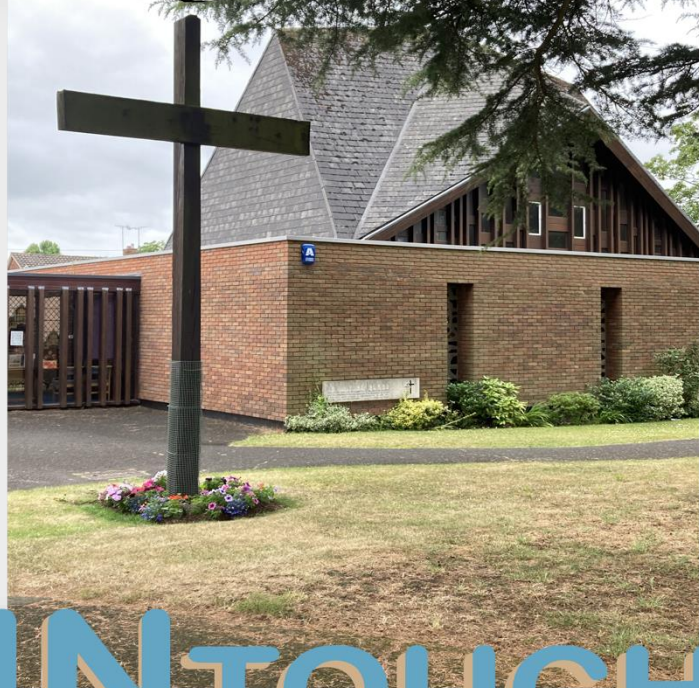


# Kingswinford



## INTOUCH

If you openly declare that Jesus is Lord  
and believe in your heart that God raised  
him from the dead, you will be saved.

- Romans 10:9 (NLT)

### Methodist Church

May 2025

Issue No.43

## May 2025 – Easter Greetings



As I write, the darkness and the glory of Easter is upon us and yesterday we were blessed by Rev Michael leading over 20 walkers around the entire Circuit on Holy Week Pilgrimage, praying for every community and church and ending a long but blessed day with worship at Kingswinford led by Rev Andrew Roberts.

Easter is an invitation to journey with Jesus, from his entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday to his resurrection on Easter Sunday. I pray that, as you have taken this journey this year, dwelling in it and praying through it, you have found part of the story that resonates with you, because, in my experience, as we enter into His story, we always find connections to our story - connections that refresh and inspire our faith.

It may seem odd in this modern, scientific world of ours to proclaim; **‘He is Risen! He is Risen Indeed!’** And I must admit, I often wrestle with how best to express the mystery and meaning of this central moment of our faith. But whenever I find myself in that position I look to the stories of so many faithful folk who have gone before us and who stand as a ‘great cloud of witnesses’ to the reality of accepting Jesus into their lives.

Easter is about God’s gift of new life to everyone. It’s all about God’s sacrificial Love which goes beyond anything we can imagine. Love which restores our confidence and enables us to continue witnessing to the Lordship of Jesus Christ. Love upon which all other gifts and laws of God are founded. Love which is the greatest of all gifts and which will remain beyond all other things, pointing towards eternal God.

As we receive this greatest gift of all and pass-through Easter towards the birth of the Church, we play our part in proclaiming the Kingdom of God in our generation. So, whatever our circumstances, whatever our means, may our response to the Love of God in Christ on the cross be to re-commit to journeying with Christ, day by day.

In the words of Charles Wesley: StF 148 Come, **let us with our Lord arise/ Our Lord, who made both earth and skies/ Who died to save the world he made/ And rose triumphant from the dead. May God bless you. Rev Alan**

## From the Editor....



Just finished Friday's shift at McDonalds, which was grotty in parts but good overall and I find myself thinking about how the different customers related to me today because of my beliefs and it being Easter.

"You live an exciting life," said sarcastically, as I recalled Monday evening's Bible Study where we shared communion after reading together the final week of Jesus' life. To "I hope you have a good Easter because it's important to you." Which I found thoughtful, and as for the first comment, I chose not to share my un-Jesus-like thoughts with him.

At home, now, James has been wonderful, loving his grandmothers. I have been in the attic and the boiler doesn't appear to still be leaking (RESULT). Jesus has died for my sins, which is always a blessing, and currently I am having a good Easter, just like the customer wished me. Pray you have had a good Easter too.

God bless.

Richard.

**Deadline for the next magazine is  
Friday 16<sup>th</sup> May**

# Kingswinford Methodist Church

## General Church Meeting

### Sunday 18th May

Following the morning service there will be:

**Coffee/tea as normal**

**Formal business of the GCM**  
(starting from about 12 noon)

**Reports/celebration of the  
work of God in the past year**

**Bring and share lunch over which Rev Alan will  
lead us in thoughts and discussion about our  
mission and service moving forward**

## Open to all to attend

If you are able to bring food to share on this day, please sign up on the list on the Link table  
- indicating what you are able to bring.

## Hot Cross Bun Give Away



Thank you to everyone who came and helped on the 12<sup>th</sup> of April and to all who donated and prayed. In total, we gave away over 500 hot cross buns! Some as packs of 6 or 4 but many as singles or in twos. Each one an opportunity for connection with the community, an act of unity with other Christians in Kingswinford and the means to highlight the events going on to mark Holy Week. We pray that the seeds sown will, in God's good time, bear fruit.





# *Mothering* **Super Sunday**

*Luke 13:34b - How many times I wanted to put my arms  
around all your people, just as a hen gathers her chicks  
under her wings, but you would not let me!*

On Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> March we gathered for a Super Mothering Sunday service. Super Sundays are creative services for all ages. We took the theme from the origins on Mothering Sunday – returning to the Mother Church – and looked at the ways that God ‘mothers’ us.

