



# Northgate News



*September and October 2025*

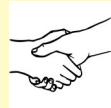


News and events for  
Warwick Methodist Church, Northgate  
and Whitnash Methodist Church

***Be Joyful, Be Prayerful,  
Be Thankful***

***Inside this edition:- details of our Sunday Services***

*Rev Sally's letter, Bread Church,  
TLC (Tuesday Laughter and Chat)  
weekday and weekend activities  
and much more!*



*Plus, up to date news of the Refurbishment in the Community Centre*

**Rev Sally Jones**

**Minister of the Warwick, Wellesbourne and  
Whitnash Methodist Churches  
01926 740846**

*Check out the website for latest news  
and information  
[www.warwickmethodistchurch.org.uk](http://www.warwickmethodistchurch.org.uk)*

## FLOWER MINISTRY

**Would you like to contribute to the beautiful  
fresh flower decorations that grace our sanctuary  
each week?**



You may like to donate towards the cost, perhaps for a special date  
in your calendar,  
help arrange the flowers,  
or even do your own arrangement one week. Did you know there is a calendar  
of dates on the Church Noticeboard in the foyer for any special date  
particular to you.?

See Sylvia for more details

## Prayer Circle



There is a quiet corner by the 'Prayer Net',  
where there is a box for  
confidential requests for prayer.



**Or you can contact the prayer circle through  
Rev Sally 01926 740846 or Ann 01926 774734**

**PILATES                      Are you looking to keep fit?  
Come to a Pilates Class on Wednesday mornings  
10:00am - 11am in the Community Centre.**

*Pilates improves and helps to retain our mobility and balance,  
(use it or lose it), in a fun and relaxed environment.  
Men and women of **ALL** ages are welcome.  
Why don't you try it, you won't regret it!*

*For further information please contact Elaine.*

Do please be aware that a number of Church activities will/may change during the Refurbishment in the Community Centre, which will be starting on Monday 8th September for a minimum of 3 weeks.

Please look out for details in the notices

See the Leadership Team's report on pages 6 and 7



### **TLC - Tuesday, Laughter and Chat**

Every Tuesday from 10.30am - 12:00 noon

*Come along and enjoy refreshments ,  
fellowship and chat!*

**All are very welcome.**



***Please note that TLC are still intending to meet during September while the refurbishment work in the Community Centre is being carried out.***

***During this time they will be meeting in the Church***



## Bread Church



**The dates of Bread Church have changed until the re-furbishment of the kitchen and toilets, starting on the 8th September, are completed**

Bread Church will meet on Tuesday 2nd September  
Tuesday 14th October  
**Thereafter every 2nd and 4th Tuesday**

Come along to enjoy fellowship and friendship

We start baking bread from 10:30am and at 12 noon,  
after a short reflection and prayer -  
a lunch of soup and scones are served, all freshly made!!!

Lunch and Fellowship are free ,  
donations welcome - but optional

*Please do come, why not invite a friend?*

*This is an important outreach for Northgate, it provides an opportunity to invite someone you know to an informal and fun activity in a warm and friendly environment.*

**Do join us, come in the morning or just for lunch,  
the choice is yours**

### Maureen Smith

On Friday 25th July, a number of people from Bread Church, joined family and friends of Maureen Smith, a regular member of Bread Church for many years, who died on 6th July 2025 aged 86.

One of many reasons there is a chair with arms and cushions in the hall is so she can sit comfortably, drink coffee and eat numerous biscuits(!!) as well as make bread assisted by ourselves or one of her carers.

One of the hymns we sang was one her favourites :- How Great thou Art!

**Heritage Day**  
**Saturday 20th September in the Church**  
**10:00am - 3pm**

This annual celebration, initiated by Warwick District Council, allows visitors free access to heritage sites and community events that are not usually open to the public, would normally charge an entrance fee, or are putting on something special for the festival. And for the second time Northgate is taking part!

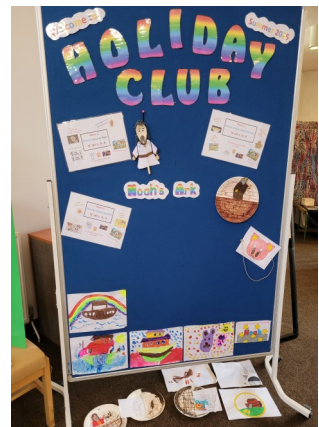
The Church will be open from 10-3. We are looking for volunteers to help on the day for an hour or two. Can you help?

