

**TRINITY  
METHODIST CHURCH  
CODSALL**



**LINK  
September & October  
2017**

## TRINITY METHODIST CHURCH



**Loving God**



**Following Jesus**



**Serving Others**

### **Minister:**

Rev. Joanne Cox-Darling The Manse, Histons Hill, Codsall  
**01902 259900** (New number)  
email: joanne.coxdarling@gmail.com

### **Families Worker:**

Mrs Marie Graham 01902 741226 magraham1@live.co.uk

### **Older Person's Worker:**

Mrs Sue Fearnley 01902 752919 suefearnley61@gmail.com

### **Pastoral Worker:**

Richard French 07988 103592

### **Church website:**

[www.codsallmethodist.org](http://www.codsallmethodist.org)

## MESSAGE FROM THE MANSE

### **Dear Friends**

We are so looking forward to joining you in the Codsall community in the next few weeks.

May we take this initial opportunity to thank everyone who has made our arrival an easier one – from initial conversations at our first meeting in the choir vestry one very chilly November, to each and every one of you who have enabled the transition between Circuit staff happen. Thank you to you all for continuing to celebrate all the good things that make this community such a vibrant place to call 'home.'

Our hope as a family is to join you in doing just that.

Making this place a home.

A home for our family.

A place where people are safe to explore their spirituality, and perhaps to find something of Grace in their midst.

A place where people feel at home and are able to ask questions, and perhaps find some answers – or at least some peace.

A place of celebrations and parties (look out October!).

A place for tears and sorrow.

Perhaps even a place to disagree as well.

A place we all get to call 'home' when we need it the most.

As we begin to unpack the many, many boxes which have travelled up the M6 (and some which have travelled across oceans), and begin to make our home in this community, we ask for your help and prayers in forging our 'home.'

To help you do that, we indulge your time for a brief introduction to us:

Joanne is passionate about communication and making connections. Joanne describes ministry and following Jesus as story telling, story hosting and secret keeping. She has served in short term mission teams, helped to develop national resources for evangelism, and shaped ongoing partnerships between organisations and the Methodist Church. This 'making connections' also means that Joanne enjoys a good box set, mugs of mid/well brewed tea, and the (very) odd gentle stroll to clear her head. Joanne has recently been reminded about the desire that God has for us all to spend time in God's presence, and how easy it is to make this a problem, a chore, or a performance.

Jayson grew up in the Central Desert in Australia, and has Aboriginal-Scottish heritage. He is a secondary school teacher, and is joining the humanities department at Ormiston SWB Academy in Bilston. Both Jayson and Joanne have tried to learn a new skill every year, so Jayson is most likely to be found in a corner knitting his latest improvised creation. It is fair to say that the biggest and most recent learning curve for us both has been discovering the privilege (and exhaustion) of parenthood. Jayson, in the midst of 'farewells' and preparations for 'hellos' is beginning to notice God at work in life in ways that are not always visible, but which – like the layers of an onion – are worth pressing into, in order to discover greater depths and discoveries in life.

You are most likely to hear Sophia before you meet her, as, at not-yet-two, she is just finding her voice. Literally. She is a bundle of energy and inquisitiveness, and is a constant reminder of the basic human need to play, discover, and create.

Our hope and prayer is that this next chapter in the life of Codsall – both Trinity and in the wider community – will be one of playful and prayer-filled discovery and creativity together as we celebrate, serve and notice God at work in our midst – helping us to call others ‘home’; like the Prodigal family – whatever the cost.

Yours in Christ

**Joanne**

### **A WELCOME BLESSING**

May you meet God in every place,  
in every person  
and in the depths of your own heart.

*Jan Sutch Pickard (A Book of Blessings)*

### **NEW PHONE NUMBER FOR MANSE**

The phone number for the Manse has been changed  
from 2<sup>nd</sup> September.

It is now

**01902 259900**

**This will be Rev Joanne’s office phone number.**

*Please alter diaries, phone lists etc  
as you will no longer be able to contact  
the Manse on the old number.*

## PRAYERS

*Please pray for those who are housebound or in residential care including:*



Anne A; Marjorie C; June C; Daphne C; Pat & John D;  
Pat Ha; Christina H; Pat Ho; Eileen J.

*Please pray for those who are not well and their carers including:*

Maureen B; David E; Frances E; Joyce H; Sue J; Connie K; Jean L;  
Olive L; Rena M; David N; Iris & Don R's niece Tracie; Alan R;  
Dorothy S.

*Please pray for those who have lost a loved one recently including:*

The family & friends of Joy B.

