

# Withington Methodist News

September 2022



# SUNDAY WORSHIP

September 4<sup>th</sup>, 10.45am: **AT LEVENSHULME** Rev. Caroline Wickens

September 11<sup>th</sup>, 10.45am: Rev. Peter Went

September 11<sup>th</sup>, 6.30pm: Circuit Welcoming Service at **EAST DIDSBURY**; see note below.

September 18<sup>th</sup>, 10:45am: Rev. Caroline Wickens (Holy Communion)

September 25<sup>th</sup>, 10:45am: Mr Paul Johnson

\* On Sunday 11th September there will be a service to welcome new ministers to the Circuit, and also to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Manchester Circuit. Leading the worship will be Rev. David Copley, who was once the Minister at Withington.

The service will be at East Didsbury Church, at 6.30pm, but tea will be provided from 5.30pm. To aid with catering, if you would like to attend in time for tea, please can you let Helen Fielding or any of the stewards know.

The service will also be streamed for those unable to attend.

## DEAR FRIENDS,

Recently Caroline Wickens dropped by with an update for us. As promised, here is a short summary.

The Connexion has decided that the task of helping Withington Methodist Church to emerge from the problems of Covid is too demanding for a probationer minister, especially given the complexity of our building. As a result, Catharine has been assigned to Levenshulme instead of WMC.

It is disappointing that Catharine won't be working with us, not least because we would have been able to offer her lots of opportunities and support as she begins her ministry.

The good news, however, is that Caroline will be our minister instead. She told us she is glad to have the chance to support us over the next three

years. We thanked her for this, and noted that Caroline has already been involved in the management of WMC and took part in our away-day last year, so she is well-placed to start working with us straight away.

The news will be shared with all who worship at Withington over the next week or so, but Caroline wanted to inform the church council at the earliest opportunity.

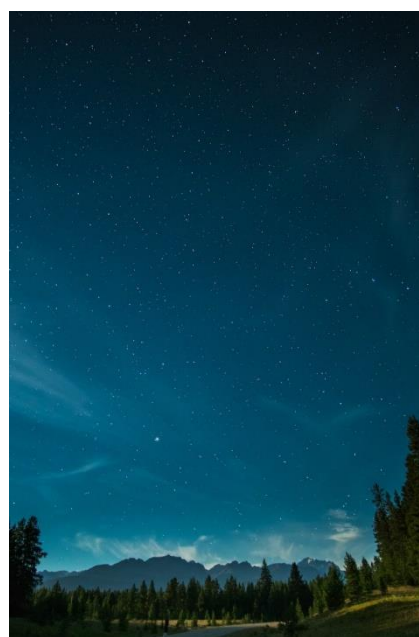
As I mentioned before, the next Church Council meeting is on Wednesday 12 October at 7pm. Please join us then if you can, as we continue on our journey as a church with Caroline's support, and seek to discern how the Spirit is leading us forward.

With best wishes,  
Nick

## PRAYER LIST

We remember in our prayers:

Laurel Court care home and their chaplain - Alma,  
Thandiwe,  
Hanna,  
Donna and Kevin,  
Muriel,  
Sarah,  
John, Marguerite,  
Ora and Stasi,  
Henry



# WORSHIP WITH US

## 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.

## Reflections and written worship resources:

If you are not on email and would like to receive a printed copy of our weekly reflections or written worship resources for Sunday, please contact Caroline Wickens.

## Chat and Bible Study on Zoom:

We have a weekly virtual half hour catch up followed by a half hour Bible Study every Wednesday from 2:00 pm. All are welcome to join the chat, bible study or both!

