



The Link

CHANDLER'S FORD Methodist Church

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June 2024

<https://www.cfmethodist.church/>

CCL 30794

Staff Team

- Rev Ruth Fry** Minister – Day off Friday
ruth.fry@methodist.org.uk (01962 882 828)
- Jane Padley** Pastoral Assistant – day off Monday
cfmc_jane@hotmail.co.uk (023 8026 6180)
- James Wilkins** Caretaker
- Glenn Stephens** Property Manager
property@cfmethodist.church (07753 167 098)
- Ellie Purkiss** Youth Worker – day off Monday
ellie@cfmethodist.church (07708 501 191)
- Weekly notices** by noon on Wednesday – also ***The Link***
richardwright@outlook.com (07905 115 140)
- Katrina Neale** Church Centre Manager
katrina@cfmethodist.church (023 8026 0128)
- Room Booking bookings@cfmethodist.church
- Sonia Craig** Circuit Administrator
weradmin@wermethodist.onmicrosoft.com

We have accounts on the following social media channels
(you can just search for Chandler's Ford Methodist Church):

Facebook – @ChFordMethodist

X – @ChFordMethodist

Instagram – @Chandlers_ford_methodist

We post different things on each so if you use any of the above,
please “like” or “follow” as appropriate and most importantly
then “share” or “retweet” our posts so we can reach others
and increase our online congregation.

For activities for Children and Young People,
see the **CFMC Youth and Children's Work Facebook** page.

For Boys' and Girls' Brigades, adult activities and *The Link*
see our website: <http://cfmethodist.church/>



From our Minister

Rev Ruth Fry

Dear friends,

In my March message to you all I spoke about worship and about the third Sunday of the month Service at 11:00 am. Further reflections on our worshipping life as a church have led me to suggest that we discontinue these Services for now and rethink our whole approach to worship.

In the past churches used to have Worship Services for adults with a 'children's talk' before the youngsters would then leave for their Sunday school or Junior church groups. There would usually be an 'All age' Service once a month when everyone would stay in and worship together. This model has now been proved by researchers on worship in churches to have been one reason, not by any means the only one, why many of these children and young people have not continued their engagement with church.

I am one of a tiny handful of my peers who grew up attending church and Sunday school weekly who are still engaged with church certainly in the Methodist tradition. Of course, not all has been in vain and a great many of these people would still describe themselves as spiritual and many have kept their faith in God.

The buzz word a few years ago in terms of worship seemed to shift from being 'All age' to 'Intergenerational'. This still doesn't quite seem to fit with what I hope we wish to be as a church when we come together to worship though which is to be fully inclusive of everyone.

Ellie – our children, youth and families’ Pastor – and Jane Padley our Pastoral assistant recently attended a Conference on ‘Worship for everyone’ at St Luke’s Gas Street in Birmingham, which is a large and thriving Anglican church in the centre of the city. (See Jane’s article about the conference on page 10).

On their return we met together as a team as we do every week and decided it would be helpful for all of us to pray, and to listen to what we believe God is saying to us about the 11:00 am Services. If we can manage to do this and do it well, I firmly believe the church will begin to grow. It will of course take time and patience, but it is possible. It’s happened at Romsey Methodist Church and closer to home at St Francis Valley Park.

Breakfast church monthly, Sunday evening worship monthly and Thursday morning worship weekly we propose keeping in the style and format they already are, as these all seem to be working well for those who regularly attend.

As a result of everything I’ve outlined above you are warmly invited to come along on **Thursday 13th June** at 7.30 pm to the **Worship Action Team** meeting (see page 7) and share your thoughts and ideas as we journey together in discerning the way forward.

Every blessing,

Ruth

Services

JUNE

Bible Month

- Sunday 2nd** 9:30 am Breakfast Church – Ellie Purkiss
11:00 am Sunday Worship – Rev Ruth Fry
- Thursday 6th** 10:30 am Midweek Service – Rev Peter Rayson
- Sunday 9th** 9:30 am Holy Communion – Rev Ruth Fry
11:00 am Sunday Worship – Rev Ruth Fry
- Thursday 13th** 10:30 am Midweek Service – Dr Mike Wood
- Sunday 16th** 11:00 am Intergenerational Service
– Rev Ruth Fry and Ellie Purkiss
6:30 pm Evening Service – Rev Bob Kitching
- Thursday 20th** 10:30 am Midweek Service – Rev Ruth Fry
- Sunday 23rd** 11:00 am Sunday Worship – Elizabeth Britton
- Thursday 27th** 10:30 am Midweek Service – Rev John Archer
- Sunday 30th** 11:00 am Sunday Worship with Holy Communion
– Rev Bryan Coates

