



AUGUST 2026 | EDITION 3

WREXHAM METHODIST CIRCUIT NEWSLETTER

WELCOME

Dear friends,

September is a month of new beginnings. Most obviously many of the young people in our congregations will be facing a time of change. Some will be joining new schools; some will be heading to college or university and for many more there will be a new class or a change in their curriculum. I wonder how we support those young people in that change – do we regularly remember them in our prayers, not just as individuals but as congregations? When was the last time you had a conversation with a young person in your congregation to learn about their lives, the pressures (and joys) that they face and how you might practically help them to navigate their life and deepen their discipleship?

September is also the beginning of the Methodist Church's year. Across the Connexion new ministers are being welcomed by the Circuits they've been stationed to. For those of us in leadership roles (lay and ordained) the month brings the usual cycle of meetings – church councils, circuit meetings, synods and the other meetings that help us to live out our calling and discipleship as communities of faith.

The start of a new church year should cause us to take stock and reflect not just on where we are now but where God is calling us to be. The calling of the Methodist Church is to be a growing, inclusive, evangelistic and justice seeking church. Although we might think of this as something that the Methodist Church of Great Britain aspires to be, and that is the case, because we're a connexional church that should be what individual churches should focus on as well. Lots of our discussions are by necessity short term, the leaking roof, who we should invite to lead the next Church Anniversary, next year's budget and so on. These are important but they can crowd out how we as Christian communities discern our future. When outside of Sunday worship do you gather as a congregation to pray? To seek God's will and listen for God's voice?

A good place to start in your prayers, as individuals and as a congregation would be to pray the Covenant Prayer and take to heart its words:-

I am no longer my own but yours.
Your will, not mine, be done in all things,
wherever you may place me,
in all that I do
and in all that I may endure;
when there is work for me
and when there is none;
when I am troubled
and when I am at peace.
Your will be done
when I am valued
and when I am disregarded;
when I find fulfilment
and when it is lacking;

when I have all things,
and when I have nothing

I willingly offer
all I have and am
to serve you,

as and where you choose.
Glorious and blessed God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
you are mine and I am yours.
May it be so for ever.
Let this covenant now made on earth
be fulfilled in heaven.
Amen.

My hope and prayer is that you have a blessed 'Methodist New Year' and that over the coming year you see the Kingdom of God breaking into your life and the life of your congregation.

Yours in Christ,
Rev. James



Galatians 3:26

*There is neither
Jew nor Gentile,
neither slave nor
free, nor is there
male and female,
for you are all one
in Christ Jesus.*

Romans 15:7

*Accept one another,
then, just as Christ
accepted you, in
order to bring
praise to God.*

INCLUSION

Sometimes these days the idea of 'Inclusion' gets a bad press - people misunderstand it, and think it's something that requires a huge amount of money or hours of work to do. Or they aren't sure who it applies to - is it only about welcoming newcomers, or is it for everyone, helping newcomers and long-standing members alike to participate as fully as possible in our church life?

Well - inclusion doesn't need to involve a lot of money or time - small changes can make a big difference, and it includes everyone involved in any activity in our Circuit. And it's more than just welcoming new people - for example being aware of ways to enable those with sight or hearing loss to participate in our services benefits both new people and those who may have been attending for years.

I'm going to be giving some brief examples of how to be more inclusive in our Circuit Newsletters, and there will also be more information appearing on the Circuit website soon, which I hope you'll find useful.

Written by Naomi Squire



CHURCHES TOGETHER AT THE INTERNATIONAL EISTEDDFOD

People from around the world come to Llangollen every year to the International Musical Eisteddfod. The streets of the town are busy and the churches have always welcomed people into their premises. Llangollen Methodist Church offers refreshments on the afternoon of the Parade of the Nations when the vibrant and exuberant participants in the Eisteddfod sing and dance through the streets. This year around 250 cups of water were given to those parading in the heat.

At the heart of the ethos of the Eisteddfod is the desire to promote harmony and peace among the nations of the world, supporting the policies that aim to establish Wales as a nation of sanctuary aspiring to become a nation of peace. There is a clear resonance with the Christian message of love, peace and reconciliation.

The major events take place at the Pavilion and this year, for the second time, churches went to be with the people on the maes (field). Llangollen cytûn (Churches Together) hosted a Peace Tent, a place where people could come to chat, to think what peace means to them and to share their hopes for peace.