Joining details for both meetings are the same every week:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84141198605>

Meeting ID: 841 4119 8605

## 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.

The joining details follow-

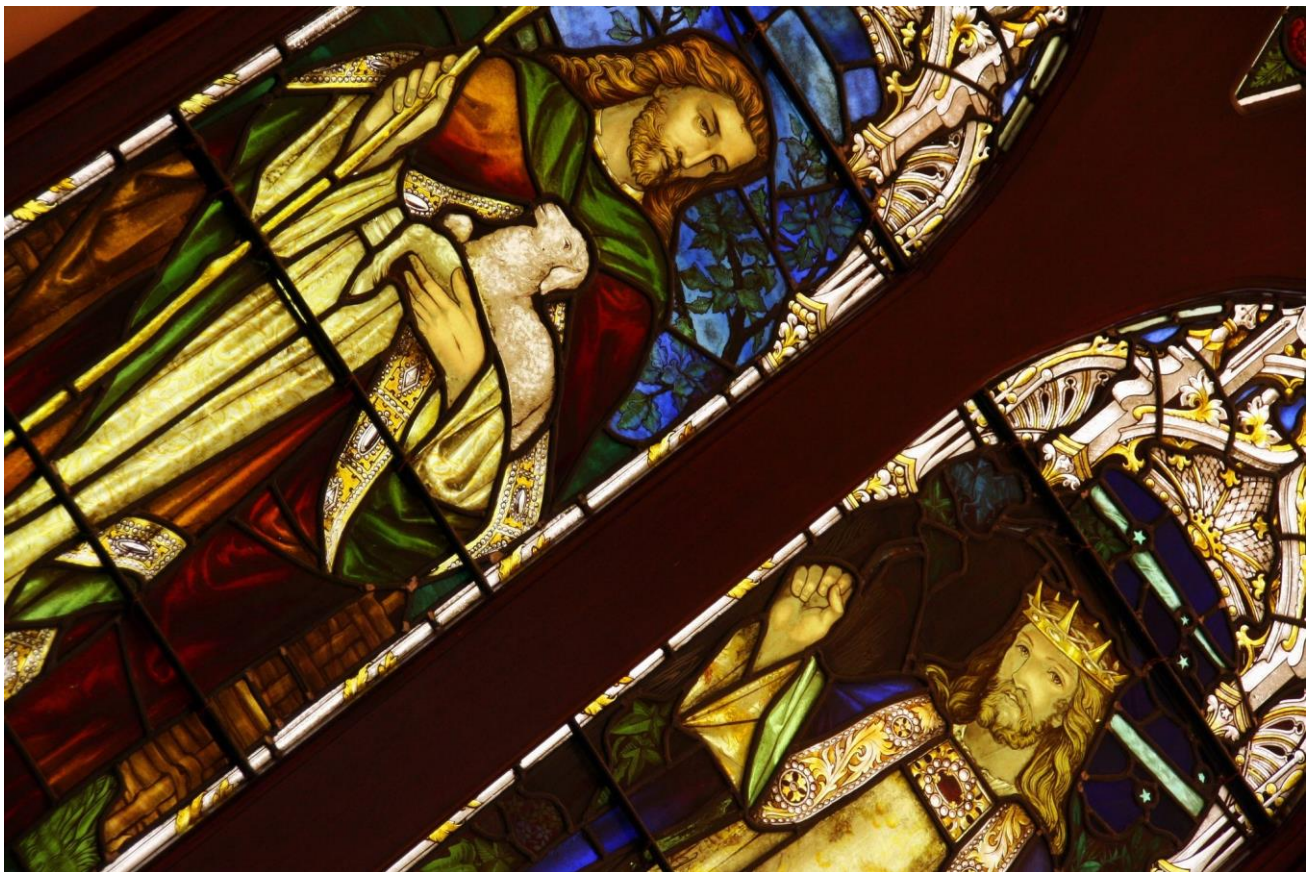
Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/92204599032?pwd=Tzg0SU9xcVZEZFNQK0FnYnNKWjlUQT09>

