



The Methodist Church



Circuit Chat

Welcome to the March 2024 edition of Circuit Chat!

Dear Friends,

I commend to you all of the articles in this edition of the Circuit Chat.

In the following pages you will find updates from several of our churches, key dates for your diary, helpful information about safeguarding, supporting the foodbank and writing to your MP.

Ministers who have been part of the Circuit in the past are mentioned – see an article by Geoffrey Clarke and a report from Rev'd Diane Grice's current circuit.

We don't yet have the latest news from the President of Conference, who incidentally will be preaching at The Grove on 4th August, once her presidential year is complete, but this will be forwarded on when it arrives.

Prayers and reflections are woven into the text.

Those who know Di Welchman, and who appreciated all the mailings that she sent out during the lockdowns, will be aware that she has taken the key role in compiling our newsletters up to this point. Her unique style is evident. As she prepares for retirement, she shares something of her own story on page 12.

One of my first encounters with Di was on the day that Neville and I moved into the manse. As we pulled up in the car she was just locking up and hoping to be out of the way before we arrived but had spent a great deal of time and care in making sure that the place was ready to be our new home.

She has worked with many different ministers in the twenty-nine years that she has been a member of staff in the Retford, and then the Trinity, Circuit and her knowledge and experience has been invaluable.

I have greatly appreciated the time that we have spent working together and will miss her support, encouragement and generosity of spirit. Thank you, Di.

Grace and peace, Julie

Property Stewards

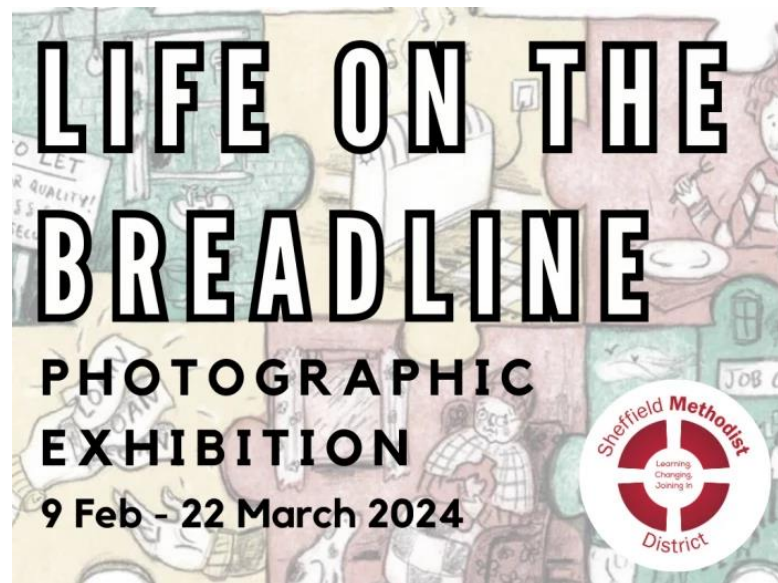
The Methodist Church has produced a Property Stewards' Handbook! This handbook is design to be an across-the-board information resource for property stewards at a church, circuit and district level.

It includes the Top 10 Essentials of being a property steward as well as other useful information and links.

You can download a copy here. We don't recommend printing this out as the file contains a lot of links to other useful sites and will (hopefully) be updated on a regular basis

<https://www.methodist.org.uk/.../property-stewards/>

There is still time to visit



Sheffield District are delighted that the Life on the Breadline Photographic Exhibition is currently at Barnsley. From cutting edge research and grassroots voices, the aim is to start conversations: to hear and amplify voices of people with lived experience of poverty, to create space for people to tell their own stories, and to reflect on how we should personally and collectively respond to what we are hearing. The exhibition will be at Staincross (Barnsley) from 11 — 22 March.

Everyone is welcome.