JULY

- Thursday 4th** 10:30 am Midweek Service – Barbara Hillier
- Sunday 7th** 9:30 am Breakfast Church – Ellie Purkiss
11:00 am Sunday Worship – Rev Ruth Fry

JUNE

- Saturday 1st** 2:30 pm Tea in the Garden at 3 Grosvenor Road
(see page 17)
- Monday 3rd** 7:30 pm General Church Meeting in the Church
- Thursday 6th** 10:00 am Regional Theology Forum (see page 9)
7:30 pm Evening with Colin Elliot & Roy Drenang
(see page 17)
- Friday 7th** 1:30 pm Dovetail Group in Meeting Room 1
- Thursday 13th** 7:30 pm Worship Action Team at the Church
(see page 7)
- Friday 21st** 1:30 pm Dovetail Group in Meeting Room 1
- Monday 24th** 2:00 pm Meet the Author (see page 17)
- Wednesday 26th** Deadline for the July/August edition of *The Link*
- Thursday 27th** 1:00 pm Reflection Service at Canada Common
(see page 16)
- Saturday 29th** Resources Work Party (see page 7)
9:00 am – 4:00 pm Sale of bric a brac and cakes
at St Maurice's Covert, Winchester (see page 17)

Dovetail Café Monday to Friday 9:30 am (Saturday 10 am) until 12 noon

- Every Tuesday** 2:30 pm Women's Fellowship (page 14)
- Every Wednesday** 1:45 pm Dovetots in the Church Hall
- Every Friday** 3:30 pm Kids Club in the Dovetail Centre



Message Board

The next edition of *The Link* will be for July/August.
Send items by **Wednesday 26th June 2024** to:
Richard Wright (richardwright@outlook.com)

Resources Work Party on Saturday 29th June. We are planning a work party on Saturday morning, to give the grounds a bit of a tidy-up (or indoors if raining). As last time, refreshments are available from the Dovetail Cafe. Please let Tim Padley or Glenn (property@cfmethodist.church) know if you intend to come, or if there is a particular job you would like to do.

Exciting Volunteer opportunity – Our fun Saturday Café team has dwindled to three and we are seeking to recruit a couple of new members. No previous experience required other than a sense of humour! We are in the kitchen from around 9:45 am until about 12:15 pm, usually twice a quarter. Free flowing coffee and abundant conversation. It is irresistible! Barbara Ackroyd, Geoff Thomas or Diane Pugh would love to hear from you.

The next **Worship action team meeting** is on **Thursday 13th June** at 7:30 pm. We feel God is calling us to stop the monthly Intergenerational Services. Everyone is warmly invited to attend this worship meeting to pray together and discern what God may be saying to us as a church about our worshipping life together. Please do come along and join in.

A very big thank you to all who helped in any way with **Fryern Funtasia**, especially those who got soaked or stuck in the mud! We couldn't run this sort of event without you all. It was such a shame that the weather was so bad, but the plant stall did really

well taking about £500. The refreshments total suffered because we bought too much stock, but still made over £300 – and we still have some of the stock! The total on the day was £843 but after selling off rolls and more plants, the final total is now £935.

General Church Meeting
Monday 3rd June at 7:30 pm in the Church

Everyone is invited and encouraged to attend this important annual meeting with a reminder that only Methodist church members may vote at the meeting.

The purpose of the meeting is for fellowship, for sharing the annual report which goes to the charity commission and outlines all aspects of the work of CFMC over the past year including the finances, to elect Church Stewards for the year ahead and to elect Church Council reps for the year ahead. All Stewards and Church Council reps are appointed and reappointed annually at the General Church Meeting.

There is a need for at least 6 more reps to the Church Council to be elected, preferably from areas in the life of the church which are not currently adequately represented. This year there will also be an update on the *30 Years On* project, making it more important than ever that as many people as possible are able to attend.

Copies of the Annual Report are available to read before the meeting via email or in a hard copy.

Southampton Regional Theology Forum

John Evans

The next meeting is at 10:00 am on **Thursday 6th June** in Romsey Methodist Church. Our discussion will be led by Professor Keith Fox, Emeritus Professor at the University of Southampton and Emeritus Director of the Faraday Institute for Science and Religion: Modifying Our Genes: Theology, Science and “Playing God”.