*Congrats to all who worked so  
hard to make Super Sunday’s  
service so enjoyable.*

**Ann Cooper**



*We like going to Kingswinford  
church as there are other  
children there. We love to make  
things and always look forward  
to making something and it's  
very exciting.*

**Elias & Isaiah Denley**



## Second and Fourth Saturday Prayers

**May 10<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> @ 9.00 am in the Parlour or follow the link on the website to join via Zoom.**

Come and join us as we pray for individuals, our church and circuit, the community we serve and situations across the world. You can also join by praying with the Prayer Chain by receiving requests via WhatsApp or email. If you or someone you know requires prayer, then please send requests to Melanie – contact details on the last page.



### **Thy Kingdom Come 2025 May 29<sup>th</sup> – June 8th**

Each year from Ascension Day to Pentecost Christians around the globe pray for their friends, families and communities to know the good news of Jesus Christ. To mark the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, Thy Kingdom Come aims to light the world in prayers for others. So, you are invited to add your prayers for those you love and care to the light bulbs by the cross in front of the church. You are also encouraged to invite your friends and neighbours to add their prayers so that we can join our prayers with theirs.

# Rainbows Brownies

## All Age Team at Rainbows and Brownies – Karen Edwards

Another really fantastic evening with the 3 Ms when they ran the Rainbow and Brownie meeting. The 3Ms were 'filling the gap' between last time they were with the girls (just before Christmas)



and the up-coming Parade Service (Palm Sunday!). Since they couldn't cover the whole of Jesus's life in one evening, they shared three elements of his ministry – his disciples (or team), a parable and a miracle.

The girls had egg and spoon team races to begin with which was a lot of fun and then went into the worship area where Melanie shared the story of the Lost Sheep. The girls then were told that 24 sheep were hidden and needed rescuing and then they had to find their partner with the same sheep.

Once back in the hall, they heard, and participated in, a retelling of when Jesus calmed the storm and then did some craft on that theme. They finished with a song with Megan - different lyrics to Row Row your Boat to remind them of the story. Thank you ladies for another enjoyable evening





## Palm Sunday All-age Service



Wow - what a start to Easter 2025! 9 Rainbows and Brownies attended (lots of girls unfortunately gone away on holiday) and what a wonderful interactive service it was.

The girls

proudly carried the flags in and loved learning the signs/actions to the songs. A very special moment was the whole congregation



participation in the Palm Sunday story, donated clothes lining the 'road' and crowns of prayers - very powerful symbols of a special day.

Thank you to all those who make the girls & families feel so welcome. One of my new Brownies attended with her mum for the first time (quite apprehensive I think) but commented at the end how much they had enjoyed the informal style, and the warm welcome they had received. WOW !!! Thank you to all and Happy Easter from all the girls and leaders.

Thank you to all who donated clothes as part of the service – they have been safely delivered to Provision House.

**\*\*\*\* Advanced Notice \*\*\*\***

There will be a retiring collection for Christian Aid at the next All-Age Service on May 11th



# All-Age Service



Sunday 11th May

Encounter 9:



## The Emmaus Road

Worship group leading songs from 10am

Formal start at 10.30am

Relaxed and family friendly!



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Join us at the next meeting of the  
Stream Road **Men's Group...**

**When:-** Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> May – 7 pm

**Where:-** The Swan

**What:-** A meal!

Bring a friend and let Richard know  
if you are coming. We'd love to see you there.

June's meeting will be on the 4<sup>th</sup> – details TBC

# A Piece of History....

On Palm Sunday, we had a visitor in church – Diane MacMaster, the daughter-in-law of Ken MacMaster, who was the person who donated the land on which our church is built. The family had been having a sort out and found this. It is a commemorative ‘trowel’ marking the laying of the foundation stone of our current building on June 9<sup>th</sup> 1965. It came with a cutting from the newspaper coverage of the ceremony. The family have decided that it belongs at church – so they have kindly donated it to us.

## New era for Kingswinford Methodism

**K**INGSWINFORD Methodists went to the site of their new church in Stream Road on Saturday afternoon to see the foundation stone ceremonially laid by Mr. Kenneth J. G. MacMaster, of Wollaston.

The site, formerly owned by Mr. MacMaster, was originally part of the grounds of Broadfield House (now a Staffordshire County Council mothercraft training hostel) and later part of a sports field.

### Election soon, thinks Tory candidate

The Labour Government were attacked on Saturday by Mr. Philip St. Leger, Conservative Parliamentary Conservative candidate for Oldbury and Blithen, for pursuing a policy that was discouraging the building of houses for owner-occupation.

During the Conservative administration, claimed Mr. Leger, his party had stopped up provision of house building and had created the feeling throughout the country that the occupation of houses was better than renting one. Mr. Leger said the Council, Mr. Leger said, the Socialists took the opposite view and believed that people should live in state-owned property. I'm absolutely convinced, and they have seized on circumstances in the last few months – they are responsible for mortgage rates being put up – to discourage the building of houses for sale. When a Labour Government had last been in power, they had conducted control on building by the issue of licences.

### FEWER HOUSES

The effect of the policy now being followed would result in fewer houses being available for young people, said Mr. Leger who described it as a sinister move in the housing field. Mr. Leger was speaking at a garden fête at Huddersley Conservative Club in aid of divisional funds and it was becoming more important and obvious that we were going to have another major clash in the shape of a general election in the not too distant future. For last reason, it was very important that candidates should tell people what they thought. The Labour Member (Mr. J. Horner), he said, had spoken about the Conservative Party's methods and what they were trying to achieve in Parliament with regard to the Finance Bill.