**Prayer for use as we approach
Lent, using the metaphor of
fasting and feasting, and
seeking help in transforming
our lives.**



Wonderful God, as we enter this season of Lent,
this time of preparation for the mystery of Easter,
help us to ready ourselves,
so that we can journey with Jesus through the wilderness,
to meet with him in resurrection joy.

Make us ready to fast from criticism
and feast on the good we see in others.

Make us ready to fast from inactivity
and feast on action for justice.

Make us ready to fast from greed
and feast on giving.

Make us ready to fast from conflict
and feast on peace making.

Make us ready to fast from selfishness
and feast on Christ-likeness
so that we might be changed to become more like your Son.

Amen.



District Safeguarding Update

– Hidden Harms



The Methodist Church is committed to safeguarding as an integral part of its life and ministry. Safeguarding is about the action the Church takes to promote a safer culture. This means we will:

- promote the welfare of children, young people and adults
- work to prevent abuse from occurring
- seek to protect and respond well to those that have been abused.

Abuse can occur at any age and is often under reported when it related to adults over the age of 65.

Safeguarding often considers 'carer's stress' when incidents occur, and while one-off events do happen, it needs to be explored to see if there are any patterns or history. Based on the power and control wheel as adapted by Dewis Choice, the aim of this short animation is to help support practitioners and families start a conversation with an older adult.

We know from research that this is a very sensitive topic to talk about. Older adults may be more reluctant to talk about problems at home due to experiential, cultural, and social factors, and this combined with ageing and subsequent care needs leaves them vulnerable to having domestic abuse overlooked.

The Hidden Harms animation has been co-created by survivors aged between 60 and 93 years old from Dewis Choice, who are now in recovery and living free from harm, fear and abuse. Talking to

someone about the behaviour will not mean having to make decisions you are not ready for, but it will create options to help you get the support you need to feel safer and happier.

Hidden Harms animation <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kTfoixKLw1g>

A link to this animation has been added to our updated Domestic Abuse resources page, where you will now find a variety of other Domestic abuse resources.

As ever, if you have any questions or concerns, please give me a call on 07483 362 735 or email me at safeguarding@sheffieldmethodist.org

Many thanks

Alison Hill – District Safeguarding Officer.



The Methodist Church values every human being as part of God's creation. Everyone has the right to fair treatment and protection from harm.

Dinnington Methodist Church

Invite you to A Ukulele Concert

Saturday April 6th at 2 pm

Tickets £6 including

Afternoon Tea

From: Pam: 01909 569648

Judith: 07433625738





Dates for your Diary

On Saturday the 18th May 2024 2.30pm
at The Crossing there is to be an Organ
Concert in celebration of Dave Jordan's life

by

Keith Hearnshaw

(who played at Dave's funeral).

No tickets, donations to The Crossing,
light refreshments will be served.

Two more **Equality, Diversity and Inclusion** face to face sessions
have been arranged. The dates are **23rd and 29th April 1/4.30pm**
venue to be finalised.

Equality means offering the same rights and opportunities to all
people. Diversity is understanding that each person is unique. It
means embracing people's differences, including their beliefs,
abilities, preferences, backgrounds, values, and identities. Inclusion
is an extension of equality and diversity.



Our next Circuit Gathering will be at
South Anston on 12th June 7pm.
Please keep this date free, more details will
follow.

This years **Easter Offering 2024** service will be at The Grove Methodist Church on Tuesday 18th June at 2pm and everyone is very welcome.



The service tells stories of people standing for justice, persisting in the face of setbacks and taking up the challenge anew as circumstances change. Some stories show how people now have hope because justice has 'rolled' into their lives.

Let Justice Roll offers churches, circuits and districts a celebration of God's just purposes across the wider world. It includes the dedication of the Easter Offering donated to the World Mission Fund of the Methodist Church in Britain, working with over 100 Partner Churches and organisations around the world.



