


	<b>Worship at Central</b>	
<b>Wed 3<sup>rd</sup> Sept</b>	Lunchtime Worship at 1pm Carolyn Hothersall	
<b>Sun 7<sup>th</sup></b>	Morning Worship at 10:30am will be at Fulwood Methodist Church. <b>This is a Circuit Service, no service at Central.</b>	
<b>Wed 10<sup>th</sup></b>	Lunchtime Worship at 1pm Denise Johnson	
<b>Sun 14<sup>th</sup></b>	Morning Worship at 10:30am Alan Gillies	
<b>Wed 17<sup>th</sup></b>	Lunchtime Worship at 1pm Rev Jane Wild	
<b>Sun 21<sup>st</sup></b>	Morning Worship at 10:30am Denise Johnson	<b>HARVEST</b>
<b>Wed 24<sup>th</sup></b>	Lunchtime Worship at 1pm Carolyn Hothersall	
<b>Sun 28<sup>th</sup></b>	Morning Worship at 10:30am Rev Jane Wild - Holy Communion	
<b>Wed 1<sup>st</sup> Oct</b>	Lunchtime Worship at 1pm Revd Jane Wild	
<b>Sun 5<sup>th</sup></b>	Morning Worship at 10:30am Julia Robinson	

#### The Lords Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

**The Grace** of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore.

**Amen**

*Times of worship are for keeping in touch with God, not your social network . So please, be considerate and switch your phone to silent! Thankyou!*



Stewards: Ruth Millward-Hopkins, Julia Blackett, Sue Burgess and Roberta Malone  
Safeguarding Officers: Sarah O'Halloran & Geoff Tyson

Coffee Shop Tel (01772) 881851

WiFi Password Ezekiel37



**CENTRAL METHODIST CHURCH**

**The Gateway**

**HARVEST**

**September 2025**

*Loving God, Serving People, Changing Lives*

**Minister: Rev Jane Wild**

Telephone (07340) 359890

[www.centralmethodist.org.uk](http://www.centralmethodist.org.uk)

## Central's Diary Dates....

**Church Council Meeting 12:30pm Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> Aug**

**Circuit Meeting 15<sup>th</sup> September 7:30pm at Bamber Bridge**

**Pastoral Meeting Oct 1<sup>st</sup> 7:30pm**

**Resources Meeting Nov 4<sup>th</sup> 6:30pm**

**Join us for a Jacobs Join on October 12th to celebrate Joan Sloan's special Birthday!**

All welcome to stay on after the morning service for food and a chat. Please bring something to contribute if you can.



### Church Security

Following further anti-social behaviour and attacks on church members by dogs belonging to those sleeping on the church steps, Resources have put in place measures to reduce the risk to those coming into the building. These are to be discussed at the Church Council meeting on 31<sup>st</sup> August at 12:30pm

### Save the date: Ecumenical call to prayer for Middle East Peace – Sunday 21 September

Churches Together in England (CTE) are asking Churches and individuals to join in Prayers for Middle East peace on Sunday 21 September, the UN International Day of Peace.

### The Samuel Chadwick Lecture 2025

Cliff College's annual Samuel Chadwick Lecture will take place on Thursday 16 October at 11:30am, on the theme History, Church Growth and the Spirit. The lecture can be attended on-campus at Cliff College or online via Zoom. Register for this free event on the Cliff College website: <https://bit.ly/3JaS4va>

### Prayers

If you would like to leave the name of someone who needs Prayer, please add their name to the prayer book as you come in on Sunday morning.



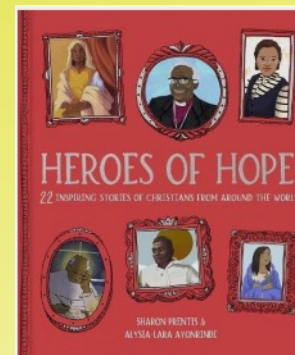
You can also leave a prayer on our prayer tree.

### Repairs!

There are always jobs to do! Thank you to those who were able to help with some jobs recently. Anyone who could spare some time to do odd jobs (and drink coffee and chat a lot) please speak to Paul or Bill Manning who would love to get you involved! All skills and no skills welcome!



A new illustrated children's book, *Heroes of Hope*, is shining a spotlight on black and brown Christian role models, offering young readers a more inclusive view of Church history. Co-authored by Alysia-Lara Ayonrinde and Rev Dr Sharon Prentis and published in partnership with the Church of England's Racial Justice Unit, the book tells the stories of 22 Christian figures of global majority heritage who lived out their faith and made lasting contributions to their communities.




From St Augustine of Hippo and St Monica in North Africa, to Florence Li Tim Oi in China, each profile is brought to life with vibrant illustrations and accessible storytelling.

