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### **Marjorie Bayliss**

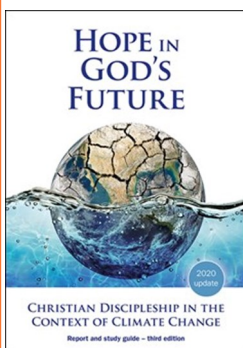
A lifetime member of Barton Street and former church steward until the 1990's, we are sad to report Marjorie passed away peacefully earlier this month at the age of 103 years.

### **Joan Waters**

Former Headteacher of The Glebe Infant School in Newent and member of St John's Northgate and previously Hucclecote Methodist Church, Joan passed away on 5 November. A Celebration of Joan's life will take place at St John's Northgate on Monday 6 December at 12noon.

## **WINTER QUARTER PASTORAL LETTER**

One starting point for a Christian approach to the climate emergency can be found in the New Testament Letter to the Colossians (1: 15-20.) The writer shatters any illusion that the world was created for our convenience and is ours to use and abuse as we wish. Talking about Christ we read, "all things have been created through him and for him." (v.16.) We then read about God's purpose that is made known in Christ which is "to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross." The message is that the whole of creation is destined to be caught up in God's promised salvation.



For Christians, facing up to the challenge of climate change is not just an option for the enthusiasts nor a distraction from our main purpose. It is how we can join in God's mission in the current age and be part of God's movement for the renewal and reconciliation of all things. For Christians, taking action about climate change is a sign of hope in God's future and a way of making known the gospel of God's reconciling love that encompasses all things.

The fact that global warming is caused by human activity that releases tonnes of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere is beyond dispute. The results are having a devastating effect already, particularly on those who are most vulnerable. Those who have contributed the least to the emergency are suffering the most. Oxfam points out that droughts and floods are becoming more frequent while growing seasons for crops are more unpredictable. The result is that millions go hungry.

The focus is currently on the COP26 gathering in Glasgow. The success of that gathering will not be shown in grand statements, but in the action that needs to be taken by nations working together as a matter of urgency. We can do things that make a difference in our own lives and as churches. Several of the churches in the Gloucestershire circuit have bronze awards from Eco Church, and some have achieved the silver award. This means that we are making progress to becoming an Eco Circuit. Doing this means making changes that are a stretch, but achievable. The awards programme involves looking at buildings, land, personal lifestyle, engagement with the local and global community and reviewing worship and teaching programmes.

If you want to know more about your church working towards an eco award get in touch with the Circuit Social and Climate Justice Group. (If you contact me I can send the details.)

With every blessing,

**Revd John Hellyer**

### **Alan Morgan**

We are saddened to report the death of Alan Morgan, a former Local Preacher known to many across the circuit who was accredited in 1957. A retired teacher and history enthusiast, Alan worshipped at St John's Northgate until his move with his wife Hazel to Hitchin in Bedfordshire to be nearer family. Alan passed away peacefully following a brief illness surrounded by his family. A Thanksgiving Service will be held at St John's Northgate on Saturday 4 December.

## How to use tech to live more sustainably

Lesley Ward, Social and Climate Justice Team, recently attended a webinar titled 'How to use tech to live more sustainably'. Presented by a company called 'Makers' (<https://makersacademy.medium.com/about>), the presenter was the co-founder of Every One of Us (<https://everyoneofus.uk>).

A brief overview was given on why it is important to live as sustainably as possible, with ideas ranging from eating less meat, buying locally, eating organically produced food to recycling sustainably, etc.

Ideas included (in terms of lifestyle choices):

- buy less, and buy second hand
- unused electrical items (most of which contain precious minerals) can be sold, given away to be refurbished for further use, or recycled (Currys/PCWorld will recycle any electrical item irrespective of whether it was bought in one of their stores or not).

There were also several tech recommendations that might be helpful. The best website to use to calculate carbon footprint is WWF; GIKI is an app that allows you to scan a supermarket product barcode and it will tell you how sustainable it is; bank.green is a website that allows you to type in your bank provider and it will tell you how 'green' it is. A look at 'Every One Of Us' is recommended.

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## Church Planting Intensive

Residential event: Cliff College, 4—6 February 2022 (then monthly online)

We are keen to equip our pioneers and planters. A key part of this is the launch of the Church Planting Intensive. The Church Planting Intensive is a fully-funded year-long hybrid course. It begins with a residential at Cliff College 4-6 February 2022 and then we meet online each month on the 1st Thursday between 7-9pm.

