

Withington Methodist News

November 2025



SUNDAY WORSHIP

Sunday 2nd November: Ms Eva Manley

Sunday 9th November: Rev. Catharine Hughes, Remembrance
Sunday: HC, joined by Levenshulme

Sunday 16th November: Dr. Bernard Treves Brown

Sunday 23rd November: Rev. Amanda Boon

Sunday 30th November: Mr. John Worthington, First Sunday in
Advent.

GREETINGS FROM CATHARINE

Dear friends,

Sometimes I think it would be useful to have a TARDIS.

Dr Who aficionados will know immediately that the TARDIS, in the form of an old-fashioned police box, enables the Doctor to travel - in Time And Relative Dimension in Space. Most notably with each iteration of Doctor the decor inside changes and adapts, while remaining incomprehensibly large.

How would I use a TARDIS? Well, it is bigger on the inside than it is on the outside: this would be useful for all the junk (read: items of incredible value...) that I inexorably acquire. And it travels in time ... which would be useful when I need to be in two places at once... and space ... which might enable me to teleport between the manse and the church, avoiding all the traffic.

We measure time as a constant with clocks and watches but, while not achieving the elasticity of the Dr Who franchise, it often moves relative to our viewpoint. Sometimes days seems to fly by, and on other occasions they

crawl slower than a snail. We all notice this when somebody tells us the number of shopping days until Christmas. It's never what we expect (and usually falls far short of what we require)!

And when we come to remember loved ones that have passed before us - which the church recognises with All Souls and All Saints Days on 1 & 2 November - it can feel a long time since we last spoke to or spent time with them. For some each day is a drawn-out struggle with loneliness, but for others the memories are like yesterday. Our Remembrance Day poetry also speaks of the inconsistency of time. "They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old: Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn."

Time may be the fourth dimension, but it has an ability to expand and contract as thoughts and events come and go. Rather than being measured as a constant maybe it should have an elasticity quotient.

We sometimes think of things happening in 'God's Time' and 'Our Time'. 'Our time' usually demands immediacy, such as when we pray for those who are sick to get well; or delays, such as when we only have an hour in which to do things that will take at least two.

In contrast, 'God's time' allows us space to breathe and relax, for God's timing is always spot on. 'His ways are perfect and all his ways are just' (Deut 32.4). We can find peace as we turn all the cares of this world over to God, trusting that God has it in hand.

With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day. The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you... 2 Peter 3.8-9

So I don't need a TARDIS. I need to trust the God of all space and time, for God is faithful and true, and will fulfil his promise in me... and you. Instead we need to 'Trust And Rest, Dwelling In Spirit'...

Catharine

PRAYER LIST

We remember in our prayers:

All those caught up in conflict around the world: Israel, Gaza, Ukraine, Sudan, Yemen, Somalia, Syria, and those facing persecution,

Andrew, Siân, Amy, Megan and family,

Rawan,

Toby and the Kouzali family,

Jenny and Peter,

Jamshaid (Promilla's brother),

Janice,

Stella,

Marlene and family,

Esther,

Thandiwe and Peter,

Lynne and Elycia,

all those here who are struggling to pay their bills and facing long waits for hospital appointments,

all those friends still impacted by Covid-19, those members and friends unable to be with us



WORSHIP WITH US

Remembrance Sunday

Please can you bring with you on Sunday 9 November a length of wool, ribbon, material, grass (or the like) - approximately 20-30cm in length, and no more than 1cm wide. Choose something that represents something or someone you remember who was important to you in your faith journey, or who you associate with the church, or whose memory you hold dear. The way it represents them is up to you - the colour, the material, the pattern, etc.



There will be options available on the day if you forget.

Christmas Services

Christmas will be here before we know it so here are some early details of our Christmas services;

