

Taunton Deane & South Sedgemoor Methodist Circuit



Churches Reports for the
Circuit Meeting

June 2025

A Pilgrim People...

Thank you to those who have compiled and contributed to these reports. The styles used are varied, but each gives an indication of the work and ministry of the church.

You might wonder why we do this each year. The reason I think we do it is to give us a chance to review what has happened in our particular church community over the past year, and to share with the Circuit our hopes and dreams and prayers for the next.

Perhaps we regard the things we do as just 'the things we do' – because as the Body of Christ, we are doing what we can to reflect God's love in the world. I know that people are feeling anxious, or pressured, and that the sense of what we lack can sometimes overwhelm our sense of hope. But I also know that there are so many good and encouraging things happening around the Circuit – places where the church congregation is listening to its community, is faithfully praying for guidance over where God is leading, and is then stepping out in risky faith. I think it is good to notice and to celebrate the impact of those things.

Paul in his letter to the new Christians in Ephesus prayed:

¹⁸ I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, ¹⁹ and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is the same as the mighty strength ²⁰ he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, ²¹ far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every name that is invoked, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. ²² And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, ²³ which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.

Ephesians 1:18-23

That same power that raised Christ from the dead is in us, and in his church, his Body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.....

Let us never forget who and whose we are.

Every message we write about our church community forms a narrative, and it interesting how we choose to 'tell our church's story'. Read your church's report again. Could you tell your church's story another way? Or is it saying all that you want to tell others in the Circuit about your church?

Thank you for all that you are and do.

Deborah

TEMPLE



Report Summary

Temple maintains a steady 50-70 attendance each week for Sunday services and has an active congregation taking part in church life, contributing to its ministry and work. The 3-Church partnership with Taunton URC

and St John's continues with joint study days/sessions in Lent and Advent, shared events, and 5-6 joint services during the year. We have an active weekly event calendar attended by both Temple members and friends with growing attendance for PopIn and the Mid-week service on Wednesdays. Our outreach work continues with grants for PopIn as a Warm Space, and developing our relationship with U3A. We are continuing to develop Our Methodist Way of Life, with NOTICE as this year's main theme, and carrying on with the Green Temple (FLOURISH), Bible studies (SHARE), and Prayer45 (PRAYER) begun in the last couple of years.

Church Life

Services

Sunday services maintain a steady congregation of 50-70 people. We also have steady numbers of about 16 for early communion on the 3rd Sunday each month. Also on the 3rd Sunday we have a church family breakfast following Communion which is well attended. Cake and Conversation on the second Sunday of each month which uses the principles of 'Transforming Conversation' contributes to the variety of opportunities to participate in worship at Temple. The mid-week service is increasingly well attended with around 20 + regular attenders, not all of whom attend Temple on Sundays.

Pastoral

Our congregation has reduced a little over the year, with some members moving away from Taunton for work or to be closer to family and sadly, several long-standing members have died this year. We miss them. We also have a growing number of members unable to attend on a Sunday for health reasons. On a brighter note, we have also been able to welcome several new people to Temple, some of whom work at Musgrove Park Hospital.

Methodist Way of Life

This year it was decided to work on "NOTICE", intentionally looking for God in our lives, in others, and in the world.

Bible Study

A previous Methodist way of Life focus, we continue to hold themed bible studies through the year, the latest being on the St John's Gospel in preparation for Bible Month in July.

Green Temple

This year Temple achieved its ARocha Eco Church Bronze Award. The Green Temple group are not sitting on their laurels but continuing to work to raise awareness, holding an Environmental service in March and organising a quiz evening in July. Many of our toilet cubicles are now 'twinned' with toilets in other parts of the world.

Citizens Somerset

Involvement with the community organising work of Citizens Somerset is seen as an important element of our Christian witness, standing alongside others in the community who work for improvement in Street Safety, Homelessness, and the Real Living Wage.

Church Groups

PopIn

The last few months at Pop-In, our designated Warm Space, have been vibrant and welcoming, with up to 40+ people actively participating in various activities and staying for lunch, although some of the older members are missing due to increasing frailty. The number of people staying for lunch following the mid-week service is increasing as well. PopIn has also been the recipient of a Warm Spaces grant.

