Donations

November 2026

GREETINGS FROM LUDLOW METHODIST CHURCH



Wells Cathedral

3. Enough for God

In the last two articles I tried to show that we are not only good enough for God but, in God's hands, we can become more than enough. This month we conclude by looking at how that works.

We have been reminded that God values each one of us as individuals and has equipped each one of us for his service. God sees us, and God knows what gifts we have – after-all they came from him! But just like the small boy in the story of the feeding of the five thousand we have to first offer our gifts to God before he can use them. Jesus took the loaves and the fish and he blessed them, to use them for God's glorious purposes.

Perhaps you are prepared to offer your gifts to God, in countless small actions, but you're disillusioned because you think they either go unnoticed, or that they don't add up to much. Please remember that God takes our gifts, no matter how small, and transforms them. God will never ask us to do something that we are not capable of, and at the same time he will give us the strength and resources to do it. The more we offer, the more he will supply. So, we have to do our part, because it is in the small things that we remain faithful, and it is in remaining faithful that we get our reward.

After taking early retirement, nearly 20 years ago, I was not sure in which direction God was calling me, so I enrolled on a programme run by the Methodist Church at that time, called E.D.E.V. (Extending Discipleship, Exploring Vocation). The course was all about discernment: trying to help us learn what God wants in terms of our discipleship, possibly in some form of Christian vocation.

The message that became clear to me as the programme developed was that 'being' is as important as 'doing'. In other words, it's about offering ourselves and our faithfulness, to God. Not about saying "I can do that" or "I would be good at that" without first recognising that this is where God wants you to be.

Now that's easier than it sounds, because it's not about stopping everything and waiting patiently for that call in the night! Instead, it's about getting on with our lives, and getting on with God. In other words, developing a deeper relationship with God through things like prayer and Bible study and worship, while remaining faithful in our life and work, and in our Christian commitment.

What we have and what we are is 'good enough' for God to use, but first we have to offer it to him so that he can transform us into 'more than enough' for all. So please remember that God values each one of us as individuals and has equipped us all with gifts; but then God takes those gifts, no matter how small we may think they are, and transforms them for his service. In God's eyes, you are good enough; more than enough!

Mike Owens

Holy Days

October 8th, Four Crowned Martyrs

Has your boss ever tried to get you to do something that is against your Christian faith? If so, here are some saints for you. They chose to make a Christian 'stand' at work, even though it really irritated their boss.

Claudius, Nicostratus, Simpronian and Castorius were simple stonemasons in early 4th century Rome. They worked in the imperial quarries and workshops of Sirmium. They made a number of carvings for the Emperior Diocletian, who had a passion for building.

Then Diocletian decided he wanted a statue of Aesculapius, the ancient Greek god of medicine. Here Claudius, Nicostratus, Simpronian and Castorius hesitated: they were Christians, and not comfortable about making a 'god'. They demurred. Their line manager Lampadius was furious, and soon had them imprisoned for refusing to sacrifice to the gods. Claudius and his friends were in bad trouble – and then it got worse. Lampadius suddenly died. His family were distraught, and blamed the stonemasons. Claudius and his companions were killed by drowning.

The courage of these four simple stonemasons to risk everything rather than make a stone statue of a god, was a great inspiration in the early Church. Their story was told and retold down the centuries.... eventually Claudius and his friends became the patron saints of guilds of stonemasons in England.

The phantom custard thief of old Ludlow town caught in the act!





Harvest Supper 28th October





T4U Christmas boxes 2026

Thank you so much all those who helped create the over 400 boxes from this area last year.

The following true story has always moved me deeply and reminds me why we create these boxes for children we will never meet and whose language we would not understand.

One very small, plain grey shoebox, without any Christmas wrapping paper, arrived at a Belarus orphanage. It was handed to a small boy on crutches and the volunteers were so concerned at the child's possible reaction that one stayed to keep watch.

On opening the box the boy found a soft cuddly grey mouse. The boy laughed and hugged the mouse to his cheek and then began to look at the rest of the contents. Everything inside was grey and yet the boy's smile just grew and grew.

The volunteer sat by the boy and asked if he liked his gifts. With a huge smile the boy said;

'Grey is my favourite colour and I dreamed about getting a cuddly grey mouse. I want him to sleep on my pillow every night. Everything in this shoe box is grey. I know it was made especially for me!'

Whatever the colour of the wrapping paper or that of the child who receives the box, each one is an expression of God's love for that individual child made real by us.

Anyone can create as many gifts as they wish using the boxes and leaflets on the Worship Area display, where there is also a box for items which will be used to help make up gifts.

PLEASE REMEMBER TO RETURN YOUR GIFTS BY 1st DECEMBER AT THE LATEST AND WHEN I KNOW THEIR DESTINATION I'LL LET YOU KNOW! THANK YOU.

