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May 2023

Dear friends,

When I started my car a few days ago the radio came on in the middle of a conversation with the broadcaster David Attenborough. He was talking about some of the moments from his long career, including a time when he made contact with a remote community in the Amazon jungle. Aerial photographs had suggested that people were living in the area; but no one had ever met them. After journeying into the forest, he and his cameraman camped out for the night. He described waking up to discover that they were surrounded by the eyes of a number of villagers, all looking carefully at them. It could have been a difficult, even dangerous, encounter. They had no shared language. Yet, through his deep knowledge and experience, he was able through small hand gestures and facial expressions to communicate a sense of goodwill and common humanity.

In the story of the first Christian Pentecost in Acts 2, the disciples of the risen Christ were inspired to share the good news of God's love with those around them – even though the crowd included people from all over the known world.

In Paul's letter to the Colossians, chapter 3, he advises a young church: "Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, ... be thankful. Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you ..., teach and encourage one another in worship." And then he says, "whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father." (Colossians 3:15-17)

Christian witness does not have to involve eloquent, polished sermons – carefully thought through and argued. Most often it is done with simple, honest, encouraging words offered to those around us. And sometimes it is done through small acts of kindness, a helping hand, or an encouraging smile.

Whatever challenges lie ahead of us, may the peace of Christ be at the heart of all we do; and may God help us to share good news in word and action.

Yours in Christ,

Congratulations to

- Joan Barclay who was invited to and attended the Coronation Garden Party at Buckingham Palace in May
- Mike & Gay Wilson who celebrated their Golden Wedding anniversary on 19 May
- Margaret Hogan on reaching her 88th birthday.
- To several members of Chapel reached their significant 80th birthdays this quarter they know who they are but names will not be mentioned.
- Anthony Davies on his successfull cataract operation.

Thanks ...

- To Saro Jesudasen who returned to play the organ on April 2
- Heather & Anthony would like to thank (on behalf of the RNIB) all those who put stamps into the Church Collection Box. We have just posted off around 1.25 pounds of British & overseas used postage stamps. The RNIB have asked us if we could please leave 1 cm (3/8 inch) around each stamp. Thanks again & keep up the good work.

In Our Thoughts....

- The friends and Family of **Jane Evans** who died on 12 May. Jane transferred to Norley following the closure of Acton Bridge but subsequently moved to Oxford some time ago.
- . John & Shelagh Salter John has had a series of falls and is now very poorly in Warrington General and has had an hip operation. Shelagh has currently eye problems and cannot drive.
- **Ruth** was knocked down by a motorist in Greece and has a broken ankle, now pinned, but is currently in a wheelchair.
- Bob Percival has been in hospital with pneumonia but is now back home.

Please remember them in your prayers.

Welcome

- It was a pleasure to see Sam Hickson back visiting Norley after many years absence.
- To Maria Mackenzie from Cuddington who has started to attend the Church services
- To Sylvia Kirk from Acton Bridge who has started to attend.
- To Lynn, Luke and Becca from Kingsley who have started to attend.

You are all most welcome.

Pastoral Piece

Hello Everyone,

Here we are well into the month of May. It's been heart-warming seeing all the spring flowers in bloom. My lilac tree is beautiful at the moment showing off it's beautiful lilac-coloured blooms. Has anyone else noticed as they look at the lawns and grass verges - no buttercups! I cannot remember when I last saw any. Plenty of dandelions!

I expect I am always remarking on how time flies but I was recalling eight years ago I had my 80th birthday, and now have recently celebrated my 88th.It gets a bit scary now!!

We have recently had a lot to celebrate - the king's coronation, and now the Eurovision Song contest in Liverpool.

Through all of this we still have read about trouble and hardship in many countries. Our thoughts and prayers go out to them all.

Nearer to home our pastoral team continue to work diligently. Many thanks to them all. They are only a phone call away.

I hope you all have a happy summer (let's hope we have lovely sunshine) and enjoy good health. I leave you with these few words.

All good things in Life flow freely. Love, Laughter, and Happiness

Until next time. May I wish you and yours all the very best that life can offer to you.

God Bless you all.

Margaret Hogan.

Church Council Meeting - March 2023

Our Church Council met in March. The regular reports from the Pastoral committee, Spiritual committee as well as finance, property and safeguarding were all received, with thanks to all who contribute to these aspects of our Church. Further details of these are reported elsewhere in this edition of Outreach and here is a summary of the additional topics which were discussed.

