

Newsletter - July & August 2026



Enjoy the blessings of summer!

"Light is sweet, and it pleases the eyes to see the sun." Ecclesiastes 11:7

JULY	5th	12th	19th	26th
EXALT 9.50 am	God is... Awesome Led by: Elaine Watkinson <i>Also by Zoom</i>	<i>Action for Children Sunday</i> Holy Communion <i>Preacher:</i> Lyndsay Kemp	God is... Awesome Led by: Chris Rolph <i>Also by Zoom</i>	God is... Awesome Led by: Paul Fox <i>Also by Zoom</i>
Morning Worship 11.00 am	Morning Worship <i>David Simpson</i>	<i>Also by Zoom</i>	Morning Worship <i>Roger Maidens</i>	Local Team Service

AUGUST	2nd	9th	16th	23rd	30th
10.30am <i>Also by Zoom</i>	Morning Worship <i>Richard Neale</i>	Holy Communion <i>Rev Graham Miles</i>	Local Team Service	Morning Worship <i>Elaine Fox</i>	BBQ worship 1pm—see advert

Minister: Rev Margaret Asiedu 07831 119605 Email : magsasiedu@gmail.com
Off Duty Day - Monday

DEADLINE for the September Newsletter is Sunday, 16th August
All information to Catherine Rolph by e-mail: rolph@sky.com

Dear Friends

Summer officially began on 1st June. It's a time when the winter woollies are packed away for a few months to allow the summer wardrobe to make an appearance. Although it's been quite a wet start to Summer, as I write the forecast is for more sunshine in the coming days so more opportunities to put on shorts and t-shirts, summer dresses and shirts. Just the other day I was in Mablethorpe and it was a sunny day and there were a lot of people around. What I noticed as I drove down the main street was the people who were wearing brightly coloured clothes. It is after all Summer and they may also have been on holiday. But they certainly stood out from the people wearing darker coloured clothes. I wonder what sort of clothes you wear? Maybe you enjoy wearing brightly coloured ones or maybe you prefer darker colours. It has been said that the clothes that we wear say something about us as a person.



In his letter to the Colossians, Paul encouraged the followers of Jesus to think about what 'clothes' they were to put on because he certainly thought that what we 'wear' says something about us as Christians.

"As God's chosen ones, therefore, holy and greatly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness and patience, being merciful to one another and forgiving any quarrel you may have; in other words, forgive as the Lord forgave you. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony." (Colossians 3:12-14)

Paul doesn't just say be compassionate or be kind or be humble but urges them to clothe themselves as if these are essential items of clothing. These attributes are to be the first thing that people notice; eye-catching even, just like the brightly coloured clothes people were wearing in Mablethorpe when I drove through. Compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, patience, mercy and love are the essentials that every Christian should not only find in their wardrobe, but the essentials that we take out every day and put on. Of course this is not an exhaustive list, but it does give us a clear idea of what God longs to see as we live our lives day by day.

As a circuit we have been exploring the letter Paul wrote to the church at Philippi as the chosen book for this year's Bible Month. In chapter 2 Paul encourages them and us to stand out and to shine like stars. Once again Paul is suggesting this is seen in the way we live our lives and in the way we keep focused on Jesus as we live together in harmony and as we remember how Jesus set before us the way of humility and service.

I wonder what qualities are visible in my life and yours? What do people see of

Christ Jesus in us? Do we stand out and shine with the qualities Paul is highlighting?

As we journey through the rest of the summer, I pray we may choose the beautiful clothes that Paul is saying we need to put on so that others may encounter Jesus in what we do and in what we say.

Love and Peace

Rev Margaret

Prayers for July & August

Did you know that the 3rd Sunday in July is celebrated as Rural Mission Sunday? This summer, as crops in the fields around us ripen and harvest begins, as farmers face the trials and tribulations of changing weather patterns, and as our rural communities come to terms with changing modes of agriculture, communication and employment, let us pray for those who work in an industry that is so familiar that we don't always notice it.