Meeting ID: 922 0459 9032

Passcode: 1901

One tap mobile + 12532158782, 92204599032 #, 1901#

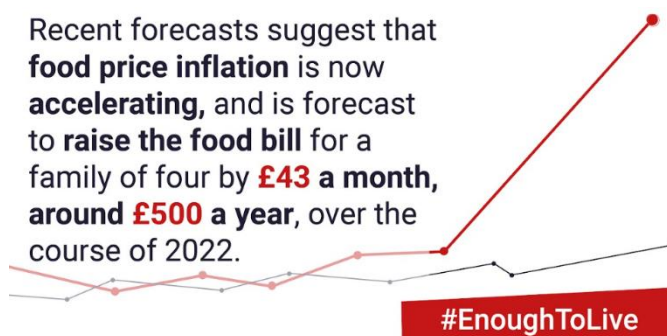




# NEWS FROM THE CONNEXION

07 AUGUST 2022

## Call for urgent action on the cost of living crisis



Former Prime Minister Gordon Brown has joined with 56 faith groups, charities and politicians to call on the government to take urgent action to bridge the cost of living gap faced by the lowest income families.

The call responds to a report, written by poverty expert and Loughborough University Professor Donald Hirsch which reveals the gap between the support the government is currently offering to households and the anticipated rise in living costs. The report concludes that the current flat-rate payments offered by the government will fall at least £1,600 short of making up for recent changes to living costs and benefits faced by a couple with two children.

The report assesses the extent to which cost of living measures announced in May will compensate for three blows experienced by millions of low income families: cuts in Universal Credit, inadequate uprating of benefits with accelerating inflation in April and the further rise in the energy cap anticipated in October. It shows that the package of support measures falls well short of making up for these losses, even with the October increase in the cap.

The groups, supported by Gordon Brown, are urging the Government to consider appropriate measures to bridge the shortfall in family finances, which is only anticipated to rise into the winter months. Some charities are calling for benefits to be uprated in line with inflation, and for debt deductions from Universal Credit to be paused.

The report is endorsed by 56 charities, faith groups and politicians, many of whom are providing front-line support for families hit by rising costs, including the Trussell Trust, the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, the Child

Poverty Action Group as well as the Methodist Church, the Bishop of Durham, the Hindu Council UK and the Muslim Council of Britain. It has also been endorsed by Welsh First Minister Mark Drakeford, Metro Mayors, Tracy Brabin of West Yorkshire, Andy Burnham of Greater Manchester, Jamie Driscoll of North Tyneside Combined Authority, Sadiq Khan of Greater London, Dan Norris of West of England, Steve Rotherham of Liverpool City Region and Mayor of Bristol Marvin Rees.

The report contains stories of first-hand experience of the impact of the rise in cost of living. Lowri receives Universal Credit and cares for her father and daughter. Her food and fuel bills have doubled, and she's had to sell her daughter's bike to make ends meet: "I have spent the last 5 years living in survival mode, just about surviving each day, worrying about money constantly. I am emotionally and mentally exhausted living like this. It is not living, merely existing. There is just no way people can manage to pay all their bills, and all we are doing is existing to pay bills. Terrified is an understatement."

Professor Hirsch said: "The shortfall families are facing between skyrocketing costs and the support government have offered continues to grow. Families were falling behind with the anticipated rise in costs even when the measures were announced, and since then the food and energy costs forecast for this winter have continued to rise sharply.

The flat rate emergency payments announced so far leave families with children particularly far behind, because they are not sensitive to the extra costs that children bring. A new package needs to address the fact that by the autumn, living costs could have risen by as much as 14% for low income families, who have received only a 3% increase in benefits. An additional across-the-board uprating to Universal Credit and other benefits would address family need far more effectively than further flat rate payments."