Sunday Morning Coffee Rota

Beth Roberts (bethmroberts21@gmail.com)

JUNE

2nd Breakfast team
9th Good News Group
16th Merryman team
23^d Bailey team
(tba after Service)
30th Oakmount Group

JULY

7th Breakfast team
14th Good News Group
21st Merryman team
28th Bailey team
(tba after Service)

Do you enjoy a coffee before or after the Sunday Service?

We have a very small group of volunteers who make and serve coffee for you – and this group is shrinking, thus jeopardising the ability to provide refreshment for you. Please could you consider volunteering to help (training can be given). There is one vacancy open to provide coffee just after the Service. Please contact Beth Roberts if you can help: bethmroberts21@gmail.com.

Your help is needed.

Worship for Everyone

Jane Padley

In May Ellie and I had the opportunity of a training day; **'Equip 2024; Worship for Everyone.'** It was a chance to meet others from around the country at Gas Street a large canal side church in the centre of Birmingham. It was a beautiful setting, a brick-built pump house, with arches, that was used to manufacture gas to power street-lamps across the city. Now transformed into a Holy Place bringing Light to the city and beyond. The Equip Conference brought that light and inspiration to us. We started with Worship then went into different seminars.

The theology of **Worship for Everyone** was introduced by Nick and Becky Drake the founders. They are also the writers of some of the Worship Songs we use in Breakfast Church and our intergenerational worship. He used the first verse from Hebrews Chapter 11. 'Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.'

Nick explained he had been having a hard time with all age worship and felt it really wasn't working and he was wanting to stop it, but his leadership team encouraged him, and he started writing the songs, and as they were introduced things changed. There was synergy as they were leading with faith and creativity, it was elevating the children and elevating adults as they were engaging with God together. They were also growing the church younger; Worship for Everyone was born.

The second seminar I attended was led by Katherine Hill from Care for the Family, about wanting our children to flourish but their world is so different from ours, how do we parent well? We had a look at the challenges and how to form good practices to build children's resilience and boost emotional wellbeing.

For me one of the greatest things about the day was to be in the room together. There were lots of opportunities to share ideas and learn from one another, as well as be inspired and have reflective prayer. It was a really envisioning day of hope, light and inspiration. So do come along to Breakfast Church at 9:30 am on the first Sunday of the month, and to our Intergenerational Service at 11:00 am on the third Sunday of the month, to continue to share Worship for Everyone at CFMC.

Methodist Women in Britain

Joyce Powell (Church rep. to Circuit MWiB team)

“Words create Worlds” was the title of the MWiB Conference this year back in April. I was not able to be at Swanwick in person this year but I managed to watch some of it on Zoom. The talk that fascinated me the most was the one given by Rev. Jenny Pathmarajah on ‘Linguistics. Her first degree was in this subject. This may sound dry but Jenny gave an entertaining and fun talk.

She began by telling us about languages in the world. Apparently Papua New Guinea has the most different languages, 839 in all, because it is formed by various tribes which all have their own language because of the mountainous landscape which kept them apart for many years. Thousands of languages have become extinct. If not used, a language will become extinct and one dies every fourteen days. Didn’t know that! The Bible is now available in 2454 languages, thanks largely due to the Bible Society whose work of translation continues.

Have you ever been aware that men and women use language differently? I hadn’t. Women are generally more polite, they swear less and interrupt less. Men are comfortable with silence, not so women. Jenny says quite a bit more about this. Worth listening to. We use language according to our culture. One

example Jenny gave was our use of the saying, “It’s raining cats and dogs”. We know that means it’s raining heavily but literally it doesn’t make sense!

That led Jenny to remind us that the Bible was written over 1,000 years ago and language changes over time. There are now over 200 versions of the Bible in English. It is interesting just to compare the translations we have easily to hand as we did in a recent house group Bible Study. This helped us understand it better. Jenny concluded by saying that our words, even as Christians can hurt or heal, and we must be aware of this and take responsibility as we use them.

I have only given you a taster from one session but I am delighted to say you can now see this talk and all the main sessions of the Conference on the MWiB Youtube channel by going to mwib.org.uk and following the link. I shall be catching up on those I missed as soon as I can.