The course will be a mix of teaching and reflection, times of prayer and deepening our calls, a place to celebrate and be vulnerable, growth as individuals and of the projects we are passionate about. It is going to be a wonderful journey together! If you would like to join this years cohort please fill in the form via this link to register your interest. Places are limited to 40, so get in quick if you are interested.

If you have any queries please email [pioneering@methodistchurch.org.uk](mailto:pioneering@methodistchurch.org.uk)

Find out more about this and our other events [here](#)



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## Minister trains as hairdresser

The Revd Darren Middleton spent his sabbatical training to be a hairdresser. He says, "My hope is to give this experience to people who need it but can't afford it; those who cannot go to a salon for whatever reason - the homeless and the outsider, the refugee, those suffering with mental illness and those who just need to be loved and given space to be...". Read more [here](#).

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## Investment and Ethics

The Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church will be holding its annual conference on Investment and Ethics remotely via a Zoom webinar on 14 December 2021 and all are welcome to attend. Read more details about how to join them [here](#)

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## Shoe Boxes

St Marks have been involved with the Christmas boxes for four years, this year including Bishop Cleeve Methodist Church. Basically, a shoe box covered in Christmas paper is given out to those members who are interested, who then fill them with various goodies as appropriate to the age group they have chosen to buy for (ages are shown on the leaflet inside the box). A date in November is agreed for the boxes to be collected, which are then taken to a warehouse in Evesham to be sorted and packed ready to go to the various homes in time for Christmas. This year 30 boxes were filled with goodies!



## 2021 STATISTICS COLLECTION

The Methodist Church Online site is now open for the 2021 statistics collection.

Due to the present circumstances we are not collecting attendance data; all that is needed is the current membership figure and the in-year movements (such as office holders and pastoral contacts).

Further information can be found at:

Forms and guidance: [www.methodist.org.uk/for-churches/statistics-for-mission/online-data-entry/](http://www.methodist.org.uk/for-churches/statistics-for-mission/online-data-entry/)

Frequently Asked Questions: [www.methodist.org.uk/for-churches/statistics-for-mission/faqs/](http://www.methodist.org.uk/for-churches/statistics-for-mission/faqs/)

The data entry site will be open until 31 January 2022

## Youth President



Following the election held at this year's 3Generate, it has been announced that the Youth President for 2022/2023 will be James Carver from Nottingham.

James said: "I want to raise awareness of mental health issues and other conditions such as ADHD and autism that the Church needs to increase awareness of if it is to become truly inclusive."

Find out more about James [here](#).

## CIRCUIT OFFICE

Both Louise Hebborn and Michelle Warren have now returned to working in the Circuit Office. This situation remains under review due to the continued uncertainty with Covid. To ensure the safety of both administrators and visitors we are restricting access to the office to essential visits only. Any essential visits must be pre-arranged and visitors are asked to wear face coverings, use the hand sanitiser provided and check in on arrival. Both Louise and Michelle can continue to be contacted on the office number (01452 415769) when working from home or the office. Please do not use any personal mobile numbers.

## The Good News Centre, Newent

The Good News Centre in Newent will be closing its doors for good on Friday 24 December 2021.

The Trustees of The Good News Centre believe God has a plan for the future of the premises and they are seeking his wisdom in this.

All books and gifts are available at discounted prices

*The Winter Quarter Preaching Plan, covering the period December 2021, January and February 2022 is now available and can be found on the Circuit Website. The plan includes details of Christmas Services around the Circuit. If your service is not shown please contact the Circuit Office so this can be included.*



## GROWING CHURCH MINISTRY WITH FAMILIES

There's a great opportunity to do some learning about working with families and developing skills by joining us for the short course at Cliff College from 24 to 28 January 2021. From theological thinking, nurturing family wellbeing to understanding more about their life today – the course gives an excellent foundation for ministry with families. It is especially relevant at this time as churches seek to support families effectively.

**MORE INFORMATION**

*Bible Month is an annual campaign that celebrates scripture by inviting the whole Methodist Connexion to feast on one particular book of the Bible together. In 2022 we're going to indulge ourselves in the Book of Isaiah. We will be taking a thematic approach to the book, each week encouraging reflection on a different fundamental area from tough love to a new world. Find out more [here](#).*

## METHODIST CHRISTMAS

This year's resources will reflect the inclusive Methodist Church, offering an invitation to every person, no matter where they are on their faith journey, to enter into the joy and hope that the birth of Christ brings to all. The Christmas Service on a CD follows the Presidential theme of God's Table, An Invitation For All.

