage to speak and to act against injustice; and so to praise you not only in our worship but through our lives.

As we learn from you, so may we seek your will, and so may we speak for those who are silenced and act for those who are marginalised and so prove ourselves to be your disciples. **Amen.**

*Jonathan Pye, former District Chair, Bristol District
(Day 7 Methodist Prayer Handbook)*



Restoring Nature for the future

Creation care is mission

In the opening chapters of Genesis, we are given an image of humanity's vocation: to be partners in God's creation. Genesis 2:15 tells us, *"The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it."* We are not owners, but we share in the care of a world that reflects God's glory.

Creation care is justice

Climate change and environmental degradation disproportionately affects people around the world who live in poverty. **Regenerative Agriculture** embodies the biblical vision of *shalom* - a holistic peace where relationships between God, humanity, and the earth are restored. The prophet Isaiah had a vision of a time when *"the desert will bloom"* (Isaiah 35:1); a poetic image of ecological renewal. In participating in this work, we become co-labourers with God in the healing of creation.

Creation care is hope

Regenerative Agriculture is a defiant act of hope. In a world facing ecological crisis, it is a tangible expression of the resurrection promise; death does not have the final word. Depleted lands can be brought back to life. Every compost pile, every cover-crop, every restored watershed becomes a signpost of the Kingdom of God breaking into the present. As Christians, we are called to live in anticipation of the new creation (Revelation 21:1-5). We can embody that future now, by taking seriously our vocation as co-stewards of creation and advocating for those in the fields cultivating life in the soil on our behalf and for a healthier future.

For those of us who don't have a daily direct connection with the soil and all the challenges around food production, in this ever more unpredictable climate, we do still have personal responsibilities around our choices and spending.



We also have a voice that can join with others in lobbying for change. Encourage your local MP to commit to restoring nature for a safer, healthier future. Lobbying for adequate funding for **Regenerative Agriculture** is one way we can embody that future now.

Regenerative Agriculture, by promoting biodiversity, soil health, and local food systems, contributes to food security and economic resilience. Five core principles of **Regenerative Agriculture**:

1. Minimise soil disturbance

Avoid ploughing; in favour of techniques that place seeds directly into the soil, helping capture carbon, improve water filtration, and maintain soil integrity.

2. Keep living roots

Living roots create communication channels through which nutrients and vital agents can travel, keeping the soil alive.

3. Promote diversity

Crop rotations and companion cropping introduce a variety of root structures and plant relationships, improving soil health and increasing yields.

4. Protect the soil surface

Bare soil is vulnerable to erosion by wind or rain; cover-crops shield and anchor the soil, preventing its loss and preserving nutrients.

5. Integrate livestock

Well-managed grazing mimics natural systems, stimulating root growth and enriching the soil with organic matter, which feeds countless micro-organisms.

A prayer:

Creator God, help us to be faithful partners in your world. Inspire us to work for justice, care for creation, and sow seeds of hope. May we live as people who anticipate the new creation, working together for a restored earth where your shalom reigns. **Amen.**

*Newsletter of Joint Public Issues Team (JPIT)
- Baptists, Methodist, United Reform Churches*

Why we don't need the Rosebank Oil Field

In July a letter on behalf of 18 Christian organisations and denominations – including the Joint Public Issues Team (JPIT) of the Baptist Union, United Reformed Church and the Methodist Church – was delivered to the Prime Minister and the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero, urging the abandonment of fossil fuels and expressing deep concern that further oil and gas extraction might be in the proposed Rosebank oil field off the coast of Shetland, which is incompatible with safe climate limits.

In January of this year, the previous government's approval of Rosebank was overturned in the courts. However, in June the government announced new rules governing oil and gas project approvals, meaning that Rosebank's lead developer (Norwegian oil giant Equinor) is expected to submit a new application to get Rosebank approved.

Over recent weeks a number of open letters from ocean groups, health institutions, Scottish groups, grassroots communities, parent voices and now Christian groups, have been sent to the Government expressing opposition to the exploitation of the Rosebank field, demonstrating a strong consensus across society that the project must not be given permission to proceed.