Thursday Afternoon Group

The Thursday Afternoon Group, though small in numbers ran a varied programme of guest speakers over the year, covering a diverse range of topics from postcards, to rewilding nature, to India and Nepal.

Film Night

Film night is now a regular bi-monthly event, with a growing group of attendees. The highlight was an audience of 30+ for the film Conclave. Other

films have included 'Paddington in Peru', 'Fly me to the Moon', 'The Dig' and 'A Beautiful Day in the Neighbourhood'. These are also opportunities to invite non-church friends to the party!

Church and Community Worker

It is estimated that around 500 people come through our doors each week. The majority to take part in the wide range of U3A courses, choirs, and many other groups who value the hospitality and the accessible space. We regularly host music concerts and the use of the premises for music classes is growing. We recently welcomed back some Somerset Council lettings, though this is still down on previous years due to their ongoing financial constraints.

This is possible thanks to the work and dedication of our Church & Community Worker, Joanna Rossiter, who is supported by a very loyal and regular group of church members. One of the stewards now assists with the 'housekeeping' role supporting the procurement of day to day resources, and we are very grateful to those who assist with the ongoing property tasks on a regular basis.

Finance

We continue to run at a deficit of about the same as last year. We are grateful that some continue to support the roof fund with monthly gifts and we have reduced the outstanding amount considerably.

BRIDGWATER



God has been faithful through the year and much is happening which encourages us for the years to come.

Last year we reported on one major change of welcoming a Romanian Pentecostal Congregation onto our premises and they use the Church on Friday and Sunday evenings for services

and prayer meetings. We can now report we have also welcomed a Brazilian Pentecostal congregation who use the Church House for several hours on Saturdays. In addition an NHS Hub uses the Church House on Tuesday afternoons. It is pleasing that the premises are being used more frequently and

the rent we receive has helped with our financial situation. We are receiving other enquiries about hiring the premises from other organisations and if the Workwise Charity which operates in Taunton is able to expand their work into Bridgwater they will use our premises. All this will hopefully result in increased lets and revenue.

We hold services in the Church during the summer months when heating costs are not an issue, but we are happy to use the hall again in the winter, to reduce bills. The atmosphere has been good, and our preachers continue to approve of it. With the weather now improved, we have reverted to holding services in the Church again. We now have a loop system in the hall, which enhances the services for those with hearing aids. Having Wi-Fi on the premises has improved things for both our congregation and our users.

As we have a relatively small congregation, we are limited in what we can do, but we are keen to try, and we still dream and pray. We are now beginning to see some signs of encouragement and are pleased to be working with our Minister, Rev Annie Deche, who has been with us now for nearly three years. Our Sunday congregations remain steady, and we have continued to welcome new people to our Church, including those seeking asylum from the hotel at Junction 24, whom we are getting to know and are helping to support. We have come to know all of them as friends, so when they are relocated, it is a great loss to us all. We hope the Circuit will support us to plan a Carol Service at the end of the year and maybe buy some gifts for the children as this was warmly received when we did it in 2023.

We are pleased to report that Messy Church has continued monthly from 1.30pm-3pm on the third Saturday of each month. Numbers of families attending has remained stable and everyone attending enjoys the activities on a Biblical theme and the food and games provided. We are grateful for the support and help we get from our congregation, and we still hope to expand our Messy Church by creating special activities for our older children. We make use of our Messy Church Facebook page to advertise, as well as providing posters for the schools.

Outreach to the community in the Bridgwater area includes our Friday Coffee/Play break for toddlers and their parents and carers, allowing parents and carers to chat whilst their toddlers play together. This is going well, and many children are brought by their parents. They also have a Facebook page.

We hold Coffee and Chat Sessions on most Monday or Tuesday afternoons each week and hope to have more weekday activities in time.

Business meetings and groups held are: Council Meetings, Finance and Property Committee, Planning Committee, Stewards Meetings, and a Pastoral Meeting. We had a successful Annual Away Day for a time of Bible Study and fellowship, and we have planned another one in September this year.