Consideration of interest in a community café based in our Church. As a way of extending our outreach and building relationships with the local community, the Church Council agreed that we should find out if there is interest in us running a weekly community café, and equally importantly, if there are potential volunteers to help amongst the local residents.

Mike Wilson is kindly leading the project and the Church Council agreed that the questionnaire that Mike has put together, should be used as a means of gathering the information. Keep a check in the notices for further updates about the questionnaire, and the Church Council will in due course be considering the findings.

Preparing the Church Building for Mission: You will be aware that we have recently established monthly coffee mornings and 'soup and pudding' lunches. As a further 'new development', we will be trialling a monthly informal worship service, and considering other ways in which we may further use our building to support and engage with the local community. The Church Council agreed that some improvements to the Open-Door room and additional changes (specifically putting wi-fi into the Church) should be considered. These will be costed up over the next few months and hopefully will be agreed (with a timeline) at the next meeting.

Update from the Circuit: Circuit Steward, Simon Kelly, attends our Church Council meetings and he reported that work has been taking place to develop a 'Circuit Vision'. Linked to this, Churches in the Circuit are going to be asked a series of questions in the next few months, which will help determine our requirements as a Circuit for Presbyters, lay workers etc. The timescale for the next round of appointments of Presbyters is expected to be September 2024 (with the stationing process commencing later in 2023).

Lesley Gough, Church Council Secretary

The Church Leadership Team met on 1 March and discussed at length the papers for the Church Council meeting where the decisions are recorded above in the Church Council item above and are not repeated here. The next CLT meeting was set for 6 June.

Bruce

1st Wednesday Walks

This walk was led by Peter & Sheila, and was a visit to Pennington Flash Nature Reserve near Wigan. Eleven members enjoyed a short walk round the several lakes and the canal side in this reserve. This was an unusual walk, as we spent more time at the various hides, looking at the birds, both on the water and at feeding stations set up for them, than we did walking. This was much enjoyed by all those who came, although a few cut out the canal extension. After the visit we went to the nearby 'Robin Hood' pub for a meal.

Ten of us were available for the April First Wednesday Walk which was around Moore Nature Reserve near Daresbury. The weather forecast was quite dire with intermittent rain

showers expected throughout the day, but we were very fortunate that the rain stopped before we arrived at Moore and did not return until we were driving back to the Leigh Arms for lunch.

Our walk was a circular route of approximately 2 miles around the reserve and although the conditions were not ideal, being rather damp and gloomy, we were able to appreciate the fresh green shoots of spring as well as the splash of colour of primroses and trees in blossom. Perhaps the highlight for me was a bird cherry in full bloom. The bird cherry is a native British tree and is quite stunning when covered in its sweet smelling blossom (but don't try to eat the small bitter cherries that appear later in the year!).

Although birdsong was all around us as we walked, we were rather disappointed in that our actual sightings were very limited. Maybe due to the rather dull conditions.

The sun shone brightly as nine nifty walkers set off to explore the Brereton Heath Nature Reserve near Holmes Chapel in May. Heather & Anthony led the group, which were occupied in spotting the birdlife & the amazing native flowers & trees, which are really lovely at this time of year. We hoped the bluebells would be out for the walk, so it became a game of bluebell spotting all morning.

We were made very welcome at The Old Red Lion for our lunch & judging by the empty plates at the end of lunch, must have gone down well. After lunch we toured the extensive Coronation decorations created by the talented local craft groups of Holmes Chapel. We even had our photo taken beside a life size knitted creation of King Charles 3.

Future walks are

7th June led by Bruce

5th July led by Garry & Vaughan

2nd August led by Anthony & Heather

Why not join us for a walk in good company?

Coffee Mornings and 'Soup and Pudding' Lunches

We have been extremely busy baking, cooking (and eating!) since the beginning of 2023!

Just before Christmas we launched our monthly coffee mornings, and these have now become an established part of our Church activities. We are lucky to have talented bakers amongst us, and at each coffee morning we have had a variety of delicious scones and cakes on offer. It's not just coffee and cake though, we also have optional quizzes and music - so this is why we are now calling the coffee mornings 'Coffee +.

We have been pleased to welcome friends from the local area as well as many of those who attend the church regularly and everyone seems to enjoy this extra time for conversation and fellowship together. Thank you to all who contribute in so many ways to

making these events such a success. Do come along if you haven't had chance to do so already!