**Read more about the resources and find out how to order them.**



## Methodist to be next Chaplain General for the British Army

The Revd Michael D Parker will take over as the 26th Chaplain General of the British Army in May 2022. He said: "Methodism has a long and treasured history of providing soldiers and chaplains in service of their country, that they do so explicitly as people of faith continues to make the organisation a better place to be."



## HARTPURY METHODIST CHURCH CATERING

We would like to thank everyone who has been a customer or helped out in any way with Saturday Lunches and/or Tuesday Teas.

Sadly, we have decided not to resume these events after a long break due to Covid 19 Lockdown.

Saturday Lunches started in 2000 and have scarcely missed a Saturday in that time. We have enjoyed providing food and sharing hospitality and are grateful for all the fellowship we have had over the years.

A big thank you to all who have worked so hard and with such love to make these offerings available.

The chapel is open for worship on Sunday mornings at 10.30 a.m. and we are thankful that we are able to live among you, sharing the love of Christ with all.

Liz Ledger, Steward

## THE LATE JEAN SERGEANT

Jean Sergeant passed away in Lincolnshire in October 2021 but lived in Gloucester from 1961 to 1989 and was very active at St Luke's in Stroud Road and in the Methodist Circuit. Her husband, John Sergeant, was also organist at St Luke's and a Local Preacher.

A cremation and service of thanksgiving was held in Hornchurch last month. Jean's ashes will be scattered at Gloucester Crematorium at 11am on Friday 10 December at the location of a number of Sergeant family plaques.

Anyone who knew Jean is welcome to join the family at this gathering and very short service, officiated by Revd Vernon Godden.

## Bristol Methodist Centre



## We need your help

Do you have a passion for social justice?

Are you aware of the increase in poverty and homelessness as a result of the Covid pandemic?

The Bristol Methodist Centre provides sanctuary & support for those affected by homelessness in Bristol.

We are looking for volunteers to help with IT, Finance, Fundraising & Marketing as part of our management team. If you have the time and skills to offer, we would like to hear from you!

To find out more please email Janet George:  
[george\\_janet@hotmail.com](mailto:george_janet@hotmail.com)

[www.methodist-centre.org.uk](http://www.methodist-centre.org.uk)

The Methodist Church 

## Online Safeguarding Training Courses - 2022

This on-line Safeguarding training programme for 2021/22 is organised by the South-West Region Learning Network of the Methodist Church. In our Circuit it is estimated there are 150 volunteers who need to attend a safeguarding course, and this will increase by the end of 2022 Connexional Year. If this is you, and you are confident with computers and can use zoom facilities, please register for a training course as soon as possible.

### Creating Safer Space



**Safeguarding children, young people  
and vulnerable adults**

ONLINE: Advanced Module – Creating Safer Space

Register by 2 February 2022. Gathered Session 2 March 2022 at 7pm

[www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/online-version-advanced-module-safeguarding-training-registration-159105702439](http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/online-version-advanced-module-safeguarding-training-registration-159105702439)

ONLINE: Foundation Module – Creating Safer Space

8 February 2022 7pm [www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/copy-of-methodist-foundation-module-safeguarding-creating-space-registration-159103780691](http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/copy-of-methodist-foundation-module-safeguarding-creating-space-registration-159103780691)

12 May 2022 9:30am [www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/methodist-foundation-module-safeguarding-creating-space-registration-159103937159](http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/methodist-foundation-module-safeguarding-creating-space-registration-159103937159)

For all enquiries, please contact Bridget Down, Learning Network [downb@methodistchurch.org.uk](mailto:downb@methodistchurch.org.uk)

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## OXFORD THREE FAITHS ONLINE PRESENT BEACONS OF LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS

with the following speakers:

Revd Dr Liz Carmichael, Professor Richard Cooper, Rabbi Dr Michael Hilton, Heather Jane Ozanne and Dr Harith Ramli

7 – 8.30 pm on MONDAY 29 NOVEMBER

PLEASE REGISTER FOR THE WEBINAR AT [https://](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8445111111)

[us02web.zoom.us/j/8445111111](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8445111111)  
[tZYtfuuqpjljHNU4\\_\\_jOlvIn5HILri8TMqx](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8445111111)



Questions about this event? Please contact: [RabbiM@gmail.com](mailto:RabbiM@gmail.com)

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## Diversity and the Church

St Mark's Cheltenham are hosting a Café Church service on Sunday 9 January 2022 at 6.30pm with Revd Rachel Leather and Andy Rickell with the theme of Diversity and the Church.

