

The Best Of What We Have Sonnet.

Andy Brister (Goldfinch60) – August 2026

The happiest people don't have perfect lives;
They find the good in what is close at hand.
They notice where a quiet kindness thrives,
And build their peace on what they understand.

They don't keep waiting for a better day,
Or count the things they wish had gone their way;
They take the small bright moments as they stay,
And let enough be more than just okay.

For joy is not a prize we finally win,
Or something waiting far beyond today;
It starts when we make room for light within,
And choose to see the grace along the way.

So happiness is learning how to live
With open hands, and love for what we're given.

Contributors to this magazine include Mary Berry, Andy Brister, Sarah Cooke, Arghavan Delajani, Margaret Fuller, David Haslam, Jim Haywood, Sheila Himsworth, Eric Jones, Viv Jones, Ros Kane, Tracey Lamb, Jean Pritchard, Owen Ralph, Audrey Simpson, Sheila Weary. Thanks to all.

BIBLE CROSSWORD ANSWERS

Across: 1. shekel, 4. appeared, 10. Ephesians, 11. cubit, 12. rare, 13. meditation, 15. raisins, 16. Nathan, 19. agreed, 21. torches, 23. atonements, 25. Baal, 27. glean, 28. millstone, 29. teachers, 30. rashly.

Down: 1. shearers, 2. exhorting, 3. East, 5. passion, 6. enchanters, 7. Rabbi, 8. doting, 9. bakers, 14. nineteenth, 17. Ashtaroth, 18. psaltery, 20. dreamer, 21. tittle, 22. taught, 24. Omega, 26. Asia.

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Cartoons pp, 5, 6, 22 Thanks to Sheila H.

From your Editor,
I believe, although I am none too sure, that the programme I uses to create this Magazine (called *Publisher*) will be discontinued from sometime around now (September). If that is so, and I cannot use this format I may have to resort to another (maybe even *PowerPoint* which is usually for presentations, not printed material). We shall have to see how we go and look forward to the Christmas edition to see what changes, if any, are necessary. *Eric Jones*

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@EveshamChurch

Instagram: *eveshammethodist*



BIBLE CROSSWORD FOR SEPTEMBER—

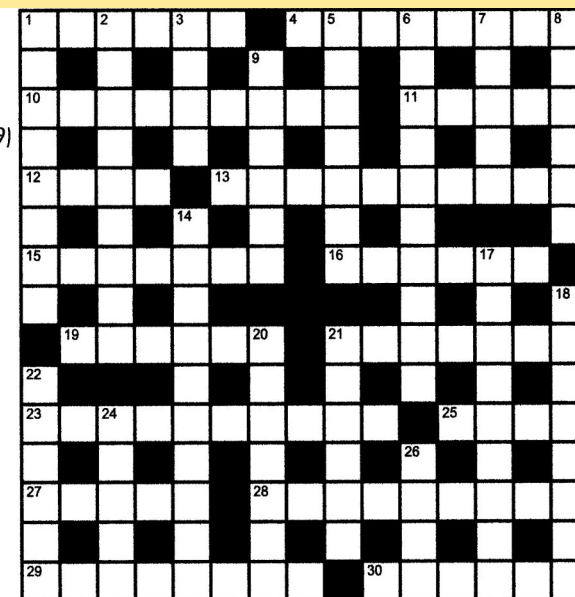
ANSWERS ON BACK PAGE (no cheating)

Across

- 1 An ancient weight (6)
- 4 Seemed (8)
- 10 New Testament book (9)
- 11 Unit of length (5)
- 12 '...it is a ____ thing the king requireth' (Dan 2:11) (4)
- 13 Contemplation (10)
- 15 Abigail supplied David with one hundred clusters of these (7)
- 16 A son of King David (6)
- 19 Concurred (6)
- 21 Light sources (7)
- 23 Propitiations (10)
- 25 A false god (4)
- 27 Gather (5)
- 28 Abimelech was hit by this (9)
- 29 Instructors (8)
- 30 Hastily (6)