21st December: Carol Service, 10.45am, led by Prof. Nick Palfreyman

22nd December: Quiet Christmas service, 7pm, at United Didsbury Church

25th December: Christmas Day, service at 11am, led by Rev. Catharine Hughes



Sunday Morning In Person Worship

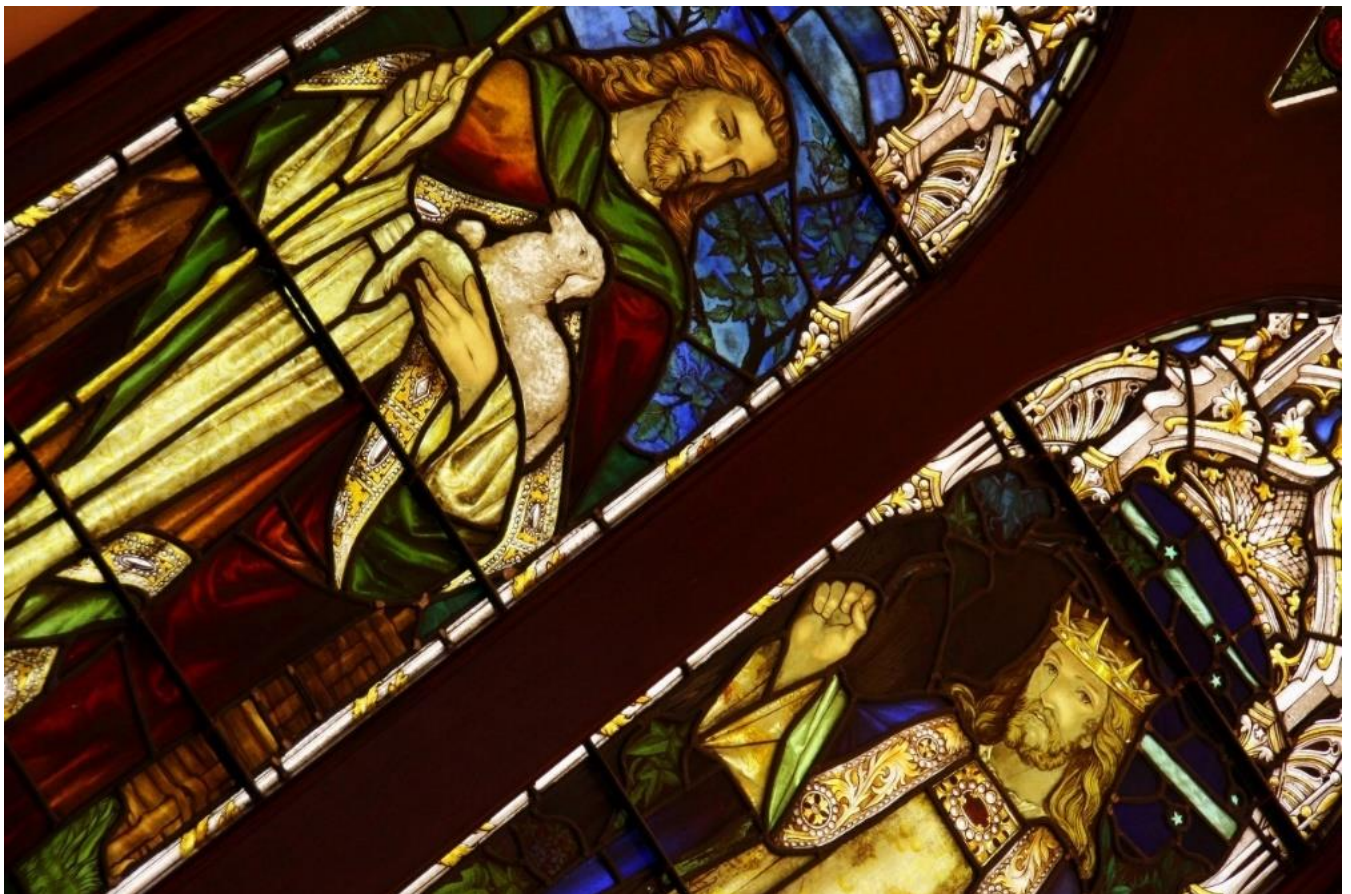
Our Sunday Morning services are held at 10:45 in the downstairs hall. Please enter the church via the back car park entrance. We have refreshments after the service and if you would like to help facilitate this, please let us know.

Manchester Circuit Sunday Evening Service

A warm welcome as ever to our worship tomorrow evening.

The Zoom platform will be open from 6pm for those who wish to catch up with others from their church, and as usual worship will begin at 6:30.

To receive the joining details, please email
administrator@manchestermethodists.org.uk



NEWS FROM THE CONNEXION

8 OCTOBER 2025

3Generate 2025 – the journey of a lifetime

More than 1,700 children and young people aged between 4 to 18 years old went on “The Journey of a Lifetime” last weekend, Friday 3 to Sunday 5 October, at 3Generate, the Methodist Children and Youth Assembly held at the NEC, Birmingham.

One of those welcoming the young people was Genesis Padgett, the Methodist Youth President, who offers this report on the event.

