

The Link

CHANDLER'S FORD Methodist Church

Contents

Staff Team	2
From our Minister	3
Services	4
Diary	5
Message Board	6
Northam Methodist Church at Bideford	7
Children and Families work update	8
The future of the Occasional Music Group	g
Methodist Women in Britain	9
Men's Supper Club	10
Eco tips for September	11
Circuit Eco Day, Saturday 18th April 2026 at our Church	11
Women's Fellowship	12
30 Years On – From the Treasurer	14
30 Years On – Update for September 2025	14

September 2025

https://www.cfmethodist.church/ CCL 30794

Staff Team

Rev Rachael Hawkins (01962 882 828) Minister – day off Saturday

rachael.hawkins@methodist.org.uk

Jane Padley (023 8026 6180) Pastoral Assistant – day off Monday

cfmc_jane@hotmail.co.uk

Graham Alders (023 8026 0128) Caretaker

Glenn Stephens (07753 167 098) Property Manager

property@cfmethodist.church

Weekly notices (07905 115 140) by noon on Wednesday

(also *The Link*) <u>richardwright@outlook.com</u>

Katrina Neale (023 8026 0128) Church Centre Manager

katrina@cfmethodist.church

Room Booking <u>bookings@cfmethodist.church</u>

Sonia Craig Circuit Administrator

weradmin@wermethodist.onmicrosoft.com

The next edition of *The Link* will be for **October**. Send items by **Wednesday 24th September** to: Richard Wright (richardwright@outlook.com)

Dovetail Café Monday to Friday 9.30 am (Saturday 10 am) – 12 noon

From our Minister Rev Rachael Hawkins



Dear friends,

It feels a long time since we learnt that I would be coming to Chandler's Ford. It's good to finally be here and able to begin to get to know you and the local area. This is not an area I know well, so I'm looking forward to exploring, but

I'm also looking forward to discovering who you all are and what your faith means to you.

One of the joys of the church is that in moving we have a ready made community that we are already a part of. One of Jesus' prayers was that his disciples might be one. We will have our differences, different gifts, different views, but our faith gives us a foundation that we share and on which we can develop relationships as we recognise that we are all one in Christ.

Developing relationships though, means taking time together and getting to know each other. There's a lot of you for me to get to know, so it's going to take a bit of time. I hope you'll forgive me any mistakes I make along the way! I'm not sure what you've picked up about me, but by way of a brief introduction – I was born a Yorkshire lass. You may hear hints of the accent but having been in the South for many years now it is not as strong as it used to be, although my boys tell me that it gets much stronger whenever I travel back!

We have two boys – Thomas is at Cambridge University studying engineering and Samuel is about to start at York University where he'll be studying chemistry. Andrew, my husband, works for Ericsson, a technology company based in Reading so will be travelling there several times a week. We have been living in Berkhamsted in Hertfordshire for the last 14 years and prior to that I was a Minister in Surrey, living in Frimley Green, near Camberley. Before my ordination I was a Speech and Language Therapist. In my spare time you'll find me walking, reading and baking, amongst other interests.

That's a very brief introduction but hopefully gives a bit of a start as we begin to get to know each other over the next few months and start to worship, pray and work together to share God's love. I'm looking forward to getting to know you.

Blessings,

Services

SEPTEMBER Sunday 7th 9.30 am Breakfast Church

11 am Sunday Worship Rev Rachael Hawkins

The Team

Thursday 11th 10.30 am Midweek Service Rev John Archer

Sunday 14th 9.30 am Holy Communion Rev Rachael Hawkins 11 am Sunday Worship Rev Rachael Hawkins

Thursday 18th 10.30 am Midweek Service Rev Andrew de Ville

Sunday 21st 11 am Sunday Worship Barbara Hillier 6.30 pm Evening Service with Holy Communion Rev Andrew de Ville

Thursday 25th 10.30 am Midweek Service Rev Rachael Hawkins

Sunday 28th 11 am Sunday Worship with Holy Communion Rev Rachael Hawkins

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 Leslie Ritchie

Thursday 9th 10.30 am Midweek Service Methodist Women in Britain

Sunday 12th9.30 am Holy CommunionRev Rachael Hawkins11 am Harvest Festival ServiceRev Rachael Hawkins