Down

- 1 Skilled animal workers (8)
- 2 Inspiring (9)
- 3 Compass point (4)
- 5 Intense emotion (7)
- 6 The words of Jeremiah said not to listen to these (10)
- 7 Jewish leader (5)
- 8 'He is proud, knowing nothing, but ____ about questions and strifes of words...' (1 Tim 6:4) (6)
- 9 Bread makers (6)
- 14 In this year of King Nebuchadrezzar's reign, Nebuzaradan arrived in Jerusalem (10)



by Philologus

© BiblePuzzles.org.uk

- 17 Ancient city of Og, King of Bashan (9)
- 18 Stringed instrument (8)
- 20 Joseph, perhaps? (7)
- 21 Tiny amount (6)
- 22 Jesus did this with authority (6)
- 24 Last letter of the Greek alphabet (5)
- 26 Province of the Roman Empire (4)

TO THE TUNE OF
ALL THINGS BRIGHT AND BEAUTIFUL

**All things spray and swattable,
Disasters great and small,
All things paraquattable *
The Lord God made them all,**



- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. But what we never mention
Tho' gardeners know it's true,
Is when he made the goodies
He made the baddies too. | 4 The draughts that kill our fuchsias,
The frost that nips the buds,
The rain that drowns the seedlings,
The blight that kills the spuds. |
| 2 The greenfly on the roses,
The maggots on the peas,
Manure that fills our noses,
He also gave us these. | 5 The midges and mosquitoes,
The nettles and the weeds,
The pigeons in the greenstuff,
The sparrows in the seeds. |
| 3 The fungus on the goose-gogs,
The fungus on the greens,
The slugs that eat the lettuce,
And chew the aubergines! | 6 The fly that gets the carrots,
The wasp that eats the plums,
How black the gardener's outlook
Though green may be his thumbs! |



- 7 But still the gardener's labour
'midst vegetables and flowers,
Prays what will hit our
neighbours,
Will somehow bypass ours.

***poisonous!**

*With thanks to our
Mary Berry*

**Some dates
for your
diary...**



**Worship at Evesham Methodist
Church,
usually at 10.30am.**

- | | |
|----------------------------|--|
| Friday 4 September | Shoppers' Service, Eric Jones |
| Sunday 6 September | Ms Christine Armstrong |
| Fri. 11 September | Shoppers' Service, Angela Gabbott |
| Sun. 13 September | Mrs Chris Stand
Also Evening Fellowship 6.00pm |
| Fri. 18 September | Shoppers' Service, Revd Pauline Salter |
| Sun. 20 September | Revd Elizabeth Harris
Including Holy Communion |
| Friday 25 September | Shoppers' Service, Revd David Haslam |
| Sun. 27 September | Revd Pauline Salter
Also Evening Fellowship 6.00pm |
| Friday 2 October | Shoppers' Service, Revd Elizabeth Harris |
| Sun. 4 October | HARVEST THANKSGIVING Revd Elizabeth Harris |
| Friday 9 October | Shoppers' Service, Revd Audrey Simpson |
| Sunday 11 October | Miss Hilary Johnson
Also Evening Fellowship 6.00pm |
| Friday 16 October | Shoppers' Service (speaker to be confirmed) |
| Sun. 18 October | Revd David Meachem
Including Holy Communion |
| Friday 23 October | Shoppers' Service, Revd Caroline Green |
| Sun. 25 October | Mrs Chris Parker
Also Evening Fellowship 6.00pm |
| Friday 30 October | Shoppers' Service (speaker to be confirmed) |
| Sun. 1 November | Mrs Anne Yelland ALSO 4pm In Loving Memory |
| Friday 6 November | Shoppers' Service, (speaker to be confirmed) |
| Sun. 8 November | REMEMBRANCE DAY Mrs Alison Griffin
Also Evening Fellowship 6.00pm |
| Friday 13 November | Shoppers' Service, Michael Hardstaffe |
| Sun. 15 November | Revd Elizabeth Harris
Including Holy Communion |
| Friday 20 November | Shoppers' Service, Revd Andy Green |
| Sun. 22 November | Ms Jane Jarvis
Also Evening Fellowship 6.00pm |
| Friday 27 November | Shoppers' Service, Revd Elizabeth Harris |
| Sun. 29 November | Mrs Anne Yelland |



Can I Recommend...?

IF, for whatever reason, you are unable to attend church on a Sunday, I can warmly recommend joining in worship online.