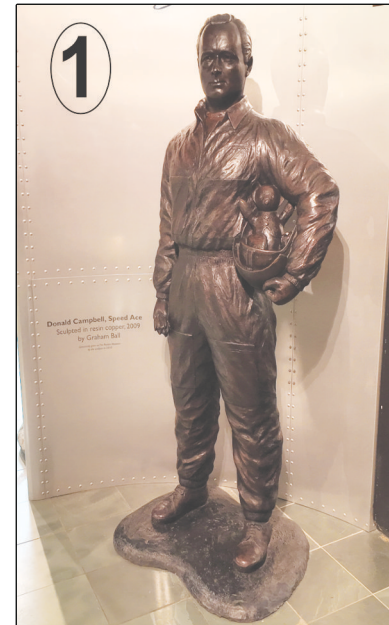
Rosebank won't do anything to lower our bills, save jobs, or make our energy supply more secure. It would lock us into decades more fossil fuels we cannot afford. Burning Rosebank's oil and gas would produce more CO₂ than the 28 poorest countries do in a year, and it is also right next to a Marine Protected Area, threatening the endangered species there. Climate change is already creating irreversible damage to our endangered ecosystems. We need to be doing what we can to protect them – Rosebank's oil must stay in the ground for the sake of people, the oceans and the climate.

The Green Pages of the Ludlow Methodist Church monthly magazine are brought to you by the Care for Creation Group.

For more information please contact Elizabeth Wright.

Donald Campbell, CBE, 1921 - 1967

Donald Campbell was tragically killed on the 4th January 1967, whilst attempting a new world water speed record on Coniston Water in the Lake District.



The cause of the accident will probably never be completely and accurately known. The boat designers, after carefully studying footage and images of the event, have concluded that it was caused by a series of tragic circumstances. At the start of 1967, Campbell's boat, Bluebird K7, had already achieved six world water speed records, but it was 11 years old, and its jet engine four years older. It had been designed to achieve speeds of up to 250mph, but its last record was achieved at 276.33mph.

Campbell desperately wanted to break the 300mph barrier, and consequently Bluebird was fitted with a newer and lighter engine earlier that year. She was a hydraplane, designed so that the body of the craft left the water at a certain speed and it then ran on planes, as seen on many European lakes.

One interpretation is that those tragic circumstances started to accumulate just before Christmas the previous year, 1966. Campbell and his team had gathered at Coniston to make that record attempt, but the weather was not good. There were several failed attempts. Despite Campbell's protests, members of his team started to leave in order to spend Christmas with their families. He accepted the inevitable.

Campbell was in serious financial difficulties and achieving a new world record of 300mph would go a long way towards producing a remedy. Also, the International Boat Show in London was due to start on the 4th January and Bluebird was scheduled to be there on display. What an achievement if it could be there with a new

world record! Campbell took the boat out on Christmas Day and reportedly hit 250mph. Another run on Boxing Day achieved 283mph, Campbell saw the new record looming and there was no going back.

The team was expected to gather on the 27th, including the official time keepers. Also back on the scene was Campbell's great friend and adviser, Leo Villa, who had been with him on all of his record attempts. Upon learning of these unofficial trips, he actually arrived during one, he was absolutely livid.

4th January...

The weather remained unfavourable, but it had been a lot worse. Perhaps they could get a run in? At 0841Hrs rockets were fired to scare wild life away from the lake, and at 0845Hrs Campbell started his last record attempt. This would consist of two runs through a measured kilometre. To achieve the record Bluebird would need to average 300mph through the two runs. The second run would have to commence within one hour of the first. This allowed time to refuel and for the disturbance on the lake created by the first run to dissipate, which could take up to 20 minutes. Running at those sort of speeds on small planes required a smooth surface.

At the end of his first run Campbell had achieved a speed of 297.6mph, just less than 3mph required for the record. That meant he needed to reach something like 315mph on the return leg.