Andy was one of the leading radical advocates of the disability rights movement for 20 years, including a controversial opinion piece in the Guardian when he criticised the largest disability charities. He was on a shortlist of two to be appointed as the Disability Commissioner at the Equality and Human Rights Commission. He thinks if we learn how to welcome disabled people properly in our churches, it will teach us how to welcome everyone in our communities into church. Expect some honest, forthright but positive thoughts and an open dialogue about what churches could be doing to be truly welcoming and inclusive to everyone including disabled people.

This service is being hosted via Zoom and everyone is welcome to join in. Please contact Revd Rachel Leather for the Zoom link.

# BETHESDA BACKPACKERS



December Walk Programme:

Wednesday 1st: Hazleton - contact Elaine - 4.3 miles

Monday 6th: Miserden - contact John - 4 miles

Saturday 18th: Christmas Party 7pm

Thursday 30th - Red Hat Walk - 10am—contact Bob 4 miles

Walk Leaders : Bob Parkin 01242 222759, John Morrell 01242 244898, Elaine Bailey & Peter Boait 01242 511278, Brian & Anne Robertson 01242 352419, Norman Baker 01242 583187

Start time 10am. Please let the leader know if you are attending no later than 6.30pm the day before the walk.

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## A Quiet Corner in Coalway

As part of the 160<sup>th</sup> Anniversary at Coalway Methodist Church, the congregation decided to transform an area of the grounds which had become a rubble heap. Underused as a place to be quiet or share conversation with friends, this was a corner of the church that had much potential, could bring colour and fragrance and attract the insects and birds.

Many hours were spent removing weeds and clearing stones. But what to do next? A rockery was suggested and large stones were collected from a member's garden. Soon plants were appearing and making their home in this reflective corner. A neighbour noticed the buzz of excitement as the teamwork progressed, and a bench surplus to requirements was handed over the wall.



A month on since the photograph was taken, the rockery has even more colour, it has become a source of conversation and interest, and it has been blessed at our Anniversary Service. We are constantly reminded of the goodness of God in creation and of the privilege of those quiet moments. If you are passing, please take a look and spend a moment there with God.

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY...

<b>2021</b>		
Tuesday 30 November	7.30pm	Finance Support Group
Wednesday 1 December		Preaching availability opens for Spring 2022 Quarter
Wednesday 1 December	9.30pm	Property Group
Monday 6 December	7.30pm	Local Preachers & Worship Leaders Meeting - North
Tuesday 7 December	7.30pm	Local Preachers & Worship Leaders Meeting - South
Wednesday 8 December	7.30pm	Local Preachers & Worship Leaders Meeting - West
Thursday 9 December	7.30pm	Local Preachers & Worship Leaders Meeting - Central
<b>2022</b>		
Monday 3 January		Preaching availability closes for Spring 2022 Quarter
Thursday 6 January		Section Planning opens for Spring 2022 Quarter
Wednesday 12 January	2pm	Social & Climate Justice Group
Thursday 13 January		Section Planning closes for Spring 2022 Quarter
Thursday 13 January	7.30pm	Finance Support Group
Monday 31 January		Deadline for Statistics for Mission returns
Tuesday 1 February		Spring Quarter Preaching Plan available
Thursday 3 February	9.30am	Manse Group
Tuesday 8 February	TBA	Circuit Mission Group
Tuesday 8 February	9.30am	Property Group
Thursday 17 February	7.30pm	Circuit Treasurers Meeting
Wednesday 2 March	7.30pm	Local Preachers & Worship Leaders Meeting
Thursday 3 March	9.30am	Circuit Executive
Sunday 20 March	3pm	Circuit Assembly
Monday 4 April	9.30am	Property Group
Wednesday 6 April	2pm	Social & Climate Justice Group
Thursday 28 April	9.30am	Circuit Executive
Sunday 22 May	3pm	Circuit Assembly
Monday 6 June	7.30pm	Local Preachers & Worship Leaders Meeting - Central
Tuesday 7 June	7.30pm	Local Preachers & Worship Leaders Meeting - North
Wednesday 8 June	7.30pm	Local Preachers & Worship Leaders Meeting - South
Thursday 9 June	7.30pm	Local Preachers & Worship Leaders Meeting - West
Wednesday 13 July	2pm	Social & Climate Justice Group

***Something to include in the newsletter? We'd love to hear from you!***

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