Unfortunately, our evening 'Encounter Service' held at the Bridgwater Church House on the last Friday of the month, led by Annie was called off due to poor attendance, however we have had a series of Bible studies during Lent from the Conference resources entitled 'Soul Food' and we have now begun the Bible month literature; both are led by Rev, Stuart Innalls in our Church House on planned Wednesday evenings.

We have continued with our annual Christmas Tree Festival, with a concert on the Friday, and we opened our premises to the Carnival crowds last November as usual. The latter was very successful and raised much-needed funds but also provided a very welcome and much-appreciated service at the same time. We have planned to hold both events again this year and are thankful for many who come out to support us from the Circuit on carnival night.

Social events include our annual outing, weekly Coffee and Chat, and meals, either bring and share, catered for by congregation members, or enjoyed at local restaurants. A group continues to have a regular Sunday lunch together after the morning service.

We continue to donate to Methodist and other charities, including Christian Aid, and annually, we have a Christmas collection of toys and gifts for local or national charities.

We continue holding an annual quiz, to which other members of the Circuit are invited, and all proceeds are donated to Christian Aid. Our Lent Appeal this year was for the provision of olive trees for Gaza through the charity Embrace and donations to the local foodbank. We continue to support the charity Embrace (formerly the Bible Lands Society), through funds donated for coffee and tea following Sunday morning services.

We enjoy our ecumenical links with the Baptist Church and St John's Church.

We currently have 35 members and we look forward to receiving some more members and reinstating one member who has returned to us after many years; the average weekly attendance on Sunday mornings is 22.

Our biggest threats are still financial and the relatively small congregation who have a large elderly building to look after!

ROWBARTON



Strengths

- As a congregation we love each other showing an inclusive, friendly welcome to all. This spreads into our supportive pastoral network.
- Our membership and attendees are loyal with a good group of church and property stewards. We have some very generous members and attenders, so we have been able to cover essential expenditure.
- Deaf Church 3rd Sunday afternoon each month
- Our accommodation rooms are warm, light, and airy, thus supporting activities such as 'The Mix'. The buildings are well maintained.
- We are willing to try new ventures within the community including involvement through The Pantry Hub and Food Bank.
- We support the Circuit, work with the North Taunton Churches, joint services with St Andrew's, 'Messy Church' and 'Easter Cracked'
- We actively support RAfT, TWR, the annual church charity and our Methodist funds.
- We have a dedicated excellent organist for services.
- Skilled operators for our digital projection that can be used for services, training and any venue, giving variety.

- Younger people who are attending the church.
- Capacity to make further use of the premises

Weaknesses

- Our age range is unbalanced with a predominantly elderly congregation and some children. We do not have a Junior Church.
- We lack a large car park.
- Our geographical location is both a strength and weakness.
- An aging membership makes completing tasks harder and falls onto fewer hands.
- The Methodist “system” can mean it takes a long time before some decisions can be made.
- Attenders are often cautious about becoming actual members.

Opportunities

- We are a neighbourhood church with a growing multicultural community.
- Working together with other North Taunton Churches.
- We can add to our worship using YouTube clips.
- Providing the Pantry Hub presents opportunities to engage more fully with the community.
- Good social space for more events, groups, and meetings.
- We are relatively well placed for transport links giving opportunity for wider attendance.
- To encourage the younger people
- Capacity to make further use of the premises.

Threats

- The gradual decline in the size of the congregation due to age and ill health.
- A lack of people volunteering to undertake roles and tasks.
- The potential loss of Kilkenny Car Park.
- There is some apathy – volunteers can be difficult to find.
- A smaller, increasingly elderly congregation could impact on the upkeep of the premises and on ministry within the community.
- Risk of burn-out for some members having to do too much individually.

LISIEUX WAY



**We Commit Ourselves to : Great
Worship + Loving Fellowship +
Mature Discipleship + Using our gifts
in Service + Sharing Jesus Christ**

We are a small church, Membership is 30 and average attendance on Sunday mornings is around 15-20. We continue to attract a small number of new people.

We have just celebrated the 30th anniversary of the building of our church!!