Ayonrinde told *Premier Christian News*: "It's not just about adding diversity for the sake of it, it's about recognising that God's story has always been global, always been diverse - and that children of every background should see themselves in it." She added: "This book is like a tool to spark conversations that can sometimes be seen as uncomfortable, but they're deeply necessary." With a foreword by Lord Paul Boateng, *Heroes of Hope* is part of the Church of England's broader commitment to racial justice and inclusion. The book is available now through SPCK Publishing and free copies will be distributed to all Church of England schools this autumn



The Zoom meeting ID and pass code for Sunday Worship at Central are: Meeting ID: 992 4189 3207 Passcode: 453840

	7 <sup>th</sup>	14 <sup>th</sup>	21 <sup>st</sup>	28 <sup>th</sup>
Today the flowers have been given by... 	Circuit Service	Olwen and Bill Swindlehurst in memory of Peter and Pat  Julia and Paul Blackett	Sheena Rhodes in loving memory of Nichol and Joyce Rhodes	Janice Atkinson

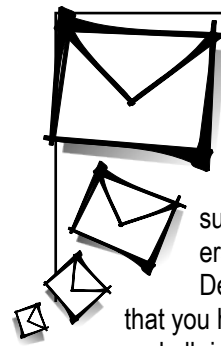
### Don't be afraid of getting old!

#### "I have finished my course." 2 Timothy 4:7 KJV

Before he was put to death for his faith, Paul wrote: 'I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day' (vv. 7-8 KJV). Up until the moment he was executed, Paul kept writing truths that would change the world. He could say, 'I have finished my course,' but never once did he say, 'I give up!' Did he have reasons to give up? Sure, he had been persecuted by his enemies and deserted by his friends. What kept him going? The vision that burned in his heart (see Acts 26:19). As long as you have a vision, you will never be 'old'. To overcome the fear of ageing, you must do these:

- 1) Maintain an attitude of faith and expectation. As long as you believe your best days are ahead of you – they are!
- 2) Instead of obsessing about the good old days, seek ways to make new memories. For example, try celebrating the holidays in different ways, in different places, and with different people. If you want what you don't have, then you must start doing what you haven't done yet.
- 3) Get your financial house in order. 'A good man leaves an inheritance to his children's children' (Proverbs 13:22 NKJV). And the greatest legacy you can leave is not money; it's love, faithfulness, integrity, and an example of godly living. As a redeemed child of God, when you die, you go to a better place – but your goal should be to leave the world a better place.

www.ucb.co.uk



Dear friends

It's been a bounteous year for blackberries and a short while ago I brought home my first tubful gathered from the local hedgerows. It didn't take long to pick copious plump blackberries with shiny glistening surfaces. They were quickly baked into pies and crumbles then gifted to others. It reminded me of the readings we often repeat in our harvest services. In Deuteronomy chapter 26 we read, 'Take a basket of the first part of each crop that you harvest to the one place of worship.' This was my first blackberry harvest, and all right, they weren't a crop I had grown and tended, but the first-fruits weren't kept back for me to enjoy, they were passed on.

It got me thinking about how we offer all that we give to others, and I wondered about that principle of giving first to others before benefitting ourselves. I remember from childhood, preparing a fancy wicker basket to carry around the church at the harvest festival, how we spent time selecting the best of the fruit, the ones without blemishes, the ones with the most perfect shapes, the ones with the shiniest skins. Any that didn't reach the standard would be the ones we would use up at home. The best was given first. Is that how we think of our offerings of whatever kind, that we give the best we can whenever we can? Those words of comfort to someone struggling, offering for the extra rota at a difficult-to-fill slot, making crafts at home for the next project, or praying earnestly in troubled times, may not seem much but are valuable gifts in their own way. Whatever form our gifting takes, do we want it to be the best we can offer?

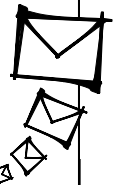
Gifting from a place of abundance is always easier, or at least it should be, and yet charities will confirm that the most generous givers are frequently the ones who have least to offer. Of course there will be times when our resources are depleted, our energy reserves low, our capacity or capability reduced. And what then? There are times when we need to be on the receiving end of the love and compassion others are able to offer. We remember how that harvest reading ends. 'Be grateful for the good things the Lord your God has given you and your family.'

However we choose to share what we have, may it be the best we can offer, given generously and sacrificially, or received graciously. Any may we always be thankful for the many good gifts around us, sent from God.

Carolyn

#### Our Ministry Team:

**Rev Jane Wild, Mrs Carolyn Hothersall, Mrs Sarah O'Halloran  
Mrs Denise Johnson, Mr Darren Arnold**



## Conference Representatives 2026

Nominations are now being invited for representatives from the North West England Methodist District to the Methodist Conference 2026.