While recovering from my recent operation, I knew I would miss being part of Sunday worship, so each week I joined the 10.30 am service at Stratford Methodist Church via Zoom. The process was very straightforward. I simply searched for Stratford

Methodist Church online, opened the church website, and at about 10.25 am clicked the Zoom link halfway down the page. After a short wait, I joined a small group of around four to six people worshipping from home.

The Zoom host keeps everyone's microphones muted during the service, so you can sing the hymns and join in the prayers without worrying that others will hear you. At the end of the service, when the congregation moves into the hall for refreshments, those who wish to stay online can enjoy a friendly chat together.

Of course, worshipping online is not quite the same as being physically present with the congregation.

Nevertheless, I found the experience a real blessing and was deeply grateful to be able to worship, pray and feel connected with other worshippers while unable to attend in person. If you find yourself housebound, recovering from illness or simply unable to get to church for a time, it is a wonderful way to remain part of a worshipping community.



I choose to attend Stratford in this way simply because I know the church but Droitwich Methodist Church also offers a similar opportunity for those who are unable to attend in person. *Audrey Simpson*

RACE FOR LIFE 2026

PICTURE a balmy warm day, not as hot as the previous mid-week heat-wave but warm enough. Picture two intrepid runners (well, walkers) making their way around Cheltenham Race Course along with several hundred others, all of whom went way ahead within the hour! Raising money for Cancer Research UK, Ros Kane and Viv Jones walked five kilometres in an hour and ten minutes, managing to pass the encouraging singers performing singing on



the course-side, just before the choir decided to pack up and go home.

“Look behind us”, said Ros to Viv, and she did. Nobody! They were the last to walk in through the winners’ arch. But they completed the course, of course they did, and raised nearly £1000 between them for this important charity. Both ‘girls’ were running in memory of several friends and relations who had died in recent years, so there was never a chance that they would not get to the end. We thank the Lord for our life and health and Viv and Ros want to thank the donors who sponsored them.



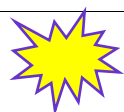
THANKS

Eric would like to thank all who wished him congratulations when his name appeared on the King's Birthday Honours list in June with the award of an MBE for Services to Education and Young People. We hope that all four of us including Viv, and our son and daughter, Kevin and Heather will be together at Windsor Castle for the investiture day on Wednesday 7 October.



CONGRATULATIONS

For the first time, un-named, we would like to wish all of our members and friends celebrating birthdays or anniversaries between now and the end of August **our very best wishes & congratulations**. Make yourselves known to each other because we do like to sing and celebrate, but please be aware of people's privacy, which is why we no longer print actual dates and names.



**HAPPY BIRTHDAY,
HAPPY ANNIVERSARY.**



We should perhaps mention that **Jackie Magowan** reached the 90th anniversary of her birth in June which we celebrated with her as a church. Congratulations!

Do you have any memories of your childhood church, either in Evesham or, more likely, where you were born. Or early memories of Evesham itself? Were you a church-going family, or did you bring the faith into your home?

Why not share your story. ericjones41@hotmail.co.uk

Karoline Leavitt at a White House Press Conference recently—apparently.

"It is hard for President Donald Trump to make key decisions on Iran when he doesn't have enough intelligence"

Only quoting!



**SUNDAY
CLUB**

WE now have a lively group of ten children and young people, who continue to listen and learn from the bible, play games and make various craft items. In the last three months we have discussed Pentecost and made a lovely mobile based on the eclectic mix of nationalities from our own congregation. We then discussed the passage in Galatians, where Paul talks about the nine fruits of the spirit. We coloured pictures of different fruits to represent the attributes of the Holy Spirit, then made individual fruit salads, containing all these fruits. Hopefully each time the children make a fruit salad in the future, they will be reminded of this passage.

We have spent time reading the story of Noah, his ark and the great flood. This was accompanied by many rainbow themed crafts and pictures, which are brightening up the wall in the church.

This was followed by building towers out of many different building materials, as we studied The Tower of Babel. Duplo seemed the most stable, but marshmallows and spaghetti, proved the most challenging. With jenga there was no turning back once a piece had been moved, though the children did get the tower to a metre high before it toppled.



Recently we have been talking about Abram and Sarai, changing their names to AbrAHam and SaraH and the patience, trust, faith and obedience they had in God's messages and words.

Tracey

The Methodist Way of Life A Faith Development Course

STARTING in September, there will be a **six-session course exploring the Methodist Way of Life**. The course is primarily designed for those preparing for confirmation and/or membership, but it also makes an excellent refresher course and is **open to everyone**.

