

Worship at Central July and August

Wed 1st July	Lunchtime Worship at 1pm	Rev Mike Grimsley
Sun 5th	Morning Worship 10:30	Steve Gregory
Wed 8th	Lunchtime Worship at 1pm	Rev Barbara Pettitt
Sun 12th	Morning Worship 10:30 Holy Communion	Rev Barbara Pettitt
Wed 15th	Lunchtime Worship at 1pm	Carolyn Hothersall
Sun 19th	Morning Worship 10:30	Sue Davies
Wed 24th	Lunchtime Worship at 1pm	Carol Rose
Sun 26th	Morning Worship 10:30	Rev Paul Davis
Wed 29th	Lunchtime Worship at 1pm	Rev Sharon Thraves
Sun 2nd Aug	Morning Worship 10:30	Carol Rose
Wed 5th	Lunchtime Worship at 1pm	Carol Rose
Sun 9th	Morning Worship 10:30 Holy Communion	Rev Lesley Dinham
Wed 12th	Lunchtime Worship at 1pm	Rev Mike Grimsley
Sun 16th	Morning Worship 10:30	Carol Rose
Wed 19th	No lunchtime service today	
Sun 23rd	Morning Worship 10:30	Rev Mike Grimsley
Wed 26th	No lunchtime service today	
Sun 30th	Morning Worship 10:30 at Kingsfold Methodist Church	

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.

*Times of worship are for keeping in touch with God, not your social network
So please, refrain from using your mobile during the service! Thankyou!*



Stewards: Ruth Millward-Hopkins, Julia Blackett, Sue Burgess, Roberta Malone and Alison Pettitt
Safeguarding Officers: Sarah O'Halloran & Geoff Tyson
Coffee Shop Tel (01772) 881851

WiFi Password Ezekiel37



CENTRAL METHODIST CHURCH

The Gateway



July & August 2026

*Loving God, Serving People,
Changing Lives*

www.centralmethodist.org.uk

Central's Diary Dates...

Resources Meeting Monday July 27th 6:30pm

The Coffee Shop will be closed from Mon 17th August to 2nd Sept for the summer break. Reopens Wednesday 3rd Sept.

There will be a joint service at Kingsfold on 30th August 10:30 am - so no service is planned at Central.

The Treasurer Reports...



Last month (May) our Sunday and bank transfer collections totalled £1,405

During the month we spent £422 for our security guard. Gas, electric, water bills and cleaning made our total expenditure in the month £3,008.

Church Council members also voted to accept the 2026/27 budget, if you would like a copy please see Paul.

Thank you to all who contribute.

Circuit and Mission Group Services

Everyone enjoys being part of these large services of worship as we join up with other local Methodist Churches in the area, but for some getting to these churches is more difficult. Visitors turning up and finding our doors closed also feels wrong.

Church Council discussed the issue and decided to try and arrange for Central to be open on these occasions and to show zoom worship from elsewhere. We're not quite sure how this will work out but watch this space!



Join the Mission and Coffee Shop Conversation!



Our Church Council suggested that we get together to look at ways in which we can develop our outreach, and make the most of our existing projects, such as the Coffee Shop.

If you would like to be part of this group then please see a Steward or Paul to register your interest and we will arrange an initial meeting. We expect to hold meetings 3 times a year, probably during the daytime in advance of Church Councils, so we can report back.

Our first meeting will consider:

- **Where we are? What are we doing?**
- **What ideas do we have? What does the community need?**
- **What Resources do we need (finance, people, church, help from circuit etc)**
- **What do we do first?**
- **Decide on who is doing what, and when by.**

This is an exciting opportunity to develop new activities and to build upon what we already have in place. Your ideas are needed!

Please let Paul know if you would like to be involved, even if only occasionally, or if you have ideas to pass on!