Strengths

Our Local Arrangement services, led by our Worship Enabler and supported by others, are valued by the congregation; and we have 'local' musicians who lead the singing about once a month.

Annie and Peter are involved in conducting school assemblies at least once a term – and are seeking to find ways to encourage use of the Church and Gardens by the school

We share monthly services at a local care home, and have been pleased to welcome the residents into church for services at Harvest and Christmas. For the future, we hope to extend this to other local care homes.

Bible Study Group and Women's Fellowship are regular events. This year, we shared an extended 'harvest weekend' which included a coffee morning, meal, and 'come and sing' event, alongside the harvest service. We have enjoyed sharing our usual quiz with North Curry and Curland in the last year.

We have continued to dream and pray – 20 of us met for a Church Family Day this year, which led us to concentrate on fund-raising, and on worship leaders and using the Methodist Way of Life for our LA services. This was followed by a Church Awayday at Watchet. We hope to expand this to share Awaydays with other churches in the Circuit.

Regular reports of our services, etc. go into the Link magazine, courtesy of our members.

We continue to gain an income and serve the community by letting the premises to a number of groups, including an Ukrainian pianist, a deaf club, a Care4Us group, a toddlers music group, Slimmers World, support groups for those suffering physical pain and for those caring for Special Needs family members, and YMCA groups during the refurbishment of their building.

All required members of our congregation have completed Foundation or Advanced Training for Safeguarding. There is one outstanding EDI training requirement outstanding.

The garden continues to be a joy to our local community, , some of whom participate in monthly work sessions, and we also continue to use it for an outside carol service at Christmas; likewise, we hold an 'outside' Easter service on Good Friday.

We continue to explore what it means to be an Eco-Church; our next step is looking at decarbonizing our premises.

Peter Thomas has written a history of the building of the church. A 'popular' edition will be available at the 30th anniversary.

And we should also mention the easy parking around our building!

Weaknesses

Like many churches, our congregation is an ageing one, with a limited number of people able to fill roles - we get by on a wing and a prayer! Numbers continue to decline slowly.

Threats

We are conscious of the workload on our minister; and we are grateful that she is supported locally by a retired Anglican vicar who has made his home with us.

Finances are barely adequate – keeping the building safe and welcoming is something of a struggle. We are fearful of the consequent risk of burn-out for some members who have taken on multiple roles.

Opportunities

The church garden continues to be an opportunity to interact with our community and to promote ecological values

We continue our support of Open Door, Action for Children, and other charities.

Recent 'service swaps' and an initial meeting with North Curry and Curland Church bode well for our exploration of 'getting alongside' one another.

The Community Coffee Morning will be meeting weekly from February. It attracts about 25 elderly and disabled members of the community to each session, and is building on its regular programme of events.

Repair Café met at church once in 2024; we hoped to build on this but so far it has not happened [though one of our congregation is now helping at the town Repair Café].

Links with other local churches are generally through personal interaction – this is an area we are hoping to build on. Members continue to support 'Easter Cracked' in North Taunton.

PAWLETT



Strengths

Our relationship with our Anglican friends continues to flourish. They join us on the third Sunday each month for morning service followed by tea, coffee and socialising. They enjoy sharing the Covenant service with us every year and

we join them for the Lent Lunch and the Christian Aid coffee & cake morning in May.

Our anniversary celebrations in June will be followed by lunch. We try to hold our special services on the third Sunday where possible so that our Anglican friends can attend. There will be a Harvest Celebration in September and a Christmas Tea & Carols afternoon in December. Both events are under the umbrella of Churches Together and will be held in the Village Hall which is in a

central position and means that it is easier for folk from the village to attend them. The Tea & Carol afternoon replaces our evening carol singing around the village as we are all getting older and the cold weather affects us. This raises money for Action for Children.

'Churches Together in Pawlett' facilitated a weekly 'Warm Space' on Tuesdays in January and February in the village hall. We received grants which enabled us to provide food and drinks throughout the day for anyone who came through the doors. We started with tea or coffee, followed by soup and bacon and sausage baps. Coffee and tea were readily available all day, also biscuits and cake. If people wished to give money there was a donation box for the Bridgwater Food Bank. However, there was no obligation to pay: there was no charge. We provided a warm space for anyone who needed or wanted it where they could meet with others and be reheated, refreshed and welcomed. The sessions went well and many people attended every week. We even made the local news!