Diary

SEPTEMBER

Friday 5th

2.30 pm Dovetail Group in the Church Prayer Corner Facing up to our doubts

Wednesday 17th

10 am Quiet Morning at Kings Sombourne (see page 9)

Thursday 18th

2.30 pm Good News group *Mary, mother of John Mark* Home of Bob and Joyce

Friday 19th

2.30 pm Dovetail Group in the Church Prayer Corner Where our doubts can lead us

Saturday 20th

7 pm United Church concert (see page 6)

Tuesday 23rd

7 pm Men's Supper Club (see page 10)

Wednesday 24th
Deadline for October edition

Thursday 25th 9.30 am Cake Day in the Café

OCTOBER

Friday 3rd

2.30 pm Dovetail Group in the Church Prayer Corner *Some prominent doubters*

Saturday 4th

10 am District Event at Romsey *(see page 9)*

7.30 pm United Church concert (see page 6)

Thursday 9th

9.30 am Cake Day in the Café

Thursday 16th

2.30 pm Good New group *Ruth*Home of Chris and Melva

Friday 17th

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

Saturday 18th

7.30 pm United Church concert (see page 6)

Thursday 23rd

9.30 am Cake Day in the Café

Tuesday 28th

7 pm Men's Supper Club (see page 10)

Message Board



The deadline for items for the **October edition** of *The Link* is **Wednesday 24th September**.

Our **Harvest Festival Service** followed by a lunch will now be on **Sunday** 12th October.

Did you know the Church has **two badminton groups**?

Ladies' badminton meets on Thursday afternoons in the Church Hall from 2–3.30 pm. Any standard of player is welcome. This group has not been able to meet for the past year due to lack of players, and the Church refurbishment works, but it would be great to get it meeting again. For more details, speak to Anne Heath.

The second group meets on Tuesday evenings in the Church Hall from 7.30 – 9.30 pm. Again, any standard of player is welcome – we have been playing recently but we are down to 6 regular players all of whom are males. For more details speak to Alex Mould or Geoff Thomas.

In the Spring we hosted a group of young people – and their leaders including Rev Chris Evans, from **Burghfield Common Methodist Church** for a long weekend stay. Their home church could fit into our Meeting Room 1. They have written a letter of real appreciation for the welcome, the hospitality, and the assistance they received. They were impressed and delighted by our facilities – including the showers, they were enthusiastic about their freedom to use the space energetically(!) – so much so that they have asked if they can come again next year!

The recipients of the **Duke of Edinburgh's Gold Award** are invited to the Palace for a 'Royal Ceremony'. There is also a regional presentation event which was held in our Church in early July. Almost thirty DofE Gold Award winners were congratulated by a large gathering including 9 Mayors of Local Authorities in South Hampshire and by Nigel Atkinson, the Lord Lieutenant of Hampshire. The Lord Lieutenant has personally written us a letter of thanks and appreciation of our premises and gracious hospitality.

We welcomed **Hudson Christopher Rose** into the family of the Church by his baptism in August.

Northam Methodist Church at Bideford

Piers, Elizabeth and Anna Ruff

We had a super week's holiday in Bideford, North Devon, and walked by the river to the Methodist Church at Northam on the Sunday morning.

There were a good number of people in the small church – nearly all of them over 80 we think – and many of them smiled or spoke to us before and after the Service. The Minister led a wonderful traditional Service. There was a full choir who sang an Introit (only one man) – they told us they met on a weekday morning to practice and then enjoyed coffee together.

The last hymn was "Shine Jesus shine" – introduced as a rousing number to go out on. We stood up to sing, but many of the rest of the congregation and the Minister reached down to the floor and grabbed be-ribboned tambourines. They waved them with gusto and played them beautifully with such enthusiasm for Jesus. It was a wonderful ending to such an uplifting and joyful Service.