On Wednesday there were many children and young people who came to visit and to compete. We had a giant Connect 4 outside the tent which drew children over and we were able to talk with them. There were invitations to reflect or to pray. Many came in and wrote on our peace wall or wrote messages on peace doves which were hung in the tent. Some days and times were very quiet, others were busy but in the course of the week significant conversations took place with a variety of people. These were conversations we would not have had without being there.

Our hope and prayer is that as we met people for a short time we were able to share the love and friendship of Jesus. We welcomed everyone into a space of hospitality. We made no demands, required no commitments but were simply available to listen, to talk, to offer a place to sit and rest, to think about peace together.

The tent was hosted by 22 volunteers from the churches in Llangollen, the Circuit, friends from churches in other parts of the UK, and staff from the National Cytûn. We are grateful to all of them.

This year a report has been published on the National Cytûn website, including a video of activities at the tent and an interview with Ruth. You can find the report here:

<https://www.cytun.co.uk/en/llangollen-and-wales-international-responsibility/>

Written by Ruth Gee



The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it (Psalm 24 v 1).
We are called to love our neighbour. Caring for the environment is part of loving our neighbour.

Across the Circuit, churches and individuals have been making changes to try to be more environmentally friendly, to look after the planet and people. Some of these ideas and actions have been shared in Circuit events over the last few years and we hope that these will develop and increase.

In Regent Street we have been working to become an "Eco Church". (Eco is shorthand for "ecology" or "ecological", referring to things related to the environment, nature and sustainability).

The church is registered as an Eco Church with the Christian environmental charity "A Rocha", and we currently have a Bronze Eco Church award from them. This has involved taking an environmental audit to assess our existing situation, both in our church premises and in external engagement, then making changes to improve.

A Rocha (which is Portuguese for "The Rock") describe themselves as:
"Caring for the earth and demonstrating the Christian hope for God's world"

A Rocha UK is a Christian charity working to equip Christians and churches to protect and restore the environment – for God, nature and all people. We aim to inspire individuals and families, equip churches and church leaders, build partnerships and manage land for nature and people.

A Rocha - our vision - the world we want to see:

- A world of stable climate and abundant nature, where oceans, rivers, air and soil are free of human pollution.
- Where human society lives in balance with the rest of nature and protects the Earth's natural systems which sustain all life.
- Where all people and communities have access to healthy nature locally.
- Where the Church worldwide understands the biblical mandate to care for all of God's creation as a core part of its mission and manifests this how it treats its land, buildings, investments and other assets.
- Where Christians play their full role, in collaboration with others, to protect and enhance the diversity and abundance of life on Earth, and to restore and maintain the health of our planet's life sustaining systems.
- Where, through Churches and Christians adopting a right relationship with the rest of Creation, others are drawn to a closer, life-giving relationship with our Creator God.

A small group has been meeting to consider what we do, what we buy, etc. and to make positive changes. The aim is to be an environmentally friendly church, something which the whole church supports. We hope that care for the world and the environment becomes something that is central to what our church is – what we are – as individuals and together.

ECO CHURCH

AN A ROCHA UK PROJECT

We hope that we can make changes not just in what we do in the church building, but the much larger effect of what we all do in the rest of our lives. That we - together - live as an Eco Church.

We also hope that as we engage with people and organisations outside of the church that this will be seen as good and attractive.

Some of the changes we've made in the church include:

- We only use Fairtrade tea, coffee, chocolate and sugar
- We use environmentally friendly ethically sourced cleaning products
- We use washable cloths and refillable bottles
- We use unbleached bamboo toilet paper
- We recycle our waste
- We have solar panels which provide all our electricity and export this clean energy to the grid

We have had services focussed around environmental issues, global justice, fair shares for all, and what we can practically do to make change.

We have made a list of changes / pledges for us all to choose from and adopt - approx 35 at the last count! Just a few examples:

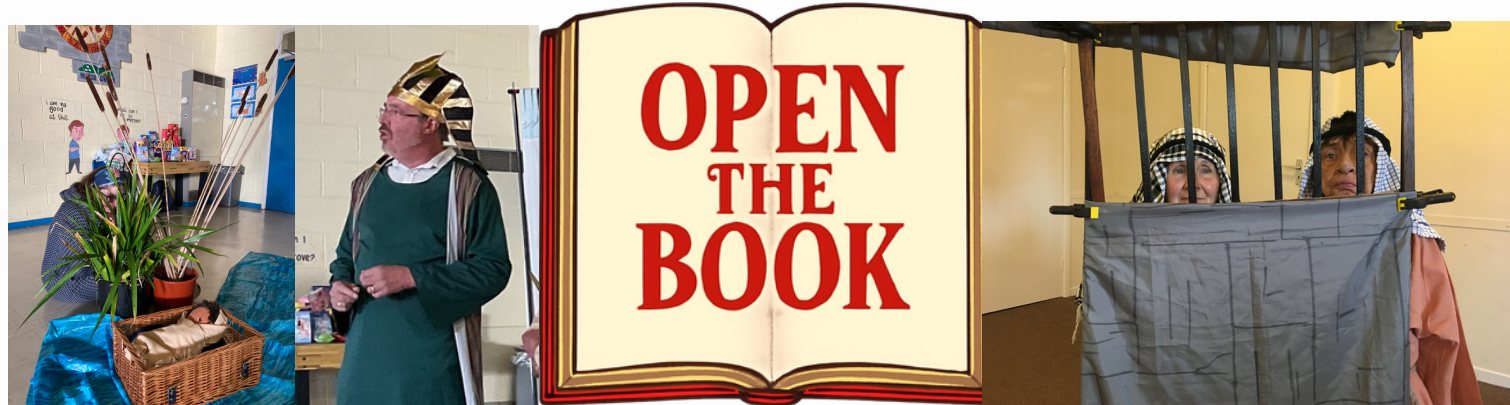
- Buy local, seasonal fruit and vegetables. (Reduce air miles and benefit from the increase in nutrients and taste).
- Go meat-free two days a week.
- Buy second-hand, not new.
- Avoid excess packaging. (Look for items that have no or minimal packaging).

As part of committing ourselves to these aims, we have used the following (from A Rocha) as a pledge prayer:

Lord of life and giver of hope,
we pledge ourselves to care for creation,
to reduce our waste, to live sustainably, and to value the rich diversity of life.
May your wisdom guide us,
that life in all its forms may flourish,
and may be faithful in voicing creation's praise.
Amen.

Rest for the ravaged earth
oceans and streams
plundered and poisoned -
our future, our dreams.
Lord, end our madness,
carelessness, greed;
make us content with
the things that we need.

(Beauty for Brokenness, by Graham Kendrick, StF 693)



CAERGWRLE

In July, our Open the Book team rounded off the school year with a fitting story entitled 'The Big Party', based on the parable of the great feast in Luke's gospel. The story gave the opportunity to involve all of the year 6 pupils in their last Open the Book assembly before moving on to high school. It was a joyous performance, enhanced by party hats, balloons, party blowers (yes, party blowers!), and music.

This year marked 11 years of visiting our two local primary schools to narrate and act out stories from the Bible. Our team was formed in February 2015 when Deacon Lisa Rathbone and Rev Adam Pawley invited members of Caergwrle Methodist Church and Hope Parish Church to a meeting to discuss the project. We were all enthused by the idea and began making regular visits to Abermorddu C.P. and Ysgol Estyn in April 2015. The visits have continued ever since, stalled only during the COVID-19 pandemic, when we kept in touch with the schools by recording videos for the pupils to watch.

Since 2015 our team has evolved. Some members have left and new members have come along, but we still remain an ecumenical team made up of Methodists, Anglicans and a Catholic, who have great fun both rehearsing and presenting the stories.

I know many of you are familiar with Open the Book and that there are other teams in the Circuit, but for the benefit of those of you who are not, Open the Book is a project managed by the Bible Society. Currently there are around 1,600 active teams in the UK and it also reaches some international communities. The materials are published by the Bible Society, and the scripted stories are delivered by 'storytellers'. Each 'performance' follows a specific format and lasts approximately 10-15 minutes. After a short introduction, we 'open the book' and the narrator begins reading the story. The story is acted out by members of the team and participating pupils, who enjoy putting on the costumes and taking part, while the pupils watching engage enthusiastically in the audience participation. This year we have incorporated Makaton sign language into the performances, ably led by Trish and volunteer pupils. At the end of the story there is a short conclusion, followed by a moment of reflection and a prayer. It is a winning recipe that engages pupils throughout and delivers the message in a fun and interactive way, which the children seem to love.