Messy Church is held at the local primary school as an after-school club. This venture is continuing to be very successful with 20 children attending. It is generally run in 2 sessions of 6 weeks, one in the Summer term and the other in the Autumn.

Opportunities

We still have the pre-school using the hall during school terms and this gives us an opportunity to engage with and encourage families. As from January of this year the preschool is now open 5 days a week.

Our window displays for Christmas encourages groups to decorate a tree. We have Brownies, Rainbows, Pre-school, and Messy Church and invite their parents to come and see their handiwork.

Our notice board continues to advertise our services and any other special event and is updated every week.

Weaknesses and Threats

We have been encouraged by receiving some new members into the family of the church and some new faces in the congregation. However our numbers are small and our members are not getting any younger. We hold onto hope and continue to prepare for worship as well as we can, looking for more ways to relate to our village community, and encourage others to come along.

NORTH CURRY AND CURLAND



During the past year a focal point has been the future direction of the church. Because the number of members in North Curry and Curland is below the minimum of 12 members required by Connexion we need to make changes.

One of the options is 'to merge' or cluster together in a partnership with another church.

Having begun to explore other partnerships, the North Curry the Church Council felt that a partnership with Lisieux Way would be an appropriate option. The two churches already had a close relationship on which to build the future combined church.

Both churches, over the year, have had opportunities to consider the issues, to share questions and have conversations together. There is good will in both churches for this partnership to proceed. The working hypothesis being the new church will be called "Lisieux Way with North Curry and Curland Methodist Church".

The North Curry and Curland Church Council during the year considered the strategic direction of the church - including its future with Lisieux Way - and discerning our vision for the Church in North Curry. The Church Council agreed the following:

Our vision statement

At NC and C Methodist Church, we believe we are called to be '**A Breathing Space**' for our community.

We will do this through:

- Offering regular reflective, restorative and creative worship
- Enabling an experience of the beauty of God through art, craft, and musical events
- Offering a place of rest and refreshment through our meeting rooms and secluded garden
- Extending a warm inclusive welcome with intentional hospitality to share the love of God with all

During the past year Ildiko Haraszti, Minister in Training, from the Queen's Foundation in Birmingham, has continued her work within the Circuit, and we are very thankful for all the enthusiasm she has brought. We are delighted that she has now completed her training and has been appointed to a ministry around Wolverhampton. We wish you well, Ildiko. Our prayers go with you. With God by your side all will be well.

We have continued to address the priorities highlighted by the last quinquennial inspection. The roof is now watertight and the roof space secure. A small amount of asbestos has been removed. A further small roof issue has arisen and is being dealt with. The work on the hall and kitchen joists has been given listed building consent, and we are in the process of applying for grants from the Benefact Trust and from the National Churches Trust before this stage of the work commences. We are grateful for the help and advice given by Alex Jeremy as this essential work was addressed. We note the challenges for a small congregation with a Grade II listed building to care for, but we take seriously our responsibilities as trustees.

Worship at North Curry Methodist Church:

- Weekly Sunday morning services: occasionally afternoon services replace the morning, particularly at Harvest, Christmas and Church Anniversary which enables friends from the Circuit and village to attend
- Taizé services to mark Advent and Good Friday continue to draw those who appreciate this quiet meditative worship from the village and Circuit
- A united Christingle Service for village families was held at the Parish Church as an end of term service for the school, with leadership from both Rev Deborah and Rev Simon.
- United village and area events mark Covenant Sunday, Pentecost, and Remembrance Sunday, and the World Day of Prayer service is planned and delivered with St Peter and St Paul's, Stoke St Gregory Anglican and Stoke St Gregory Baptist Church
- We offer worship which builds on the 'particular' nature of North Curry Chapel, e.g. traditional, meditative, Taizé, praise services and favourite hymn evenings
- Our worship accompaniment has been through the kind services of our organist and through StF CDs
- Projection and sound facilities are available for leaders of worship.