The former Prime Minister Gordon Brown commissioned the report, after facing the realities of rising costs alongside churches and charities in the UK:

"This is a crisis that Britain hasn't seen in decades. The most urgent and immediate challenge for the incoming Prime Minister is to ensure that families with children and disabled people aren't neglected to struggle through the challenges ahead. We need targeted support for families on the lowest-incomes, not just cuts in taxes or flat rate payments which don't

account for the specific needs of people on the brink of poverty. There should be no argument that a permanent increase in Universal Credit is the only way to take a sure step towards a solution.

"This crisis goes far beyond politics; this is a moral issue - our responsibilities to our neighbours and in particular to those who have the least and whose needs are the greatest. The incoming Prime Minister has a moral responsibility to ensure that everyone has enough to live on, through this crisis and beyond. We cannot be at ease when millions are ill at ease and cannot rest content as long as there is so much discontent. Our society will be stronger when we help the weak and will be richer when we help the poor."

Revd Graham Thompson, President of the Methodist Church in Britain, who have endorsed the report, said:

"Churches and other faith groups are on the front line of offering support to families who are already being swept under by rising costs. We know that millions of families aren't simply making hard choices between heating and eating, but are having to go without both completely. If people aren't given enough support to live, we don't dare to imagine what will happen this winter. The government now have a duty to step up and take firm and long-lasting action to ensure not only that this crisis doesn't deepen, but that it doesn't happen again."

The report is based on figures drawn at the end of July 2022. With the anticipated announcement from OFGEM regarding the rise in the energy price cap, the figures presented in this report are only likely to rise, leaving families in a worse financial position. Read the report here - [www.jpit.uk/enoughtolive](http://www.jpit.uk/enoughtolive)



**"Disabled people live with a dependency on equipment and the majority of it needs power."**

Dan's daughter has Spina Bifida and needs the house to be warm enough because she can't regulate her body temperature.

**#EnoughToLive**



# 25 AUGUST 2022

## Statement on planning application for new settlement in the West Bank

On 12 September a planning committee in the West Bank will consider an application from the Israeli Defence Ministry for a large new settlement project in the EI area of the West Bank, to the east of Jerusalem.

In response representatives of the Church of Scotland, the Methodist Church and the United Reformed Church have issued the following statement:



Our Churches have a close association with people of all faiths living in the land of Israel and Palestine through pilgrimage, long-standing partners in the region as well as with a direct presence. It has been painful over the years to see the expansion of occupation in the West

Bank to such an extent that the vision of two states living side by side appears increasingly remote. The building of Israeli settlements on the EI area has long been opposed by the international community as it creates an insurmountable impediment to the future possibility of a contiguous Palestinian State. It would effectively split the West Bank in two and deny Palestinians direct access to East Jerusalem. Building on the EI area would most likely spell the end for a negotiated two-State solution.

In recent years, house demolitions have made thousands of families homeless. Palestinian communities and infrastructure have been devastated in order to make way for Israeli settlements in East Jerusalem, Hebron, the

South Hebron Hills, around Bethlehem and in other places in the West Bank. Building on EI threatens the homes and livelihoods of a further 2,000 people in Palestinian communities in the area. The UK government has repeatedly stated that the construction of settlements in the West Bank is illegal under international law. It is vital that our government acts with speed to halt this disturbing development.

We pray for a negotiated settlement in Israel and Palestine and commit ourselves to working for a just peace so that communities might live side by side valuing the interdependence of all peoples in the region. We joyfully celebrate positive relationships on the ground in which Israelis and Palestinians come together to articulate a common commitment to live, work and flourish together in the region. But we are in no doubt that failure to prevent settlements in the EI area would imperil future chances for peace and further undermine the international rules-based system that our nation seeks to uphold. We ask that our government act urgently to make it abundantly clear that the granting of permission to build on EI must inevitably have serious political and economic repercussions for the relationship between our countries.