Spurred on by the positive response to the coffee mornings, we launched our 'Soup and Pudding' lunches in March. Around 15 people, including friends from the Wednesday Club, who previously attended the Open-Door Lunches have attended (and we do have room for a few more!) and we have offered a wonderful variety of home-made soups and puddings. We are incredibly grateful to those who have helped by preparing the soups and puddings, setting up and serving on the day.

If you would like to get involved as a helper, or if you would like to come along and enjoy a delicious lunch, please contact Lesley.

Solar Panels Update

The reading for the next quarter has just been submitted – and it shows a further 1020Kwh generated in the last 3 months, and the treasurer will shortly receive a payment of £635.

In the 11% years then we have generated over 38000Kwh of electricity and will have received more than £20.200 from our investment of £7,500 with another 14 years of generation to get paid for.

Bruce Lane

An update from the West Cheshire Foodbank:

On Wednesday 26 April 2023, we released our stats on the number of emergency food parcels that West Cheshire Foodbank provided within our local community between April 2022 and March 2023.



The alarming new figures reveal that we have provided **16408** emergency food parcels to people who couldn't afford the essentials in our area over the last year – and **5973** of these went to children.

In addition to this, food banks across the Trussell Trust network provided nearly 3 million (2,986,203) emergency food parcels to people experiencing hunger during this time – with over 1 million of these going to children.

This is the most parcels food banks in the network have ever distributed in a single year and represents a 37% increase compared to last year, **and more than double** the amount distributed by food banks in the same period five years ago.

This isn't right and we can't allow this to go on.

Together, with food banks across the Trussell Trust network, we are calling for MPs across the UK to support a social security system that guarantees our essentials, by making sure that the basic rate of Universal Credit is at least enough to afford the essentials we all need to live.

No one should need the support of our food bank because everyone in our local community should be able to live lives free from hardship and poverty.

That's why your support is needed now more than ever.

As we navigate these challenging times and do our utmost to meet the increasing need for our services, we would be most grateful if you could please donate food or toiletries or make a financial donation.

We recognise how difficult times are right now, which is why we really appreciate all and any support you are able to offer. Together, we can ensure help is here for everyone who needs it in West Cheshire, whilst we also collectively work towards a more just future where no one needs our food bank to get by. Thank you for all that you're doing.

Norley Church Calendar

June - August 2023

Date	Time	Preacher	Activity	
June				
4 th	8.30am	Rev Charlotte Truman	Communion at The Hurst	
	10.45am	Revd Charlotte Truman	Communion at Norley Methodist	
6 th	2.00pm		Pastoral Committee at Howell Croft	
6th	7.30pm		CLT at Howell Croft	
7 th	9.45am		First Wednesday Walk	
11 th	10.45am	Phil Morrey	Worship at Norley Methodist Church	
11 th	12.00pm		Annual Church Meeting	
14 th	12.15pm		'Soup and Pudding' lunch in Church	
15 th	7.30pm		Circuit Meeting at Frodsham	
17 th	10.00am		'Coffee Plus' in Church	
18 th	10.45am	Ruth Lane	Informal Worship at Norley Methodist	
19 th	7.30pm		Joint Church Stewards meeting at The Hurst	
20 th	7.15pm		Church Council Meeting	
21 st	12.15pm		'Soup and Pudding' lunch in Church	
25 th	10.45am	John Evans	Worship at Norley Methodist	
July				
2 nd	8.30am	Revd Neil Stacey	Communion at The Hurst	
2 nd	10.45pm	Elizabeth Holmes	Worship at Norley Methodist	
5 th	9.45am		First Wednesday Walk	
9 th	10.45am	John Bell	Worship at Norley Methodist	
13 th	7.30pm		'Local Preachers' Meeting at Halton Trinity	

July conti	nued			
15 th	10.00am		'Coffee Plus' in Church	
16 th	10.45am	Michael Gough	Informal Worship at Norley Methodist	
23 rd	10.45am	Revd Claire Heald	Communion at Norley Methodist	
26 th	12.15pm		'Soup and Pudding' lunch in Church	
30th	10.45am	Pastor Nic Willis	Worship at Norley Methodist	
August				
2 nd	9.45am		First Wednesday Walk	
6 th	10.45am	Ruth Lane	Worship at Norley Methodist	
13 th	10.45am	Revd David Copley	Communion at Norley Methodist	
19 th	10.00am		'Coffee Plus' in Church	
20 th	10.45am	John Bell	Informal Worship at Norley Methodist	
27 th	10.00am	Peter Davidson	Joint service at The Hurst	
30 th	12.15pm		'Soup and Pudding' lunch in Church	

COFFEE +

10am – 12 noon
Sat 27th May (in aid of Christian Aid)
Sat 24th June

Sat 15th July

Sat 19th August



Spiritual Committee

Easter Services: Alleluia! He is risen!! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!!