For more information please visit:

Website: <https://www.biblesociety.org.uk/getinvolved/open-the-book>

Facebook: [Open the Book storytellers](#)

Written by Sheila Bullough



LLANGOLLEN

Well, didn't we have a lovely time in Llandrillo! Having decided the general theme for our Church Away Day was to be "Joy", a small planning group looked at providing activities whilst the Church family spent time together that might just provide that experience. We met on a Saturday in a small village surrounded by beautiful countryside, using the well-appointed village hall. It was ideal for gathering all together around the piano or using other smaller rooms. Ages ranged from 4 to 92, and there was something for everyone; arts and crafts, singing, walking and exploring, photography, board games, a sewing activity, potting tomato seedlings, a treasure hunt – or just sitting in the quiet room in meditation, or sitting and having a chat. Food (and more food!) was shared and good teamwork was evident in setting up and clearing away. The Away Day was voted a success, and we hope to make it an annual event.

Our service the next day was a Local Arrangement, led by members of the congregation. The link with the theme of joy was made, especially considering the difference between what we consider to be happiness and enjoyment, and the joy that comes only from God.

Like all small congregations, we are faced with costly repairs and running costs and not enough money in the bank to meet demands. We have two buildings to maintain - both bless us in different ways but we are struggling financially to run them both. Fundraising and all its complexities have therefore been on our agenda. One of our ventures is holding open days on Saturdays over the Summer, offering a welcome to visitors to find out more about us and perhaps enjoy a cream scone and cuppa. Do pop in if you're in Llangollen.

Our big fundraising event is to be held on Friday September 18th in Llangollen Town Hall. Please feel officially invited to come to our Harvest Ceilidh! We have a Band and a Caller well able to make the evening go with a swing. Tickets will be available from Church members, from Porters delicatessen in Market Street in advance, or on the door. £10 for adults, £5 for children. Spread the word!

Written by Yvonne Davies.



Ceilidh

at
Llangollen Town Hall

Friday 18th September 2026

Doors open 6:30pm

Dancing from 7pm until 10pm

Refreshments available.

Dancing to the music of the renowned
FIVE SPEED BOX

Tickets **£10** adults. **£5** children (of school age)

Available from
Porters in Llangollen (cash only)
or on the door (card or cash)

All ages Welcome

hosted by
Llangollen Methodist Church



IN HARVEST

I taught for many years in a Hasidic Jewish School. The celebration of Harvest was always a high point in our calendar. Sukkot, the Festival of the Booths, is in the Autumn and is a seven-day celebration of the final gathering of the crops. Thanks are given for the harvest of fields and the abundance of fruits. Sukkot requires the building, outside, of a shelter or a booth. Everyone would get very excited at the prospect of seeing daddy, or brothers build a shelter from bits and pieces. Ideally all the parts are made from natural materials, and the roof is usually made from tree branches so that if you are sitting inside at night, you can see the stars.

Some scholars say the booth represents the Israelite shelters put together when they fled from Egypt. Others say that they are a reminder of the tents lived in during their long years of wandering. Meals are taken in the booth but usually people sleep in their beds rather than their ramshackle booth outside!

Jewish festivals always have interesting food that matches the celebration. Sukkot is less dependent on a special cookbook but usually there is kreplach, which is an unleavened dumpling of noodle dough and filled with meat, chicken or potato, and there is a range of stuffed savouries, to represent the abundance of a good harvest. There are fruit pies and fruit cakes and challah (bread) of various kinds.

We have a long history of human beings celebrating harvest and I know churches in the Circuit will be celebrating as usual. I remember chapels groaning with produce and intricate displays which would later be dismantled and distributed 'to the poor'. But being "poor" was a label recipients didn't much care for, so now we have a token display and give donations of money or tinned goods to Wrexham Food Bank.

At Regent Street we celebrate harvest on the 20th September and the evening before we are organising a social "get together" at 5.30 pm – 8.00 pm, with a quiz, pizza and cake for supper and "turns" if anyone wants to volunteer. You are welcome to join us and perhaps we can all say together the prayer that is said in the booth on each of the seven days of Sukkot: "Blessed are you Lord our God, King of the universe, who has granted us life, sustained us and enabled us to reach this occasion."

Written by Joyce Millington



THE METHODIST CONFERENCE 2026

I wonder how often you've asked yourself who it is that makes the decisions that our local churches are required to uphold.