Loving and generous God,

We come before You with gratitude for the beauty and richness of the rural world—the fields and farms, the villages and churches, the people and traditions that shape our land.

We pray for those who work the land, tend livestock, and steward creation. Strengthen them in times of uncertainty and bless them with all they need to flourish. May their work be valued and their voices heard.

We lift before You the work of The Arthur Rank Centre, the Lincolnshire Rural Support Network, and all rural charities—those who stand alongside farmers, churches, and communities, offering support, training, and encouragement. We give thanks for agricultural chaplaincies, rural food banks, environmental charities, and all who serve with compassion. Lord, sustain them in their mission, grant them wisdom in their decisions, and provide the resources they need to continue their vital work.

We pray for all who have a heart for rural communities—church leaders, volunteers, funders, and policymakers. May they be guided by Your Spirit to listen well, act justly, and bring hope where it is needed most.

In a time of challenge and change, may Your Church be a place of welcome, a source of support, and a light in rural places.

We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ,

Amen.

Based on a prayer by the Arthur Rank Foundation.

The table is longer than you think

by E Hamilton

a reflection Margaret shared at Church Council

The table is longer than you think

Longer than polished wood or borrowed chairs,

Longer than the loaf broken and passed from hand to hand.

It stretches through kitchens and community halls

Through cups of tea shared on difficult afternoons

Through conversations that begin with weather and end with tears.

Come. There is room.

Not because we've earned a place

Not because we've got life sorted,

But because grace keeps pulling out another chair.

Around the table, stories are shared like bread.

Joy passed round

Sorrow divided

Hope replenished.

The lonely discover they're not quite as alone as they feared

The stranger learns their name matters here.

The weary find they can put down their burdens for a little while.

And Christ is among us,

Not only in sanctuaries, not only in prayers and hymns,

But in laughter spilling across tables,

In soup served generously, in hands reaching for one another.

This is how the Kingdom grows

Like yeast in dough.

Like roots beneath the forest floor

Like fire passed from one candle to another.

Quietly.

Steadily.

One welcome

One conversation

One open door at a time

And the table keeps growing

Because God's love has never learned how to make itself small.

Cliff Festival 2026

Cliff College near Bakewell, the Methodist church's training hub for mission and evangelism, celebrated its annual spring festival over the late May bank holiday weekend. An event for everyone - very family-friendly - with a programme of events for all ages, and interests.



The theme this year, familiar because it is the one chosen by our presidential team Rev Richard Andrew and Matt Forsyth, was 'Our Story, Our Song.' We heard many people's stories from the ordinary to the extraordinary, and how God is at work in and through the Methodist, and other churches. We attended seminars and workshops on sharing faith with others in testimony, something many of us are hesitant about, as well as others looking at politics, the environment and enabling worship to be accessible for all.

Worship and Bible study in different formats from energetic to reflective, and creative to traditional offered real opportunities to be encouraged with a broader picture of our church. And, of course, opportunity to sit, listen, read and drink coffee. There were quizzes, discussions, walks and facepainting. Probably the most encouraging aspect for us this year was the number of children and young people on site.

The weather this year was perfect for this mainly outdoor and marquee-based event - it isn't always like that - and set in the Derbyshire countryside, you cannot fail to be moved by the glory of creation. Sitting in the marquee for the evening celebration events it's hard not to be moved by the evening birdsong as well as the preacher! We would encourage anyone to come along next year. It runs from 28th - 31st May, 2027. If you want to find out more, talk to Nick or Kath. *Nick Adams*

Louth Methodist Church invites you to:

a Children's Holiday Day Club

All children to be accompanied by an adult

Friday 28th August 2026, 10-12 noon & 1-3pm

Crafts, Games, Bible Stories, Puppets, Songs.