Mr. Leger obviously does not like the democratic process which goes on in Parliament, and is not too shy to count out and say so, continued Mr. Leger. His sort of view was "very dangerous" when he seemed to think that Conservatives should not resort to sleight of hand tricks as one of the methods to stop legislation going through which they thought was wrong for the country.

The fête was declared open by Mrs. A. Taylor, who said she hoped it would be successful in every way. It had been organised by the Huddersley Ladies Branch whose chairman, Mrs. K. Darden, presided at the opening. Others on the party programme were Mr. Ted Dudley, president of Oldbury and Blithen, and Mrs. J. Halesworth, Conservative Association.

During Saturday's ceremony Mr. MacMaster said that at first he had wanted to keep the land as an open space for the village of Kingswinford and he had negotiated over a two-year period with the County Council on this proposal.

### NO GUARANTEE

They had not argued from the cash point of view, but they had disagreed with the County Council said they could not guarantee that the land would "permanently" remain as an open space.

Houses were built on part of the land. The church of an eye-catching design, will have an imposing cubic single and roof project will cost about £40,000. It will be the centre of worship for the combined congregations of the Methodist Churches at Moss Grove and Mount Pleasant.

### THE CEREMONY

The stone-laying was attended by members of other Methodist churches in the Moorbridge and Blithen Hill circuit, and representatives from churches of other denominations in Kingswinford.

The Rev. Brian S. O'Brien (chairman of the Wolverhampton and Walsingham Circuit of the Methodist Church) was present together with the Rev. George Elvidge (clerk), Rev. Alan Hume (minister in pastoral charge of the Kingswinford Methodist Church).

Introducing Mr. MacMaster, the secretary of the church's steering committee (Mr. Kenneth J. Hill) said that he had always been interested in Kingswinford and especially in the Methodist cause. They were extremely glad that he had given them the opportunity to lay the land.

Mr. MacMaster received a silver trowel from the balcony and tapped the stone into place. The inscription on the stone reads: "To the glory of God this stone was laid by Kenneth J. G. MacMaster Esq. to commemorate the inauguration of the Methodist church at Moss Grove and Mount Pleasant, Kingswinford. June 9, 1965."

Mr. MacMaster told the large crowd who witnessed the stone-laying that he hoped to see people of Kingswinford flocking to this church. The church was designed by Desmond T. Green and Mrs. Mary Crump, Kingswinford. And the present (overseer) surveyors were J. H. and Gilling, Blithen Hill. The building was erected by J. H. Crump and Sons Ltd., Dudley.



The scene on the site of the new church as Mr. K. J. G. MacMaster declared the foundation stone "well and truly laid." (No. 659644).

## Family Fun morning – 14<sup>th</sup> April



We shared the message of Easter Joy and Hope at our activity morning on Monday 14 April. Within days of advertising the event we were fully booked and had to hold a waiting list. The room buzzed with joy and fun as we welcomed the 45 young people and 27 adults.

One of the helpers said ‘This was the best activity day so far, the children are starting to know us more and engage more.’ We are lucky now to have a number of familiar faces but still love to welcome new families too.

Three new helpers joined the team this time. Thank you, Carol, Betty and Jocelyn, for helping us to serve our local families. All the helpers seemed to have fun chatting with the young people and their carers whilst crafting with them, serving refreshments or playing games.



The early bird catches the worm and the easy craft. Luckily Richard took one for the team volunteering for the more difficult one making chicks and bunnies filled with cream eggs and Judith used her skills decorating the easter egg cakes.

We had a range of other crafts too including: decorating sun catcher crosses, Easter egg bead / chick decorations, carrot baskets filled with sweets, Easter cards, a Holy Week wheel with the story of Holy Week. We also had a range of puzzles, Easter pictures and Easter characters to colour. As usual our edible crafts went best but the young people all enjoyed making a wide range of goodies to take home.



We shared snacks and drinks while crafting and games were set up in the Double room for those who wanted a break from crafts before we went into church together.

In church we shared the message of the resurrection of Jesus using songs, a story video and egg activities focused on the empty tomb!



After church we had an egg hunt. Twelve eggs were hidden around the church, the Link, Red room, Double room and Hall. Each of the eggs contained puzzle pieces. Once the young person had found all twelve pieces they completed the Easter picture to collect an Easter treat from

the prize table. Everyone successfully completed the hunt and received their prize before we finished. We had so much fun, time ran away with us and the families had to take the pictures home to colour in.

It was such a privilege to share the Easter Story with the families and to share such an amazing time of fun and fellowship. We are blessed to have such a good team of helpers with a variety of skills. Some previous helpers couldn't make this event but the additional volunteers meant we could still run the morning. A parent, when she arrived, said how much her children had been looking forward to coming again and how much they loved it. Another parent was late arriving as she had been on night shift and said her children had hurried her up as they didn't want to miss out.

We don't have our next date yet. The mission group are meeting in May to discuss our next events, so watch this space.



# Boiler Fund-Raising



## Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> June 2025 – Voices in Harmony Concert

Entitled 'Summer Voices – The Sequel', this concert will start at 7pm. Tickets are £8 and available from Ann Jackson ([annielacala@live.co.uk](mailto:annielacala@live.co.uk) or 07964 368854). These include tea/coffee and cake refreshments at the end of the concert.



There are no other dates in the diary for fund-raising events... So now is the time to be thinking about any ideas for fund-raising events for the later summer or autumn. If you have any thoughts why not get in contact with the Stewards to liaise about dates and church availability. It would be good not to lose the momentum we have built up over the last couple of years...

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## Coffee and Craft



Come with your craft project (or not!) and  
enjoy a coffee (or tea!) and natter.