Our Easter services were much appreciated by all who attended. The Good Friday service was thoughtfully led by our own John Bell, who brought together the main themes of our Lent Liturgy, presenting them in the context of the hope that Jesus' resurrection gives us. Our Easter Sunday service, which saw the return of the decoration of a 'flower cross' was joyfully led by Rev. David Copley. At this time, we are most grateful to David for stepping-in and leading this and

Norley Scouts: The 1st Norley Scout Group attended on **St Georges Day** (23rd April) at which they held their annual 'renewal of promises'. An engaging all-age act of worship, delivered by Dr's Ruth and Bruce Lane, and Ruth Hosker, was a great success. See elsewhere for a full report on this service.



Church Anniversary: Our 141st Church Anniversary was held on the 30th April, and led by Rev. Philip Gough. We are most grateful to Philip for leading this special service in our church calendar. He preached on the activities of the early church, as described in Acts 2:42-47, asking the congregation to reflect on the witness of Norley Methodists, past, present, and future. [BTW - You can find more on this passage in the book '*Holy Habits*' by Andrew Roberts, available on Amazon.com]

We wish Philip (and Maria) every blessing in his role as Chair of the Lancashire District.

Joint services: We have enjoyed participating in quarterly joint services with our friends from the Kingsley churches. Our next joint service will be at Norley on 28th May and will be

led by Rev. Ian Rigby, who we look forward to welcoming back amongst us.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

other services; we look forward to his next visit.

For those who regularly attend, *Food for Thought* (FfT) offers lively, worshipful discussions in a café church environment.

The FfT meeting in March, which was led by Michael Gough, considered the Gaia Exhibition that was held at Chester Cathedral and explored the theological idea of *seeing* 'Christ in everything'. Our April FfT was led by Deacon Tim Coleman on the practical subject of 'Chaplaincy Everywhere'.

Our last FfT before a summer recess will be on 18th May and will be led by our own Dr. Bruce Lane who will be examining '**Scouting Law and Promises**'. These are valuable acts of worship and fellowship in the life of our church - please support these meetings as often you can. FfT will resume in September – see next edition of Outreach for the schedule.

Christian Aid Week (14th-20th May). This year, *Cyclone Freddy*, the longest-lasting tropical cyclone on record (lasting 34 days), hit **Malawi** and **Mozambique**. Malawi experienced a year's worth of rain during the 4-week cyclone.

The number of people affected by the Tropical Cyclone in Malawi continues to rise. Over 508,000 people are displaced, and hundreds have lost their lives. There's also an increased risk of malaria and cholera in the aftermath.

Food, fuel, fertiliser and school fees have doubled in price in the last 12 months. Hard-working farmers are seeing their harvests fail as the climate crisis brings increasingly erratic weather.

Your gifts this Christian Aid Week could help farmers in Malawi plant better seeds, secure a fairer price for the crops, and build happier futures for their children.

To donate online, use the secure e-Envelope at:

https://envelope.christianaid.org.uk/norley-ca-group

Informal Worship: In a recent meeting of the Spiritual Committee (the mystical acolytes and compilers of liturgy and worship arrangements), it was suggested that church services may be more attractive to new attendees if they were a bit less formal and a bit more contemporary! "Oh, here comes another load of fresh expressions", I hear you say. But wait a minute: If the St Georges Day service with the Norley Scout Group is anything to go by, not to mention many years of Norley@9, Café Church, and now Food for Thought, then there is an appetite to try something different. We can do this!

So, we've agreed to run an 'informal' act of worship once a month staring in June (18th), and again in July (16th), and August (20th), which should be seen in the context of us reaching out to village, building relationships, and bringing our friends and neighbours to Christ. (Wasn't that the message at our Church Anniversary service?)

These services will be a team effort, appearing on *The Plan* as 'local arrangements' (LA), and will be advertised to the village through print and social media. A planning meeting, open to anyone with ideas and enthusiasm for sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ, will be announced through the weekly Notices. Stand by your beds! Oh and, "God save the King!"