Thank you

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

Let us
WORSHIP
Together
On Zoom

July	5th	12th	19th	26th
Today the flowers have been given by...	Andrew and Valerie Waterhouse	Bill Manning in memory of Maureen	Barbara, Alison, Chelsea and Sara, in memory of Timmy	Tony Strong in memory of Margaret

Aug	2nd	9th	16th	23rd	30th
Today the flowers have been given by...	Rachel Atkinson	Ruth and Simon	Sarah and Steve O'Halloran in memory of Dawn Alicia	Sue Burgess - Shirley Houghton in memory of Cyril	Andrew and Valerie Waterhouse in memory of Ivy Jackson

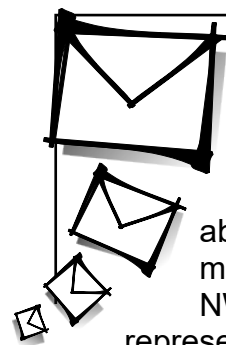
Resurrect your dream (Job 33:14-15 NIV)

God is the giver of dreams. 'For God does speak...in a dream, in a vision...when deep sleep falls on people' (vv. 14-15 NIV). Unless you want to spend the rest of your life being unfulfilled and uninspired, take your dream out of the closet and blow the dust off.



It's easy to get caught up in the 'have tos' of life – working; caring for children, spouses, and ageing parents; taking care of homes, etc. But you must believe that you can resurrect your life and your dreams and believe you have the ability to tap into the enthusiasm you once felt for life. You must have the courage to face the disappointments of the past, take a good look at how you got off the path, and see where you are headed. Then you have to silence the voice in your head that says: 'This is all there is. Who are you to want more from life? You can't do it; it's too late for you.'

We give up on our dreams because we think that's what grown-ups are supposed to do. But as we mature, we realise that reaching for our dreams is what makes us feel alive. The truth is that with love, prayer, and great attention, your dream, like Lazarus, can be resurrected (see John 11:43). The secret of recapturing dreams is to enjoy the pursuit of the dream rather than focus on the outcome. Achievement in this case is not about position, fame, or financial compensation, but about doing what you love. That's what Jesus promised: 'I am come that they might have life, and...have it more abundantly' (John 10:10 KJV). www.ucb.co.uk



Dear friends

Methodist Conference 2026

At the time of writing, I am in full preparation for Methodist Conference 2026, reading the 730-page agenda, absorbing the information, and planning the speeches I might make on the topics of greatest interest. As the NWED Synod Secretary I have an automatic place as a

representative of the district. Additionally, we are fortunate that Jennie Lockett and Becca Ainsworth are elected to the district team, and we will be heading off to Telford for the last week in June.

As always, the Conference begins with the induction of the President and Vice President. This year, the Methodist President will be Rev'd Mark Slaney, who is well known to many of us as our former Superintendent minister.

The Conference covers a range of topics for conferring, and this year includes marking the first five years of the Church's Strategy for Justice, Dignity and Solidarity, updates on progress made towards becoming a Net Zero Church as well as on ecumenical work, and reports on liturgical style and language, Artificial Intelligence and predominantly online church.

There will be conversation and discussion around assisted dying which always generates passionate opinions and responses. It is intended this will lead to wider consultation across the connexion before an updated Methodist position can be agreed in two years' time.

Another of our biggest discussions this year centres around reparative justice in relation to the Transatlantic Slave Trade in response to a memorial to Conference in 2021. The Methodist Church is undertaking a series of research initiatives and collaborating with Partner Churches in West Africa, the Africa Methodist Council, and the Methodist Church in the Caribbean and the Americas, seeking to listen in deep solidarity, and walk alongside, while the bigger questions of reparation are raised.

Conference is always grounded in worship and prayer, and we sing a great number of familiar and new Methodist hymns and songs at numerous points in our daily programme. For many, the



highlight of the whole Conference is the Ordination Services which take place on the Sunday. They follow an uplifting celebration of Reception into Full Connexion at the conference as, by standing vote, those who are being ordained are welcomed into the Methodist Connexion to the loud shout of 'They are worthy!' It's a hairs-on-the-back-of-necks moment, and one which is so memorable for those involved.

It is wonderful to be amongst other dedicated Methodists wanting to be at the forefront of decision-making which will lead the Methodist Church forward over the coming months and years. Listen out for our reflections when we return, and be ready to embrace the decisions the Conference has diligently and thoughtfully made for the future of the Methodist Church.