For further details please see Dave Mann

**A Big Thank you from HOLIDAY CLUB!!**

To all who helped at the Holiday Club  
in the school holidays, we could not have done it without you!

The theme was  
Noah's Ark,  
Many of you will have seen the cardboard  
'Ark'  
during the last few weeks!!  
Lots of craft, songs and stories!



*It is hoped there will be another Holiday Club during  
October Half term, look out for further details in the notices,  
the website and on Facebook*

## From the Leadership Team.....



As we start the new Methodist year, we are very excited to see some of the actions from our Five-Year Plan being achieved. One priority is to make our premises desirable for lettings to boost our income and make them available for local community groups; this is being realised in the refurbishment of the Community Centre kitchen and ground floor toilets. This work will take most of September, and will cause some inconvenience, but will be worth it when we see the results. At the time of writing there have been some issues obtaining the glass entrance doors as quoted, and alternatives seem to be twice the price; I'm sure we will find a solution to this problem. We are very grateful for all the work that Trevor Blades and the refurbishment group have put into the planning process.

Our fundraising events have been popular; a good number came to the Quiz in June. We now look forward to the Games Afternoon on October 18<sup>th</sup> from 3-5pm, and the IGQ concert on November 29<sup>th</sup>. Our Christmas Fayre will be on November 22<sup>nd</sup>, with a focus on raising money for the church projects this year. Thank you to everyone who has supported our fundraising so far, please do tell your friends about these events so that they are even better attended.

Communication issues have been raised, and Sarah has been leading on the action to develop an effective communication strategy. We recognise the need to update our website and to improve our internal communications, and hope that you will see an improvement before Christmas.

We are also looking at ways of developing our pastoral support system, as the traditional model of a Pastoral Visitor with a "Class" is under severe strain as we don't have enough pastoral visitors. A buddy system is being considered and using modern technology to keep in touch where possible. If you would like to become more involved in the pastoral support of our fellowship, please speak to Janice Witham.

If you'd like to know more about the Five-Year Plan it is displayed on the noticeboard outside the ladies' toilet in the hall or ask Anne to email it to you.

At the time of writing, we are halfway through the summer Holiday Club and the children are enjoying the theme of Noah & the Ark. Around a dozen children and their parent/carer attend each week, we'd like to see more, but those that do come have a great time. We are very grateful to all those who have helped over the six-week period. Bread Church will start again on September 2<sup>nd</sup>; this popular outreach activity also relies on a core group of helpers, but we could do with some more support please. Please do speak to Trevor Blades if you can spare the time on a Tuesday morning, even if it is just once a month.

We are opening our church on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> September as part of the Heritage Open Days fortnight. A number of people came in last year who appreciated the opportunity to look inside our building; refreshments will be available and volunteers to help should speak to Julie please.

Our Harvest Festival is on 28<sup>th</sup> September. On this day we will also be sharing in the celebration of Ken & Beatrice's wedding at Northgate 50 years ago. A decision on a shared lunch will be made nearer the time when we know the progress of the kitchen refurbishment.

On October 19<sup>th</sup> our worship will be at Whitnash, a United Service with Holy Communion. Our Civic Service is on November 23<sup>rd</sup>, when we will be welcoming the Mayor, town councillors and members of the Court Leet.

The Leadership team are always keen to hear from members of our fellowship, if you have anything you want to discuss please let one of the stewards know.

Please remember us in your prayers.

Anne Oliver on behalf of The Leadership Team



We send our congratulations,  
love and best wishes to  
Ken and Beatrice on the occasion of their Golden  
Wedding Anniversary  
on 27th September



## *Our Ministers Letter*



*Dear friends,  
My warmest greetings to you all.*

I have been pondering on the theme of faith. You may feel this is probably not an unusual thing for a minister to ponder on! But I have recently experienced one of those lovely times when a passage that I have read and preached on several times before yields fresh joy when it comes around again. There really is wisdom in having a Lectionary that repeats!