Michael Gough Chair, Spiritual Committee

SOUP & PUDDING LUNCH

At 12.15pm on: Wednesday 31st May Wednesday 14th June Wednesday 26th July Wednesday 30th August

(Please contact Lesley on 07788 134181 or via <u>Lesley.gough@mail.com</u> to reserve your place)



. Is there a collective noun for Goughs? These were spotted at Church on 30 April



Property Matters

The boiler service was carried out since the last Outreach and the fire extinguishers inspected.

We have received a date in July for the quinquennial inspection, so we hope to get the minor jobs finished off before then such as painting the Sunday School ceiling.

The Church Council were enthusiastic about the plans to refurbish the Open Door room, removing the screens and secondary double glazing the small windows in the main church. and approved the proposal by the property stewards to get quotes for the various items before the next council meeting.

There is significant optimism that grants towards the cost of the work could be obtained once the project is costed.

Bruce Lane





The life size image of King Charles III is completely knitted and can be found at St. Luke's Church, Holmes Chapel.

St George's Day Parade

1st Norley Scouts paraded the Union Flag and their colours from the Tiger's Head to our Church on St George's Day. Sunday April 23 for their annual renewal of promises.

The Beavers (6-8 year olds), the Cubs (8-10 ½ year olds), and the Scouts (10½-14 year olds) and their leaders filled the central section of the Church, and their parents and our congregation sat at the sides, behind them or in the Open-Door room with TV relay. The flags were received at the communion table by Lewis and Bruce at the start of the service.

The service under Ruth Lane's direction from her wheelchair was co-ordinated by Ruth Hosker, with Bruce detailing the celebration of the recent Cheshire Hike victory by Oisin and Will who came 1st in the District in the Pathfinder Plus group and explored the parallels between guidance obtainable from maps and the bible but in either case only after much practice and study to achieve understanding.

The Scout Law was discussed and then the section leaders led the renewal of promises, the Deputy GSL Sheena read the lesson, and the flags were returned during the last hymn



The Scout Law

A Scout is to be trusted.

A Scout is loyal.

A Scout is friendly and considerate.

A Scout belongs to the worldwide family of Scouts.

A Scout has courage in all difficulties.

A Scout makes good use of time and is careful of possessions and property.

A Scout has self-respect and respect for others.





The Scout Promise

On my honour, I promise that I will do my best to do my duty to God and to the King, to help other people and to keep the Scout Law

God Save the King was sung in the Church for the first time in 70 years.

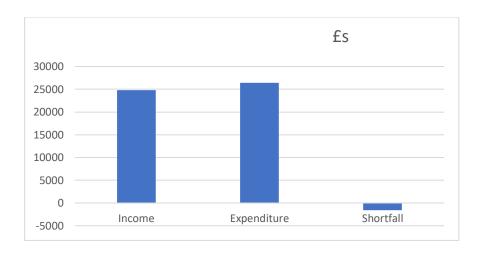
The Scout Group then paraded back to the Tigers to round off the morning.

Promised Overview of the Church Finances

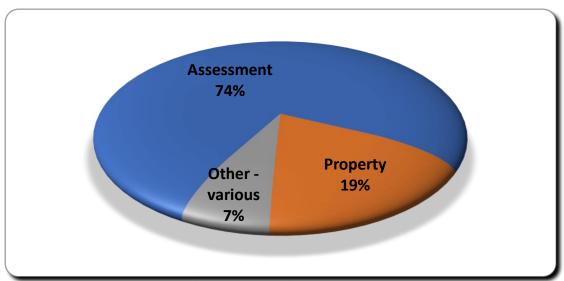
Outreach readers who receive the weekly notice-sheet may recall that, for a few weeks in April, I inserted a piece about the church finances outlining that, in the last three years, regular income has not quite kept up with regular expenditure and inviting members of the congregation to consider if they could increase their offerings, whether by bank standing orders, using envelopes or loose cash. To balance the books for the normal week-to-week running of the church – excluding discretionary elements such as special events, donations to charities and new property projects – I advised that, overall, an increase in offerings of 7% would be most welcome.

As promised in that notice, a summary of the normal expenditures in keeping the church going and the incomes needed to meet them is now presented, based on the expected figures for the Methodist financial year September 2023 to August 2024.

The chart below shows that the expected expenditure of £26,400 exceeds the expected income of £24,800 by £1600, and this is the shortfall we need to make up. The difference looks small on the chart, but it is very significant in reality.



The first pie-chart shows the main categories of **expenditure**, followed by a brief explanation of each.