If you need advice or help, see Stephen Dalton or ring 07896 230 191.

Lest We Forget

'In Flanders' fields the poppies blow between the crosses, row on row, that mark our place: and in the sky the larks, still bravely singing, fly scarce heard amid the guns below.'

This is the first verse of John McCrae's poem, first published in Punch magazine in 1915. It soon came to symbolise the sacrifice of all who died in World War One. Today, the poppy remains an important symbol of all those who have sacrificed their lives in conflicts over the years. But why do we remember them?

'They will beat their swords into ploughshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore.' (Micah 4:3). Writing 700 years before Christ, Micah spoke at the time when Samaria was captured due to the invasion of Assyria. However, he prophesied a future of hope, a world where nations would come together in peace rather than war. His words are fulfilled in the kingdom of God established by Jesus.

Our understanding of *peace* is more than simply the absence of conflict. It is about building relationships between people, communities and nations, founded on love and justice for all. As we remember those who have died in war, we should look practically at how we can build such relationships, beginning with our own families, colleagues and neighbours. *'We will walk in the name of the Lord our God for ever and ever.'* (Micah 4:5). Let us ask God's Spirit to make us people of peace, justice and compassion for today's world.



L.I.F.T

Living In Faith Together



L.I.F.T. is a new initiative to encourage conversation about living our faith in this day and age.

Anyone and everyone is encouraged to join in, over an informal cup of tea or coffee.

Invite a friend;
bring your doubts and questions;
share your experiences.

First Thursday of each month
at 10.30am
in the café area at Ludlow Methodist Church.

Please note that Wesley's Café is not open on Thursdays

Ludlow **Methodist** Church
Broad Street, Ludlow

Green Pages

A round-up of environmental and climate-change news

November 2026

Tracking carbon emissions

A groundbreaking new pilot scheme will allow churches to track their carbon emissions as the Church moves towards a net zero future. The Methodist Church has long been committed to reducing its carbon footprint across the Connexion, amid the increasing threat of climate change in the UK and across the world, but it has often been difficult for individual churches to measure their emissions, leading to problems in getting an accurate overall picture.

Now the Bristol and Yorkshire West Districts, and the Trinity Circuit in the Sheffield District, are taking part in a pilot of a carbon footprint tool devised by Climate Stewards, an organisation which already helps churches to calculate their carbon emissions. If successful, churches will be able to identify ways they can reduce their emissions, becoming more energy-efficient and saving money on energy costs.

Throughout September and October, the Connexional Team will be working with churches and Climate Stewards across the three districts, with feedback being used to develop it and ensure it's ready for churches across the Connexion to use from January 2027.

Dr Hamish Leese, Director of Environmental Engagement, said: "The new carbon footprint tool is a key milestone in the Methodist Church's ambition to be a net zero Church, allowing us to establish a baseline for our emissions and understand how we can reduce them.

"Crucially, the tool will allow churches, circuits and districts to understand their carbon footprint and the actions they can take to reduce it, and to include the Church's net zero ambitions in their planning.

"The Methodist Conference identified climate change as a crisis for God's creation and a fundamental injustice, and we recognise engagement with these issues as inherently and inescapably ones of mission and discipleship."

Misunderstood autumn visitors



Being chased around the playground with a giant plastic spider when I was seven years old didn't set me in good stead. Until I went to university, I was the same as many others; spotting any spider, let alone a giant house spider scuttling across the floor was enough to send me scrambling for the nearest glass and piece of card. During my studies, I discovered my love for spiders; ironically, because of my research project on arachnophobia *(fear of spiders)*. Reading and learning about them seem to cure me!

Giant house spiders may look big and scary with long hairy legs, but they're far more interested in escaping from people than scaring us. Most of the time they're tucked away behind furniture, under floorboards in dark corners, quietly getting on with their spider business.

The reason giant house spiders appear out of those hidden nooks and crannies and trot across our living room floors and bedroom walls every autumn is actually quite romantic. They are usually adult males on the search for a mate. In late summer and early autumn they become much more active and start searching for females. Even if it feels like a spider invasion, it's only really spider dating season. Once they've found a mate, many males won't survive the winter, while females can live for several years, quietly occupying the same hidden corner of your house.

Here are a few giant house spider facts that might change your mind.

- Giant house spiders are excellent housekeepers. They help control flies, and other insects that find their way indoors.
- Spiders breathe through their tummies. Little holes in their abdomen lead to 'book lungs' which are very similar to gills in fish. Spiders do have to be careful, because of the way the air goes into the book lungs, they get out of breath really easily.

So this autumn, if you spot a giant house spider making a dash across the living room, try seeing it in a different light. Beneath those long legs is a remarkable creature: a speedy hunter, a helpful housemate, who is just perhaps a love-struck boy desperately trying to find a girlfriend before winter arrives!