The sessions will take place in church **after morning worship** from **12 noon to 1.00 pm**.

The programme:

- **13 September** – Introduction to the course: *Worship*
- **27 September** – *Learning and Caring*
- **11 October** – *Service*
- **1 November** – *Evangelism*
- **15 November** – *Methodism: Then and Now*
- **Session 6** – This session will be specifically for those preparing for confirmation or membership. The date will be arranged nearer the time.

There is **no need to book** – just come along and join in. Whether you are exploring faith, preparing for confirmation or membership, or simply looking to refresh and deepen your faith, **you will be very welcome**.

Audrey



SARAH COOKE

THE striking thing I took from event was that just 0.4% of people are seeking asylum at any one time – challenging the prevailing narrative that we are being overwhelmed by asylum seekers.

But it begs the question – how are we seduced by an incorrect narrative? Apart from the stream of negative stories fed to us by the media and social media, why do so many buy into those stories? *Courageous Conversations* got me thinking about my own prejudices and blind spots, and society's collective response. These are my thoughts, which come from my own discipline of psychoanalysis.

The psychologist Carl Jung said we all have a personal shadow – an aspect of our psyche, where we hide the things about ourselves which are fearful of or disturb us. We split them off and often we 'project' them – literally throw onto another those aspects of ourselves we dislike or fear. We then often encounter our shadow 'viewed' within the 'other'. The 'other' could be an individual, a group or a nation, because we also have a collective national shadow. And we are very good at seeing things as simply black or white, or good or bad.

One area where we project our shadow as a nation is in the immigration debate where voices, very skilled in encouraging this kind of mentality, talking about insiders and outsiders, good people and bad, white skins as safer than darker, suspicious skins. But what are they 'projecting' on to us? It's often about resources – having to share! We project our fear so that 'they' become frightening and we see 'them' as depriving us of what 'belongs' to us. It is scapegoating. Making the 'others' - in this case, asylum seekers - carry society's dysfunctionality. So we build walls, tighten borders and stop the boats; keeping out the bad whilst stoking fear and paranoia.

The Samaritans were the asylum seekers of Jesus' day. How did Jesus engage with them? He talked at length with the Samaritan woman at the well – a deeply courageous conversation went on between them. Most famously he told the story of the good Samaritan, demonstrating that the outsider is often the one who brings gifts of grace, generosity and healing to us. The outsider is the good news – Jesus knew this and practised a radical inclusion. May we know and practise it too.

Sarah Cooke

Editor. The contributions from David, Sarah, Arghavan and Ros on pages 17, 18, 19 are a re-visit to David's service on 19 July following the event on 27 June under this heading. I hope the authors will forgive my sympathetic editing of their longer pieces. EJ

We do focus on shared values – hopefully Christian values (every person is made in the image of God) - moving the conversation back to similar places, creating common ground, helping others to look at issues from different perspectives, whilst also helping ourselves

Having reached a place of shared values, it allows us to reflect on public life, local or national; a work thing, a family thing where our claimed values seem not to be reflected in actions, especially if we can highlight how those things do not fit in with our own values.

Only to go as far as you're comfortable in any conversation. Conversations go wrong when we get onto ground that we're not familiar leading us to be combative, trying to get our view accepted.

Save your energy to tackle a topic one step at a time. Very rarely do make real progress with just one conversation. Build confidence, be consistent, share your values – even if it's uncomfortable – and ponder what those values actually mean for our relationships and our society

Ros

Arghavan Delajani

LOOKING back, I can see that I have faced both good moments and challenges. My experience in church has been one of the most positive parts of my journey. I have met families and people who are patient, supportive, and kind, like a second family. They have taught me about Christianity and faith, and also about your language, culture, and everyday life. Such kindnesses help me feel welcomed and less alone.

My experience with English people has been very positive, with never a bad experience. I have been treated with kindness and respect. Many people smile when they make eye contact. A small thing, maybe but it feels welcoming and gives one the confidence to talk and become part of the community.

Of course I know that not everyone has had the same experience. Some friends have shared difficult stories. For example, during the protests outside hotels where asylum seekers were staying, people inside felt frightened and unsafe, some afraid to leave the hotel or even walk outside for some time because of the stress those moments created.