The family & friends of Sadie C.

Fred & Jean W and family as they come to terms with the sudden loss of their son.

The family & friends of Maurice (Peter) G.

*Please pray for:*

The people in the southern states of America as they tackle the devastating floods, the loss and damage to their homes, and the loss of loved ones.

The continuing work of **The Well - Wolverhampton Food Bank**.

Many thanks to those people who contribute from Trinity, whether financially or through weekly provisions in the trolley, and also to those people who help take the contents of the trolley month by month to The Well.

*God of all creation, you call all peoples of the earth into your kingdom.*

*Grant that we, with young and old of all nations,*

*may boldly confess Jesus Christ as Lord;*

*to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honour and praise,*

*now and forever. Amen*



## **THANK YOU**

### **Dear Friends at Trinity and Brewood,**

Please accept our heartfelt thanks for the many cards and letters we have received following the death of our beloved elder son in Australia early in August. We have felt the love, care and prayers of so many people upholding us at this time. It is so true that God's love and peace becomes tangible at time like this.

With our love and every blessing to you all.

**Jean and Fred W**

### **Dear Friends**

I think that this is my third attempt to pen a 'thank you' for the flowers from church. They arrive, accompanied by Peter, who seems to be virtually the only person to find his way here. The flowers are lovely and always welcome, but it is nice to see people as well.

I do not know when the next edition of The Link is due so I hope that you had every success with your Flower Festival as I know a great deal of effort and time has been spent on it. I also wish you success and happy memories for the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the church. I have happy memories of the little chapel in Broadway which was the starting point for Histons Hill.

Best wishes

**Marjorie C**

### **Dear Friends**

The families would like to express their sincere thanks for the messages of sympathy, kindness and love shown to them in their sad loss of Anne. The love and messages of support gave us strength, to know that so many people were holding us all in their prayers.

**The D Family**

## **FLOWER FESTIVAL 2017**

Just a memory now, but a fond one which will be long remembered. Most of you will already know that a sum of £4,273.97 was raised for church funds. Thank you to everyone who came along and a special thank you to the army of volunteers who kept the festival running for four days.

The floral arrangements were of exhibition standard and the interpretation of the chosen hymns were quite moving. We give thanks for the wonderful colours in God's creation and for the gifted arrangers who gave us so much pleasure.

**Jan and Peter, Ann, Peter**

### **NEWS from the EDITOR**

I am pleased to announce that we have a volunteer to take over the editing and production of the Link magazine. I hope that you will support the new editor as you have supported me over the last 10+ years.

The new editor will be Avis J, who is keen to take over the position but is quite new to computing. She is knowledgeable about the printing and collating side of the role. Avis may be asking for assistance with collating, stapling and folding, and various other tasks – please offer to help if you can.

We will be producing the next two magazines together, October & November (including the church anniversary) and the edition covering December & January, to give Avis the opportunity to find out how the magazine is put together and produced. Please continue to send articles and letters, “thank you”s and announcements to the Link email address, or by hand, for inclusion in the appropriate magazine.

There are likely to be changes in the way the magazine looks, its layout, and frequency and possibly size, as Avis finds the way she finds comfortable to use when producing the Link.

### **CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING DATES**

The dates for the next two Church Council meetings have been altered from the original dates. They are as follows:

Thursday 28 September	7.30pm
Monday 9 November	7.30pm

## **ALL AGE HARVEST SERVICE - 17th September**

Your gifts of non-perishable foods - packet and tinned food in particular – will be appreciated. These will be going to The Well Food-bank, Wolverhampton. Further information about the service will be given in the weekly notice sheets.

### **HARVEST**

God of the Harvest  
who has given us so much;  
help us to be generous like you,  
that the world may know your goodness and blessing.

*Simon Taylor*                      (*A Book of Blessings*)

## **50 YEARS CELEBRATIONS OF TRINITY METHODIST CHURCH ON ITS PRESENT SITE**

The following special services will take place as we approach the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the church building.

September	10	11.00am	Rev Rachel Parkinson, Chair of Wolverhampton & District.
	24	Mosaic & 11.00am	Rev Gavin Calver Director of Mission England & Evangelical Alliance
October	1	11.00am	Deaconess Sarah Bruce Wolverhampton University Chaplaincy Team
	15	Mosaic & 11.00am	Rev Paul Wilson Development Worker of Methodist Evangelicals Together
	22	Mosaic & 11.00am	Mrs Jill Baker Vice-president of Conference

## **TRINITY'S 50TH BIRTHDAY WEEKEND**

### **SATURDAY OCTOBER 21 AND SUNDAY OCTOBER 22ND**

Please let Helen Share know by the end of September at the latest if you are able to come to the party on the Saturday afternoon. Parents who have had 'Gold Invites' for their 'children', please remind them to RSVP.