Southampton District Event

A “**Sharing Day**” on **Thursday 11th July** at Romsey Methodist Church. There will be a choice of workshops in the morning and then, in the afternoon, we will come together to share. I will let you know what the workshops are when I find out and put them in the notices.

A Rocha Calendar for June

Join #30DaysWild. One of A Rocha UK’s firm beliefs is that we are more likely to nurture and defend God’s creation if we spend time enjoying it. The Wildlife Trusts’ *30 Days Wild* challenge is a great opportunity to engage with nature as an individual, household, or with your church community throughout June. Find some wild ideas at:

<https://www.wildlifetrusts.org/30dayswild>.

Hand in Hand Puppet Team

Sarah Sprack & Elisabeth Greenham

We wanted to share an exciting new initiative that the puppet team have just started. On Saturday 11th May we ventured into Care Home Ministry! The puppets were invited to The Cedars Care Home in Landford, where we performed on “Memory Lane” - to primarily residents with dementia.

The show was really well attended and it was so encouraging to hear some of the residents singing along to the songs. We purposely chose old songs based on originals by Elvis Presley, The Temptations, The Beach Boys and Buddy Holly to name a few. Some of the residents really appreciated meeting the puppets after the show.

Future bookings & news

We are looking forward to performing at the St Andrews Beach Party event in June, and Messy Church at St Francis in July. We have recently started planning and writing our Christmas show, and we are also hoping to put on a puppet workshop in the coming months to encourage potential new members.

About us

The Hand in Hand Puppet Team is run by volunteers and we currently have a dedicated team of 9 – ranging in ages from 12 years old to adult.

We are always looking to expand our team, so if you are interested in finding out more please contact Elisabeth or Sarah (handpuppetteam@gmail.com). We meet weekly on a Tuesday evening at church. There is no charge to join. We welcome all ages (from year 6 upwards to adult) and particularly encourage families to join together. Please note that any adults wishing to join need to be DBS checked and attend Safer Space Training as

per Methodist Church guidelines. Please pray for the team in our ministry, particularly for our young people who we are so proud of, as they grow in faith, confidence and leadership.



Women's Fellowship

Penny Criswick

7/5 **Roger Clark** was here to talk to us again today and this time his talk was about penguins, and focussed on the mighty and remarkable Emperor Penguins. Roger is an acclaimed, professional wildlife photographer, so the photographs which accompanied the talk were second to none – from the touching parent and chick portraits to the splendid landscapes. They told the story of the lives of the birds-their individual and collective existences.

The story behind Roger's 2016 was also remarkable. He made the journey to Antarctica not once but twice. Roger was determined to pay tribute to his late daughter by studying and recording the birds she admired, but also wanted to celebrate his own passion for photography and wildlife. In common with his previous talk – "Searching for Lisa", there was a certain irony in that Roger arrived back from the rigours and expenditure of the first trip to discover that his photographs were of King Penguins and not Emperor penguins! So, undeterred, Roger set out on a second expedition to achieve the goal he sought. We were the lucky beneficiaries of this journey along with the charity Roger supports in his daughter's memory – Reseach into ovarian cancer.

14/5 Today was the promised day for Barbara's Auction, but a dreaded cold virus had struck! It denied our gracious leader not only the use of her vocal chords but also her annual glee at wielding her auctioneer's gavel! In her stead, **Brenda Syrratt** was

drafted in at short notice to conduct proceedings. A swift decision was made to have a leisurely bring and buy sale. To atone for the disappointment, we were consoled with the promise of an early extended tea and chat break. We at the Fellowship enjoy our tea, chatter, and catching up with friends and so a pleasant afternoon ensued. Brenda was ably assisted by **Jenny Heal**, and the various items we had donated were dispatched to their new homes. This made a wonderful profit of over £190, which will be going to *Christian Aid*.

21/5 A great deal of planning and preparation goes into our Anniversary celebrations – all co-ordinated and masterminded by our wonderful leader, Barbara. As usual, Barbara handed out a great number of bouquets, gifts and thanks and yet had somehow left herself off the list! It was good to have you back, Barbara, and the voice held out – in spite of a still troublesome cough.

We had some favourite congregational Hymns – sung with great enthusiasm and enjoyment. Barbara then told her favourite evergreen story about our three founding ladies (in case there were any newcomers). We heard two beautiful solos from Anna Ruff – one unaccompanied and the other accompanied by Chris Warren's beautiful playing on piano. Then it was the turn of our guest speaker, **Peter Rayson**.