At 0849Hrs, less than four minutes since reaching the end of his run, Campbell was moving again. Leo Villa simply could not believe it, he had always been consulted before any return run. The circumstances were stacking up.

Approximately 150yards before the end of the measured kilometre, Bluebird simply took off, did a somersault, broke up and sank to the bottom of the lake.

A team of Royal Navy divers was sent from HMS Safeguard in Rosyth to search for the body. The wreckage of the boat was found, but there was no trace of Campbell. He had, at some point in the past, made it clear that if this sort of thing were to happen the boat was to be left where it lay. And so it did. For a further 34 years.



With the help of the RAF photographic analysis department, an investigation was initiated. Analysis showed that Bluebird, on her first run, had peaked at over 300mph (nearly 320mph at the end of the measured kilometre) and was far more stable with the new engine than the old one. She was fitted with a very simple water brake, operated by hydraulics, and a simple switch, from the cockpit. This was designed to help slow the boat down.



During its time in the measured kilometre for the second run, the boat peaked at 328.12mph. Did this mean that Campbell would have achieved his record if tragedy hadn't struck?

The safety limit on the boat was just 6°. After much research and consideration, it was calculated that the margin had been reduced to less than 1°. Once he had realised he was in trouble Campbell started to decelerate and applied the water brake. Ironically, this only made the situation worse, if he had applied the brake before decelerating he may have averted the accident.

It seems that Campbell, in his haste to achieve the record that day, had taken a chance that simply hadn't worked. Bluebird hit water so rough that it completely destabilised the boat.

With permission from Gina Campbell, Donald's daughter, Bluebird was raised on the 8th March 2021. A further thorough search was conducted to find Campbell's remains, and, on the 28th May his headless body was discovered and brought to the surface. It was taken ashore in a box draped with the Union Flag. The funeral service took place on the 12th September in St Andrews Church in Coniston, where he still rests in peace.

Source: *Donald Campbell, The Man behind the Mask* by David Tremayne

Images, all taken in the John Ruskin Museum in Coniston:

1. A statue of Campbell, possibly in bronze.
2. A restored Bluebird K7.
3. Bluebird's Orpheus jet engine, showing the ravages of 34 years under water.

Ron Gittings

The Methodist Church, the Mining Community and its Legacy

*The 139th Durham Miners Gala took place in July. Around 200,000 people attended this annual celebration of community, international solidarity and working-class life. **Stuart Lawson** explains the relationship between the Methodist Church, the mining community and its legacy, with Durham Methodist Church still playing an active part in the Gala.*

In the coalfields of 18th and 19th-century Britain, two forces shaped the lives of working-class communities more than any others: mining and Methodism. The backbreaking labour of coal extraction, with its dangers and hardships, forged a unique social world—one where religion, especially Methodism, provided spiritual strength, moral guidance, and a sense of community. The bond between miners and Methodism was not merely incidental; it was a defining feature of industrial working-class culture for more than a century.

Wesley's decision to preach outdoors to working people, including miners in places like Kingswood near Bristol, Newcastle and Durham, marked a radical departure from the norms of Anglican practice. Wesley's messages resonated deeply with miners. He spoke directly to their struggles, offering a version of Christianity that was personal, emotional, and inclusive. Chapel communities also became centres of mutual aid. Before formal unions or state welfare, Methodists organized support for injured workers, widows, and orphans. The emphasis on community responsibility helped cultivate a culture of solidarity that later fed into labour movements now sadly a shadow of what the labour movement was intended to be.

The decline of both the coal industry and organised religion in the late 20th century weakened the bond between miners and Methodism. As mines closed and chapel attendance fell, communities lost not just jobs and congregations but the social fabric that had sustained them for generations. Yet the legacy remains. The cultural memory of the chapel—the singing, the sermons, the solidarity continues to shape narratives of working-class life. In literature, film, and oral history, the miner-Methodist remains a symbol of dignity, discipline, and resilience.

The Miners Gala in Durham, starting in 1871, has only been cancelled because of the two world wars and Covid. Durham City

Methodist Church is along the route of the parade. For many generations Durham City Methodists have been providing refreshments during the day.