This will help with organising the afternoon etc including for food.

## THE CHARACTER AND NATURE OF GOD

*Malachi 3:3 says: "He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver."*

This verse puzzled some women in a Bible study and they wondered what this statement meant about the character and nature of God.

One of the women offered to find out the process of refining silver and get back to the group at their next Bible study. That week, the woman called a silversmith and made an appointment to watch him at work. She didn't mention anything about the reason for her interest beyond her curiosity about the process of refining silver.

As she watched the silversmith, he held a piece of silver over the fire and let it heat up. He explained that in refining silver, one needed to hold the silver in the middle of the fire where the flames were hottest so as to burn away the impurities.

The woman thought about God holding us in such a hot spot. Then she thought again about the verse that says: "He sits as a refiner and purifier of silver."

She asked the silversmith if it was true that he had to sit there in front of the fire the whole time the silver was being refined.

The man answered that yes, he not only had to sit there holding the silver, but he had to keep his eyes on the silver the entire time it was in the fire. If the silver was left a moment too long in the flames it would be destroyed.

The woman was silent for a moment. Then she asked the silversmith, "How do you know when the silver is fully refined?" He smiled at her and answered, "Oh, that's easy – when I see my image in it."

If today you are feeling the heat of the fire, remember that God has his eye on you and will keep watching until He sees His image in you.

### ***Author Unknown***

*You are free to choose,  
but the choices you make today  
will determine what you will have,  
be, and do in the tomorrow of your life.*

## **CHOIR**

The Choir at Trinity enjoys singing and its fellowship. Anyone wishing to share in this please come along on Friday evenings at 7.45pm – 9.00pm in church. You will be made very welcome. Contact Marion.

## **CHURCH CHOIRS FESTIVAL OF MUSIC WORCESTER CATHEDRAL Saturday 14th October 2017**

There are still a few places on the coach for Worcester Cathedral Festival of Music. The cost is £10 per head – contact Marion.

## **SINGING**

**God respects me when I work. But He loves me when I sing.**

And if you sing as you work how much more God loves you!

Do I hear some of you saying, "Hmm! God wouldn't love me if I sang!"?  
Don't you believe it.

Singing is really a way of saying you're happy, deep-down happy.

You don't need to sing with your voice.

You can sing in your heart.

Dancing for joy is your body's way of singing.

The smile that lights up your face is your face's way of singing.

By singing we praise God, and how He loves us to do this.

There is a verse in one of the Psalms that says "God inhabits the praises of His people." In other words, He lives in our praises.

No wonder He loves us when we sing!

*Go on singing and chanting to the Lord in your hearts,  
so that always and everywhere  
you are giving thanks to God  
who is our Father  
in the name of our lord Jesus Christ.*

*Ephesians 5 v19-20*

## MOON LANDING

In 1969 the two astronauts Buzz Aldrin and Neil Armstrong were preparing for man's first landing on the moon. It was an anxious moment, for there was only enough fuel left for a few more seconds of flight, if anything went wrong! But all was well, and the lunar module Eagle landed safely in the Sea of Tranquility on the moon's surface.

The first thing the two astronauts did, when they realised that they were safely down on its surface, was to give thanks to God for the successful end to this historic and dangerous voyage. And their next action was to hold a Communion Service – the service by which Christians remember Jesus Christ, His death on the Cross and His rising from the dead on the third day.

Buzz Aldrin described what happened: "I opened the little plastic packages which contained bread and wine. I poured the wine into the chalice which our church had given me. In the one-sixth gravity of the moon, the wine curved slowly and gracefully up the side of the cup. It was interesting to think that the very first liquid ever poured on the moon, and the first food eaten there, were the Communion elements."

In a few minutes more, they were to be the first men ever to set foot on the lunar surface.

*"Sharing" Compiled by Averil Taylor*

## TODAY

Today is the first day of the rest of your life. Yes, today is the tomorrow God got ready for you yesterday. Have you thanked Him for it? Have you/will you use it for Him? It's no good worrying about yesterday. It's over and done with and can never come again. You can, however, learn from it and put into practice today what you have learned.

Today God might speak to you. Will you hear Him? Will you obey Him? Today you might be your last chance something. Will you take it?

Arnold Bennett has said

"The supply of time is truly a daily miracle. You wake up in the morning, and lo! Your purse is magically filled with twenty-four hours. It is yours. It is the most precious of your possessions. Out of it you have to spin health, pleasure, money, content, respect."