Saturdays 10th May & 7th June

10:30 – 12:00

# Opportunities to serve.....



## Keeping our Kitchen Stocked

Having a centrally-stocked kitchen for all the church activities that use it reduces waste and supports a shared sense of church family. This has worked well for the last nearly four years and it would be very sad if it did not continue after the summer. The job can be done by one person or could be split into four distinct parts:

**Coffee/Tea/Sugar** - Buying and ensuring that the containers are kept stocked. These are generally bulk bought online (other than the decaf Teabags as we don't get through as many of those). We look to buy fairtrade.



**Squash and Biscuits** - Buying to keep the cupboard stocked. Currently these are bought within a supermarket shop as and when needed.

**Milk** - Buying milk (normally semi-skimmed) for all post-service refreshments (mornings and café worship), coffee mornings, Feed My Sheep, Ladies Friendship group (and Men's group if they are meeting at church) and any other church events that require tea/coffee. Currently bought in quantities appropriate for the activities happening that week.



**Kitchen cupboard/drawer stuff** - Buying to supply washing up liquid, spray cleaner, cloths, scourers, washing up brush, small paper bags, foil, cling film and baking paper. Purchased as required (ecologically friendly where possible).

If you would be able to take responsibility for one or more of these parts of the job, please speak to Michele Combes.

## Other Easter Mission Activities

### Saltbrook Place

We shared the joy and hope of Easter with the residents and staff at Saltbrook Place, Lye. Each of the residents received an egg and message of love from the church. The staff have thanked the church for the generosity. A few residents saw the eggs being delivered to be distributed during Holy Week. One resident said, 'Wow are those for us.' Another said, 'Thanks, I love Cadbury's.'



Midland Hearts contract at the scheme ends in September 2025. The church has sent a letter to the local councillors to try to secure the future of this valuable resource which helps some of the homeless in the Dudley Borough. The local councillors are looking into this on our behalf. Please hold the residents and staff in your prayers as they go through these uncertain times.

### Care Homes



As a church we have delivered Easter knitted baskets and paper cones to our local care homes. Diane Robertson supplied and made the cones for New Bradley Hall and Highfields.



Megan (ably supported by her mum) and other members of the congregation supplied the knitted baskets to Oaklands, Castlewellan and Tiled House. Folk have been very grateful. Castlewellan remarked that the Christmas ones went down a treat so were excited to receive Easter gifts! And the Business Manager at Tiled House said, "Ooh lovely. They will love them."



10am until 12 noon  
6th & 20th May



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## Kingswinford Methodist Church

### Playgroup

(Pre-Nursery Group)

- **Pre-Nursery Group for children aged 2-3yrs.** Helping prepare the children for the big step to School Nursery.
- **Competitive Fees: Free places for eligible 2- & 3-year-olds**
- **Opening Hours:** Monday, Wednesday, Friday – 9.15 – 11.45 am (Term Time Only) All children attend all 3 sessions.
- **Registered with OFSTED** – Working toward EYFS
- **Emphasis on Learning Through Play**
- **Long established**
- **Qualified Staff: Secure Environment + LOTS OF FUN!!!**

**For more Information:**

**Email:** [kfordplaygroup@hotmail.com](mailto:kfordplaygroup@hotmail.com)

## Vale of Stour Pilgrimage 16th April 2025 – Luke Denley

Wednesday morning and the alarm goes off. I wake up with many different emotions and feelings. Today was the day of the circuit walk across all of the churches. I thought to myself it's going to be a hard day, it's going to be long but what an opportunity to go and visit every church in the circuit in one day. I arrive at Kinver Methodist Church for 8:30 seeing many people turn up for this pilgrimage around the circuit. Rev Michael led opening devotions and prayed for our next church at Wollaston. Right from the start of the day it dawned on me that this was more than a walk; this was a spiritual journey for us to reflect on throughout the day.



We set off from Kinver down to the High Street and join the canal at The Vine. We walk from there to the Stewponey and up to Wollaston Methodist Church. We arrive and again we have reflections and scripture and prayers are offered for Gig Mill. We walk again to Gig mill getting into a routine of scripture, devotion and prayer. We arrive at Gig Mill where we pray for New Road. From New Road we walk to United Church Lye where we stopped for lunch. After we have eaten we listen to scripture, hear the devotions and pray for Overend Mission. We arrive at Overend Mission where we continue our spiritual Journey around Easter and we pray for Dudley Wood. Whist at Overend smooth wooden holding crosses were given out for those who may be feeling pain or tiredness. We arrive at Dudley Wood, going through an Industrial estate, a route previously done but this time the road was blocked. It dawned on me that whatever the route we take in our lives things may not go to plan but God is always with us and his plans are perfect for our lives. At Dudley Wood we pray for Birch Coppice. We make our way on the short journey to Birch Coppice where we are greeted with more cake and biscuits. We reflect again and pray for



Brierley Hill Methodist Church. On the walk to Brierley Hill we get to a junction, a cross road with many different ways to cross. You have your traditional crossing places and you have other quicker more direct way but less safe ways. It was interesting to see the different options people chose to get to the same place. This really challenged me to think about choices and directions. We are all on the same journey but different ways to get there. Our spiritual journey is that of constant choices. We arrive at Brierley Hill where we are warmly greeted. Chocolate cream eggs were given out and the delight at such a small item of sugar and chocolate made the walkers joyful. This little act spurred the group on to the next church. We pray for Amblecote



Wordsley and begin our descent down the hill. As we are walking this stage of the journey it was very evident of how people could be finding this difficult. All the walkers wore blue hi vis jackets and walking down the hill was a long stream of blue all very much separated. Again this showed me that we are all on a journey but we all face hard and difficult situations at different times of our lives. We arrive at Amblecote Wordsley

where we are led again in scripture and devotions and prayers. We pray for Kingswinford Methodist Church. On this last stretch of the journey again I was surprised. Many people were tired but right at the front some of the group decided to run the last bit of the walk. This made me smile as I reflected that God is the God of surprises. We arrive at Kingswinford where we have an extended time of rest and refreshments and then a special act of worship that was lead by Rev Andrew Roberts and we sang worship songs together. We prayed for the people of Kinver Methodist Church and all went our separate ways.

