

SUMMER 2026 TALENT MAGAZINE



The **Methodist** Church
Tamworth and Lichfield Circuit
Tamworthandlichfieldmethodist.org.uk



Growing Potential

Greetings friends,

As I sit writing this article it is during another one of these hot summer days, where little movement is encouraged and I'm glad I have ice in my fizzy drink. As we journey through Summer, even on the hot days, we are surrounded by the breadth of creation, the wonderful sights and smells as well as the hope of things still to come. Whilst for many of our churches we celebrate Harvest Festivals, it is often during these summer months we graft to feed, water, and look after the potential of our crops. And even though it's hot and dry, and on a much smaller scale, in the manse garden I have both tomatoes and sweetcorn growing- showing positive signs.

As we navigate through the summer months, whether it's plants or something more intricate, whether offering an abundant harvest, or just bringing a smile? I wonder where do we find our potential? In projects, in hobbies, in friends or family? And even at this point do we already give thanks to God for them? And, as we journey are we taking the time to water, to feed and weed these things?

Revd Mark

Revd Mark Stennett



Up-date on Revd Jo Thornton:

Revd Jo has been very moved by the outpouring of love, prayers and support since her accident on 28th May. She is grateful for so many beautiful cards and expressions of concern. After 4 weeks in hospital and 4 operations, she is now enjoying being at home, looked after by Tabitha and Chloe, with carers 4 times a day. At the moment she is still unable to bear any weight on either ankle and therefore is dependent on being hoisted to move between bed, sofa and commode. Hopefully in the next few weeks the plaster casts will be removed and the rehab journey can begin. Your continued prayers are valued—including prayers for Jo's daughters and her mum and dad.

As we continue to pray for Revd Jo's health and recovery, we ask that you respect her recovery at this time, and for church related matters please speak to local church stewards, the Circuit Leadership Team or Revd Mark Stennett. (Contact details on back cover)

The future of the Circuit and your Church's place in it

During Holy Week Prayers earlier this year many members from across the Circuit took the opportunity to share their thoughts on the strengths, weaknesses, challenges and opportunities facing their own and other churches. Not surprisingly there were some common themes across multiple churches and, although not formally a consultation exercise, those contributions have served as a useful discussion starter. Your Circuit Leadership Team (CLT) would now like to encourage a conversation within each church to help shape the future direction of the circuit.

CLT is asking each church to take time to discuss whether:

- the balance between the ministry to and pastoral care of the existing church community and the outward-facing missional activity of the local church is as they wish it to be;
- there are other things the church would like to do if the human and other enabling resources were available;
- there are tasks and responsibilities which burden or distract from the ministry and mission of the church and which, if simplified, removed or reorganised, would allow the church to do more of what it sees as important.

As part of considering these questions, and as a possible way of enabling a different approach, the CLT also invites each church to consider whether closer collaboration between the churches in the circuit through one of the Methodist Church's recognised models for creating a multi-site church would be beneficial.

By starting the conversations now, any necessary formalities arising from decisions taken can be completed in time for the start of the new Connexional Year in September 2027, but of course this does not mean that we have to wait until then to begin to work more closely together and experience the benefits of doing so.

The first step is for each church to hold an extraordinary church meeting by the end of September to encourage the widest possible participation in the discussions and to enable each church to bring their views to the circuit meeting in October.

We will co-ordinate with each church to set a date for a meeting that will be chaired by Rev Mark (as Acting Superintendent), with participation from CLT.

By way of background reading, the following two documents may be particularly helpful:

A description of two possible models of multi-site church proposed as suitable for a Methodist context; the 'hub church' model and the 'sectional' model. In the 'hub church' model, several (probably smaller) churches become classes of a larger church. In the 'sectional' model, several churches unite to become one church on several sites. In the description there are two fictional accounts of Methodist circuits discerning and applying the models. <https://www.methodist.org.uk/for-churches/evangelism-growth/lead-churches-into-growth/merge-churches-for-mission/presence-in-what-ways-is-god-calling-you-to-your-community/different-models-of-merger/>

A description of the governance arrangements, in the form of sample resolutions which shape a scheme of amalgamation where two or more local churches wish to form a single multi-site local church. To implement the scheme the sample resolutions would need to be passed by the Church Councils of the existing local churches, before being endorsed by the Circuit Meeting. <https://www.methodist.org.uk/for-churches/governance/guidance-on-church-mergers-and-amalgamations/>

"You've got a friend in me"



Hi everyone, it's Hannah, your media officer. You may think I only do the digital world - websites and

social media (Facebook and Instagram). However, I can help with much more... Posters, flyers, leaflets, newsletters, branding, logos, to name just a few... I'm not trying to take someone's job away, however I am paid to help you, and I want to help you. So let me know what I can do for you and your Church. I look forward to hearing from you.

Hannah
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Your Circuit needs you.

There is an exciting vacancy for a Circuit Steward. Could this be something you might discern and be willing to do?

The Circuit Stewards "are responsible, with the Superintendent, for the spiritual and material well-being of the Circuit, and for upholding and acting upon the decisions of the Circuit Meeting." We are entering exciting times, with discussions on the future of the circuit - would you like to be involved in this process? Please speak to Revd Mark or any of the circuit stewards to find out more.

A summer of celebration at St. Andrew's

As you will by now be aware (I hope) – This year is a significant year for Methodists in Tamworth – We are celebrating both the 60th anniversary of St. Andrew's and the 255th anniversary of Methodism in Tamworth.