Data Protection Annual Checklist

The checklist is now online for churches and circuits to complete, showing that they are complying with the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR). You can access it here: [25 Sheffield – Data Protection Annual Checklist 2024](#). As with previous years, this is a Google form. You do not need a Google account to complete the form, but it will ask for an email address so that your responses can be sent back to you.

There is guidance to help you fill in the checklist, which can be found here: <https://www.sheffieldmethodist.org/resources/data-protection/gdpr-annual-checklist-guidance.html>. This page also has a version which can be downloaded and printed out, to be used when completed the actual checklist.



If you stand outside The Grove at the moment, you may well be thinking that it looks like there's nothing going on – but you'd be wrong. Not only do we have major works taking place to turn our Sanctuary area into a flexible, accessible & welcoming space for both our members and our community to use.

But we also lots of things going on in the rooms at the back, not least of which was yet another successful lunch & film event held in January. We always like to have a theme so as we were showing the film 'The Guernsey Literary Potato Peel Society' we obviously had a lunch of jacket potatoes with a variety of fillings & then hot puddings.

We raised over £385 which all helps towards the cost of running the building, as well as contributing towards the cost of the works.

These film events are always really enjoyable with lots of opportunity for a good natter, food & laughs. We are always so pleased to see new people attending. It amazes us that the tickets are sold for the next event already. We must be doing something right.

Wheel of Well-being



A litany for biblical mothers

Eve, mother of our humanity,
teach us true wisdom, that all life is precious in God's sight.

Sarah, Hannah and Elizabeth, yearning for a child,
comfort and strengthen all who know the pain of infertility.

Hagar, condemned to the harshness of exile,
sustain those who struggle to feed their sons and daughters.

Rebecca, bride from a far off land,
welcome women who must bring up their families among strangers.

Rachel, weeping for your children,
weep with all mothers whose children have disappeared.

Jochebed, mother of Moses and Miriam,
lend your ingenuity to women who seek protection for their children.

Naomi and Ruth, bound together by a love greater than blood,
show us how bitter disappointment can become the sweetness of hope.

Mary, daughter of Israel, mother of Jesus,
share with us God's secrets you have pondered deep within your heart.

From New Start Worship Resources for the Millenium, Book 2.

Lord, we praise you when we think about the sacrifice and love given to us by our mothers. Thank you for the mother who gave birth to us, the one who adopted us, and those who have mentored and cared for us unconditionally along the path of life.

We show gratitude to the mother who held our hands, stood by our sides, and cheered us on, drove us to every practice, had food on the table, and gave us her shoulder to cry on. **Amen.**

THE CROSSING



Once again, we are hosting a Model Transport Exhibition at The Crossing where there will be a variety of layouts and displays of model railways, of varying scales, some model tramways and trolleybuses as well as plenty of model buses, books and other transport-related items. This is our Spring event and there will be several exhibits and exhibitors for whom this will be their first visit to The Crossing so we want them to receive a true Worksop welcome with plenty of visitors and lots of interest to admire their handiwork, The exhibition is all on ground level with disabled access and refreshments all day and we offer a family-friendly atmosphere for both the enthusiast or casual observer alike to enjoy. We have held the admission charge the same as last year which is £5 for adults and £1 for accompanied children, and we look forward to seeing you on the day.

Bob Heathcote



Worksop Spring Model Transport Exhibition 2024

**Saturday 16th March
10am to 4pm**

*Trains
Trams
Buses
Books
Models*

Refreshments
All day



Adults £5 Children £1

**The Crossing Church and Centre
Newcastle St, Worksop S80 2AT
busbob64@gmail.com**

**WRITE
TO YOUR
MP**  **ASK YOUR MP TO
MAKE TACKLING
POVERTY A PRIORITY
AHEAD OF THE
GENERAL ELECTION.**

VISIT [LETSENDPOVERTY.CO.UK/ACTION](https://letsendpoverty.co.uk/action)



Let's End Poverty – Write to your MP

Tackling poverty has to be a key issue at the next general election. With 1 in 5 people across the UK struggling against poverty, we urgently need change for our communities. That's why the Methodist Church is a founding partner of the new Let's End Poverty movement, bringing people together in a movement for a UK where poverty can't hold anyone down.