This walk was a opportunity to push yourself physically but also spiritually. Every Church in the circuit was prayed for, every Church was visited and every Church was spoken about during the day.

# Cakes, Biscuits & Puddings Quiz – Derek Siviter

Solve the clues to find the cake, biscuit or pudding

1.	A TV Mule?	
2.	Pleasant city in southern France	
3.	King Louis XVI was one of them	
4.	Cake from a German wood	
5.	Part of the Girl Guiding movement	
6.	An earthy concoction from the deep south of the USA	
7.	Warm and angry bread items	
8.	For heavenly creatures	
9.	A girl's name	
10.	Frozen small bread items	
11.	Michael (the chat show host) without his offspring	
12.	An acting part in Geneva	
13.	A small loaf	
14.	Sponge made of light yellow rain	
15.	Alcohol breaks	
16.	Trophy sponges	
17.	A wealthy afternoon drink	
18.	French little numbers	
19.	Something of very little importance	
20.	Oven-cooked USA State	

## Numbers Quiz – Answers

1.	Murders from series 1-23 of Midsomer Murders?	<b>388</b>
2.	Countries in the world starting with the letter O?	<b>1 (Oman)</b>
3.	In the novel by Agatha Christie, what time was the train from Paddington?	<b>4.50</b>
4.	Colours that are on the Classic RAL Chart?	<b>216</b>
5.	Adele's debut album, released in 2008?	<b>19</b>
6.	Clocks that James Thurber wrote about in 1950?	<b>13</b>
7.	Counties in England? (depending on definition!)	<b>6, 39, 48, 78 or 84!</b>
8.	Time on the clock in the song by the Mamas and Papas in 1968?	<b>12.30</b>
9.	Types of Heinz soup?	<b>45</b>
10.	Breeding pairs of robins in the UK? (roughly!)	<b>7.4 million</b>
11.	Actors who have played TV's Doctor Who?	<b>14</b>
12.	Blackbirds baked in a pie?	<b>24</b>
13.	Species of dung beetle in the world? (roughly)	<b>Over 6,000</b>
14.	Number 1 hits by The Beatles?	<b>20</b>
15.	Equatorial diameter of Saturn in miles?	<b>74,897</b>
16.	Number of rings of Jupiter?	<b>4</b>
17.	Of the 273,000 words in the Oxford English Dictionary, those obsolete in today's usage?	<b>47,156</b>
18.	Record number of own goals during a UEFA European Championship?	<b>11 (at Euros 2020)</b>
19.	By 1910, how many telephones were recorded in Graham Alexander Bell's telephone system?	<b>5.8 million</b>
20.	Monkeys that have been sent to space?	<b>32</b>

## Core Bible Exploration – May 2025

We meet at 7.30 pm on Monday evenings in the worship space (lifts are always available). We are always glad to welcome new faces.

**This group is for everyone – whether you read the Bible daily and can quote multiple verses or whether you pick the Bible up rarely and are not sure what the names of all the books are!**

This year, we are using Love, Death, and Resurrection, the New Testament in a new format that begins with Luke-Acts to tell the story of Jesus, his church, and the world he came to save. Over the Easter break, we have been reading Acts. Thanks to the Bank Holidays there are only two sessions in May – these will be as follows. Then from the beginning of June, we will turn our attention to the letters written to the churches in and around Thessalonica. (More on that in the June mag)

Week	Theme	Key Bible Passage
May 12th 2025	The lessons of the Early Church	The book of the Acts of the Apostles
May 19 <sup>th</sup> 2025	The theme and key passage will emerge from discussions on May 12 <sup>th</sup> ....	

***All the believers were together and  
had everything in common. Acts 2:44***

One of the great secrets to the success of the early church was their practice of holding everything they possessed in common. In other words, they shared their belongings so that no one was ever in need of anything.

This makes sense on many levels but considering it from an eco-friendly perspective is also an effective way to reduce consumption and waste.

**So...** put your thinking caps on. What gadgets do you own for those occasional tasks that you would be willing to lend to another member of the congregation before they resort to buying one?

**Hedge Trimmers; Leaf blowers; Jet Washers;  
Sewing Machines; Knitting needles; Saws; Drills;  
Wheelbarrows and so on and so on.**

You get the idea!

Once you've decided please add your name and the piece(s) of equipment you are willing to lend out to the sign-up sheet in the Link and a directory will be created so that in times of need individuals can ask to borrow before they resort to buying.





### **... FROM Christian Blind Mission**

Christian Blind Mission was our Coffee morning charity in February. We have received a letter of thanks from them for our donation which says: *We are grateful for this amazing opportunity for us to partner together with you to help change the lives of those living with disabilities in some of the world's poorest places. Your prayers, commitment and generosity is deeply appreciated. May God continue to bless you in all you do throughout today and the months that lie ahead.*

### **... FROM The Maternity Unit at Russell's Hall**

We wanted to take a moment to express our heartfelt gratitude for the incredible generosity shown on Mothering Sunday. Thanks to the thoughtful donations from the church community, we were able to share kindness and love with the women in our care in such a meaningful way. Each gift was shared on Mothering Sunday, and the women were truly touched by this beautiful act of kindness. It was a moment of joy and reflection for all involved, and the impact of your congregation's efforts was felt deeply by those who received them.