Celebrations kicked off this year with a church away day at the splendid 650 year old St. Andrew's in Clifton Campville where we enjoyed a decadent breakfast and tour of the beautiful church followed by a day of conversations about "our story and our song".

A few weeks later we hosted the hugely successful Circuit Service in the church garden led by Revd Rachel Deigh. This was followed by refreshments in the church hall – it was a delight to welcome so many of our friends to this special gathering looking at the theme of "hope".



Next came our "Street Party" – utilising our garden to create a safe welcoming space for our local community to come together in celebration. We had the Rock Choir, the U3A Choir, two organ recitals, an ABBA tribute act and even brightly



coloured show girls! Stalls included St. John Ambulance who taught over 40



people how to do CPR, Tamworth Family Hubs, Tamworth Castle, Free Face Painting, Fairtrade and the Jo Cox Foundation as well as our friends from Rooted Church and LCC Church. The event was a tremendous success with hundreds of local people turning out and having fun!



The celebrations don't end there ...

On July 30th from 5pm we will be inviting our community to join us for a free showing of the 1966 World Cup final on a large screen with hot dogs and refreshments. A great opportunity to remember the year St. Andrew's opened.

At the end of July and beginning of August we will once again for the 3rd year running be running our "Playing Out" scheme offering local children free play activities including pottery sessions, craft sessions, games, den building, cricket, hockey and lots more to explore – the sessions will take place on the first three Wednesdays of the holidays from 1pm – 3pm.

And then at the beginning of September, on Saturday 5th we will be inviting our friends, including past ministers, to join us for a celebration service followed by afternoon tea.

This will be our triumphant end to a year of celebration however it will be by no means the end of our mission to reach out in faith hope and love to our community – we have built such strong relationships this year, we are keen to move forward as the heart of our community with more activities that serve to fulfil Jesus' promise of life in all its fullness.

Please pray for us as we continue to serve but also start to unpack the question "What is our mission leading to?"

Michael Sharman

FAMILY TIME in Alrewas and Lichfield – Up-date from Gemma Grice

Explore Easter Family Morning

At the start of April, we welcomed lots of families into Lichfield church to experience the events of Holy Week and Easter through crafts, activities, bible passages and drama. Activities included making Easter biscuits, soap carving, sensory play, painting and weaving. Families were able to stay afterwards and enjoy refreshments alongside some of our church members before taking home their creations and reminders of the Easter story.



Continued up-date from Gemma

National Month of Prayer for Toddlers

June was the National Month of Prayer for Toddler groups. This year, over 250 groups across the UK, including Tiddlers, joined in with sending a sheep to visit Parliament and raise awareness of the importance of these groups. The sheep were accompanied by representatives from different churches and then adopted so groups could be prayed for. I'm sure our little sheep had quite the adventure! To mark the end of this month, we had a prayer morning with prayer stations set up to enable people to pray for our wonderful Tiddlers Toddlers as well as Little Fishes at Alrewas. Please do pray for the amazing volunteers and wonderful families that attend both of these groups.



Transition for Year 6



It is a busy time in primary schools, especially for Year 6 children who are getting ready to go up to secondary school. For 2 mornings, Alrewas church played host to Year 6 from All Saints school. They were able to come and take part in transition activities, whilst at the same time thinking about their place in God's world and how they are all 'fearfully and wonderfully' made. Please continue to pray for all Year 6s as they take this next step. Thank you to Alrewas church for providing a book for each Year 6 child that will support them on this journey.

Fun Friday Activities

Fun Friday is a group for 7-11s that meet at Alrewas church every other Friday. The children have taken part in lots of fun activities and played lots of games this half term. This has included pizza making, biscuit decorating, clay crafts, origami boats to sail and outdoor games (hooray for nice weather!). Our crafts are usually linked to a Bible story or passage and children have the opportunity to ask questions and explore faith at their own level. We are looking forward to next term with lots more exciting things to do.



Parenting for Faith

Every third Sunday, families meet at Lichfield church for breakfast, fellowship and to take part in our 'Parenting for Faith' discipleship course. It is an informal, relaxed session with children and adults sharing together and exploring ways of sharing their faith at home. All families are welcome if anyone wants to come and join us. We will start back after the Summer on September 20th at 10am.

Coming up...

Play in the Park Toddlers: Wednesday 5th August, 10—11.30am. Beacon Park (by the café / playpark). Snacks and cold drinks provided. All families with young children are invited to come and join us. Older siblings very welcome!

Parenting for Faith Meet Up: Thursday 6th August, 10 – 11.30am Beacon Park (by the café / playpark). Come with or without children for our Summer get together. New families welcome!

Village Festival Worship at Trinity, Shenstone

A sunny open air service at Trinity Methodist Church, Shenstone on Sunday 5th July, where the community gathered together, to celebrate and worship God as part of their village festival. We were delighted to welcome Rev. Roger Baker back, as well as having local parish vicar, Revd Jonathan Iddon, lead the worship. Roger spoke with clarity and encouragement on the theme of community, giving 3 take away points:



God created us for community
God welcomes everyone to his table
God calls us to build communities of hope



During the service, heartfelt hymns were sung, and we joined together in prayer and shared in Holy Communion.

After the service, the congregation shared in refreshments and looked at the village festival displays in the church.

A village festival is the perfect example of community. Community is a gift from God, a reflection of his heart for us. Let us build communities where all are invited and accepted; communities where unity, peace, life and hope are found.

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