Others have told me of similar experiences at work. Some might hear, “We don’t like you,” or be treated unfairly because they were different. Such experiences lead to people feel isolated and rejected, and they lose confidence in becoming part of society.

I believe that most people are kind, but misunderstandings and fear can create barriers. It is important to create opportunities for people to talk to and get to know one another. Refugees came here seeking safety and support. We want to build a better future, contribute to society, work hard, and give something back to those who have welcomed us. We know from the meeting that talking to others who think differently is so important for all of us. *Arghavan Delajani*

ELIZABETH MARGERY HARRISON

17 April 1935—2 May 2026



IN the last magazine Sheila Himsworth wrote her own memories of her friend, Elizabeth who had just passed away a few days before our publication went to print. On Thursday the 18 June a packed congregation celebrated Elizabeth’s life at our service led by her own daughter, Rachel. In a moving and wonderful contemplative hour

Elizabeth was fondly remembered, not least by her daughter and son, Simon. Toby was in the congregation and our thoughts & prayers stay with him and the family.

Always remember you have two realities to choose from;

“Sad” has three letters, but so does “Joy”
“Fall” has four letters but so does “Rise”
“Curse” has five letters but so does “Bless”
“Ignore” has six letters but so does “Listen”
“Enemies” has seven letters but so does “Friends”
“Immature” has eight letters but so does “Maturity”
“Ignorance” has nine letters but so does “Knowledge”
“Negativity” has ten letters but so does “Positivity”

Mr Paul Gearey

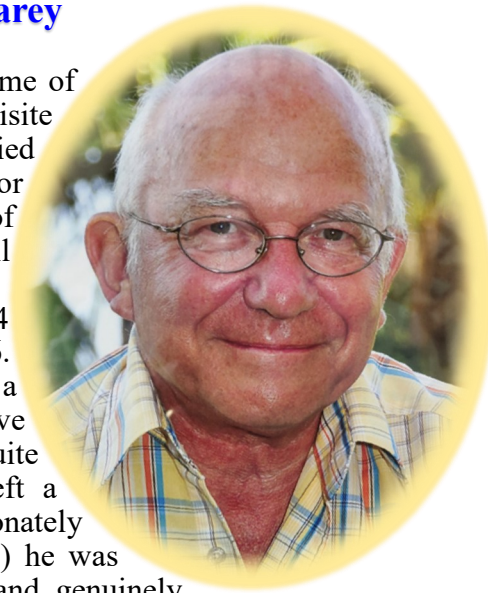
TO this writer Paul was the epitome of common sense, A man of exquisite integrity who could always be relied upon to bring to any discussion or Church Council meeting the voice of understanding and reason. We all loved him.

Paul was born in 1940 on 4 November and left us on 5 May 2026. He was devoted husband to Pauline, a kind and wonderful father, supportive brother and a brilliant grandpa. For quite a short man he has certainly left a huge hole in all our lives. Affectionately known as *Waddo* (or *Grand Waddo*) he was full of wise counsel, good advice and genuinely interested in what others around him were doing. He was no mean table tennis player and was obsessed with model railways (*as am I. Ed*).

Viv and I met Paul and Pauline, quite by chance, in Madeira when we were there on holiday and they had a stop-over there from a cruise. We became ever-firm friends and have in recent years enjoyed many meals and theatre trips as a foursome and with others

Paul liked a tippie, and especially fine single malt whisky and he was a great fan of jazz and blues music. He adored colour and said so in much of his clothing. At his funeral in our church on 29 May his daughter, Samantha and son, Tim gave heartfelt eulogies to their dad, demonstrating over and over again in five minutes how much he was adored and what pride they had in him. Granddaughter Amelia and Grandson George read superbly during the service, a poem and an extract from John's Gospel.

Space does not allow mention of his love of football, flying kites, being a pixie on the steam railway, his love of cinema and his long years of service to Evesham Methodist Church for which we are all forever grateful. His family described him as kind, fair, wise, jolly and trustworthy. We simply knew he was Paul, reliable, honest and a man with a lifetime steeped in his faith. We shall miss him, of course.



COURAGEOUS CONVERSATION

Our Sanctuary Church Journey continues.