Special events and missional activity:

- Anne Thomas led another very successful Arts Day during the summer 2024, which attracted 20 people of all ages and abilities
- We share, when possible, in the Benefice monthly prayer meeting at the parish church
- Deborah continues to take regular assemblies at the local (CE) Primary School
- Our local musician supported us with an Autumn Concert, and a clarinet quartet led a Saturday afternoon event in the garden, and we are making plans with him for an Autumn Concert this year.
- The Methodist Church is always represented at village events – Christian Aid support, the May Fayre (which regularly raises in the region of £300-£400), Remembrance Sunday Memorial Service, Pentecost Praise in the Village Square.
- The congregation engages fully with 'special Sundays' through envelope offerings.

Strengths and Opportunities:

- The future - with two churches partnering together
- The people! Committed and faithful
- Warm and welcoming – many say 'special' and prayerful atmosphere.
- Although perceived as 'traditional', the congregation is always open to new ideas and varied worship styles
- Good working relationships between Anglicans and Methodists
- Good relationship with the primary school
- Local musician uses the premises for rehearsals, and for local events
- 'Upper Room' and Vestry spaces available to hire or for groups/meetings
- Secluded garden area has potential for developing as a spiritual space
- The Chapel is well placed geographically for Circuit/and Joint Circuit (SP&C) events
- We advertise events through village, Circuit and parish publicity

Weaknesses and Threats:

- Some regular members/attenders live outside the village, thus there is an associated transport issue
- Declining and aging congregation
- Balancing annual budgets is a challenge
- Managing a Grade II listed building with its associated costs

THE LEVELS METHODIST CHURCH AT MIDDLEZOY

This has been a very positive year for Middlezoy, building on our connections with the village community. During recent months, as a small church with a membership of under 12, we have been progressing the conversation with friends in Bridgwater over a church partnership.



We are very grateful for Bridgwater's willingness to partner us and we look forward to being able to work more closely with them in the future. Ildi, and more recently, Nat, our Circuit Administrator, continue to develop the toddler group and build relationships with the mums and grandmas who come with the little ones.

Worship at Middlezoy

- 1st Sunday of the month, joint morning service. These are held alternately in Holy Cross and the Chapel. In addition, festivals and special events are usually united.
- 3rd Sunday of the month, Circuit evening service with Holy Communion in an informal setting which is interactive and accessible for 'seekers'
- Church and Chapel work together on festival services, cooperating rather than competing

Worship at Westonzoyland

- Rev Deborah participates, as plan pressures allow, in the quarterly united services in Westonzoyland parish church.

Community use of the Chapel at Middlezoy

- Weekly village coffee morning
- Hirings – weekly Pilates, band rehearsals, and ad hoc meetings
- Land leased to the Village shop/PO which brings a monthly rental
- One of the two village defibrillators is sited outside the Chapel

Outreach:

- Ildiko's regular attendance at the weekly Coffee Morning, connecting and building community relationships
- Village Nativity and Christingle held at Chapel

- The 'Peekaboo Gang' under 35 group has had a great year with carers/mums offering friendship and support to one another
- Seasonal ecumenical family activity events arranged in church or chapel
- Monthly lunches are wonderfully hospitable events – this year, we have served soup and sweet monthly lunches throughout most of the winter months, supported by friends from Circuit and community
- Free 'Fence gifts' offered to the village at Christmas and Easter – these are now looked for and appreciated
- We applied for, and received a Seed Corn Grant which will go towards developing the outside space, for the children to grow seeds and vegetables in the raised beds, and for our recently envisioned 'Pop-up Café' on sunny Saturdays with the village shop.