Carolyn Hothersall

Children were asked questions about the Old and New Testaments. The following 25 statements about the Bible were written by children. They have not been retouched or corrected. Incorrect spelling has been left in!

1. In the first book of the bible, Guinness. god got tired of creating the world so he took the sabbath off.
2. Adam and eve were created from an apple tree. Noah's wife was Joan of ark. Noah built and ark and the animals came on in pears.
3. Lots wife was a pillar of salt during the day, but a ball of fire during the night.
4. Sampson was a strongman who let himself be led astray by a Jezebel like Delilah.
5. Samson slayed the philistines with the axe of the apostles.
6. Moses led the jews to the red sea where they made unleavened bread, which is bread without any ingredients.
7. The egyptians were all drowned in the dessert. Afterwards, Moses went up to mount cyanide to get the ten commandments.
8. The first commandment was when Eve told Adam to eat the apple.
9. The seventh commandment is thou shalt not admit adultery.
10. Moses died before he ever reached canada then Joshua led the hebrews in the battle of geritol.
11. The greatest miricle in the bible is when Joshua told his son to stand still and he obeyed him.

to be continued...!

IN THE PRESS.....

'Special moment': Boyzone lead reunion concert in Lord's Prayer

Boyzone led fans in an emotional reunion concert on Friday, in which the Emirates Stadium joined together in the Lord's Prayer. Opening their Two for the Road reunion, frontman Ronan Keating took to the stage with bandmates Shane Lynch and Keith Duffy.

It is the first time the group has performed together since 2019. But for many, the most emotional moment came when Shane Lynch led the stadium in the Lord's Prayer, in memory of late lead singer Stephen Gately.

"Thank God, his family is here tonight, Michelle and Tony, his nieces and nephews. Thank you for coming. Our brother's spirit is alive and well."

One fan told Premier Christian News it was a "special moment". "They'd asked fans to submit the names of family who had died, and they were played on the big screen. At the end of the song, we were led in the Lord's Prayer – it was really lovely." **Premierchristian.news**

Welsh church voted best place on Earth in online challenge

A 13th-century Welsh church has been ranked the "best place on Earth", according to a Reddit competition.

The challenge on the online forum saw users start with a map of the globe, and vote out the "worst" half of it, until only a tiny square remained. After 29 rounds, St Mary's Church in Eryri National Park (Snowdonia) won.

Situated in Beddgelert, Gwynedd, the church is known for being the site of Gelert's grave, the resting place for a loyal dog. Legend tells that Prince Llywelyn returned from battle to discover his baby son missing, and hunting dog Gelert covered in blood. Believing Gelert had hurt the baby, he killed him, only to later find the baby lying unharmed next to a bloodied wolf which Gelert had attacked in defence.

Some historians believe the tragic tale to be a fiction, peddled by a local pub landlord who wanted to drum up trade.

Users called the church "a gorgeous place", with one saying they had "already booked" a ticket to visit.

Reverend Kim Williams told the BBC: "I might be biased saying this, but it definitely deserved to win. "We are always pleased to welcome visitors who come to enjoy the village, the landscape and the church."

Premierchristian.news

Pulpit to Peak - Cornish clergymen 'scale Everest' for church roof repairs

Two clergymen in Cornwall have completed the equivalent of climbing up Mount Everest after running four uphill marathons in four days to raise money for a church roof.

They ran up a hill between two churches in St Ives a hundred times - which equates to running up Mount Everest from sea level to its peak (8849 metres) - and have raised £40,000 for St John's in-the-fields church in Halsetown.

It took Rev Dr Nick Widdows who is vicar of St Ia the Virgin and Rob Argall who is an ordinand at the church in Halsetown between 12 and 13 minutes each time to run up the hill, while they cycled back down.

Speaking to the BBC, Dr Widdows said it had been "boring" adding "we know the Stennack really well now. We can point out where the dead seagull is and where the honeysuckle is — which is better — and every little thing you want to know about it."

Rob Argall said: "It's been such an event to be a part of. When you're in it, you're visualising the moment of finishing, but you're also trying to just stay in the moment and keep going."

The money raised will go towards the target of £400,000 for roof repairs at St John's church.

Premierchristian.news