"It was a tremendous thrill to see all the young people come into the hall on the Friday evening. They had travelled from all corners of the Connexion. Some, including those from the southwest and Scotland, had been on the road for many hours but all were super excited. For those who were new to the event, the size of the venue can be mind-blowing. Not including all the accommodation, the 3Generate event fills six hanger-sized halls at the NEC."
- Genesis Padgett, Methodist Youth President.

As the number of people increases so does the noise as the young people start to explore. 3Generate tries to ensure that all ages and interests are catered for. We have to keep our young people entertained for the weekend but entertained in the right way. A lot of thought goes into ensuring that we have a good mix of things that are fun, thoughtful and faith-based.

To keep 3Generate as inclusive as we can, where possible, the events and activities are designed to be enjoyed by everyone. There are special spaces for those who may find the weekend overwhelming and need a little time out and the programme is designed to ensure that people from all backgrounds can find something that speaks to them. This means a dodgeball competition in the sports centre, surfing simulators and animal encounters, sit



alongside music workshops, arts, talks on social justice, the environment and almost every type of worship you can imagine. 3Generate is not a passive event, everyone is part of the journey.

Other venues tackled some of the issues that are confronting young people today. The Connexional Communications Team offered workshops to help people identify fake news, explaining how sharing posts can be unhelpful ammunition for the info wars and even dangerous.

For me, the most wonderful part of 3Generate were the worship sessions. God was at the centre and I've never seen so many young people in one place just wanting to worship and praise God together.



Chris Parker, was one of the organisers of the event, I asked him how it had gone, “This year was bigger than ever but it all went really well. There were lots of children, lots of young people, and they've all had a great time. They are all so keen to take part, they are all willing to explore, and they're all willing to look for ways of moving their faith on.

“The youth leaders and volunteers have been brilliant as well. They are looking after all these children and young people. They are encouraging them. They are making sure they are happy and they are connected, and they have done a fantastic job.

“It's a testament to the Methodist Church that we can put together such a massive event full of children and young people, and shows that the Church is alive and well.” - Chris Parker, 3Generate Events Manager

This year we had a first with Richmond Methodist Primary School attending. The school's Headteacher, Mrs Stevenson, told me, ‘I believe 3Generate provides children with an opportunity to connect together, to develop

deeper friendships and try new things. The independence that they've shown here has been phenomenal.

Fellowship is a really important aspect of 3Generate. For many young people, their experience of being part of a Methodist Church may not involve being part of a large group of their peers.

One long-term impact of 3Generate is on our young people who get encouraged by so many other young disciples, it shows them that they're not alone and hopefully they will stick with Church and grow in their faith, follow in their journey of a lifetime, take that next step and grow into amazing adults.

09 OCTOBER 2025

A statement on the announcement of a ceasefire in Gaza

We welcome the announcement that Hamas and Israel have agreed to the first phase of a deal that will release all hostages and see Israeli troops withdraw to an agreed line.

Many have prayed for the release of captives on both sides and for an end to the violence. We thank God that these prayers are beginning to be answered.

While this is a significant move toward a ceasefire, lasting peace will require much more. The current 20-point peace plan under negotiation does not address the deeper injustices in the history and present reality of the Holy Land.

In the West Bank, Israel continues to expand illegal settlements through legislation and the actions of violent settler groups, often supported by the Israeli Defence Forces. Palestinians face increasing restrictions on movement, and violent confrontations continue daily.

The West Bank is notably absent from the current peace plan, suggesting that self-determination for Palestinians is not a priority for those leading the

peace process.

If the plan succeeds, Gaza may be rebuilt and governed by Palestinians. But the broader relationship between Israel, Gaza, and the West Bank will remain unchanged. The ongoing occupation of the West Bank and the blockade of Gaza have failed to provide freedom for Palestinians or security for Israelis. Without addressing these root issues, the region risks falling back into an uneasy peace, maintained by force and vulnerable to future unrest and violence.

We welcome these first steps toward ending the war on Gaza. We continue to pray for a peace process that delivers justice, security, self-determination, and respect for human rights for all. We urge the international community to support a process that builds on this agreement and leads to a lasting and just peace in the region.

*The Revd Richard Andrew, President of the Methodist Conference
Matthew Forsyth, Vice-President of the Methodist Conference*

29 OCTOBER 2025

Prayer and appeal for those affected by Hurricane Melissa

The Methodist Church in Britain and All We Can have opened a joint appeal to respond to Hurricane Melissa.

We are working closely together with our partner, the Methodist Church in the Caribbean and the Americas (MCCA), to ensure that funds raised are directed to where they are most needed. MCCA is working on co-ordinating emergency relief efforts across affected communities in the region.