Could you get involved by writing to your MP? Our political leaders need to know that we want tackling and ultimately ending poverty to be one of the top priorities for the next government. Use our online action to send a letter to your MP asking them to make sure the next general election marks the beginning of the end for poverty in the UK.

Click [here](#) to find your MP and send them an email.

Could you get a group together in your church to write to your MP? Order a set of postcards to use as a group to write your messages to your MP. Find everything [here](#).

If your church would like to get more involved with Let's End Poverty, we'd love to have you involved. You can sign up as a Church [here](#) or email [Hannah Fremont-Brown](#) if you want to talk about getting more involved.

A glimpse into the life of Di Welchman

Richard suggested that maybe I should write this article as I retire in the next few weeks. I hummed and erred but finally gave in!!

Hi and my name is Di Welchman, well really, I am Andrea Diane but never had the full title!



I was born in Jessops Hospital in Sheffield (proud to come from Yorkshire) and spent the first few weeks of my life in an incubator as I had a hole in my lung. It was in the days when parents did not stay with you, plus my sister Helene was only just over a year old, so my dad visited me after work on the bus and I was known as his greenhouse baby!! When I was five, we moved from Handsworth in Sheffield to Blyth and then when I married in 1984 to Retford, where I still live.

In my early 20's my favourite holiday destination was most certainly Cornwall, and the journey was an adventure and then the driving did not seem an issue!! I vividly remember the sound of crickets in the evenings as we camped.... those days are most certainly over!!! We do enjoy going abroad but if I am truthful both Spen and I love Northumberland and a warm comfortable house or cottage fits the bill. Last October our daughter and her dog Ernie came with us, first time Els must have been on holiday with us I guess for getting on for 20 years, hopefully this can be repeated.

As for music, I enjoy all different genres and over the years tastes have changed and I have moved on from The Bay City Rollers and David Cassidy! I absolutely love Cantique de Jean Racine by Gaberiel Faure and all kinds of secular music but not a great fan of heavy metal or jazz if I am honest. Hymns and worship songs have always meant a great deal to me, and I have lots pencilled in for my funeral list!!! Edging to the top at the present time is Lord for the years.

Folk who know me well will tell you I say it as it is, I am told I have no filter... maybe not a good trait and one I need to work on! In answering the question of tell us something about yourself we don't know well I don't hide much! However last June, Els said she would like a dog to which both Spen and I replied, you're on your own. I have to admit a few restless nights and wrote a long list of reasons why not to have a dog especially as Els teaches and out most of the day. Well, I am not sure why I bothered, as now Ernie is very much part of our lives for the good. As I write this, he's curled up at my feet under the desk, he's not always so good and we have our challenges but most of the time he is a joy... he brings pleasure to a lot of people and especially my Mum who adores him and he knows where the treats are kept at her house!



As for relaxing, I am not great at that, and our lives are kept quite busy with family, church and Ernie!! I do enjoy reading, Ernie walks, various crafts, cooking, (if I am in the mood), the garden and family and friends are particularly important to me.

Being a Christian and going to church has always been a major part of my life. I have vivid memories of my Grandad, when I was young reading his Bible, and this has always stayed with me. Grandad was an ordinary fella with a wicked but kind sense of humour and a with a massive faith which he lived each and every day. As Christians, although it is difficult at times to me is living your life in the best way you can and setting examples in a quiet unassuming way. Faith is a way of life and a daily path to tread; some days can be very tricky though.



We have recently had some friends to stay we met on holiday in Tenerife who shout about their faith and periodically attend a church in a warehouse where there can often be 600 in their congregation. They don't really know anyone at the church or involved in the life of the church on a day-to-day basis and find it strange when we mention the building project, another church meeting or sorting a coffee morning out. Each to their own, but I feel I need be very much part of a church family where we share and nurture one another.