There is a great community atmosphere in the city during the Gala. The whole church family comes together to raise money for the charity of the year: this year, St Cuthbert's Hospice in Durham. The local Air Cadets and the Scout leaders came along to support too.

It is a long and tiring day but the benefits of the many conversations that are had, memories of past times revisited and the whole team effort is a joy to behold and spiritually uplifting. One of the church stewards said, "I feel one of the best things about the Gala today was the sheer number of folks who took time to sit in church, or to chat with us, pray, light candles etc. They very much appreciated it."

Durham City Methodists has been there and will continue to be there celebrating and bringing food for the body and the soul to all who attend the Gala.

Methodist News

Elizabeth Wright

Quotes:

Life without God is like an unsharpened pencil – it has no point.
– Billy Graham

Don't give up on yourself. God doesn't. Even Moses was once a basket case. – Anon

We play the game; God keeps the score. – Erwin W Lutzer

Be who you are and say what you feel, because those who mind don't matter and those who matter don't mind. – Dr Seuss

Children are a great comfort in your old age, and they help you reach it faster too. – Lionel Kauffman

THE WORLD'S MOST POPULAR FRUIT

'Apple or banana?' Statistically, you are more likely to respond 'Banana, please'. Bananas are the world's most popular fruit. The ideal temperature for cultivation is 15°-35°C but rising temperatures and fungal infections are threatening Latin America and the Caribbean where 80% of the world's crop is grown. Christian Aid predicts that by 2080 much of the land currently used will be unsuitable by 2080 due to climate change.

The good news is that we are aware of the threat. The challenge is how to respond. Banana Link is a not-for-profit co-operative based in Norwich working for fair and sustainable trade, in the banana and pineapple sectors. It sees daily the impact of rising temperatures: dangerous working conditions and banana plants increasingly vulnerable to disease and infection. According to Banana Link, without systematic changes the future of the Cavendish banana (a supermarket staple) is at risk due to Fusarium Tropical Race 4, a fungal infection that attacks the roots of the plants. Whole farms and plantations may be lost and the disease is now found in key supplier countries such as Colombia and Peru.

So, what can we do? Christian Aid recommends buying organic bananas where possible - high usage of chemicals and fertiliser contributes to greenhouse emissions. In the UK we each eat an average of 85 bananas a year, more than any other European country, often



consumed as a treat, an optional extra.

Elsewhere, bananas are a staple and essential part of the diet. More than 400 million rely on fruit for up to a quarter of their daily nutrients. As Christian Aid director, Osa Ojigbo said, 'Bananas are an essential food for millions of people. We need to wake up to the danger posed

by climate change to this vital crop. The lives and livelihoods of people who have done nothing to cause climate change are already under threat'.

Christian Aid is calling for banana growers and agricultural communities to receive targeted international financial support to help them adapt to the changing climate. Aurelian Pop Xo, a banana grower in Guatemala, said, 'Climate change has been killing our crops. This means there is no income because we have nothing to sell. My plantation has been dying. So what has been happening is death'. We must all pray for our brothers and sisters worldwide in desperate need through no fault of their own and think carefully of how we can make small differences.

When you read this the annual coffee morning will be in sight, with Icon generously donating the coffee (as well as doing the hard work!). We look forward to seeing you there to support Christian Aid. Tickets are available in advance and on the door.

Claire 07906 894 027



I recently picked up a book in Ludlow Library: "They came by sea: stories of a greater Britain" by Horatio Clare. (362.870941)

I had previously read about him growing up in a rather alternative fashion on the borders of Wales. It was beautifully written and when I read an extract at a WI near Shrewsbury a lady said "O, his mum was my friend. I did the flowers for her wedding. His parents were exactly as he described them. They hadn't thought about flowers, even a posie, until the morning of the wedding itself, and I just rushed round the garden"

"They came to Britain" is a polemic on the refugee crisis; the way that governments have responded pouring money into trying to "stop the boats", and organisations like the RNLB and Border Force, charities and individuals responding with humanity and compassion.