Signatories-

The Revd Fiona E Bennett, Moderator of General Assembly, United Reformed Church

The Right Reverend Dr Iain Greenshields, Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland

The Revd Graham Thompson, President of the Conference of the Methodist Church

## 26 AUGUST 2022

### Raid by Israeli forces on St Andrew's Anglican Church in Ramallah

The President of the Methodist Conference the Revd Graham Thompson has written to the Most Revd Hosam Naoum, Anglican Archbishop in Jerusalem, following the raid on St Andrew's Anglican Church in Ramallah.

The text of the letter is below-

The Most Revd Hosam Naoum

Anglican Archbishop in Jerusalem

26 August 2022

Dear Archbishop Hosam,

On behalf of the Methodist Church in Britain I write to express our outrage over the unwarranted raid on 18th August 2022 by Israeli forces at St Andrew's Anglican Church in Ramallah.

We stand in solidarity with you and all who strive for peace in the area.

There is no justification for intimidation and destruction of places of worship; staff and volunteers must be free from intimidation as they go about their duties.

We call for a thorough investigation into the events of 18th August and that assurances are given that this will not happen again.

Please know that I will pray for you and all affected by these events and know also that a great many others across our country will be doing the same. We pray for strength and perseverance for all in the church community in Ramallah over the coming weeks as you set about repairs and recovery from this traumatic event.

Yours in Christ,

The Revd Graham Thompson

President of the Methodist Conference 2022/23

# 01 SEPTEMBER 2022

## Statement on flooding in Pakistan

It is with grave concern that we have learned about the unfolding devastation across Pakistan. Flooding has led to the deaths of more than 1,100 people, and 33 million others have been badly affected.

The weather conditions have destroyed vital infrastructure and homes causing widespread damage to agriculture and drowning livestock.

In Pakistan there is an urgent need for food, shelter, medicine, clean water and sanitation.

As the world feels the impact of climate change, and extreme weather becomes more common, it is those in the nations least able to cope, and who have contributed least to global warming, who are carrying the heaviest burdens.

Our prayers are for our Sisters and Brothers in the Church of Pakistan, for all the people of Pakistan who have been affected by the flooding, for those who are responding to the crisis, and for those who will be called upon to find strength to rebuild shattered homes, schools, communities and livelihoods.

The Revd Graham Thompson

President of the Methodist Conference



# CHURCH NEWS

## Invite to Licensing Service

All are invited to Revd. Cate Allison's Licensing Service by The Rt Revd Mark Davies, Bishop of Middleton on Wed 21st September at 7pm at St Pauls. Followed by refreshments in the Parish Hall.

## Withington Book Club

The next meeting of the Book Club will be on Monday 12th September, at 7.30pm. This month we are discussing "The Moonstone" by Wilkie Collins.

All are welcome! If you would like to join us, see Helen or Heather.

## Worship Partners

As the current plan showed a number of Local Arrangements for Sunday worship, WMC and Levenshulme Methodist have shared worship on 2 occasions.

On 7th August around a dozen folk (plus one dog) arrived promptly to participate in a service led by Liz Stuart at WMC and on 21st August a convoy of cars transported members of WMC to Levenshulme to join in with a service led by Deacon Pru.

Both congregations received very warm welcomes with extra bumper refreshments and we intend to repeat the experience despite the next plan not indicating so. Therefore on **4th Sept WMC will return to Levenshulme** and they will travel to us on 23rd Oct.

It has been lovely meeting others in our Circuit and of course, both congregations have doubled in numbers. We look forward to a continuing relationship.

Please let Heather know if you would like transport on 4th Sept.

Heather

# TOOLS WITH A MISSION

## Update on our Donation

Well – our collection has now gone off to the new depot in Rugby! Nigel and his van arrived last Tuesday and Liz Stuart and I helped him load up the following donations:



- 10 sewing machines
- 4 knitting machines + table
- 1 large suitcase, 2 boxes and 5 large bags of material, a box of patterns and knitting needles, 16 bin bags of wool and yarns, 2 boxes and a bag of haberdashery items, cottons and buttons
- 4 garden spades, 2 forks and a large bag of mixed garden tools
- 2 boxes of Bibles
- 1 box of technology items
- 14 tool boxes containing an assortment of tools, 1 box screwdrivers, 1 box of saws, 1 box of drills, 1 box of hammers, 1 grinder, 1 box of chisels and trowels, 1 box of planes, 1 box of hacksaws and garden shears, 4 clamps, 1 box of spanners, 12 larger boxes of assorted tools.