The Methodist Conference met in Telford at the end of June and into the beginning of July. It's the governing body of the Methodist Church in Britain and meets each year. As part of its decision-making, it accepts diaconal and presbyteral candidates for training, receives those being ordained that year into 'Full Connexion', i.e. a covenant relationship with the Methodist Church where each ordinand and the denomination into which we are ordained makes commitments before the Ordination Services take place later on the Sunday (it always used to be on Tuesday!)

There are debates and discussions, Bible Studies and prayer, with quite a few hymns being sung. One of the major discussions this year followed a report on Assisted Dying, when Conference determined that more work needed to be done; some time was spent hearing about the lives of Palestinian Christians. Father Fadi Diab, the Anglican priest in Ramallah and David Hardman, a Methodist Minister working in the Methodist Liaison Office in Jerusalem addressed the Conference. Decisions are made that affect every church in the Methodist Connexion – we're not independent, we're connected to each other!

So who makes these decisions? People like you!

The local Church Council appoints people to the Circuit Meeting, either by virtue of the office they hold, e.g. church treasurer, senior steward, or as representatives of that local church and the numbers appointed reflect the number of members of each church.

The Circuit Meeting appoints representatives to the District Synod... ours is currently called Wales Synod Cymru but the name will change in September.

The Synod elects people to attend the Methodist Conference to make decisions on our behalf. Others are members of Conference by virtue of the office they hold in the Connexion, just as is true of a Church Council, Circuit Meeting or Synod.

So, there is a pattern – we move from Church Council to Circuit Meeting; Circuit Meeting to Synod; Synod to Conference then back to Synod, Circuit Meeting and Church Council over the course of a year. When you're wondering who makes these decisions that we are required to abide by, the answer is – people just like you who are members of their local church!

Written by Revd Marian Jones



RUABON



Tribute to Our Dear Friend and Member Mrs Esme Price 3rd February 1929 – 7th May 2026

It is with great sadness that we remember our dear friend and faithful member, Mrs Esme Price, who passed away on 7th May 2026 at the age of 97.

Esme was born in Rhosymedre on 3rd February 1929 and attended Rhosymedre Church from an early age. Throughout her life she served the church with quiet dedication, holding many positions of responsibility and leadership.

She became the church organist in her early teens and faithfully continued in that role for over 80 years. Her music accompanied countless services, weddings, baptisms and funerals, and was an important part of the worshipping life of the church.

Esme also enjoyed travelling and, together with friends from the Circuit, was able to visit the Holy Land, a journey that meant a great deal to her.

She remained a faithful member of Rhosymedre Church until its closure in May 2025. It took great courage for someone who had worshipped there all her life to propose the church's closure because of the difficulties with the building. It was a decision made with love for the church and its future.

Following the closure, Esme became part of the congregation at Ruabon Church. Although her health prevented her from attending as regularly as she would have wished, she remained interested in the life of the church and continued to support it through her prayers. Esme's faith was at the heart of everything she did. She believed deeply in the power of prayer and lived out her Christian faith with humility and quiet confidence. God was always close to her, and conversations with Esme often reflected her trust in Him. She was unafraid of death, having placed her life in God's hands. She thoughtfully chose the hymns for her funeral and the yellow roses she loved so much.

Her funeral service was held on Monday, 1st June 2026, when family and friends gathered to give thanks for a life well lived and a faith faithfully lived out.

As her church family, we miss Esme very much. We also remember with love and prayer her dear family—Jan, Vaughan, Zac and Harvey.

We give thanks to God for Esme's long life, her faithful witness, and the many ways she enriched the life of our churches. She leaves behind a legacy of service, kindness and unwavering faith that will not be forgotten.

"Well done, good and faithful servant." - Matthew 25:23

Written by Rosemary Davies



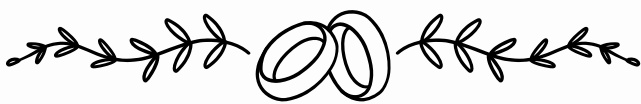
GRESFORD



Congratulations to Gaby and Josh who married on 30th May.

Gaby and Josh have become part of the church family in Gresford over the last year, and their wedding was a lovely event.

We wish them God's blessing and a long and happy life together.



Congratulations to Bethan and Craig who married on May 23rd.

The weather was perfect and it was a joyous and happy occasion. The couple honeymooned in Greece. They are residing in Duckinfield, Manchester.

Sandra and Richard wish to thank all their friends at Gresford Methodist Church for their best wishes.