Sometimes it can be a bit tricky if folk know you are a Christian as the expectations of us ordinary folk seem to be set at a higher bar, but so not the case. I feel we need to keep a handle in the real world to know what is going on and to be able to relate to everyone.

I have very mixed emotions about retiring, but I am so thankful that the majority of my working life has been faith based. It has had its ups and down's but always someone or something to encourage and guide.

The words that I feel appropriate currently and to be truthful always, are the last two lines of Lord for the years. We always must look forward, not forgetting the past, rejoicing in the past and the present but living our lives in a Christ like and relevant way.

Past put behind us, for the future take us,
Lord of our lives, to live for Christ alone. `
Di XXXX



Reflections on a Fall by Rev'd Geoffrey Clarke

Sometimes, in a matter of moments, our plans and assumptions are changed. Often the cause of such change is both a surprise to us and something not of our choosing. Such was my recent experience. One moment I was walking towards the evening session; the next it was painfully apparent that not only would I not reach the session but that a number of my immediate plans and assumptions were jeopardised in an instant. The reason? I slipped on a wet floor with one foot and, overcompensating with the other leg, I dislocated my kneecap. My most immediate thought, in the agony and pain of the moment, was that a long anticipated meeting the next week would have to be postponed; followed quickly by worrying about whether my forthcoming sabbatical leave, featuring a number of walks, was also jeopardised. Next came the realisation that I would be unable to drive for some time; and then the embarrassment that, just two years after breaking my arm, I was going to have to admit to my sons that my increasing decrepitude was once again all too apparent. I was alone when I fell so I began to reach for my mobile phone in the hope of calling for help. Just as I was about to do so, a friend entered the corridor and came to my aid. Within moments others arrived – both conference centre staff and friends



attending the gathering I was at. I was transferred to a wheelchair and moved to the warmth of the main building. I was advised it would take “up to eleven hours” for an ambulance to arrive. It actually took fourteen – by which time no attempt at distraction from the pain was working for me. Ambulance, complete with paramedics, gas and air, were so welcome. I was transported – to the sound of the parish church bells ringing – to A&E and the skills and sensitivity of hospital staff transformed my pain and set me on the pathway to recovery. Aided, of course, by a couple of crutches and suggested exercises.

I want to suggest that what I experienced in those hours of pain was church at its best. Grace embodied in the kindness of those who kept vigil with me, tended to my distress and distracted me with anecdotes and conversation. Those who kept faith with me; empathy, compassion and kindness carried me through the pain. Never once was I made to feel that I fell because it was “my fault”. For too many and too long church has been seen as the place and people who spotlight faults and failings. People have been told they are “fallen” and reminded of the consequences of such “falling from grace”; too many have concluded they “deserve” punishment.

Far from “falling from grace” church at its best is a “falling into grace” – grace embodied in kindness. Each of us trips and falls. Longstanding disciples of Jesus are just as prone to fall as anyone else. And for those whose impression of church is that they have to be perfect to be acceptable, it might be good news to know we fall, we fail, we are flawed. 5 It was to such that God’s love was made manifest in Jesus. Tripped up by the religious of his day; hate hurled at him and his heart broken by human beings’ propensity to muck things up... Jesus fell. And from the depths he embodied God’s persistent grace – grace embodied. Grace offered extravagantly and endlessly to any and all who would receive it. This is the church’s message. A church that resembles an A&E Department. A church for the fallen. I commend this prayer for church as I long for it to be, as I have experienced it.
Geoffrey