I recently preached on Hebrews 11. (As I was preparing the service I also received an email out of the blue from someone I trained with at Queen's. He had a very special mug which would come out for prayer group and it gave the following information: 'How does Jesus take his tea? HeBREWS it.' Anyway, I digress.) And I experienced that wonder of new insight in words that were not new. This is why we refer to the Bible as 'the Living Word'.

Who wrote the book of Hebrews? That is a question that has been discussed by many scholars over hundreds of years – and the answer is, we don't know. What we do know is that the Greek it is written in is high-level, scholarly stuff. Its overall form really feels like a sermon rather than a letter, which could be one of the reasons it still resonates with us and still stirs our souls hundreds and hundreds of years later.

The writer of Hebrews begins Chapter 11 with a definition of faith: 'Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.' This is, to me, a brilliant definition of faith. We cannot see or appreciate everything that God has given us or done for us, or that will be given to us and done for us – that degree of knowledge and wisdom is purely God's and belongs to God alone. Humans, of course are always striving for greater knowledge, greater understanding; it seems to be part of the human condition to want to push boundaries of knowledge further and further. As I write, the astronaut Jim Lovell has recently passed away. He was on the crew of Apollo 13, and, as well as being incredibly experienced himself, was one of the recipients of sudden and much-needed new knowledge from teams on the ground when there was an explosion in the spacecraft.

(I'm thinking particularly of the hastily patched-together design of an air filter involving a sock, tubing and duct tape which enabled the crew to breathe in the Lunar Excursion Module as it became a 'lifeboat' for the astronauts). What faith that crew placed in the support teams to bring them home. You could say that the whole space programme enabled humanity to 'see' far more than they had previously.





You could also say that this should have increased our faith in a God who has made this amazing planet to be our home. But humanity also has this propensity to miss the stunningly obvious. We look at our unique planet, becoming slowly aware that there is no Plan B: this fact should have been brought home to us by the extraordinarily beautiful 'Earthrise' photo of Apollo 8, taken in 1968. Despite the fact that 'Eighteen months after the Apollo 8 astronauts shot Earthrise, 20 million people took to the streets across the US to protest environmental destruction in the first ever Earth Day' (taken from the BBC website) we are no closer to finding unified, global solutions to the climate crisis. Seeing does not always bring understanding.

Back to Hebrews. After defining what faith is, the writer goes on to list heroes from the Hebrew Bible whose faithful actions are recorded in God's story. Noah, Abraham, Sarah, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Moses and many more are mentioned. William Barclay, writing on this passage, states 'It is easy to argue: "Why should I refuse the pleasure of the moment for an uncertain future?". The Christian answer is that the future is *not* uncertain because it belongs to God; and it is enough that God has commanded and that God has promised... it was precisely because the great heroes of faith lived on that principle that they were approved by God. Every one of them refused what the world calls greatness and staked everything on God – and history proved them right'.

But is it only these 'giants of faith' that receive acclaim from God? Of course not! Sometimes it is the small, everyday carrying on, the 'keeping on keeping on' that is just as courageous and faithful as mighty acts. Maya Angelou wrote 'Having courage does not mean that we are unafraid. Having courage and showing courage mean we face our fears. We are able to say, 'I have fallen, but I will get up.'

Jane Williams writes, 'The Hebrews commentary on the story of Abram makes faith the air that Christians must breathe to live'. What an amazing image! It sums up why we feel drawn to worship and fellowship, because these vital expressions of faith are not just nice things to do, but essential, vital for our life as faithful believers. We have been thinking a lot about prayer recently, and deliberately so, because this is another aspect of our life of faith which is not just a nice thing to do, but absolutely essential. When James Montgomery, decades ago, wrote 'Prayer is the Christians' vital breath, the Christians' native air' he was summarising beautifully a profound truth of our life of faith.

I wonder who were the 'giants of faith' in your life? Who encouraged you, taught you, journeyed with you to reach this point?

Take a moment to thank God for them now.....