After the Service, the choir leader explained they often put out the tambourines as one lady who loved music, but could no longer sing, had asked for them. She told us they'd distributed the tambourines around the church but weren't sure how they would be received. When she looked out and saw everyone – some unexpectedly – embracing this way of worshipping together with such joy, she felt God's glory shining. Exactly as the song says!

It was a moving and memorable opportunity to worship with another congregation, and know that we are all sharing in the same good news. Perhaps you have had a chance to share in some holiday worship too?

Children and Families work update

Sandy Coates, Steward for Children and Families Work

At the end of the summer school term **DoveTots** had a wonderful 'Teddy Bears Picnic', a happy and exciting afternoon with the regulars being joined by three new Mums and their little ones taking part too.

Kids' Club had a Scavenger Hunt in church, then Pizza, followed by prizes of 'Bubbles' - 11 children playing, laughing and having great fun together in the courtyard blowing bubbles was just a joy to watch. Kids' Club has become a real family affair, with 9 parents on Friday, all of whom enjoy the company and conversation.

Youth Club had their 'themed' evening too; they asked for Karaoke and had great fun singing along, laughing with each other, and enjoying hot dogs and the usual round of Table Tennis which is a firm favourite with this group of young people. We are especially thinking of some of the group as they wait for their GCSE results and we look forward to welcoming them all back in September.

Who Let The Dads Out continues to meet on the 4th Saturday of the month.

We continue to offer and encourage young people to share in their own special **Sunday Morning activities** too.

Breakfast Church in August was a busy, vibrant and exciting morning with the main 11 am service congregation joining too and sharing in the fun, food and message. Thank you to Sam Barnes, our Circuit Youth Worker for leading the Service.

We finished the summer term on a high and the appreciation and thanks from parents was heart-warming and makes it all very worthwhile!

During August we have been having a grand sort out of all our equipment, craft materials and games – and we are grateful to our Property Team for assisting in this too.

The volunteers across all the groups work incredibly hard to enable our work with children and young people and we are very grateful for the commitment, leadership and the inspiration that they give. Thank you to them all for giving time, sharing their faith and for being a positive role model for CFMC. We are always looking for new volunteers to join us in this important work – please do consider if you could help. We are in a good place to begin the new academic year, and we look forward to working with Rachael in the months to come.

The future of the Occasional Music Group

John and Jane Archer

Jane and John Archer have now retired from running the OMG. We are delighted that our organist, **Agnes Pottage**, has volunteered to organise and lead the group from September. The music which we have accumulated over the years has now been transferred to the Church and is kept in the Ambrose Chalk room. It contains over 150 different songs/hymns (mostly multi copies). It is primarily a resource bank for Agnes to use for the OMG, but the cabinet will not be locked. It is available for anyone to borrow music and then return it. We would encourage new people to join the OMG or to use the store of music.

Methodist Women in Britain

Barbara Hillier and Joyce Powell

Thank you to everyone for their support of the Southampton District MWiB project in aid of training volunteer health workers in Nepal to recognise the early signs of leprosy. Our Circuit raised the wonderful total of £3285.61. Using the Advent Calendar, supporting the quiz and the cream tea among other things Chandler's Ford Methodist Church has helped so much. Well done!

Our Circuit's next project is to support the **Honeypot Charity** which gives holidays to child carers so they can have a week of fun and rest and meet other children who also have to do this in their homes. More details later and we hope you will give your support to this worthwhile cause, too.

On the morning of **Wednesday 17th September** there will be a **Quiet Morning** at King's Somborne Church from 9.45 for 10 am until 12.30 pm, on the theme of The Sea – friend and foe. You are invited to think about this subject or create some artwork, write or consider how the sea has inspired others. Places are limited so book asap by emailing Hilary Evans at hjfe49@gmail.com or phoning her on 01794 368 434 by 14th September. Drinks will be available. If you would like to bring your lunch the room is booked until 1 pm. Donations would be appreciated towards the cost. See the poster in the Linkway. We can offer lifts.