"This story, as it has been told to and by the nation, misrepresents

everyone. Brave and resourceful people crossing the Channel in hope and belief have been disfigured into faceless threats. The volunteers, organisers, aid workers and very many members of the public who help and support refugees, migrants and asylum seekers are slandered, denigrated or ignored. The populace of Britain, who are as overwhelmingly kind, sympathetic and generous as the people in the small boats believe us to be, are made to feel fearful, mean and foolish. And yet, almost invisibly, almost unreported, our tangled response to the small boats crossing the Channel also flowers with the quiet and mighty goodness of the best of us and our forebears. ..."

It's not difficult to read, but certainly redresses some of the messages fed through certain sections of the media. It makes you think and in spite of all offers a message of hope....

Adrian Williams

Wills...

Have you made your list? You may not want to think about this-but you should! Avoiding thinking about the end of our life can lead to distress and confusion for those we leave behind.

The former chief coroner Peter Thornton, suggests we should collect some essentials before we need them; a copy of your will, birth and marriage certificates, details of your GP, solicitor, and an accountant, if you have one, NHS and tax numbers, a summary of finances and insurance policies, notes about the funeral, passwords and a brief life story, what sort of funeral you want and what you want to happens to your remains. He calls it his 'death file' and the family know where it's kept.

As he says, *'the more you prepare for death, the more room you make for life'* and putting your affairs in order makes all the difference to you, those you love, and how you are remembered.

Where have I put the will?

Stephen Dalton.

Smiles

What do Alexander the Great and Winnie the Pooh have in common?

They both share the same middle name.

How does the moon cut his hair?

Eclipse it.

What do you call a dinosaur with an extensive vocabulary?

A thesaurus.

I got a job at a bakery because I kneaded dough.

Judas Iscariot - Traitor, or Not?

Let's face it, Jesus knew what was about to happen. He could have prevented it if that was the plan - but we know he didn't. So Judas betrayed Him for 30 pieces of silver. But if he hadn't done so, would the church even have started? Or would someone else have betrayed Him?

What are your thoughts - Traitor or Not?

Originally posted on X What I Do Not Want

I don't want to connect my coffee machine to the wifi network.

I don't want to share the file with OneDrive.

I don't want to scan a QR code to view the restaurant menu.

I don't want to let Google know my location before showing me the search results.

I don't want to text with your AI chatbot.

I don't want to download the Instagram app to look at your picture.

I don't want to type in my email address to view the content on your company's website. I don't want text messages with promo codes.

I don't want to leave your company a five-star Google review in exchange for the chance to win a \$20 Starbucks gift card.

I don't want to join your exclusive community in the metaverse. I don't want AI to help me write my comments on LinkedIn. I don't even want to be on LinkedIn in the first place.

I just want to pay for a product one time, know that it's going to work flawlessly, press 0 to speak to an operator if I need help, and otherwise be left alone and treated with some small measure of human dignity, if that's not too much to ask any more.

@RobertMSterling (abridged by JC)

Supplied by Jenny Golby

A Chance Encounter in Bewdley

And what it can lead to (if you are curious – nosey?)

One Saturday in July we decided to have a day out in Bewdley, not having been there for some years. It so happened that it was the Cherry Fayre and 1940s weekend so it was busy. We browsed through the Heritage Museum, which is worth a visit. Because of the 1940s weekend the air raid shelter in the garden was open with a guide to tell us about it. The Jubilee Park is lovely.

We used a guided walk on the geology of the stones of Bewdley to explore the town a bit more.

In High Street we paused to lament the sad state of one of the big old houses and then noticed the lovely garden of the house next door. While we were admiring the catalpa trees and echiums (both of which feature in our little garden) a lady passing asked if we were looking at the state of the old house. She told me it was lived in (which surprised me) by a brother and sister who had also owned the nearby Ribbesford House (a chateau-type building, she said) which had been sold a few years ago – and it had also been in a very dilapidated state.