*Continued next page*



Faith, of course, can take you into unexpected places. Recently the staff team, together with volunteers from several of our churches including Warwick, has represented the Circuit at Warwickshire Pride, at the Pump Room Gardens at Leamington. This was only the second time the team has done this. Last year, I approached the day with several questions in my mind as to how this day might unfold, some of them a little apprehensive. I need not have been concerned – it was the most joyous day, and a privilege to be welcomed into that space and share conversations with so many people. This year was just the same – except without any of the apprehension beforehand. We weren't doing anything dramatic, just being open to chats and conversations. So many people thanked us for being there – it was humbling.

Perhaps we would all love the faith that can 'remove and sink the mountain to a plain', as Charles Wesley wrote. But such dramatic demonstrations can miss the point. God adores and honours every faithful action we undertake. Let's keep on keeping on, living and breathing our faith every day, and encouraging others to do the same.

May God bless you, those whom you love, and those you are called to love in God's name,

*With my love and prayers,  
Sally*

A Prayer by Angela Ashwin:

**Lord,  
let my life be a space  
in which you can work in the world.  
Clear away my inner rubbish,  
and fill me with your Spirit  
of healing, delight and peace,  
so that everything I do  
may be the fruit of your life in me.  
Amen.**

## **Our Time of Prayer**

*Please hold in your prayers .....*

Our housebound friends,  
for those alone,  
in care homes, for those who are bereaved,  
for those in poor health,  
anticipating or recovering from surgery,  
sick, troubled in spirit,

For those seeking care and strength,  
making life changing decisions.

**Amen**

*Lord, thank you for the promise of your peace  
as companion in this life, staying with me  
Regardless of circumstance,  
in wind and storm, in calm and plenty  
Your peace enfolds  
And holds me still.*

**Amen**

Speak in the stillness, God, we pray  
come to our hearts and meet us here. Bring us your peace for each new day  
- the gift of grace to earth from heaven.

When, in the anxious rush of days, we lose our hold on faith and you,  
reclaim us with your calm embrace -  
the gift of grace to earth from heaven.

So may we be renewed in love, held and sustained by you alone.  
Strengthened by you that we may prove  
a gift of grace to earth from heaven.

*Gareth Hill Singing the Faith 511*

## SEVENTY FIVE PERCENT



The cane swings to mimic our motion  
As along the way we do roam  
We totter like waves on the ocean  
Blindly we find our way home  
Life can be cruel, they tell us  
Those people who really don't care  
A bleak vision they try to sell us  
And leave us to our despair

But despite what they tell to the masses  
How workless and useless we live  
Like mist, their rhetoric passes  
We know we've got much more to give  
Our eyes may not work just like theirs do  
And statistics you know do not lie  
But the workless three quarters just want you  
To step up and give us a try

We can't see to swing hammers or axes  
Do care work or follow a map  
But we'd rather be paying our taxes  
Than live in the benefit trap  
Blind people aren't work shy or lazy  
Despite what the government say  
But look at the numbers, they're crazy  
Only a quarter of us earning our way

So, what would you say is the solution  
With three quarters of us needing a job  
We need a complete revolution  
In attitudes, we're not on the rob  
So, heed the propaganda if you want to  
PIP payments allow us to shirk  
Our guide dogs and canes ought to show you  
We're able to get out and work

*by Martyn Parker, pictured above, June 2025*

## Thoughts on Prayer

It seems that we have been talking about our prayer as members of Northgate for a long time. Probably we have been doing that for the duration of our Christian faith, but during the discussions at the leadership meetings we certainly keep cycling round that topic. Whenever we discuss our future growth as a church, prayer is always highlighted as a fundamental requirement. I do not believe that we will be able to grow as a church unless we are praying. There have been various times over recent months that we have dedicated to prayer – “Sunshine and Showers” study series in housegroup; Prayer Away Day at the House of Bread; services focused on prayer. No doubt you will be able to think of more.

There are many opportunities for us to pray – on our own individual schedule; at Bread Church; during Sunday services; at house group meetings; with our wider Churches Together In Warwick friends at the monthly prayer breakfast. We are blessed to have a prayer circle as part of our congregation, who remind us of church members and other people connected to our congregation who are in particular need of prayer. This is a wonderful list, showing the rich variety of different prayerful activities available to us.