WHEN we received our *Church of Sanctuary* status, we were reminded that this was but the beginning and were encouraged to plan for the next few years. We were urged to promote the idea of '*Courageous Conversations*' both within the church community, among ourselves and also between the church and the wider community.

Emma Birks from Asylum Matters in Birmingham, who offers an introduction to this idea, was invited to Evesham and she came with her colleague Lou on 27 June. Not everyone was able to attend so it was decided to share those thoughts on a Sunday morning, which I did on 19 July. I do think it is a crucial area for Christians to be aware of in the current climate in our land. The idea of Sanctuary itself is now under attack. Birmingham City Council nearly cancelled its sanctuary status last month and Worcestershire County Council would not consider becoming County of Sanctuary.

The Bible is full of Courageous Conversations, prophets with kings, Jesus with the Pharisees, the disciples with the Temple authorities, Paul with the civic powers and King David, according to the Hebrew people their greatest king, and Nathan one of God's prophets at that time. Nathan the prophet undertook to challenge the King in a pretty courageous conversation about his behaviour. And then in Mark 7 a foreign women challenges Jesus when he tells her he can do nothing for her as she is not of his people. The following contributions came from three members who attended the Saturday conference.

Revd David Haslam

Some things I learned - Ros Kane

THE presentation rang bells with me, recalling conversations I have had over the years, going head to head with people you know well, trying to get them to see they're wrong ... the root of how conversations go horribly astray

One key learning point is that it's not about trying to win an argument, our usual response to difficult conversations, trying to prove our point. It's more about seeing issues from a different perspective, not just trying to discredit the other person's argument.

Cont./p18

On reaching hospital Lauda's blood contained too little oxygen to sustain life, he had first degree burns and he was given the last rites. Within two days had confounded the doctors and was sat up in bed Within forty-two days he was racing again, his facial injuries clear to see.

Lauda died in 2019 aged 70.

Ertl sadly passed away in air crash aged just 33. Edwards who gained the Queen's Award for Gallantry passed away earlier this year. Lunger a Vietnam veteran and Du Pont family heir flew medical emergency missions to remote places for charity using his own plane.

Merzario has to this day a gold Rolex watch which Lauda gave him following being awarded it for qualifying on pole position for the 1977 Monaco Grand Prix.

Jim Haywood

KNIT AND NATTER

A small group of us still meets on a Wednesday morning from 10am – 12noon. Some of us are still knitting squares for blankets but we have also started making “fish and chip” jumpers for babies. These are so named because some people in poorer countries have only newspaper to wrap their newborns in (just like fish and chips!). The little jumpers are a better alternative. We make them plain, striped or even with a pattern. Following a chance meeting with a lady in the carpark we have an outlet for them and she also takes hats and mittens of varying sizes and any jumpers or cardigans and any blankets that we still make. When she collected them from us recently she was telling us that they go to countries such as Romania, Moldova, Belarus and Syria. We would love to have



others join us but, if knitting is not your “thing” then donations of double knitting wool or money to buy it would always be appreciated.

SW.

NEWS FROM THE DISTRICT

BACK in July I attended a meeting of Circuit stewards from the West Midlands district. It was chaired by the present Chair, the Rev Rachel Deigh.

The first item on her agenda was to highlight some points that had been discussed at the Methodist Conference this year.

- The subject of Online Communion was discussed. It was felt that this should be permitted but needs further discussion and will be on the agendas at the Autumn Synods.

- Assisted dying was discussed and the Conference felt that insufficient work had been carried out to date and further discussion was needed.

- Guidance about the use of AI was to be circulated, how to use it and the possible dangers of doing so.

- New liturgies are being written to be included in a book called “*Praying the Faith*”. There will be more inclusivity in these liturgies.

- The Connexional budget is not being met and needs discussion.

- The President of Conference, the Rev Mark Slaney and the Vice President, Caroline Stead will be visiting our District in April 2027 and will attend the Spring Synod as well as visiting some churches.

After this Conference update, Rachel Deigh then focused the meeting on “*Looking to the future and our direction of travel*”. The number of active presbyters is falling each year. At this time there are 925 active presbyters of which 869 are in Circuit appointments. The prediction is that in 2035 that will have fallen to 625 active presbyters of which 576 will hold Circuit appointments.

Cont/

For this reason alone many churches will be sharing their presbyter with several other churches, there will be fewer services taken by presbyters and pastoral care will need to be organised in different ways.