### **... FROM Dorothy Pearson's Family**

Dorothy's family would like to say a huge thank you to Reverend Alan, Michele and all the church members whose help and support with preparations for the service and serving refreshments was very much appreciated. It was heart warming and overwhelming to see that so many of you were able pay your respects with us. Hugs, messages, letters, cards and donations in memory of our dear mum have kept us strong and were very much appreciated. We are overwhelmed with the kindness shown to us. Thank you and God Bless. Diane and Lynda and families.

# Ladies Friendship Group

<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Thursdays</b> <b>2.15pm</b> in the <b>Church Parlour</b>	<b>4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays</b> <b>lunch out somewhere</b>
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Contact **Joyce** on **01384 295122** for more details

**8<sup>th</sup> May**

**More Antiques – David Towner**

**12<sup>th</sup> June**

**Travels in India - Diane Dunn**

**All welcome – no minimum (or maximum) age limit!**

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## New to our church?



It is wonderful that so many people have come here recently and are becoming familiar faces, making friends and coming back! It is great to see you. We hope that you feel welcome. Please make yourself known to our

Stewards or Meet and Greet Team so that they can give you more information about what goes on here at Kingswinford. If you would like to be included on our Pastoral List so that we can keep in touch and offer you pastoral care, please speak to our Minister, Rev Alan Combes, or Pastoral Co-ordinator, Michele. Contact details can be found on the back page.

There are always opportunities to receive new members in Sunday services. We can receive those who are coming to faith for the first time or coming from other Churches. Our Minister, Rev Alan Combes, would be delighted to talk to anyone who is interested in becoming a member.

## My faith story – Bob Allaway

When I was a boy, my parents sent me to Sunday School, because that is what parents did then, but we were not a particularly religious household.

I gather I was asking sceptical questions even at a young age!

By the time I got to university, to study Chemistry, I considered myself an atheist. Then, when I began research for my PhD, I found myself sharing a laboratory with an evangelical Christian, who took every opportunity to share his faith with me and everyone else in the department!

Whereas, from anyone else, this might have been irritating, I could respect *his* faith: firstly, because he did not just talk about Jesus' love, but showed it in practical care and concern for others. But also, because he stressed that his faith rested on evidence that could be investigated; above all, for the resurrection of Jesus.

So, I thought, 'Great, I will investigate the evidence for myself, and find a good knock down argument against the resurrection of Christ, and that will shut him up and stop him trying to convert me all the time.' But the more I investigated, the more I became convinced it was true. Christ is risen! Appropriately, I was brought to that conclusion at Easter.



What did this mean for me? I wanted to talk it through with someone other than my lab-mate and his chums in the Christian Union, and I remembered meeting the Baptist Chaplain, once, when I had scrounged a free tea off the student Baptist Society. (Not sharing their faith did not mean I could not share their food!)

He had seemed an open-minded, approachable person, so I looked him up and had a number of chats. In time, I asked him to baptise me, to show I was now a believer.

I had expected him, preaching at that baptism, to make an evangelical appeal to any non-believers who came to witness it, but he told me that he had felt led to preach on John 15:16, Jesus' words to his disciples, "You did not choose me, but I chose you ... to go and bear fruit", and, in time, I saw this as prophetic of my call to ministry.

I tried to pursue a career in teaching or research, but neither seemed to work out, and I saw that God had left me with no alternative. When I discussed my call with my baptizer, he encouraged me to go to the Baptist College in Oxford, saying, "It will suit you. They won't 'spoon feed' you there. You will have to think for yourself." And he was right.



The greatest blessing of my time there was, in my first year, I met and married Sylvia, who was a member of the church where I was assisting the minister. We first met just before Christmas, got engaged at Easter (announced by our pastor in the service) and married in September! (She had her own house, so I just moved in.) So, the two most important changes in my life both started at Easter, when we remember the most important change in all history.

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## Feed My Sheep

The next Feed My Sheep meal will be on **Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> May**. The Feed My Sheep meals are for those who would otherwise normally eat alone on a Sunday. They are completely free.



If you would like to attend the next meal or any meals in the future (they happen once a month, normally on the first Sunday) please contact Megan (details on the back page).

## **Yours....for a Boiler Fund Donation**



### **A very large cuddly Tigger!**

To give you a sense of his size, this is him sitting on a normal-sized sofa and when standing he is not quite as tall as Michele!

### **A Picnic Basket**

Contains 4 each of plates, mugs, glasses, knives, forks and tea spoons.



If interested in either (or both!), speak to or message Michele – 07960032113 or [michele.combes@outlook.com](mailto:michele.combes@outlook.com)

### **Samsung 50" TV**

In full working order. If interested, contact Brenda on 01384 623447 or 07786 787396





# Communication at Kingswinford

If something needs to be shared with the good folk of Kingswinford Methodist Church there are a number of options (which are not mutually exclusive!):

## *For the weekly email....*

Contact Esme on [kmcstewardteam@gmail.com](mailto:kmcstewardteam@gmail.com) by Thursday afternoon

## *For the screen/verbal notices in church....*

Contact Michele on [michele.combes@outlook.com](mailto:michele.combes@outlook.com) or 07960 032113 by Thursday afternoon

## *For the Magazine.....*

Send contributions to Richard via [richardwalters964@icloud.com](mailto:richardwalters964@icloud.com) by the deadline printed in the previous edition



Recycling for Good Causes is a fundraising company which collects things for recycling, turns that into cash which it then gives back to your nominated charity. These can be

- Jewellery & watches,
- Money (any currency and any age),
- Cameras (any type)
- Mobile phones & SatNavs
- Ipods & mp3 players
- Games consoles & ipads/tablets.



Please give anything you have to Jackie Cliff – money raised for church funds.



