



The Link

CHANDLER'S FORD Methodist Church

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October 2025

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

CCL 30794

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The next edition of *The Link* will be for **November**.

Send items by **Wednesday 22nd October** to:

Richard Wright (richardwright@outlook.com)

Dovetail Café Monday to Friday 9.30 am (Saturday 10 am) – 12 noon
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Link deadline dates (note that there is no edition in January or August):

2025 - 22nd October 26th November

2026 -	21st January	18th February	25th March	22nd April
	27th May	24th June	26th August	23rd September
	21st October	25th November		



From our Minister
Rev Rachael Hawkins

Dear friends,

I can't quite believe that nearly a month has already gone by! I want to start by saying 'thank you!' Thank you for your welcome, for your warm words of encouragement, for your understanding when I've needed to ask questions, for telling me your name! There is still a lot to learn and a lot of people to meet and get to know, but I feel as though I'm getting there slowly.

Continuing the theme of saying thank you, October sees us celebrating Harvest as we thank God for all that we have been given. Our Harvest Service is on **Sunday 12th October** and will be followed by a Church Harvest Lunch. Please do sign up for the lunch so we have an idea of how many will be there. It'll be good to spend time together. Our Harvest donations will go to the *Basics Bank* as usual and monetary donations will go to support the work of *All We Can*.

In our **Harvest Service** we will look at the Parable of the Sower using resources from *All We Can*. The seed scattered by the sower lands in different places – some grows well, some begins to grow, but then withers, some lands where it cannot grow and is eaten by birds, some grow but are choked by thorns.

As we think of the good harvest that we benefit from and give thanks for, can we do anything to improve the harvest of others? Can we improve the soil so that all may celebrate a good harvest, both here in this land and overseas, whatever that harvest might be?

Blessings,

Rachael

OCTOBER

Thursday 2nd

10.30 am Midweek Service

Rev Gary Watt

Sunday 5th

9.30 am Breakfast Church

Rev Rachael Hawkins

11 am Sunday Worship

Dr Lesley Ritchie

Thursday 9th

10.30 am Midweek Service

Methodist Women in Britain

Sunday 12th

9.30 am Holy Communion

Rev Rachael Hawkins

11 am Harvest Festival Service

(followed by Harvest lunch)

Rev Rachael Hawkins

(see page 6)

Thursday 16th

10.30 am Midweek Service

Rev Bob Kitching

Sunday 19th

11 am Sunday Worship

Archer group

6.30 pm Evening Service

Dr Lesley Ritchie

Thursday 23rd

10.30 am Midweek Service

Barbara Hillier

Sunday 26th

11 am Sunday Worship

with Holy Communion

Rev Peter Rayson

Thursday 30th

10.30 am Midweek Service

Rev Andrew de Ville

NOVEMBER

Sunday 2nd

9.30 am Breakfast Church

Rev Rachael Hawkins

11 am Sunday Worship

Rev Rachael Hawkins

4 pm Remembering Service

Rev Rachael Hawkins

(see page 6)

If you would like to read in the Morning Service, please ring 07799 844 882, or email brendasyratt67@gmail.com.

Please give this your prayerful consideration.

OCTOBER

Friday 3rd

1.30 pm Dovetail Group
in the Church Prayer Corner
Some prominent doubters

Saturday 4th

10 am District Event at Romsey

7.30 pm United Church concert
(see page 7)

Thursday 9th

9.30 am Cake Day in the Café

Thursday 16th

10 am Caroline's Table Top Sale
(see page 7 – also 17th & 18th)

2.30 pm Good News group
Bryan Coates – *Ruth*
Home of Chris and Melva Hayes

Friday 17th

1.30 pm Dovetail Group
in the Church Prayer Corner
Dealing with the doubts!

Saturday 18th

2.30 pm MET:Revive
at Colden Common
(see page 7)

3.30 pm BB Autumn Concert
(see page 6)

7.30 pm United Church concert
(see page 7)

Wednesday 22nd

Deadline for October edition
of *The Link*

Thursday 23rd

9.30 am Cake Day in the Café

Saturday 25th

11am Book Swap
(see page 7)

Tuesday 28th

7 pm Men's Supper Club
Ukraine Stories
– Roman Baczynski

Thursday 30th

10 am Craft Sale *(see page 15)*

Friday 31st

6 pm Murder Mystery and supper
(see page 10)

NOVEMBER

Saturday 1st

2.30 pm Murder Mystery & tea
(see page 10)

Service of Thankfulness and Remembering

Rev Rachael Hawkins

This year's Service of Thankfulness and Remembering will be on **Sunday 2nd November** at 4 pm. It's an opportunity for all of us to take a moment to remember loved ones who have died, to give thanks for the way they have touched our lives, for the way they live on in us and in the people around us – and to recognise our grief.