Herefordshire Wildlife Trust

Hibernation

Autumn is here and winter is approaching fast. At the time of writing, temperatures are still above average for this time of year and many toads have been spotted. As it becomes cooler, they tend to go into a torpor state, being cold blooded and are affected by the temperatures. They find a snug cosy place to spend most of the winter, like under piles of leaves or fallen logs. If the weather is mild towards the end of January they might start thinking of reproducing and make their way down to the breeding grounds. Bodenham Lake Nature Reserve is a popular breeding place and trained volunteers are called out, when the time is right, to collect the toads, frogs and newts from the road to take them to safety.

There are not many animals in the UK that really do hibernate in the winter. Mostly we think of mammals like the hedgehog, but there is a more elusive creature that hibernates, the hazel dormouse. As well as hazel nuts they also eat high sugar fruits, nectar and insects, and often are depicted in pictures on a blackberry. They nest under the thick coverage of brambles. They live in trees or thick, old, species-rich hedges. They are nocturnal and that makes them difficult to spot. Their presence is often detected by a particular shaped hole they gnaw in hazelnuts.

Populations are found in suitable woodland habitats in the south and west of England. We are fortunate to have some of these in Herefordshire. The decrease in large woodlands has attributed to the decrease in their population. Intense management of hedgerows also contributes to habitat loss. To help the dormouse survive many conservationists have created the right habitat and provided nest boxes away from predators. This has also created an easier way for people who are licensed to work with dormice to find and study them.

They are endearing creatures with sandy coloured fur, even over their tails, with big Disney-like black bulging eyes. Males are larger than females and can be aggressively territorial. Some research has shown that they seem to pair bond which is unusual for rodents. More than one dormouse has been found cuddled up in one nest, but never two males.

To enable the dormice to survive a winter they have to double their normal weight of about 17 grams to as much as 40 grams and footage has been filmed of a dormouse squeezing itself through a nest hole, a bit like Winnie the Pooh when he ate too much honey at Rabbit's house.

Jessica Tidball, ***Herefordshire Wildlife Trust***

Water-saving tips

You can save a lot of water by just adjusting some simple daily activities, because lots of water is wasted through our old habits. If you follow the simple steps below they'll soon become new habits!

The biggest domestic water-users are: showers, toilets, leaks or dripping taps and leaky loos, leaving taps running while you do things (like shaving or brushing teeth), and using hosepipes.

1. **Shorten your showers.** It's lovely to stand and relax in the shower but you are sending water down the drain … and using a lot of energy because it takes a lot to make water hot. Try to keep showers to less than 4 minutes. Or even turn them off while you lather up. Teenagers can be big culprits, so talk to them about this! If the shower water takes a while to heat up, catch it in a bucket and use that to flush the loo. But, generally, having showers instead of baths uses less water and energy.
2. **Flush toilets thoughtfully:** use the long flush only when needed, and consider flushing wee only every 3 or 4 times.
3. **Avoid running taps** without a plug or bowl. Turn it off when you are not putting something under it (like a toothbrush, or plate to rinse). Avoid water going straight from tap to plughole.
4. **Fix leaks.** A dripping tap can increase your daily water use by 25% or more. A leaky loo can double or treble your daily water use. If your loo keeps making a hissing/dripping sound, it's constantly filling because it's leaking. Fix leaks as soon as you notice. Check them in the Spring, so they don't leak all through a dry summer.
5. **Use hosepipes sparingly:** just like a running tap, if a hose shoots water all over things you are wasting water. Use a bucket to water plants or wash your car, or just clean the windscreen when water is short.
6. **Fit a dual flush loo** and a water-saving shower head, if you don't have them already,

Shropshire Climate Action

The Green Pages of the Ludlow Methodist monthly magazine are brought to you by the Care for Creation Group.

For more information please contact Elizabeth Wright.

SOUTH SHROPSHIRE INTER-FAITH

Craven Arms Soup

Saturday 14th November 12.00pm

Methodist Church Hall, Corvedale Rd, Craven Arms SY7 9ND

Soup and Bread Lunch £5

All proceeds going toEmpathy

empathy for special children

Inter Faith Week 2026
8-15 November

Organised in national Inter Faith Week

Canon David Wiseman, Myndtown, Clun Road, Craven Arms, Shropshire, SY7 9QS
davidwiseman50@gmail.com

Nearly 2,000 affordable homes could be built on church sites

Nearly 2,000 affordable new homes on land earmarked from church sites could be created with support from the Church of England, it has been revealed, in work under way five years on from a landmark Church report on the housing crisis.

The Archbishops' Council Housing Project was set up in 2024 with an aim of helping churches in the first stages of exploring the potential of sites to create housing – such as pockets of surplus land or land freed up through redevelopment of a church hall or other building.