Nigel was very impressed with the quantity and extremely grateful to the generous donors.



Whilst I was carrying them down from the upstairs storage room on Monday Sylvain appeared and I am immensely grateful for his help in bringing down the sewing machines and several heavy boxes of tools, saving me at least 15 trips! Liz also did a superb job before the van arrived in helping cart all the stuff from the downstairs area to the car



park. And then Mina, one of the users of the Therapy centre, came out of her exercise class to lend a hand. Wonderful!

So thank you everyone at WMC who contributed to the cause. I don't know if we will rerun the project but will let you know if we do. There are a good number of other local sources where we could advertise TWAM.

Heather



# THE BREAD AND BUTTER THING

## An innovative Foodbank solution – spread the word!

We recently wrote about the Withington and Fallowfield Foodbank and we thought it appropriate to pass on news about another scheme which helps people in food poverty.

Called THE BREAD AND BUTTER THING, a registered charity, it distributes surplus food donated by high street supermarkets, food manufacturers and farmers. Unlike the foodbanks registered with The Trussell Trust which stock emergency supplies of tinned products, milk, juice, biscuits and toiletries which cover 3 days of meals, handed out without charge to anyone referred through a number of social services, The Bread and Butter Thing supplies bags of fresh produce through a membership scheme. By contacting members prior to distribution, TBBT knows how many bags of goods are required at each of their community hubs, assisting efficiency and eliminating waste.

Members save on average £25 on their weekly shopping and receive a week's worth of fresh healthy groceries. For a £7.50 charge they are offered approximately £35 worth of fresh fruit, vegetables, chilled foods and staples such as pasta and cereal.

Food surplus – when the supply of food exceeds the demand for it - occurs for a variety of reasons and can occur at every stage from farm to fridge to fork, involving farmers, manufacturers, retail outlets, hospitality providers and individual householders.



Over production, food imperfection, past 'best before date' (NOT 'Use by date'), and damaged packaging all contribute to food surplus. Figures provided by WRAP, a Waste and Resources charity, estimated the annual food waste in the UK in 2018 to be around 9.5 million tonnes valued at £19 billion.

There are Hubs across Manchester where food parcels can be collected – M9, M11, M15, M16, M18, M19, M22, M40. Those nearest to WMC are as follows:

St Cuthbert's Church Palatine Rd M20 3LH (Mon 1.00 – 1.30)

St Ambrose Primary School Princess Rd M20 1 HD (Mon 2.00 – 2.30)

Compassion Food Bank 300 Moss Lane East M14 4LB (Thurs 2.30 – 3.00)

St Joseph's Primary School Richmond Grove M13 0DH (Wed 1.00 – 1.30)





# 18- 30s MEET UP

The below event will take place from 3-5pm on Sunday 13th November and will be kept informal as an opportunity for young Methodists to meet up. There is no need to RSVP, people are free to just arrive on the day.