Peter began by telling us how Methodist ministers are not only encouraged to pursue a hobby – but also engage in another role. Peter has happily found a job that he loves as a duty Chaplain at Westminster Abbey. It was fascinating to hear how this role is fulfilled by a different Minister each week – mostly Anglican, but Peter is one of only two Methodist ministers who spend the required week in residence at the Abbey and are kept busy from

7:00 am in the morning to the close of each day with Evensong, sung by the wonderful choir of Westminster.

Not only do they take daily prayers at 7:30 am each day, but they also take part in a number of other Services, as well as being ever ready to engage with visitors to the Abbey – whether welcoming, answering questions, listening to confessions or praying. And with such a wealth of history as this building contains, no doubt a great deal of homework is needed to answer visitors' questions!

Then it was time for the bunfight and what a feast we had laid out for us! Ample supplies of tea washed down all our favourite goodies and a time for fellowship and meeting up with new friends and old.

We meet on Tuesday afternoons at 2:30 pm in the Dovetail Centre:

June	4th	Peter Merritt: Lakeside Railway
	11th	Chris Stuckey
	18th	Barbara Hillier – Return to the Hebrides
	25th	Elizabeth Britton
July	2nd	Garden Party at 24 Nichol Road
	9th	Some of our favourite hymns

Canada Common Chapel events

Peter Castle (pandccastle@hotmail.co.uk)

Canada Common Chapel, Canada Common, West Wellow SO51 6DH. On **Thursday 27th June** at 1:00 pm, the **Reflection Service** will be taken from the Bible Month study of Genesis session two “On the God who calls and blesses”. During the Service, Sarah Chinn from the British Charity Cambodia Action will talk about her missionary work in Cambodia. Sarah is also

an assistant for the Civil Society Forum for the office of the Council of Ministers, Royal Government of the Kingdom of Cambodia. Local Lay Pastor Peter Castle will lead the Service with Communion. Please come and hear about Sarah's work and calling as she is interviewed by Peter.

The annual Canada Common "**Coffee on the Common**" (COC) will start on **Thursday 4th July** and run every Thursday morning from 10:00 am to 12 noon until the end of August (please note the slight change of time).

Joint Churches Together in Wellow have decided to support the charity **Men's Shed** (and Women) with 50% of any of the donations taken (less costs). Julian, one of the Men's Shed Trustees, has agreed to put a table in the Chapel to highlight their work in the community. Also a new Art Group who have recently leased the premises for their meetings, have been approached to display their work round the inside of the Chapel. Peter will also be sending a request form in June for COC volunteers.

The popular **Canada Common Open-Air Service** will take place at 2:30 pm on **Sunday 28th July** on the Common opposite the Chapel. The Theme is **Life and Light**.



30 Years On fund-raising

Barbara Lowe

Barbara Ackroyd, Diane Pugh and Barbara Lowe are co-ordinating fund-raising events to ensure that dates don't clash. Please come to us with your ideas – whether for big events or relatively small activities!

We know that fund raising is already going on – for example **Cake Sales** and **Saturday bacon baps**, but we need to up the pace and plan ahead. Do put the following dates in your diary!

30 Years On Fundraising events in June

Saturday 1st June – Gill and John Bronsdon will be hosting **tea and cake in their garden** (3 Grosvenor Road) from 2:30 pm.

An evening with **Colin Elliot & Roy Dreading**, Christian Singers/Songwriters from Northern Ireland, on **Thursday 6th June** at 7:30 pm in the Dovetail Centre. Donations for *30 Years On* project. Refreshments available to purchase.

A quiz about **Church Architecture and Furniture** is now available. We are asking for a donation of £1 for a copy in aid of the restoration fund. The date to return your sheet is now **Sunday 9th June** and there is a box in the Dovetail Centre waiting for them. Do have a go – there is a prize! – Joyce Powell

“Meet the Author”. Sohail Husain will be coming to the Dovetail Centre on **Monday 24th June** at 2:00 pm to share the story of his parents journey and the writing of his book. £5 entry for *30 Years On*. Tea and Cake included! Opportunity to buy “Beyond Beliefs” and have it personally signed.

Caroline Husain has booked St Maurice’s Covert for **Saturday 29th June** for a Church fund-raising stall (for *30 Years On*). We will be looking for any unwanted items that you might have, plus cakes. We also need people to man the stall (for a half or full day) and to take things up to Winchester and back on the day. If you can help in any way please let her know.