We are already in that situation in the South Worcestershire circuit and we are not alone in this at all. The challenges for lay volunteers and the finance of churches are already demanding and a solution is not obvious.

Rachel Deigh is quite convinced that one size will not fit all in the future and feels that we do not yet know what the future holds for us but we should all believe that God is calling us to a new form of Church and we must be brave to try things.

The superintendents are already being made aware of the situation as are the Circuit stewards and the District staff team. Synod will have it on the agenda in September to feed back to congregations. This is not supposed to be “doom and gloom” but an awareness of the situation so that we can understand why things might change and we must be ready to accept that change.

Sheila Weary, Circuit Steward



Revd Patricia Mukorombindo

Our best wishes go to Patricia and her family,
with every blessing, from the congregation.



Acts of Kindness

THE 1st August this year marked fifty years since the Racing Driver Niki Lauda was grievously injured at a Grand Prix in Germany. Lauda came to the attention of the Ferrari team in 1973 displacing Italian favourite Arturo Merzario the following year, leading to a war of words between them as Merzario's career headed toward to a handful of championship points and Lauda became world champion three times.

The full Nurburgring circuit is over 14 miles long winding through the Eifel mountains, and it was impossible as a result to have Fire Marshals at all points on the track. The race started with most of the field on rain tyres but the track started drying immediately and at the end of the lap Lauda stopped to change rain tyres putting him behind “also ran” drivers Harald Ertl of Austria, Brett Lunger of the USA and Englishman Guy Edwards who had all carried on without the pit stop.

Lauda passed them, but suddenly his car veered violently off the track on a remote part of the circuit hitting the adjoining hillside with sickening force, scything through catch fencing which contrived to remove his helmet with what was left of the car bursting into flames. Edwards who was following closely managed to get past with just a glancing blow, but Lunger skidded on the fuel from the burst tanks and slid into the stricken Lauda's car, spinning it down the road, Ertl too crashed into the wreckage.



Lauda would have perished within in moments but each of the drivers, with no respect for their own safety, ran toward the carnage, working together in this desperate situation trying to free him. They could not. At this moment two other hands came into the flames and undid Lauda's multi-point safety

harness which was of a design unique to Ferrari unknown to the other drivers. Arturo Merzario had stopped with his car undamaged and run into the flames too. With Lauda seconds from death from burns to his face and toxic fumes in his lungs his rescuers pulled him free. Cont/

News from the Sanctuary Committee.

THE Evesham Hotel is no longer used to house people seeking asylum but work here continues as there are many people who have been granted asylum living permanently in Evesham, both volunteering or in paid work and making a positive contribution within the local community.

Our church family is enriched by increasing diversity and some of our more recent members are taking an active part within our congregation, as welcomers, refreshment makers, taking the offering as well as reading lessons in Farsi and acting as Communion Stewards. It is a privilege to share with them in their developing faith journeys. Some who worshipped with us for weeks or many months have moved away from Evesham to find work and somewhere to live but many have settled here. We hear often from those living away about how things are developing for them. Others are trying to return to live locally if they can find suitable accommodation & work.

Some particularly good news to share is that Mastaneh has been appointed to a part-time post within the Evesham Vale Welcomes Refugees charity & will be based at the Sanctuary Centre, Sami is pleased to have moved to permanent work as a fork lift driver in the area, Mehran recently was commended as top recruit for Lloyd's Bank in the district and Farzin received the monthly award within his work situation with the accolade *'Always helpful & pleasant attitude'*. 'Well done.' We can also say, 'Well done, Farzin.'

Tracey does a marvellous job with the children and young people although the numbers vary from week to week with a wide age range & different nationalities. Some of them have been able to join in with the holiday club organised by SHINE meeting on our premises. It is always a joy to hear their contributions at the end of our services when they share with the congregation.

We have been reminded so often in recent weeks of the varying attitudes among our politicians and within our communities and the *Courageous Conversations* event held recently gave useful tips to those who attended. The ABC suggestion is particularly helpful when engaging in conversation: **Affirm, Bridge, Connect.**

Our links with EVWR are as strong as ever and we continue to work closely with the charity. Each week during the summer holidays there has been a day trip to places of interest which some of us have supported: Croome, Arrow Valley Country Park, Weston super Mare, Charlecote Park.