The Project team, with an architect, a community housing specialist, a town planner and a Church buildings officer, has provided advice and support to around 85 parishes so far.

Most of its budget is distributed through a grants programme, with more than £1.2 million awarded to 54 projects in the first year of operation, paying for expert advice and early-stage feasibility and viability work, up to the 'pre-app' stage – the point at which a project will seek advice from a planning authority ahead of submitting a formal application.

The Church Development Agency functions as the Church's specialist property development and delivery arm, supplying the technical expertise that most dioceses and parishes lack. Currently there are 42 church sites in 10 dioceses, receiving support from the Agency, 15 of which were given initial grants by the Housing Project.

If given the green light, the projects currently with the Agency could create more than 1,000 new affordable homes. This figure almost doubles to 1,952 when taking into account proposals being given support by other Church housing organisations and dioceses, including the Housing Project and the Church Housing Association.

The work currently under way is helping to implement the recommendations of *Coming Home,* the 2021 report of the Archbishops' Commission on Housing, Church and Community on tackling the housing crisis.

The Church of England's lead bishop for housing, Bishop Guli Francis-Dehqani said:

"Housing projects can have a catalytic effect on participating churches; not only do they provide much-needed homes, they also provide missional opportunities and strengthen the church's reputation in the community. We are starting to realise the huge potential for housing projects to sustain and even grow our local churches."

Burnham wants to approve bishops

The Prime Minister, Andy Burnham, wants to advise the King on the appointment of bishops and archbishops in the Church of England and Church of Scotland.

The practice of the King being involved dates way back to the Reformation, when the monarch was head of the Church, and so took responsibility for appointing clergy.

Burnham is currently barred because he is a professing Roman Catholic. But he has called the Roman Catholic Relief Act 1829 an "antiquated and archaic anomaly" and is determined to change it.

These days, of course, the Prime Minister's approval of such appointments is symbolic. The Church puts its candidate forward, who will be approved. In the meantime, there are nine current or upcoming vacancies for diocesan bishops.

Are vicars slowly disappearing?

There are certainly some worrying statistics out there. Such as:

There are 8,368 retired priests holding permission to officiate.

But there are only 6,682 clergy in paid (stipendiary) positions, and 2,440 in self-supporting, unpaid roles.

Nearly half of the current 6,682 paid priests are aged over 55. They all retire at 70. But numbers of new entrants in training dropped from 591 in 2020 to 442 by 2025.

Where is this all headed? Worse case, by 2033, there could be only 5,400 full-time priests. That is 40 per cent of what the number was in 2000.

These sobering predictions come in a recent report by the campaign group Save the Parish. It argues that the decline has left the C of E at real risk of no longer being "a Christian presence in every community."

So, Save the Parish is calling on the C of E to "commit to a model that will support a young person in stipendiary ministry for their lifetime." It does not want a reduction in full-time paid clerical positions to save money, and it wants to lift the retirement age of 70.

Also, the report says that the Church should measure ministers' success on the "numbers of lives touched, funeral by funeral, cup of tea by cup of tea".

Please support our Christmas outreach by bringing some good cheer to our elderly residents in the Care Homes. More information will be available as the time approaches, but please put the dates in your diary now.

Tuesday 8th December:

2.00pm at Churchill House

3.00pm at Four Rivers

Thursday 10th December:

11.00am at Hagley Place

Monday 14th December:

2.30pm at Alexandra House

3.30pm at Hendra House



Do you live on your own or would you just like company on a Sunday afternoon?

Come and join us for Tea and Worship
in the café area at Ludlow Methodist Church

Fourth Sunday of each month at 3.00 pm

A short time of worship

followed by

tea, cake and fellowship

For more information please contact Annie Jones
jonesannie21@hotmail.com

Ludlow **Methodist** Church
Broad Street, Ludlow



Is this recycling a 'bridge too far. Not a terribly good idea, wouldn't it make the crisps a bit chewy??

Courtesy of Roger Clayton

An airliner was being thrown about in a violent storm. A nervous lady turned for comfort to the minister sitting next to her. "Can't you do something?" she asked. "I'm sorry, the minister replied gently, "But I'm in sales, not management."

Jesus saw the deaf man, and took pity on him and healed him. Jesus saw the blind man, and took pity on him and healed him. Jesus saw the crippled man and took pity on him but the crippled man shouted,*' Don't touch me, I'm on a disability pension*



And you all thought he wasn't real.....

Graffiti seen a wall in Liverpool:
What will you do when Jesus comes to Liverpool?
'Move St. John to inside right.'

Graffiti scrawled under a poster which read, *'Where will you be when Jesus comes?'*
'Still here, waiting for the number 23 bus!'

Courtesy of Stephen Dalton