Maybe you feel happy with your prayer life? I am speaking from my own personal experience, not from any point of expertise, but I always feel that I could be doing better. I know that I am not someone who finds it easy to try things on my own, and therefore I’m seeking other people who are looking to focus on prayer. I don’t know exactly what form that would take, as it depends on who is interested! But I’m interested in something semi-structured that would support me to develop my individual prayer skills (with the aim of me praying more regularly and consciously). That could be a small group, with a prayer partner, individually (following a group session on different prayer techniques), or any other way that you can think of!

So I’m looking for other people who are interested in being part of this journey. I asked some questions after the service I was leading the other week, so I’ll ask them again here: Would you be interested in a prayer resource session outside of Sunday service?

Would you be interested in joining a prayer group?

Would you be interested in being part of a prayer triangle?

Some of you have given me answers to these questions already. If you haven’t, and you are interested in something prayer related, then please let me know. I’ll aim to organise some kind of starter session in the Autumn for people who would like to be involved.

***Thanks! Sarah (Jones )***

## A Date for your Diary!



### Saturday 29th November - Immanuel's Ground Quire

#### **2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. In the Community Hall - 'Come and Sing West Gallery Carols' in harmony with Immanuel's Ground Quire.**

Don't be put off if you have never sung with a choir before or a long time ago - it isn't essential to read music as the choir teach the parts line by line and there will be quire members singing beside you giving friendly encouragement and an instrument playing your line. All you need is to readily pick up a tune and sing out joyfully with everyone else and have a lot of fun doing it - in fact just as you do at Sunday services. It's a one-off for fun; you won't be committing to any further involvement. The carols are meant for community singing and not too difficult to learn; in some Derbyshire villages they still do it in the pubs, but they originated in church. If you're not sure if your voice is soprano, alto, tenor, or bass you can change round until you find a pitch register you are comfortable with. Everyone will have a booklet of words and nicely laid out music so, if you are a music reader, you will also be completely at home with these unique and joyful carols. This will be the fourth taster workshop in our hall, they've proved popular locally but so far no one from Northgate has come, which is a pity - I don't like to think of you missing out on this lovely experience of singing together in harmony to the Lord a new song! It's not too early to get the date in your diary to 'Sing Early for Christmas'.

**7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. On the same evening: A Seasonal Words and Concert of Music by Immanuel's Ground Quire** - the choir that sang for our harvest festival service a couple of years ago. The programme will include a few of the items taught in the afternoon and the quire will encourage the workshop participants to join them in singing these carols but won't pressurise anyone to do so. All ticket proceeds for the church - towards our Community hall improvements - kitchen, loos and internal doors. Of course, by then we will be enjoying the improvements to our hall and it's possible we may still need to pay any outstanding costs but, if we're debt free, then it will be a good start to raising funds for the next stage in our community hall development.

I'll have booking details for the afternoon and ticketing details for the evening later in September. Like Village Voices and other local groups, Immanuel's Ground hire our hall for rehearsals throughout the year contributing significantly to our lettings income and helping to keep the church doors open - it's all part of outreach in a modern church context. So, it's important to come and bring your friends to the concert to support our fund raising, and what a fun way to do so!

*Ian Meddoms*

## A few more dates for your Diary!

Saturday September 20th	HERITAGE OPEN DAY in the CHURCH (See page 5)
Sunday September 28th	HARVEST FESTIVAL
Saturday October 18th	GAMES AFTERNOON 3-5PM
Saturday November 22nd	CHRISTMAS FAYRE
Saturday November 29th	Open Day AND EVENING CONCERT Immanuels Ground Choir See page14

***More to come - Keep a look out in the notices and on the website!!!***



### Looking for Hand made cards for all occasions?

Jane Betts makes cards for Birthdays,  
thank you cards,  
blank for your own messages,  
Speak to her at Church, she also goes to  
Bread Church  
and TLC on Tuesdays.



I've always  
wondered if  
songbirds get mad  
at hummingbirds  
for not knowing the  
words.