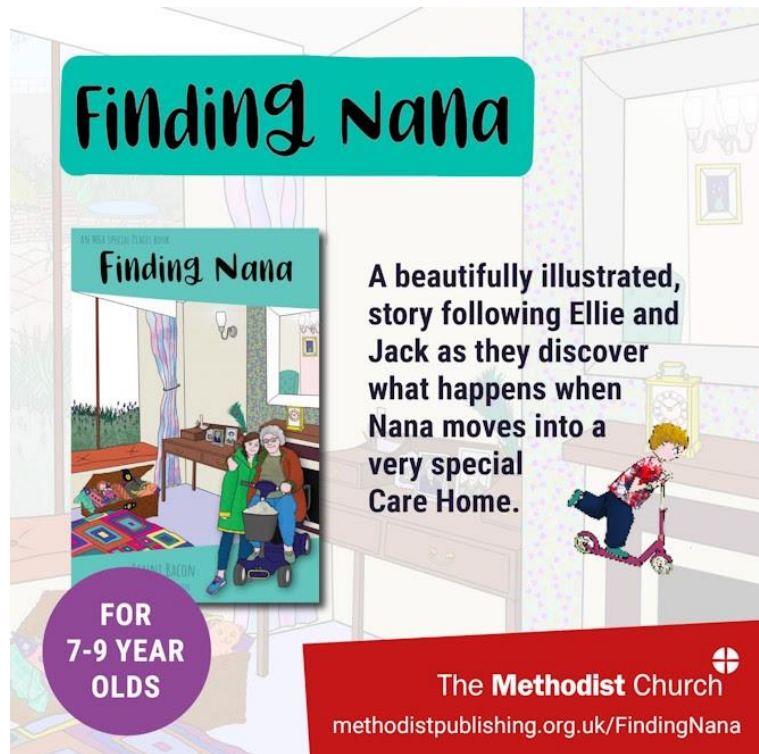
Grant, O Lord, that because we meet together here this day,
life may grow sweeter for some who are confused by it,
happier for some who are tasting the bitterness of it,
safer for some who are feeling the peril of it,
more friendly for some who are feeling the loneliness of it,
serener for some who are throbbing with the fever of it,
holier for some for whom life has lost all dignity,
beauty and meaning;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

(from Short Prayers for the Long Day, compiled by Giles and Melville Harcourt, Collins, 1978)

Finding Nana is a fictional story following Ellie and Jack as they discover what happens when Nana moves into a very special Care Home.

The book, came out at the end February, hopes to help reassure children of the feelings they go through during an elderly relative's move into care.

“The best of care and support shines through this story” - Anna Dixon MBE, Chair of the Archbishops' Commission on Reimagining Care and author of *The Age of Ageing Better*.



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Available through the Methodist website.

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Bassetlaw Food Bank are asking for donations of blankets for rough sleepers as their stock is running low..

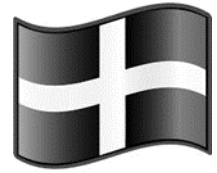


They are ideally looking for full size fleece blankets, they can be used as long as they are clean and in good condition.

If you are able to support please either go to a local Foodbank or click on the details below.

[#bassetlawfoodbank](#) [#foodbank](#) [#bassetlaw](#) [#donations](#) [#donationsmatter](#)
[#thankyou](#)

Below is an article from the Methodist News which you may find interesting as it features Rev'd Diane Grice's current circuit.



Caring for older people in Cornwall

Tracy Haslam is the first Third Age Worker with the Lizard and Mounts Bay Circuit. She started in her role in 2023 aiming to bring peace and companionship to elderly people living in the area. She plans to remind them that their community has not forgotten them.

Located in the Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly Methodist District, Lizard and Mounts Bay Circuit is committed to serving its community in any way it can. After realising that elderly people might be feeling neglected, Tracy Haslam, the new Third Age Worker, was hired.

She brings commitment and energy to the role, aiming to make older people feel loved and cared about. She wants to sing for them, organise services, read to them and offer them the company and any activity they would enjoy with tea and coffee!

"My vision is to bring the good news of our Lord into care homes and to come alongside all the people who want to participate in taking our word, vision and services to the residential care homes in this area," says Tracy who started by contacting the eight local care and residential homes.