Romsey will be the venue for the next **District Event** on **Saturday 4th October** when we are privileged to have one of the two Connexional MWiB Presidents, **Rev. Leonora Wassell**, joining us. She will be the keynote speaker on the topic of '*The Status of Women, A Way Forward*'. She will speak about her visit to the UN annual congress, and also lead a workshop. There will be other workshops and Rev. Andrew de Ville will lead a Bible Study.

Abuse to women has increased significantly globally in recent years and we need to be aware of this and how we might help. There will be coffee from 10 am and the day will conclude at 3.30 pm. Drinks available and bring your own lunch. Come for part of the day if you can't manage the whole time and don't forget men are welcome as well as women. Again we can offer lifts.

Men's Supper Club John Archer

The new season of the Men's Supper Club starts on **Tuesday 23rd September** with a talk on 'Young Carers and the Honeypot charity' by Viv Carter. The club is open to all men and meets in the Dovetail Centre on the fourth Tuesday of the month at 7 pm for supper, followed by our guest speaker. The meeting normally ends by 9 pm. If you are interested in joining us, contact John Archer (023 8026 6631).

Eco tips for September

Joyce Powell

The Season of Creation (1st September – 4th October) is dedicated to God as the creator and sustainer of all life. During this period of the church calendar, many churches celebrate Harvest, thanking God for His provision through the land and food that is grown. It's a time when churches and congregations are called to pay special attention to the responsibility of humanity for the Earth and for all that lives upon it, and to pray for our world.

It has been difficult to keep plants growing this summer with all the heatwaves we have been experiencing. I have only been watering the tomatoes and courgettes recently. The tomatoes have done well but the courgettes, not so productive. Earlier I managed to grow broad beans but the salad crops have not done well. Another lesson that we must all conserve our precious water.

Here is a prayer for the Season of Creation:

Creating God, your name is written on every leaf, every bird, every river, every stone, every living being. We praise and worship you for the magnificence of your creation.

Make us attentive to the wounds of the earth and willing to work for the healing of the whole creation, through Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord. Amen.

Circuit Eco Day, Saturday 18th April 2026 at our Church Joyce Powell

This will be a very important day in the life of our Church and community as we will be hosting an Eco Day being arranged by our Circuit. The whole Church premises have been booked because there will be so much going on. Anne-Marie & David Jenkins and Joyce Powell are part of the group arranging all the exciting things being planned for all ages. It is some way ahead yet, but please put the date in your diary now because we will need many helpers to welcome our visitors, guide

them around the building and help with refreshments. The Dovetail Café will be open as usual in the morning, but there will be a second serving point all day for drinks and snacks.

The group is led by Rev. Kate Cambridge with other members from St. Andrews, Eastleigh, and Romsey. Kate and some others were helping at *3 Generate* (for youngsters) last year and experienced presentations about Eco matters in a huge dome. A dome is coming to our church that day when you can experience these, too. There will be seminars, activities for families, a Market Place with stalls where you can talk to people about their particular interests (nothing for sale though) a Prayer Room and, of course, refreshments. The whole building will be used so you can see that, as hosts, a lot of our church members will be needed to help in one way or another.

We hope, too, that this will be another way in which we share our concerns about the climate crisis with our relatives, friends and the community. We are thinking about how our local schools can be involved.

If you have any suggestions or would like to be part of the planning group, please let Anne-Marie, David or myself know.

As the prayer from A Rocha above says, this is God's world created for our benefit and we need to care for it. Let's share this belief with other people and all of us be encouraged to find out more about how we can care through this very exciting day.

Women's Fellowship Penny Criswick

1/7 We met today, one of the hottest days of the year, to celebrate God's goodness in providing us with Margaret Smithson, who annually produces the most wonderful afternoon tea party – in the beautiful setting of Susan Gulliver's garden. The range of different flowers are testimony to Sue's loving care – all flourishing! The paths invite you to shady seats where you might encounter a small statue or even a prayer wheel, pond or summer house! In spite of the heat of the

day, Margaret had been hard at work in her kitchen to provide every variety of Victoria sandwich you might wish for, along with her everpopular cheese scones. Fresh sandwiches to suit all tastes appeared, and no shortage of tea to wash it all down.