This is an open invitation to anyone who is a member of the Methodist Church within the North West England District. Please share this information widely and as quickly as possible, as the **deadline for receiving nominations is Saturday 6th September 2025**. Voting will take place at Synod on 13th September.

A nomination form is available from the Synod Secretary, Carolyn Hothersall, via the contact details below:

**Email:** [hothersallc@nwedmethodists.org.uk](mailto:hothersallc@nwedmethodists.org.uk) **Tel:** 01772 372160 ext: 127

## Did you know...?

The modern British tradition of celebrating Harvest Festivals in churches began in 1843, when the Reverend Robert Hawker invited parishioners to a special thanksgiving service at his church at Morwenstow in Cornwall. Victorian hymns such as *We plough the fields and scatter, Come, ye thankful people, come, All things bright and beautiful* and the addition of Dutch and German harvest hymns in translation helped popularize his idea of harvest festival, and spread the annual custom of decorating churches with home-grown produce for the Harvest Festival service. Another early adopter of the custom as an organized part of the Church of England calendar was Rev Piers Claughton at Elton, Huntingdonshire.

Until the twentieth century, most farmers celebrated the end of the harvest with a big meal called the harvest supper, to which all who had helped in the harvest were invited. It was sometimes known as a "Mell-supper," after the last patch of corn or wheat standing in the fields which was known as the "Mell" or "Neck." Cutting it signified the end of the work of harvest and the beginning of the feast.

Nowadays the festival is held at the end of harvest, which varies in different parts of Britain. People bring in produce from the garden, the allotment or farm. The food is often distributed among the poor and senior citizens of the local community, or used to raise funds for the church, or for charity.

## IN THE PRESS.....

**From the Revd Richard Andrew and Matthew Forsyth, President and Vice-President of the Conference.**

We have been appalled and horrified by the pictures and first-hand witness accounts of the dire situation in Gaza, particularly around access to food for those existing there.

No-one could fail to be moved by the images of emaciated children and we have a moral duty to heed and act on the warnings from countless aid agencies of mass starvation and malnutrition.

We welcome the pause in military activity, but this is not enough. Red lines in international law have been crossed by the Israeli Government and they and Hamas must provide explicit acceptance of the right to peace, security and prosperity for all Israelis and Palestinians.

The Methodist Conference this year accepted a memorial (motion) from the Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury District Synod asking the Conference to write to the UK government urging it to recognise the independent state of Palestine, a position the Methodist Church has long held.

The motion stated that over the last twelve months, "the Israeli government has accelerated the seizure and annexation of Palestinian land, in violation of international law. This has implications not only for Palestinian people in the West Bank and Gaza who are forcibly displaced but also for any prospect of a future peace."

The time is now right for the Government to take decisive action to recognise the state of Palestine, its right to self-determination, and to ensure safety for all its citizens across the West Bank and we urge them to do this without delay.

We ask the Methodist people to continue to pray for those caught up in the violence in Gaza who don't know where their next meal is coming from. We also continue to pray for those in the West Bank who are living in constant fear of indiscriminate border closures and settler violence against them.

### Prayer

Creator God, you breathed life into this world and us all. We long for an end to suffering in Gaza and pray for freedom for all your creation.

Give to those in authority wisdom to act decisively for the good of all, so that we may see a just and peaceful resolution in Gaza, the West Bank and Israel

In the name of the Prince of Peace, Amen

[Methodist.org.uk](http://Methodist.org.uk)

**Canterbury Cathedral was evacuated on Monday evening after a fire alarm was accidentally triggered, by pigeons.**

Kent Fire and Rescue Service responded promptly to the automatic alarm, dispatching five fire engines to the historic Anglican site shortly before 8pm BST.

Crews carried out a full inspection of the building and confirmed there was no fire.

The alarm is believed to have been activated by dust disturbed by unsettled pigeons, possibly inside the cathedral's Bell Harry Tower.

A Canterbury Cathedral spokesperson said: "Kent Fire and Rescue Service were excellent as ever and arrived at the scene extremely quickly." They added that the cathedral's engineers are checking the system to ensure it remains fully functional.

The incident caused a temporary closure of the cathedral, which has since reopened to the public.

While it turned out to be a false alarm, the event serves as a reminder of the vulnerability of historic places of worship and the importance of fire safety in protecting them.

The cathedral, seat of the Archbishop of Canterbury and a site of Christian worship for over 1,400 years, continues to welcome thousands of worshippers and visitors each year.

No damage was reported and services at the cathedral are expected to continue as normal.

BBC News