If you would like to donate to this appeal, you can do so here - [Emergency Appeal: Hurricane Melissa – All We Can](#)

Hurricane Melissa has caused extreme devastation across the South-West of Jamaica, Haiti and Cuba. The Methodist Church in the Caribbean and Americas contacted the Methodist Church with the following update.

Dear People of Faith and Concern,

The MCCA in its entirety watched and prayed for the week of Hurricane Melissa's development and very slow movement as it built up, sending rain over much of our region. This slow build-up has meant that even before it was categorised as a Hurricane, parts of Haiti, the island of Jamaica, and parts of the Dominican Republic had already received very high amounts of rainfall, causing severe flooding in many places.

The category 5 storm, hitting the South-West coast of Jamaica, making landfall on Tuesday and impacting the whole island, has caused extreme devastation.

Methodist-Chapel-Black-River

Reports from St. Elizabeth show the historic town of Black River almost annihilated, to the extent that the Prime Minister of Jamaica, Hon. Andrew Holness M.P. has called it "Ground Zero."

(see the photo of a damaged Methodist Chapel in Black River)

We have still not heard reports from the Parish of Westmoreland. Damage in the parishes of St. James, (including the city of Montego Bay), Hanover, and Trelawny is severe.



We are aware that at least two of our chapels have sustained severe structural damage, two others have lost their roofs, and one has partially lost its roof. However most of the other Congregations we have not yet heard from. Government estimates are that in St Elizabeth and Westmoreland approximately 90% of buildings have lost their roofs. Other parts of Jamaica have sustained damage, though it is not as widespread as in the West.

We are hearing preliminary reports that lives have been lost, and await confirmation whilst praying for the families of those who have died. Please note that a comprehensive report is in progress, but due to damaged and blocked roads, and some areas being impassible due to flooding, this will take

some time. We will update you in due course.

Whilst taking a direct path through Jamaica, the outer bands of the storm continued to impact Haiti. The hurricane badly affected Petit-Goâve, Les Cayes, and Jérémie, particularly the rural areas. In Port-au-Prince, it has been raining, and those living under tents have been the most affected by this, especially in Carrefour. Thankfully, there has been no loss of life reported in Port-au-Prince. However, in Petit-Goâve, people have lost their lives after being swept away by the floodwaters.

The manse in Petit-Goâve has been damaged in the flooding. We await information concerning other infrastructural impact in Central and Southern Haiti in regard to the effect on our members, schools, manses and chapels.

Exactly what is needed in both countries has to be assessed by the disaster mitigation committees on the ground. Basic humanitarian necessities will be required as a first response. This will include food, water, and hygiene kits, tents and other temporary shelters. We remain cognisant that the agricultural sector of both countries will have suffered extreme impact which will lead to food insecurity in the coming months. There is also heightened danger of water-borne and other related illnesses.

We invite you to join us in prayer for the survivors, for those who have lost their loved ones, those who have lost their homes and livelihood, those who are anxious because they are unable to contact friends and families, and others because the whole situation has been extremely traumatic. Mental health support will be required as part of our response, not only to those who have suffered, but also to those who are in the immediate response teams, including members who are first responders, and our clergy.

Your Servants for Jesus' sake

Juan M. Simpson B. (Bishop) – Connexional President

Jacqueline H. Liddell (Rev'd) – Connexional Secretary

God Almighty,

who lifts up all who are bowed down,
who redeems our lives from the pit,
who loves his people with an everlasting love,
we continue to hold our Jamaican, Haitian and Cuban family before you.

We pray for survivors,
that they may be found and rescued.

We pray for those suffering deep fear and anxiety,
that you may send your Holy Spirit to comfort them.

We pray for those who have lost their homes and livelihoods,
that you may fill them with peace and hope and renewed strength.

We pray for those unable to contact loved ones,
that you will enable them to do so.

We pray for the Methodist Church in the Caribbean and Americas, and the
Methodist Church in Cuba,
that you will grant them wisdom in using resources to help their
communities;
that you will grant them strength to offer generous compassion and
spiritual accompaniment to all;
that you will grant them endurance to continue supporting communities
through recovery and reconstruction in the coming months and years.