It will be a peaceful Service, reflecting on God's everlasting care of each of us. It will also include an opportunity to light a candle in memory of someone. Following the Service there will be refreshments in the Dovetail Centre. Everyone is welcome, whether your loss was recent or many years ago. Please feel free to invite others who may find the Service helpful and pray for all those who will be attending.

Harvest Sunday

Harvest **Sunday 12th October**. We will be holding a collection of food and toiletries for the **Eastleigh Basics Bank** again this year. Further details of suitable donations at: <https://eastleighbasicsbank.co.uk/> but the demand is high so any long life foods and toiletries would be welcome. We will also have a collection of money to support the appeal from *All We Can*.

After the Service there will be a simple **Harvest Lunch**. Please sign up in the Linkway if you plan to attend. If you would be willing to contribute a salad or a dessert for the lunch, please add this on the sign-up sheet. All are welcome whether you can bring something on this occasion. Donations for the lunch will go towards our Harvest Collection.

Boys' Brigade Band Autumn Concert

including Company Award Presentations in the Church

on Saturday 18th October at 3.30 pm

Free concert with a retiring collection

(<http://1cfbb.com/>).



Message Board

The deadline for items for the **November** edition of *The Link* is **Wednesday 22nd October**.

Caroline Husain is holding her annual fundraising event in aid of **Metabolic Support UK** in the Linkway at Church on **Thursday 16th, Friday 17th and Saturday 18th October** from 10 am until 1 pm. There will be Christmas cards and gifts, jewellery and birthday cards, cakes and lots of interesting bargains. Ploughman lunches (£5) will be served from 12 noon. All are welcome. Please bring your friends as well!

The Grigorians and Friends on **Saturday 4th October** at 7.30 pm in the **United Church, Winchester**. A concert of music provided by Amelie and Jacob Grigorian of the United Church and their Peter Symonds College friends. Also, on **Saturday 18th October** at 7.30 pm in the **United Church, Winchester** there is an organ concert with Gerard Brooks, who is Director of Music at the Methodist Central Hall. He played regularly for BBC Radio 4 Daily Service and Songs of Praise, and toured with the All Souls Orchestra, playing in many concert halls, including the Royal Albert Hall, Royal Festival Hall and Moscow Conservatoire.

On **Saturday 18th October** at 2.30 pm the MET:Revive Ambassador, Rev Dr. David Hull, will be speaking at **Canada Common** Methodist Church, West Wellow. David came and spoke last year about the importance of prayer, the cross and the work of the Holy Spirit. Many attending from different denominations were touched by his powerful message. Joint Churches Together in Wellow (JCTW) are delighted that he will speak to us again. There will be a Prayer and Praise Service as part of this event with Peter Castle as the worship leader, followed by refreshments.

Book Swap for St. Francis Animal Welfare – Give a book, take a book. Come with a gently-used book to Brownhill Community Centre (7 Brownhill Road) on **Saturday 25th October** at 11 am. Wear blue to support and celebrate St. Francis. Suggested £5 entrance donation (for tea, coffee and cake). All proceeds towards the care of St. Francis animals (charity 1166590).

Red Line for Gaza

Revs Rachael Hawkins and Bryan Coates

A number of Charities – including *Oxfam* and *Christian Aid*, are inviting people to join the ‘**Red Line for Gaza**’ campaign. At its heart it is an expression of great concern for the ordinary people of Gaza who are undergoing the most appalling and disastrous set of circumstances.

What Hamas did in October 2023 is utterly repulsive and unforgivable. In response, the Israeli Government have initiated a bombardment and a military invasion of the territory which, coupled with starvation – in spite of denials – has resulted in the wholesale destruction of homes and livelihoods and a huge number of deaths of innocent men, women and children. The Israeli Government has crossed many, many red lines set by the International Community, let alone the standards of compassion and human decency.

Christian Aid is calling on churches and individual Christians to demonstrate their support for the people of Gaza. The meeting of our Church Council in late September agreed to add our voice to the appeal. On Sunday 12th October, which is our Harvest Festival Sunday, we ask members of the congregation to wear prominently some thing red. After Church we will stand for a short time in a line outside the Church as a visible sign to our community of our concern and our wish to be identified with the people of Gaza and their suffering.

We are also being encouraged to write to our MP – there will be a template letter for you to take to use as a base for your own letter. Church Council also agreed to send a letter to Liz Jarvis, the Eastleigh MP, copies of which will be available on Harvest Sunday. To find out more, follow the link:

<https://www.christianaid.org.uk/get-involved/campaigns/red-line-gaza-church-action>.