Strengths and Opportunities:

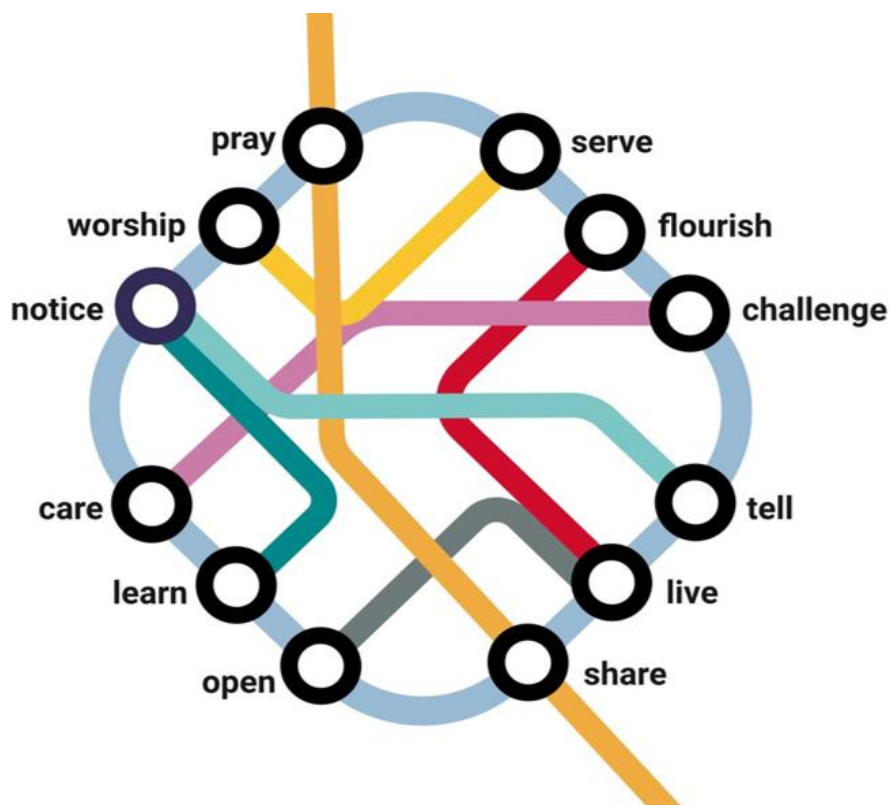
- The positivity and can-do attitude of the congregation expressed in 'holy risk'.
- New people sharing the evening worship in particular
- New supportive connections through Coffee Morning and parents from the Peekaboo Gang
- Excellent working relationships between Anglicans and Methodists in both villages – the Benefice will be undergoing changes in the near future
- Very supportive members and 'friends of the Chapel' with good community links and good ideas
- Practical support from Circuit friends for events and activities
- Reasonably manageable premises, well situated, and fairly well-used by community
- Flexible inside, and good outside space – currently being developed for community engagement

Weaknesses and Threats:

- Our actual membership is tiny
- Balancing annual budgets is a challenge

All over the world, this Gospel is bearing fruit and growing, just as it has been doing among you since the day you heard it and understood God's grace in all its truth. *Colossians 1 : 6b*

B
R
E
A
T
H
I
N
G



B
R
E
A
T
H
I
N
G

O
U
T

Something to do at your next GCM or CC:

First:

Prayerfully read through your church report again, and put a tick alongside any of the 'stations' that are represented by what you have said about the character, the worship or the various areas of mission of the church.

If you have several ticks by one station, that might suggest the place your church is concentrating on for the moment.

For example, many of our churches might agree that they are **'Open'** – hospitable and welcoming spaces for their members and their communities.



It would be realistic for your church to have 2 or more 'stations' identified, but it isn't a competition for who can get the most – simply an acknowledgement as to where you are.

Then:

Listen to God, to one another, to your community

We often think we know the people in our churches really well, but might there be gifts in yourself or in others you may not have noticed?

How well do you know your community? What are some of the needs you see and hear about?

Who could you link up with? Other churches? Community groups? Individuals?

Share together

Where do you sense the prompting of God is leading?

Is there another 'station' you don't travel to very often?

Is there anything that you are already doing that could be developed a little further or is there a 'next natural step'?

e.g. If we spend a lot of time welcoming others and providing hospitality, we will be listening to and sharing stories. Some of the stories we hear may be about injustice. Do these stories **challenge** us into action? Do some of our conversations give us opportunity to **learn** from others, or develop our confidence to **tell** our own story?



Try to identify one station to travel to over the next year.

This isn't necessarily about doing **more** things.

It is asking us to know **why** we do the things that we do