I had never heard of Ribbesford but decided to ask Mr Google, when we got home, what he knew about it. Ribbesford House takes its name from the Ribbesford family, who lived there during the reign of Henry II. It had certainly been a very grand house, with 20 bedrooms and 10 reception rooms. During WWII it had been used to house Free French Army soldiers and was visited on several occasions by General de Gaulle. Prime Minister Stanley Baldwin, who was born in Bewdley, and Rudyard Kipling (who were first cousins) had also visited it. The estate goes back 1,000 years, with the current house dating from the 16th century.

We subsequently visited Ribbesford Church beside Ribbesford House, presumably built for the estate. The original church was built around 1150. It has some interesting features, such as 500 year-old English oak pillars, a wooden porch dating back to 1633 and a William Morris window. The window is based on a design by the pre-Raphaelite artist, Edward Burne-Jones, and dedicated to Burne-Jones’ mother-in-law, Hannah Macdonald, who was the grandmother of Stanley Baldwin and Rudyard Kipling. Incidentally Hannah Macdonald’s brother Frederick was

President of the Methodist Conference in 1896 and their father and grandfather were both Methodist ministers.

In 1947 Wing Commander Alfred Howell bought the House and had it converted into 12 apartments. Wing Commander Howell’s home was the sad-looking house in High Street, Bewdley and it is his son and daughter who live there now.

Elizabeth Wright

Sudoku (easy)

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

i.com

BLACKFORD CHAPEL, THE FINALE!

THE DAY, (July 13th 2025) arrived, warm and sunny.

People started arriving before 2 pm and kept coming for an hour. The lane was lined with cars as far as you could see. Some sat outside. We achieved a record attendance of about 65 (and one little dog!) including several who had attended Sunday School there in their youth!

Thankfully, at the last minute, I thought of getting people to record their attendance...so there is a record to look back on!

The service was led by the Minister, Reverend Denise Hargreaves, ably assisted by Adrian Williams, Stephen Dalton and Ruth Downes.



Stories were told and we rousingly sang 8 hymns accompanied by Sue Cornah on the ailing harmonium.

The service was followed by a tea in the Village Hall (thank you Billie, Riley, Bobbie and Ashley). Phil Amphlett allowed us to park in the adjacent field which made access so much easier (thank you Phil).

Many of the congregation carried on with the celebrations at the hall. There was much chatting and reminiscing. Some had brought their wedding photos (held at the chapel) and memorabilia from Sunday School days, old 'Plans' and other articles and photos were passed around.

It was a lovely memorable day, celebrating and giving thanks for 156 years of Worship and Praise at our unique Chapel.

Of course it was tinged with sadness, regret and 'what ifs' but a happy day and catching up with so many lovely people made it easier!

Janet James

Holy Days: 29th Sept, Michael and All Angels

Michael is an archangel, whose name means 'who is like unto God?' He makes various appearances throughout the Bible, from the book of Daniel to the Book of Revelation. In Daniel, he is 'one of the princes' of the heavenly host, and the special guardian of Israel. In Revelation, he is the principal fighter of the heavenly battle against the devil.

From early times, Michael's cult was strong in the British Isles. Churches at Malmesbury (Wiltshire), Clive (Gloucestershire) and Stanmer (East Sussex) were dedicated to him. Bede mentions him. St Michael's Mount in Cornwall was believed to commemorate a vision there in the 8th century. By the end of the Middle Ages, Michael had 686 English churches dedicated to him.

In art Michael is often depicted as slaying the dragon, as in the 14th century East Anglican Psalters, or in Epstein's famous sculpture at Coventry cathedral. Or he is found (in medieval art) as weighing souls, as at Chaldon (Surrey), Swalcliffe (Oxon.), Eaton Bishop (Hereford and Worcester), and Martham in Suffolk. Michael's most famous shrine in western Europe is Mont-Saint-Michel, where a Benedictine abbey was founded in the 10th century.

The 'All Angels' bit of this feast-day was added in 1969 when Gabriel and Raphael were included in with Michael.