In March we collected and donated 52.8 kg of food and 2.5kg of non-food – enough to provide 106 meals and 3 toiletry packs. Well done – and grateful thanks from everyone at the Foodbank.

The 2024 impact report from the foodbank is available to view and download from their website (see below for address). In 2024 they provided 527,640 meals which equates to distributing 263,820 kg of food – the equivalent of one 500g of pasta given out every minute.

## There are normally the following shortages:

Long Life Milk (1l Cartons)	Squash/cordial
Long Life Fruit Juice (1l Cartons)	Bars of soap
Tinned spaghetti	Nappies
Tinned tomatoes	Baby wipes
Tinned rice pudding	Shampoo
Bags of rice	Roll-on deodorant
Packets of savoury rice	Toilet rolls
Pasta sauce/cooking sauces	Shower gel
Breakfast cereal	Washing up liquid

**\*\*\*\*\* BCFB are very short of strong carrier bags \*\*\*\*\***

They cannot accept out of date food or food items containing alcohol.

## How to donate financially

**Website** - donate on the website [www.blackcountryfoodbank.org.uk](http://www.blackcountryfoodbank.org.uk)

**Bank transfer** - Sortcode: 40-11-55, Account No: 30116548

**Mobile phone** - You can text **BCFOODBANK** to **70085** to donate £5.

# Circuit News

## Circuit Ramblers – 10am - Walks of approximately 1 hour



**Saturday May 10th** – Hurcott

**Saturday June 14th** – Kinver Community Centre

Suggested £1 donation for the Paul Ackrill Fund charity

Contact: Margaret Stevens (07986 566134) for more details

## Additional Services around the Circuit

**Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> May – 6pm** – A reflective evening service at Stourbridge Methodist Church (Gig Mill) led by Rev Michael Payne.

**Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> May – 2.30pm** – Easter Offering 2025 Dedication Service at Kinver Methodist Church.

## Thanks for the Memories – Music & Singing for Wellbeing

A monthly afternoon singing of favourite songs from the past and from the musicals. This will be at Amblecote Wordsley Methodist Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> May with tea from 3.30 and singing from 4-5pm.

All are welcome.



## Circuit Concert - **Saturday June 14** - 7pm at SMC - New Road

Come and join a scratch choir to sing 'Solomon the Peaceful King' by



**John Pantry** – the centrepiece of the concert. Rev Alan and the team invite you to attend, enjoy, sing / contribute to a circuit wide concert...you don't need to read music but there are parts learn if you

do. Rehearsals will be **Sundays 4 & 18 May 3pm - 5pm** and **Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> June 7.30pm** – all at New Road. Let's make something special together – free entry but an offering in aid of Ukraine. **Please contact Rev Alan direct to let him know church offerings and if you will join the choir...** ([alan.combes@methodist.org.uk](mailto:alan.combes@methodist.org.uk) or 01384 823146)

Use the alphabet number code to find a Bible verse

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	i	j	k	l	m
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
n	o	p	q	r	s	t	u	v	w	x	y	z

14-5-22-5-18      2-5      1-19-8-1-13-5-4      20-15

20-5-12-12      15-20-8-5-18-19      1-2-15-21-20

10-5-19-21-19      21-19-9-14-7      20-8-5

19-20-18-5-14-7-20-8      20-8-1-20      7-15-4

7-9-22-5-19      25-15-21

2 Timothy 1 verse 8

# Rotas

## Foodbank

<b>4<sup>th</sup> May</b>	Paula Durrant	<b>25<sup>th</sup> May</b>	Stuart Ashmore
<b>11<sup>th</sup> May</b>	Jackie Cliff	<b>1<sup>st</sup> June</b>	Jane Artist
<b>18<sup>th</sup> May</b>	Colin Russ	<b>8<sup>th</sup> June</b>	Sue & Brian Bracher

*Jackie Cliff would always be happy to hear from anyone else who would like to join the Foodbank Rota*

## After service coffee/tea

<b>4<sup>th</sup> May</b>	David & Diane Jones, Celia Miskin
<b>11<sup>th</sup> May</b>	Jocelyn Arch, Jane Stokes, Esther Homer
<b>18<sup>th</sup> May</b>	Bob & Edna Drake, Paula Durrant
<b>25<sup>th</sup> May</b>	Debbie Westwood, George & Judith Tyler
<b>1<sup>st</sup> June</b>	TBC
<b>8<sup>th</sup> June</b>	TBC

*Diane Jones would always be happy to hear from anyone else who would like to join the after service coffee/tea rota*

## Meet & Greet

<b>4<sup>th</sup> May</b>	Ann Mearman, Carol Pearson, Betty Payne
<b>11<sup>th</sup> May</b>	Diane & Iain Robertson, Margaret Shuttleworth
<b>18<sup>th</sup> May</b>	Colin & Jennifer Russ, Ann Mearman
<b>25<sup>th</sup> May</b>	Edna & Bob Drake, Jocelyn Arch
<b>1<sup>st</sup> June</b>	Ann Mearman, Paula Durrant, Betty Payne
<b>8<sup>th</sup> June</b>	Diane & Iain Robertson, Margaret Shuttleworth

*Jane Artist would always be happy to hear from anyone else who would like to join the Meet & Greet team*

## Tea Towel Washing

<b>May</b>	Paula Durrant
<b>June</b>	Grace Bradley

*The Tea Towel washing rota for 2025 is currently complete and on the wall in the kitchen! Thank you to all those who have agreed to serve in this way.*

## May Services

	10:30 am	6:00 pm
4 <sup>th</sup>	Rev Peter Bradley Holy Communion	
11 <sup>th</sup>	All-age Team All-age worship <b>ItL leading worship from 10am</b>	
18 <sup>th</sup>	Rev Alan Combes GCM & lunch after	Rev Alan Combes Café worship Supported by ItL
25 <sup>th</sup>	Steve Hudson Plus KYC activities in the Hall <b>ItL leading worship from 10am</b>	Rev Alan Combes Holy Communion