**Whats On At Whitnash!!**  
**(Apart from Sunday Services!!)**

**Thursdays 11.30am -1.30pm Thursday, Laughter and chat and soup!**

Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> September      Lunch club (Please book with Graeme Russell)

13<sup>th</sup> September 10.30am      **Messy church** for 3-11 year olds and siblings  
Story, games, crafts and lunch

27<sup>th</sup> September 10.30am      **Coffee and Bacon butties for Macmillan**

2<sup>nd</sup> October 11.30 am      **Thursday L.C. and Lunch club**

11<sup>th</sup> October 10.30am      **Messy Church** for 3-12 year olds and siblings  
Story, games, crafts and lunch

25<sup>th</sup> October 10.30am      **Coffee and Bacon butties and Andrew's  
Quiz for Friends of Homewood**

**Advance notice :-                      Saturday, November 15th 11am - 1:30pm**  
**CHRISTMAS FAYRE**

Books, cards, cakes, games, gifts and raffles and refreshments and more.





## Churches Together in Warwick



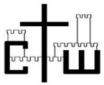
**Prayer Breakfasts** - are open to all and take place on the first **Saturday** of each month at **8am**, for 30 minutes of reflection and prayer, followed by a simple breakfast. They are led and hosted by each church in turn making them all different .

**All are very welcome** . Next Prayer Breakfasts are on:-

**September 6th at St Nicholas**

**October 4th at St Pauls**

**November 1st Warwick Methodist Church, Northgate**



The following is an excerpt from the letter sent by Rev Sally as Moderator of Churches Together (CTW) to all local Churches with an invitation to take part in the following initiative....

### **CHURCHES TOGETHER IN WARWICK** **PRAYER FOCUS FOR AUGUST 2025**

At our Summer CTW Forum we felt led to initiate a local, monthly **Prayer Focus**. This will continue to be circulated to all the local churches, with the idea that prayers could be offered in Sunday Worship, each Sunday in the month, before changing to a new focus the following month.

The August focus is as follows:

**Please pray about the worsening global climate crisis, and for the CTW Season of Creation Prayer Walk taking place on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> September at 6pm in St Nicholas Park, for its witness and for the conversations that will happen...**

Please can you encourage people leading worship in your church to include the CTW Prayer Focus in their prayers, ideally on a weekly basis.

With thanks, and every blessing,

Rev Sally

Moderator, CTW



## Forthcoming Services at Northgate

All services at 10:30am unless stated otherwise

Tea and Coffee served after the services



September 7th	Rev David Butterworth <i>Holy Communion</i>
September 14th	Mr Edward Royle
September 21st	Mr Nigel Saxton
September 28th	Rev Sally Jones <i>Holy Communion</i> HARVEST FESTIVAL
October 5th	Mrs Anne Oliver
October 12th	Mrs Jill Lloyd
October 19th	UNITED SERVICE (with Communion) AT WHITNASH <i>No service at Northgate</i>
October 26th	Rev Sally Jones - Bread Church Service, Details to follow.....
November 2nd	Mrs Vanessa Caley



The next edition of Northgate News will be for events for :-

## SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER

Don't forget you can advertise and share your news for dates months in **beyond** those this newsletter -

(Dare I say Christmas ?!!!!)

Please send any articles/contributions by the

**Deadline date of Sunday 19th October**



To:- noelle\_trevor@hotmail.co.uk

Or - have a chat to me at Church  
or contact me on 07962232158



During a visit to my doctor, I asked him, "How do you determine whether or not an older person should go into an old age home?"

"Well," he said, "we fill a bathtub, then we offer a teaspoon, a teacup and a bucket to the person and ask them to empty the bathtub."

"Oh, I understand," I said. "A normal person would use the bucket because it is bigger than the spoon or the teacup."

"No" he said. "A normal person would pull the plug.  
Do you want a bed by the window?"

**PRE LOVED SHOP**  
**In the Church Community Centre**



**First Saturday each month 10:00 - 1pm**

Ladies, men's and children's clothes  
Household items, Toys, puzzles, books and plenty more.....

***Offers of help during the morning would be very welcome***

***Please see Dave Mann***

***And do come along and enjoy a welcome break from your shopping,***



***Refreshments of tea, coffee  
and hot chocolate available***

**Sunday Services are at 10:30am**

**Coffee, Tea are served  
after the service**



**Further details of special services will be in the weekly notices,  
on the website , and in this newsletter!**

**ALL are welcome**

***Do you want latest news and information?***

***please check out the website, it is updated every Friday***

***[www.warwickmethodistchurch.org.uk](http://www.warwickmethodistchurch.org.uk)***