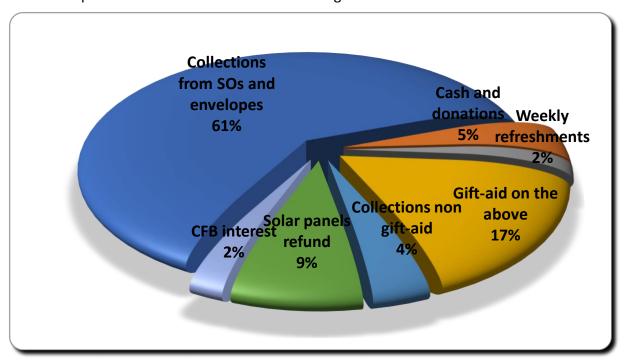


The circuit **assessment** (a traditional Methodist word!) is paid every quarter to the North Cheshire circuit to cover the costs of ministers (stipends, pensions, national insurance, manses, travel etc) and lay workers (administrative and pastoral), other circuit expenses and the assessment levied by the Chester and Stoke-on-Trent District, which itself contributes to cover the Connexional Methodist Church expenses. That it accounts for such a high proportion (i.e., three-quarters) of church expenditure is self-evident and it is the first call on church funds. Whatever else we do, we must pay the assessment!

Property costs include organ tuning, the music licence, insurance, electricity and gas, cleaning, boiler servicing, fire and electrics checks, hedge-cutting, the garden bin as well as repairs and maintenance to the premises, inside and outside. These are all essential.

Other costs cover everything else – a wide spectrum – including printing, posters, website support, Outreach, expenses for invited preachers, Christmas trees, flowers (for pastoral care, Easter and other special occasions), refreshment provisions and kitchen materials, Holy Communion elements, postage and envelopes. In other words, lots of small essential expenditures which all add up.





As I will continue to repeat on many more occasions, the church is immensely grateful to everyone for their generosity in giving, by whatever means, weekly, monthly and from time to time. The chart reveals how dependent we are on claiming gift-aid from HMRC on offerings etc declared by taxpayers and on all cash donations of up to £30 per person per occasion; the amount which accounts for the 17% of income is £4200.

This has been a brief overview: do contact me if you have any queries, but be assured that detailed, audited annual accounts are scrutinised and approved by the Church Council at its Autumn meetings.

John Bell, Church Treasurer, May 2023.

Church Rotas

Date		Flowers	Coffee	
June	4 th	Ruth Lane	Heather and Anthony	
	11 th	Diane Ramsbottom	Yvonne and Vaughan	
	18 th	Alison Twinn	Mary & John	
	25 th	Beryl Richards	Mike and Gay	
July	2 nd	Christine Gleave	Hazel and James	
	9th	Gay Wilson	Di and Richard	
	16 th	Ruth Hosker	Heather and Anthony	
	23 rd	Heather Davies	Mary and John	
	30 th	Hazel Dale	Yvonne and Vaughan	
August	6 th	Lesley Gough	Mike and Gay	
	13 th	Judy Smith	Hazel and James	
	20 th	Vaughan Wynne	Alison and Yvonne	
	27 th	At -	The Hurst	

Norley Church Preachers, Stewards and Musicians

June – August 2023

Da	te	Preacher	Special	Musician	Church Stewards	Welcome Stewards	Communion Stewards
June	4 th	Charlotte Truman	Communion	Jean	Ruth and Bruce	Joan Barclay	Alison & Yvonne
	11 th	Phil Morrey		John	John & Philip	Mike & Gay	
	18 th	Ruth Lane	LA	Jean	Bruce and Ruth H	Yvonne	
	25 th	John Evans		Alan Wright	Philip & Mary	Hazel and James	
July	2 nd	Elizabeth Holmes		Lesley	Michael & Lesley	Mary Dimelow	
	9 th	John Bell		Saro	Mary and John	Judy & Christine	
	16 th	Michael Gough	LA	Lesley	Philip and Ruth H	John Dimelow	
	23 rd	Clare Heald	Communion	John	Michael & Lesley	Vaughan Wynne	Alison & Yvonne
	30 th	Nic Willis		Jean	Mary and John	Alison Twinn	
August	6 th	Ruth Lane		John	Bruce & Ruth H	Heather & Anthony	
	13 th	David Copley	Communion	Jean	Ruth and Philip	Bruce Lane	Alison & Yvonne
	20 th	John Bell	LA	Lesley	Michael & Lesley	Ruth Hosker	
	27 th	10am Joint Service at The Hurst					