\*\*\*\* Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> May \*\*\*\*

**General Church Meeting – with lunch**  
**Starting after post service tea/coffee**

## June Services

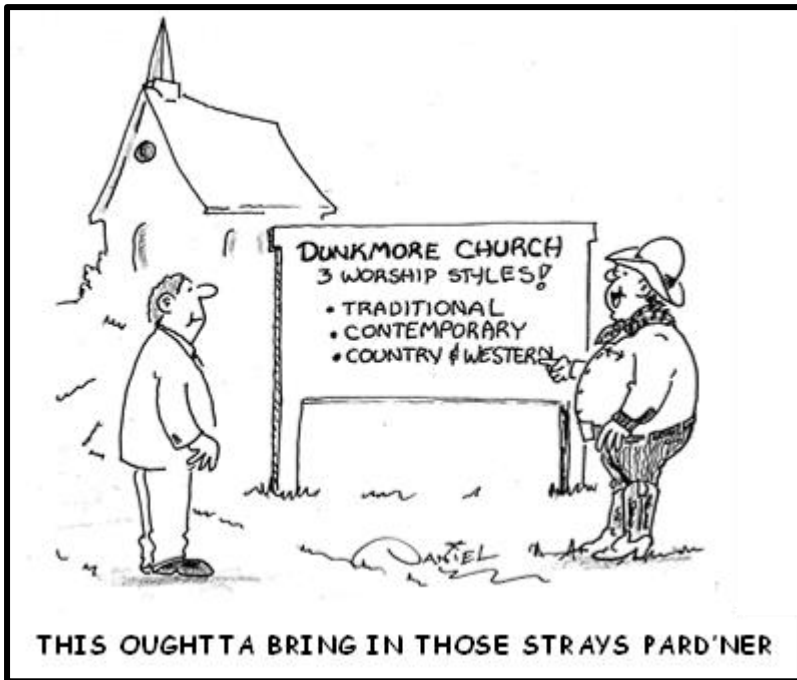
	10:30 am	6:00 pm
1 <sup>st</sup>	TBC Holy Communion	
8 <sup>th</sup>	Rev Alan Combes & All-age Team All-age worship <b>ItL leading worship from 10am</b>	<b>Circuit Pentecost Praise</b> <b>Kinver</b>

\*\*\*\* Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> June \*\*\*\*

**Circuit Pentecost Praise @ Kinver – 6pm**  
**Refreshments from 5pm**



Let's end with a Loff.....



A school-aged boy had just attended his first wedding. After the ceremony his mother asked what he thought of it. "I was kinda surprised that the preacher said you can marry up to sixteen women!" the boy said. "What to you mean?" his mother asked in shock. "I added it up. He said four better, four worse, four richer, four poorer," replied the boy.

## Church Activities & Contacts

**Bible Study** – Mondays @ 7.30pm – In the worship space

Contact: Melanie - 07852 251581 or [walters.m.j@me.com](mailto:walters.m.j@me.com)

**Coffee & Conversation** – 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays 10am to 12 noon - Hall

Contact: Melanie - 07852 251581 or [walters.m.j@me.com](mailto:walters.m.j@me.com)

**Coffee & Craft** – 1<sup>st</sup> Saturdays 10.30am to 12 noon – Red Room

Contact: Diane ([diane.robertson@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:diane.robertson@blueyonder.co.uk))

or Jackie ([jackie.cliff@btinternet.com](mailto:jackie.cliff@btinternet.com))

**Feed my Sheep** – 1<sup>st</sup> Sundays 1pm – Hall

Contact: Megan - 07904 502365 or [megan@ashfam.co.uk](mailto:megan@ashfam.co.uk)

**Into the Light** – Some Fridays @6.30pm – Church

Contact: John - 07811 412355 or [jmearman@hotmail.com](mailto:jmearman@hotmail.com)

**KYC (Young Church)** – Sunday mornings – 10.30am – Church/Hall

Contact: Megan - 07904 502365 or [megan@ashfam.co.uk](mailto:megan@ashfam.co.uk)

**Ladies Friendship Group** – 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursdays @2.15pm – Parlour

(plus 4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays lunch out) Contact: Joyce - 01384 295122

**Men's Group** – Usually 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesdays in the evening

Contact: Richard - [richardwalters964@icloud.com](mailto:richardwalters964@icloud.com)

**Playgroup** – Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays – 9.15am to 11.45am

Contact: Vicky - [kfordplaygroup@hotmail.com](mailto:kfordplaygroup@hotmail.com)

**Prayers** – 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Saturdays @ 9am – Parlour or on Zoom

Contact: Melanie - 07852 251581 or [walters.m.j@me.com](mailto:walters.m.j@me.com)

**General Enquiries** – [kmc.enquiries66@gmail.com](mailto:kmc.enquiries66@gmail.com)

**Editor (Richard Walters)** - [richardwalters964@icloud.com](mailto:richardwalters964@icloud.com)

**Food Bank (Jackie Cliff)** - [jackie.cliff@btinternet.com](mailto:jackie.cliff@btinternet.com)

**Minister (Rev Alan Combes)** [alan.combes@methodist.org.uk](mailto:alan.combes@methodist.org.uk) 823146

**Pastoral Co-ordinator (Michele)** [Michele.combes@outlook.com](mailto:Michele.combes@outlook.com)

**Prayer Chain** – [kmc.prayers66@gmail.com](mailto:kmc.prayers66@gmail.com)

**Stewards** - [kmcstewardteam@gmail.com](mailto:kmcstewardteam@gmail.com)