The **Manchester** and **Stockport**   
**Methodist** District

18-30s



CENTRAL HALL, OLDHAM  
STREET, MANCHESTER, M1 1JQ

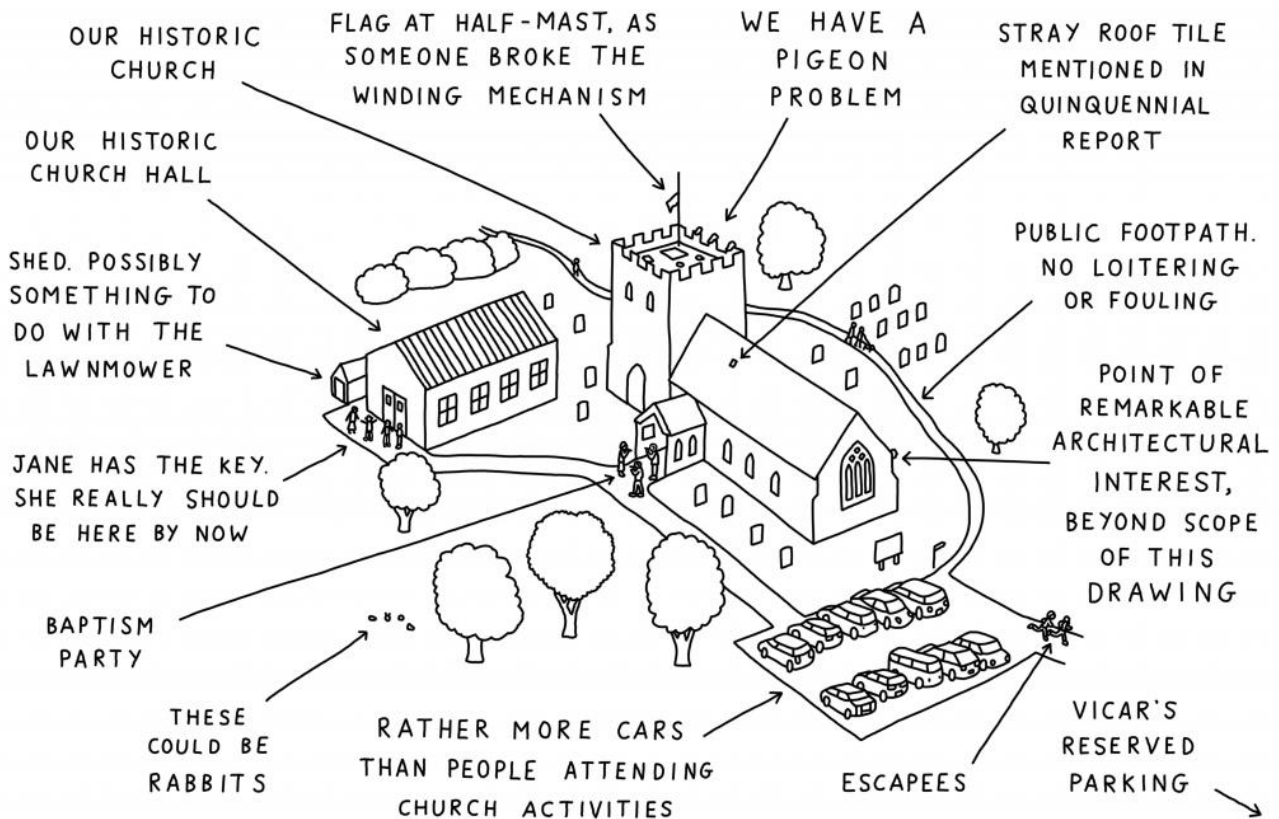
**SUNDAY 13TH  
NOVEMBER  
3-5PM**

JOIN US FOR  
AN  
AFTERNOON  
OF GAMES,  
CAKES AND  
COFFEE

# THANK YOU FOR READING!

## THE PARISH CHURCH

SEEN FROM ABOVE



CartoonChurch.com

**The next magazine will be out on the 2<sup>nd</sup> October 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 Fielding - [withingtonmethodistnews@gmail.com](mailto:withingtonmethodistnews@gmail.com)

**If you would like to receive an emailed copy of the magazine please email - [withingtonmethodistnews@gmail.com](mailto:withingtonmethodistnews@gmail.com)**

# Withington Methodist Church

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Editor: Caroline Fielding - [withingtonmethodistnews@gmail.com](mailto:withingtonmethodistnews@gmail.com)

Minister: Rev Caroline Wickens

## 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)