Attend both or just one session. All ages of child welcome. No charge but donations welcome



BBQ WORSHIP!

Sunday 30th August

STARTING AT 1PM AT THE ROLPHS, LEGBOURNE

Our worship on Sunday 30th will be around a campfire (wind permitting!) Come and enjoy a summer BBQ and then join in with worship.

Burgers/sausages/chicken/salad & drinks provided. If you have any *special dietary requirements* then bring your own food and we will BBQ it. If each car load can bring a pudding that would be great.

If the weather is bad this will be replaced by a 10.30am service in church.

You can turn up on the day but it would be helpful to know numbers. Please sign up after a Sunday service.

Open Lighthouse and Lighthouse

During August the Wednesday Open Lighthouse will be open from 10 to 12 for drinks and biscuits (no Greggs food) and for collecting food parcels. There will be no Friday Lighthouse meeting.



Help needed:

Rev Margaret currently collects food donations from Morrisons on a Wednesday morning and brings them to church. We need someone to take on this role either on a Tuesday night or Wednesday morning.

We also need someone to volunteer to do the monthly Aldi foodbank shop, instead of Margaret and Elaine. This is not a good use of their time, but I am sure there must be someone who could step in—maybe on a rota. Help would also be welcomed in setting up tables and clearing away,

especially in winter when we meet in Hall 2. *Please speak to Elaine, Margaret or a member of church council if you can help.*



Christian Aid Week.



A big 'thank you' to everyone who contributed during Christian Aid week: a total of £736.25 was raised which includes money donated for the bread and soup lunch plus a generous contribution from Table Tennis 4 All.



July 12th is Action for Children Sunday. Please support this great cause in any way you can.



Methodist Publications

During the summer months there will be an opportunity to order the Methodist Prayer Handbook (this year's theme is

Sorrow—Joy) for £4.99 and a Methodist diary for £11. Watch out for the posters or speak to Nancy Cartwright.

Sorry—NO Men's breakfast in July



Please look out for another date at some pint. If you would like to be kept updated, please contact Nick Adams.
(nick26.adams@gmail.com)

We send our congratulations to Peter Jeffry who celebrated his 80th birthday at the end of June and to Tony Blackmore who is 90 in July.



Just a little note to say thank you for all the best wishes I have received and for the visits, flowers and cards, Gwyneth.

*Thank
you*





On Thursday and Friday the 6th & 7th of August the foyer is being painted and the church will NOT BE ACCESSIBLE.

REGULAR CHURCH ACTIVITIES—JULY & AUGUST

Mondays: **Young at Heart** from 1.30pm (No meeting 31st August)

Tuesdays: **Women's Fellowship** 2pm in July, no meetings in August

Wednesdays: **Open Litehouse.** July: 9.30am to 12.30pm. Light refreshments and a chance to chat. August: 10am to 12 noon for drinks, biscuits and food parcels.



Prayers 9am. Pray for yourself, the church, our town and the world. All Welcome. There will also be prayers at 11am if people gather.

Ladies' Group 8th July at 7.30pm—visit to Playgoers to see the Blaze production of 'We will Rock You'. 15th July at 2pm—summer social in the garden of Nancy Cartwright. *No meetings in August*

Thursdays: **TT4A** Table tennis for all at 7pm.

Fridays: **321 Extra** 9.30am to 11am. Under 5s playgroup on the 3rd & 17th July. *No meetings in August*



321 9.30 to 11am on Friday 10th July. Puppets, music, craft and soft play for under 5s. *No meeting in August*



Messy Church 4 to 6pm. Friday 10th July—God is Awesome *Fun Faith & Food for all the family.*

UNMISSABLE MONDAYS—SAVE THE DAY!

Starting from September we will be starting up a regular 'house group' type meeting in church on Monday nights for bible study, prayer, fellowship, and probably a hot drink and biscuits too! More details to follow but ALL are encouraged to attend as we seek to grow in discipleship.