It is important that we use today fully – to God's glory.

*"Searching" Compiled by Averil Taylor*



## **An Evening with General Sir Mike Jackson**

Fans of military history will be absolutely delighted to hear that General Sir Mike Jackson, one of the most respected generals of recent times, will be visiting Codsall in the spring. He is one of the many high profile guests who will be presenting an evening of entertainment during the Codsall Community Arts Festival. The Festival will take place between 6th and 24th March next year so you might like to put those dates into your diaries now. More details will be released in the next few weeks.

[www.codsallartsfestival.org.uk](http://www.codsallartsfestival.org.uk)

## **SEARCHLIGHT THEATRE COMPANY AND JEFF LUCAS**

*'There are no ordinary people'*

Thursday 16th November, 7.30pm

**Ticket Price - September £8.00 October £10.00 November £12.00**

If you want tickets, please let Helen S know as soon as possible:

[codsallmethodist@gmail.com](mailto:codsallmethodist@gmail.com) [01902 847490](tel:01902847490)

## **FLOWER ROTA**

**Flowers for September & October have been donated by the following people:**



### **September**

Arthur S  
Joanne M

David S  
Val G

### **October**

Marjorie H  
Pauline & Alan R  
Chris R

Reubina & John L  
Beryl N

## WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Meeting on Mondays at 2pm for 2.15pm start.

Sept	11	Members Day
	18	Rev Joanne Cox-Darling
	25	to be confirmed
Oct	1	Women's Fellowship service led by Rev Sarah Bruce
	2	Anniversary Trip to Marsh Farm
	9	AGM & Members Day with a Bring & Buy
	16	Rev Joanne Cox-Darling
	23	Edward Newton
	30	to be confirmed

## MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Sept	12	David Edge	
	26	Rev Joanne Cox-Darling	Message from the Manse
Oct	10	Ted Dexter	Cricket
	24	Judy Davis	Bakers Nurseries

## TUESDAY CLUB

Sept	5	Rev Joanne Cox-Darling	
	19	Helen Mann-Ray	The Anglo-Concertina – music & history
Oct	3	Bon Marché	Fashion Night
	17	Nova Chocolate	Talk & demonstration
	31	Daniel Ingleby	Tanzania: challenge yourself to change the world

## LIFEGROUPS

All meetings begin at 7.30pm at various venues.

Sept	6	Rev Joanne Cox-Darling
	27	Moses – session 1
Oct	11	Moses – session 2
	21	(50 <sup>th</sup> Church Anniversary party)

For further information email [codsallmethodist@gmail.com](mailto:codsallmethodist@gmail.com)

## CHANGE

When one door of happiness closes, another opens; but often we look so long at the closed door that we do not see the one which has been opened for us. *Helen Keller*

If you don't like something, change it; if you can't change it, change the way you think about it. *Mary Engelbreit*

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### September

Sun	3	Mr Trevor Starling Rev Joanne Cox-Darling Rev Paul Nzacahayo	9.00am 11.00am 6.00pm
Sun	10	Mrs Elizabeth Farley Rev Rachel Parkinson Rev Joanne Cox-Darling	9.00am 11.00am 6.00pm
Sun	17	<b>Harvest Festival</b> No Service Rev Joanne Cox-Darling      All Age Service Mr Dennis Beaumont	9.00am 11.00am 6.00pm
Sun	24	Rev Gavin Calver Rev Gavin Calver Rev Joanne Cox-Darling	9.00am 11.00am 6.00pm
Thu	28	Church Council Meeting	7.30pm

### October

Sun	1	Mosaic Deaconess Sarah Bruce Evening Worship	9.00am 11.00am 6.00pm
Sun	8	Mosaic Morning Worship Evening Worship	9.00am 11.00am 6.00pm
Sun	15	Rev Paul Wilson Rev Paul Wilson Evening Worship	9.00am 11.00am 6.00pm
Sun	22	<b>50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary services</b> Mrs Jill Baker Mrs Jill Baker Evening Worship	9.00am 11.00am 6.00pm
Sun	29	Mosaic Morning Worship Evening Worship	9.00am 11.00am 6.00pm

<b>November</b>			
Mon	9	Church Council meeting	7.30pm

All items for the next edition should be given or sent to Chris R by Sunday 15 October 2017, with dates to end of December 2017. Email [codsalltrinitylink@googlemail.co](mailto:codsalltrinitylink@googlemail.co)

**MOSES' HEADACHE**  
(from the internet)