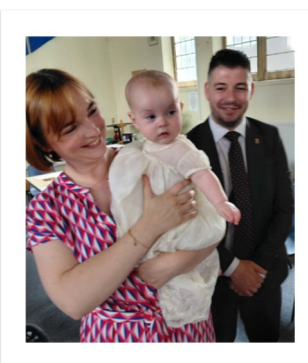
We continue to explore together as a Church of Sanctuary, working to be open and welcoming to all who enter the premises. JP

The Baptism Service of Frances Rosemary Ralph

ON Sunday 21 June 2026 we welcomed into the family of the church Catherine and Owen's beautiful baby, Frances Rosemary. In a moving and joyous service led by Revd Audrey Simpson, Frances was baptised wearing the baptismal gown that Catherine herself wore as a baby. Promises were spoken and made by her parents, as well as the Godparents, Georgina, Sarah and Bradley, and, of course, by the church as a whole.

Baby Frances was born on 18 November 2025 at 02:51am. She was quite small, but perfect weighing just 6lbs 9oz. Owen and Catherine have been coming to Evesham Methodist church since the summer of 2024 not long before their marriage banns were read elsewhere. They have been a most welcome new young family and this day was quite simply the perfect opportunity to reinforce how welcome they were and are. To them all we say God bless.

NEARLY fifty tea-drinking officianados turned up on Thursday 6 August for another tea-party, with some folk ferried in cars by willing members and others baking cakes, serving, washing up and clearing up. There were some super cakes, and plenty of sunshine - of course! Many thanks to all involved.



THE KNITTED BIBLE

THE Musings of the husband of an exhibition organiser

After hosting it thirteen years and after a two year waiting list, we got it back again, beautifully displayed from 21 May to 5 June. Viv spent hundreds of hours planning publicity, prizes, gift boxes and jars, persuading Church Council that it was a good idea, then cajoling volunteers to sign up on the list in church and 'invigilate' for two-hour sessions. The Mayor of Evesham, Cllr Bill Kimberley and his wife, Celia, visited the Knitted Bible on Friday 29th May, and local MP, Nigel Huddleston visited on Friday 5 June.

Bringing Bible stories alive visually can be difficult – but the hard work of this group of Hartlepool knitters has resulted in a display that has caught the attention of congregations across the UK for almost twenty years.

The project's origins go back to 2008, when the minister of St George's United Reformed Church in Hartlepool, north-east England, wanted to create a Nativity scene to use at Christmas but the imagination and enthusiasm of the congregation and friends (about 50 knitters) ran wild. Four scenes were added this year making a new total of thirty six.



There were 103

It wasn't all plain sailing for Viv. First was the problem of fetching the entire exhibition from Yorkshire, which thanks to our friends Louise and Darren, hiring a van and paying for it themselves, was sorted. Next was finding enough folk, all now thirteen years older, to steward the forty-one sessions! But volunteer they did and members welcomed visitors from far and wide. Note: Viv did not ask the church for one penny for this event (except for plenty of photocopying, some of it done on our printer at home).

We do hope everybody enjoyed having it here, and remember, it won't be back—perhaps in the lifetime of many of us, and certainly not with Viv organising it! The Amount sent to Christian Aid was £700.00, plus Gift Aid, and a further £100 we sent as a

gift to the Hartlepool church for their generosity in loaning it to us again.



Apart from the pictures what follows are some of the hundreds of comments from visitors;

Fantastic, Amazing, Superb Outstanding, Beautifully done, simply marvellous, made me

smile, We've waited a long time to see this. What a wonderful way to tell the stories, Really impressive, so much work, Many thanks for all your hard work, Splendid, A very accessible way to tell the stories, A wonderful display of God-given talent, My favourite was Jonah! Brilliant display, informative and interesting, so much hard work. A real blessing, thank you. My Granddaughter loved it, a wonderful way to help everybody understand God's word. Given me a lot of ideas, so impressive. I loved reading all the stories, Fantastic!

Thank you so much for bringing me, Grandma... We loved the Prayer Cards. I learned a lot of interesting facts about The Old Testament. I really enjoyed re-visiting all these Bible stories, Absolutely joyous, a fantastic exhibition, We loved the flock of sheep. Superb!

Such a good outreach project, and so many visitors enjoyed it.