THE POSITIVES OF SAFEGUARDING

The report, 'Courage, Cost and Hope' was a pivotal moment for safeguarding in the Methodist Church. Ten years later, I am still reminded by many, in particular ecumenical colleagues, as to what an ambitious and progressive report this was. I continue to be proud to be told that Methodist safeguarding is 'ahead of the game' and my counterparts from our ecumenical partners often tell me that they 'watch and wait' to see what we do.

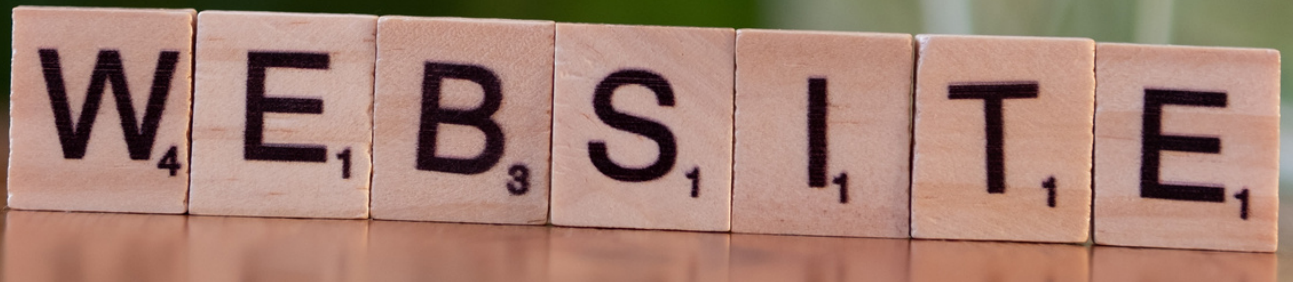
When you mention the word 'safeguarding' it represents what some see as unnecessary obstacles and administrative overload. I continue to meet with my Methodist colleagues during my working days and when asked where I work and/or what I do the reply of 'safeguarding' will sometimes result in a frown or a cynical remark. I do not take this personally but realise there is still some way to go in enlightening people that safeguarding is about looking after each other and ensuring our churches and church communities are safe for all. Safeguarding should be seen as natural with resulting positive actions and not something that gets in the way.

I continue to work with the media team to try and convey the positive aspects of safeguarding. It can be difficult at times as there are issues of confidentiality and consent at play, alongside the need to be sensitive. In safeguarding we cannot shout from the rooftops what we have done well for the aforementioned reasons, and believe me there are many positive news stories.

There are related areas that have been publicised and this has included the 'God Welcomes All' study resource where a pilot group wrote about their positive experiences and resulting changes in their attitude and ways of working when they completed the study. More recently, an article was featured which reflected on aspects of the hit TV series *Traitors*, cleverly relating them to safeguarding in our churches. The sharing of good news stories will continue and hopefully help to ensure safeguarding continues to be important in all we do.

The implementation of the recommendations from the report 'Courage, Cost and Hope' continue to make a significant difference to our work, in particular working closely with and listening to survivors. We still have some way to go but will continue to work hard, engaging with and supporting others to embed a culture of safeguarding throughout our churches and church communities.

This blog was written by Karen Allen, Regional Safeguarding Manager for the North East, as part of a series reflecting on ten years since the Past Cases Review.



CIRCUIT WEBSITE

If I had a penny for every time I've heard someone say that communications in the Circuit could be better - or variations on that theme - I might not be rich, but I'd have a nice little spending pot for my holidays!

Hopefully all this is about to change! Our Circuit now has its own website at www.wrexhammethodistcircuit.org.uk

The plan is that it becomes a one-stop shop for details of Circuit and Church news; information on who is preaching where and when, one-off special events and regular happenings around the Circuit, contact details, Circuit and Methodist policies, meeting minutes and more. It includes a section for each church, as well as maps showing where they are and details of anything else it might be useful to know about that church.

So, no more need to scrabble about looking for a Plan to find out who is preaching next Sunday, or searching the back of old envelopes to find the one on which you wrote the date of an upcoming event or service, or racking your brains for the date of the next Circuit Meeting, or wondering what was said at a Church or Circuit meeting that you missed - all this will be together on the website.

Of course, this will take some working on to reach its full potential. And, obviously, we can only add information that we've been given. So please take a look at what's there already, and make sure you send me details of upcoming events at your church, dates of Church Councils and anything else you'd like to share with the rest of the Circuit family.

You can send information to the Circuit office or to naomipastoral@hotmail.com

Written by Naomi Squire