Susan and Margaret also brought the goodies round to the comfortably seated members of Women's Fellowship, with help from Brenda Syratt. For Susan, this was a second marathon of entertaining – having hosted an Open Garden on the Sunday before. And if you thought there might be a lull in the conversation, we had the perfect answer in the shape of Richard Wright, who never fails to entertain or help in some capacity. Barbara was quick to acknowledge all the hard work and to thank God before we all tucked in, with much conversation and banter following.

8/7 We met today to celebrate our appreciation of God's goodness with a selection of our favourite hymns – and a very fine collection too. It was a gloriously sunny, summer afternoon and the last meeting of the year. Barbara introduced such time-honoured favourites as: "Come let us sing of a wonderful love", "Angel Voices" and "Love Divine", which were interspersed with readings from Romans, Isaiah and an extract from Edward Grey. All served to explore the theme of God's love for us as we meet Him in different times and places, expressed through songs and readings. Barbara produced flowers to say "Thank you" to the two pianists and for Viv, Margaret's stalwart helper in the kitchen. Then there was an appropriate "Thank you" and card for Barbara from Brenda, for all she does to keep these lively meetings going.

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

September	2nd	Rev Rachael Hawkins
	9th	AGM
	16th	Peter Castle: Lay Pastor
	23rd	Richard Wright entertains
	30th	Les Sharpe: Linking social history and ancestry
October	7th	Harvest: Rev John Archer
		(Bring and Buy for Christian Aid)

30^{Years}

30 Years On - From the Treasurer

chrisgoodhead@btinternet.com (023 8025 2405)

The proposed final phase of 30 Years On in due course will focus on the effective zoning of the heating.

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**

Cake Days will be on Thursdays:

25th September 9th & 23rd October

Please bring donations of biscuits or cakes along on the day.

30 Years On - Update for September 2025

Bryan Coates

Incredibly, it is only this time last year that we were heavily involved with the Contractors working on the replacement of the boilers, and the upgrade of at least part of the heating system. What a lot has been achieved in the past twelve months – including the boilers and a whole new computer control system for the heating, the complete replacement of the suite of toilets serving the Hall area of our extensive premises, the installation of the lift to the first-floor rooms, necessary work to ensure the watertight integrity of the flat roof over the Linkway Corridor, and the renewal of the internal paintwork in various places.

In contrast, it may seem that nothing is happening at present, but that is far from the truth. A Fire Officer inspection, coupled with a visit from our Insurer's representative, revealed serious and dangerous flaws in the way the Solar Panel Batteries had been installed some years ago. That has necessitated some urgent work to move the batteries in preparation for the Contract we have just let to create a fire-retardant area around the batteries. We expect the Contract will take up to three

weeks – a period which will cause some disruption to the use of the larger of the first-floor rooms.

We have also just arranged Contracts to complete the fitting out of the accessible toilet on the first floor and to supply an emergency call system.

Currently, work continues on changing over to cost-saving LED lighting throughout, and we are considering quotes for the supply of power assistance to a further four sets of doors in line with our *Thirty Years On* commitment to improve the accessibility of the whole of our premises for those with mobility issues.

Further ahead lies the whole question of a fairly expensive Phase of our project in zoning the heating system, so that we can cut down costs by only heating those parts of the premises that are in use. Currently the Sanctuary is one zone, the Hall a second and all the rest of the premises have heat either on or off! A more complete zoning arrangement will achieve considerable cost savings on our energy use – which was a primary aim for the project.

Through the extraordinary generosity of members of the wider Church Family our Fund Raising has just passed £208,000! Together with grants we have received, we have been able to pay for the work that has been accomplished over this past period (almost £350,000) and have money in hand for the present Contracts. We continue to look to the future and are incredibly grateful that people are still hard at work in a variety of ways. The Quiz Evening on 30th August raised a further £450.

On behalf of the small group working with me to steer the Project – Alison Fenwick, Barbara Lowe, Chris Goodhead and Tim Padley, I am very glad to express our thanks for all the support and encouragement that we are given and, importantly, for the unwavering commitment of our people to our on-going *Thirty Years On* Project.