Most of all we ask, loving God, that you hold the people of Jamaica, Haiti
and Cuba in the palm of your hand, watching over them, strengthening
them and knowing that you say:

“do not fear, for I am with you;
do not be afraid, for I am your God;
I will strengthen you; I will help you;
I will uphold you with my victorious right hand”.
(Isaiah 41:10, NRSVUE)

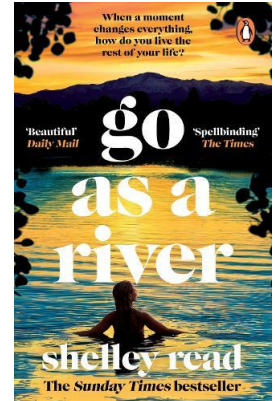
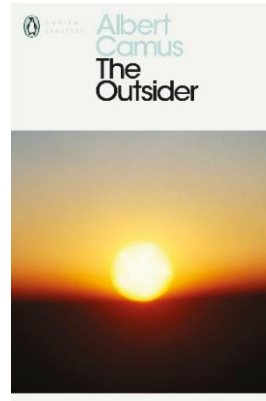
In the name of Christ Jesus, we pray. Amen

- *The President and Vice-President of the Conference*

WMC WHAT'S ON

Withington Book Club

The next meeting of the Book Club will be on Monday 3rd November, 7.30pm, discussing "The Outsider", by Albert Camus. Following that we are reading "Go As A River", by Shelley Read, meeting on December 1st. New members always welcome!



CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

Shine Night Walk

Thank you to everyone who supported me (both with prayer and money) in my Shine Night Walk on 10 October. My sister and I have raised over £1000 for Cancer Research between us - way above our original target. We are both overwhelmed by the generosity of family and friends. - Rev Catharine

Harvest Festival Thanks

Thank you to everyone who donated food in support of the Fallowfield and Withington Food Bank as part of our Harvest Festival. As always, donations are greatly appreciated and much needed.

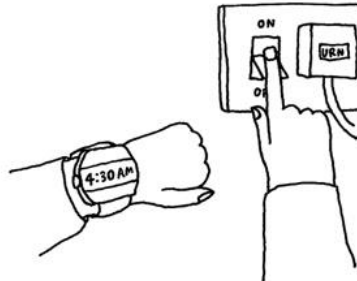


THANK YOU FOR READING!

THANKLESS TASKS



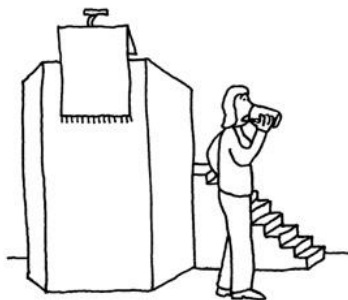
ANSWERING THE DOOR AT ALL HOURS AND FOR VARIOUS REASONS



TURNING ON THE URN



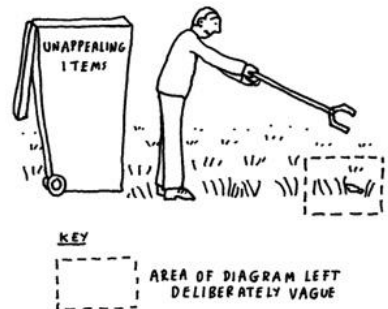
PICKING UP PIECES OF GLITTER ONE BY ONE



TESTING THE WATER IN THE PREACHERS' GLASS



ENCOURAGING YOUNG PEOPLE TO FIND A DIFFERENT WALL TO KICK A FOOTBALL AGAINST



DISPOSING OF THINGS DISCOVERED IN THE CHURCHYARD

Cartoonchurch.com

The next magazine will be out on the 28th November. As usual it can be found on the Withington Methodist Church Facebook Group and via email.

If you have anything you would like to contribute to next month's magazine please pass it on to Caroline Bracegirdle – carolinefielding@hotmail.co.uk

If you would like to receive an emailed copy of the magazine please email - withingtonmethodistnews@gmail.com

Withington Methodist Church

439 Wilmslow Road, Withington, Manchester, M20 4AN

Office Tel: 0161 445 0804 email: office@withingtonmethodistchurch.org
www.withingtonmethodistchurch.org

Editor: Caroline Bracegirdle - withingtonmethodistnews@gmail.com

Minister: Rev Catharine Hughes – 0777880703

minister@withingtonmethodistchurch.org

Sunday Services

Morning Worship : 10:45 am taking place in the ground floor hall. Holy Communion once a month.

Regular Activities

Monday Monkeys (Mondays 10:00 - 11:30am)

Kundalini Yoga (7:00 - 8:30pm)

Brownies (Wednesdays from Oct. 6:45 - 8:15pm)

Snooker Group (Fridays 1:00 - 3:00pm)