Tracy will visit members of the congregation who are unable to come to church. She will provide worship and communion to those who want it; "We felt that people who have given their lives to the Methodist Church, but are no longer able to attend, need love and care. We have put money into that," adds Revd Danny Reed, superintendent of the Lizard and Mounts Bay Circuit.

But Tracy's work will not be limited to helping elderly Methodists, everyone is welcome to join and have a chat. This is particularly true for care homes where residents have different faiths or none.

Tracy's motivation and enthusiasm are critical, especially as many denominations stopped visiting care homes during COVID and did not resume. "I connected with a couple of Anglican ministers, and we are hoping to work together. I do not want to step on anybody's toes. I am trying to include the people that used to go into the homes as far as I can find out who they are," explains Tracy.

Her vision is interfaith and cooperative, she would like to gather a team of volunteers to help her and ensure that every elderly person who wishes it receives some company regularly. Tracy's plan is ambitious with two services in each home every month.

Thank you

**Thank you once again to everyone who has
contributed to the March edition of our Circuit Chat
Newsletter.**

**The aim is to produce quarterly Circuit Chats, could you
please send any articles to.....**

Richard Dearden

richard.dearden@trinitycircuit.net

By 31st May 2024

Stay and pray each day.

1st	Thanks for each new day given to us by you.
2nd	We continue to pray for the ongoing situation in Jerusalem, so many lives lost, homes destroyed, and people misplaced.
3rd	We think about our Churches and congregations at The Crossing, Carlton and S. Anston.
4th	Lord, we give thanks for our Local preachers and Worship leaders as they faithfully deliver your gospel each week.
5th	Thank you for our friends both new and old, they enrich our lives.
6th	We give thanks for the lighter days and fresh spring days, showing new life and hope.
7th	Teach us to listen and not always be jumping in with advice we think is right.
8th	Thank you for the work of All We Can serving the world's most marginalized communities.
9th	We continue to give thanks for all the groups who meet in our churches, both church groups and vital bookings. May they find a sense of peace in our buildings.
10th	Remember to always pray. It's the most powerful tool against worry, doubt & fear.
11th	Thank you for all the opportunities education brings us. Teacher God, we pray for inclusive and equitable education for all.
12th	We give thanks for the massive breakthroughs in cancer treatments but very aware of the statistics of people living with cancer.
13th	Keeping smiling, it suits you!
14th	Lord we are aware of ice caps melting and species struggling to adapt, we pray you will guide world leaders to act to reduce the climate crisis.
15th	We pray for all who are affected by the different strikes recently. God, we pray all workers feel valued and respected.
16th	Today we pray for asylum seekers and refugees experiencing homelessness in the UK.
17th	We remember our Churches and congregations at Whitwell, Wales & in The Leverton's
18th	Don't forget to consult Jesus about your plans for today, he will have one for you!
19th	We pray for all who have died both recently and those who have made a mark on our lives. Give your peace to all who mourn.
20th	Remember our Churches and congregations at Hallcroft, North Anston & Carlton.
21st	May all I say and do today be done in your name.
22nd	We continue to pray for people we know who live or work in our local care homes. May they be places filled with your love.
23rd	We give thanks that some of the homes flooded late last year are gradually being repaired and made habitable again. We pray for all agencies working to create improved flood defences.
24th	Thank you for the congregation at North Wheatley as they adjust to worship in one building.
25th	May we be given wisdom to make the best choices for ourselves today.
26th	We remember our Churches & congregations at The Grove & Dinnington
27th	We pray for ambassadors around the world who are building new agreements for disarmament and peace.
28th	We pray for all who are sick, in hospital or undergoing treatment.
29th	Today we pray for all asylum seekers & refugees, may they find safety & security & treated with respect.
30th	Always be proud how far you have come and give thanks.
31st	We as always, reflect on the past months giving thanks for each day & rejoicing in your never-ending faithfulness and love.



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