Caring for our Planet – Circuit Eco Event

Here are a few more details for you. As you know this will be on **Saturday 18th April 2026** from 10 am – 4 pm at our Church. We are planning different activities during the day so that this free event will be accessible to all ages. These include:

Science dome – Two 30 minutes films will be offered throughout the day in a large inflatable science dome, which will be situated in the sanctuary. We will be inviting people to sign up to a session when they arrive. The dome is accessible for wheelchair users and chairs can be placed inside for those with limited mobility. Up to 50 people can be accommodated at a time, although this will be less if chairs and wheelchairs are included. Film options in the dome will be:

1. Dynamic earth – “an immersive full dome program that explores the inner workings of Earth’s climate engine”
2. Plastics in the sea/under the sea

Creative zone – The craft zone will be themed around Bees and Muddy church resources and will include the opportunity to make bee prints, a bug hotel and wind spirals, using a lot of recycled material. There will also be an opportunity to help make or decorate pallet planters, to decorate pots and add seed, and there will be activity sheets throughout the venue.

Seminar room – Two speakers have been booked for the day: Steve Collins (Net Zero Carbon Program Manager, Guildford, Portsmouth and Chichester) and Ruth Valerio (Programmes, Partnerships and Advocacy Director, Embrace the Middle East, formerly of *A Rocha*). They will be offering half hour seminars, with the opportunity for questions in between sessions, and a question-and-answer session towards the end of the day.

There will be other things going on all day. More information in the next edition of *The Link*. You can see what an important event this will be for our church as the venue. So, when the time comes, please sign up to help as welcomers, stewards, helpers with refreshments and so on. You won't be expected to be on duty all day giving you the opportunity to have a look round and join in.

Let us know if you can publicise this to local groups because it is for the whole community not only the Circuit. We will be in touch with local schools to involve them. Pray that will be a witness to our Christian calling to be good stewards of God's creation.

Eco Calendar for October

Taste the difference! Local and seasonal food not only tastes great but is better for the planet too. Think about incorporating locally grown produce into your diet and shopping list throughout the seasons, as it is harvested at its peak ripeness ensuring superior flavour, compared to imported alternatives that have travelled thousands of miles. If saying grace before a meal is a regular practice in your household, include giving thanks for your local food producers this month.

The Business of Murder

Martin Waldron

Following the success of the murder mystery play earlier in the year, the Drama Group is staging another one to test your detective skills. It's entitled 'The Business of Murder'. We are staging two performances this year on **Friday 31st October** at 6 pm and on **Saturday 1st November** at 2.30 pm.

On 31st October, the evening will include a two-course meal with tickets costing £20. On 1st November, the afternoon will include refreshments, probably scones and cakes, with tickets costing £15. Children are very welcome (there is no blood spilled!!) with tickets at half price for both performances. Please do come along and have an enjoyable time. All proceeds are going to our *30 Years On* project.

Methodist Women in Britain

Barbara Hillier and Joyce Powell

The Quiet Morning was a restful, refreshing time when we forgot all about the busyness of everyday life. Hilary Evans had prepared on the theme of the sea and began with a reading from Genesis 1 about creation. We thought about the pleasures of going to the seaside, those for whom the sea is their workplace but, also, the dangers associated with it. In silence we were encouraged to do something on our own, look at the lovely selection of books about the coast, write a poem or story or be more creative using the multiple craft items provided.

We came together then to share what we had been doing and our thoughts and memories of the sea. Then more time to be quiet on our own and finishing with prayer. Coffee and biscuits were available all morning. Home again, driving through the beautiful Hampshire countryside and truly blessed by God.

The Honey Pot Charity – Giving support to this charity is the new Circuit *Methodist Women in Britain* project for the 2025/26 Connexional year. The charity gives support to children aged 5 – 12 who are bearing the heavy load of caring for a parent or sibling, often single-handedly. Quite often this can take over 30 hours a week, and so their experiences can be very different from that of their peers at school – affecting their schooling, social opportunities and the chance to make happy childhood memories and build brighter futures.

This is where *Honey Pot* can help. The charity has a house with large grounds in the New Forest where they take referred children for respite breaks, making memorable days with lots of fun, laughter and loving care. They also continue to give the family pastoral support when the children return home. They get no financial support from the government so fund-raising is very important to them. This is where we can help.

Barbara and Joyce recently had an opportunity to see and hear an informative and moving presentation about *Honeypot* given by a very enthusiastic lady called **Viv Carter**. We hope you will be able to meet Viv soon. Incidentally, she was the first speaker at the Men's Supper Club this session, so speak to one of their members about the charity too. The Thursday morning Service at 10.30 am on 9th October, written and led by the MWiB Circuit team, will feature caring for each other and particularly the work of child carers.

Viv was selling little knitted and crocheted bees for £1 each. If you can knit or crotchet Joyce has the patterns. If you have any double knitting wool in bright yellow or orange, black and white wool please let her know – we can make use of even small lengths. That will be a start. Look for other MWiB events to raise money for *Honeypot* throughout the year.

There is a **Global Relationships** session as part of Wholehearted Monthly on **14th October**. The main session starts at 7 pm and from 8 pm the Global Relationships room will host 'How do indigenous women evangelize in their communities?' Speaker: Delia Cala Veque from the Federation of Methodist Women in Bolivia. For more details and to sign up, see: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/wholehearted-monthly-tickets-1082365166349>



Women's Fellowship

Penny Criswick

2/9 Today it was our pleasure to meet our new Minister, **Rachael Hawkins**, and she had been asked to tell us about her life story to date. This proved to be a very full and wonderful life, with much travelling and changes of home location. Rachael wove into her narrative the idea that life is about the journey, rather than the destination. She illustrated major changes in direction by a series of road signs along the way. We were challenged to think of what our own road signs might be?

Rachael took us on a tour through her life's journey – through childhood, university, work and her calling to the Ministry, along with

her family life – marriage and two sons, with much interesting details along the way. Rachael finished with a reference to the 23rd Psalm pointing out how God had always been on the journey with her, even in the bumpy places. And if you wish to know more about Rachael, “ask a member of the Women’s Fellowship because we know it all” in the words of our gracious leader.

9/9 Our meeting this week was **the A.G.M.**, and followed its usual pattern. Barbara, as President, thanked people for the work behind the scenes that makes our meetings so popular, and members were also thanked for introducing new people to boost our numbers.

One highlight deserving a special mention this year was the 95th Anniversary, which went off splendidly. Another noteworthy item in our meeting was the Treasurer’s report. A suitably indignant Brenda informed us that *Lloyds Bank* have now decided to charge us a worryingly large standing fee, even for months when there are no transactions. No problem as Barbara soon got everyone to vote an increase in the entrance charge to ensure that we keep going. Similarly, we agreed on proposed donations to be made this year and also our Project for the year, which will be the same as the District i.e. *Honeypot Young Carer’s charity*, which supports young carers and vulnerable children between 5 and 12 years of age.

Jenny Heal and Hillary Saunders were formally voted onto the committee as planners, and all the other members agreed to carry on with their roles. Any other business was gently dispatched and our meeting closed with the welcome tea, cake and conversation.

16/9 **Peter Castle** was our guest speaker today and his subject was his work as a Lay Minister, with responsibility for three chapels – each very different. He told us mostly about Canada Common, and he also assists Kate Cambridge in Eastleigh and Bishopstoke. Peter oversees every aspect of church life in Canada Common as there is no longer a regular congregation, so events where the church can outreach into the community are the best way to spread Christianity. We heard an impressive range of activities planned for the coming months – everything from a visit from high ranking church officials to Messy

Church and the puppets. He is also very involved with the *Churches Together* project and often works with Anglican friends. We are all welcome to join in any these events

Peter's chief passion is clearly to promote the importance of prayer and he believes that small groups help towards this. Prayer should not be a shopping list of our needs but to ask what the Lord wants us to do today and place our gifts and talents before Him. The effectiveness of Peter's focus on prayer is reflected in the growing numbers of attendees at his church events.

23/9 Today **Richard Wright** was wearing his entertainers hat! First we had a very scholarly history of entertainment in the UK, which he admitted had been furnished by AI (too good for a mere mortal).

Then there were interesting facts, songs and poems to illustrate his theme and put a fresh slant on favourite tunes. "The Green Eye of the Yellow God" went down particularly well, as did Hoffnung's "The Bricklayer's Lament". Exerpts from the *Two Ronnies* made us laugh and it was over all too soon! Happily, Richard has promised to return with Part Two.

We meet on Tuesday afternoons at 2.30 pm in the Dovetail Centre:

October	7th	Harvest: Rev John Archer (<i>Bring and Buy for Christian Aid</i>)
	14th	Stuart Flitton: Journalism – my part in its survival
	21st	Jon Hughes: Lay Pastor
	28th	Martin Waldron: Neighbourhood Watch
November	4th	Dr Brookes: Walking on the St. Paul trail



30 Years On – From the Treasurer
chrisgoodhead@btinternet.com (023 8025 2405)

Thank you to all who have contributed so generously to enable us to reach this point.

The Lloyds Bank account is:

Name: Chandlers Ford Methodist Church

Number: **55866960** Sort code: **30 92 94**

The next Cake Days are on Thursdays **9th & 23rd October**. Please bring donations of biscuits or cakes along on the day.

A new quiz on '**Musical Instruments**' will be available in the Dovetail Café from **Wednesday 2nd October**. As usual, a donation of £1 is suggested.

u3a Craft Sale in aid of *30 Years On* project and the U3A Crafties on **Thursday 30th October** from 10 am – 12 noon. Various handmade items created by members of Chandler's Ford u3a Crafties Group. Christmas items and decorations, greetings cards, jewellery, etc. Cash and card accepted.