

Newsletter No 78 – October 2024. ‘Growing as Christians, Growing as a Church’



*Shropshire Hills at the end of summer.
Mellington Hall, Powys.*

October has rolled in and that means that the summer officially draws to a close. A fact made more painful by the way that, in the UK, it never really got going this year. Like many others, I feel I truly become my ‘best self’ when in the sun, by the sea, and enjoying the long evening light. The arrival of autumn can be a difficult pill to swallow.

Autumn often brings with it talk about summer blues, an impending sense of busyness, a return to duties after a summer break, and a longing for the next holiday. It’s so easy to moan about the weather and long for what feels out of reach. But we believe in the God who crafted the seasons, so shouldn’t we be different?

It is tempting to believe that ‘summer me’ is the best me. With more time in the sun with a book, dipping in the sea, or going for long walks, I find myself generally feeling less anxious, more joyful, and more confident.

But God teaches us by his Word that our identity need not be tied up in the seasons. Instead, because God has ‘lavished’ us with his great love, we have been granted the identity of ‘children of God’ (1 John 3:1). By the grace of God and Jesus’ death and resurrection, I am a daughter of the Creator, 365 days of the year. That means that when tan lines fade, joy and confidence should not.

As we journey on from many people’s favourite season, it’s a good opportunity to remind ourselves of where our identity and purpose is found. We are heirs to the King of the universe and made to be lights in a dark world (Matthew 5:14). Let the fading evenings remind us of the hope we can carry to those who do not yet know Jesus and the unshakeable joy he offers.

We might also ask ourselves, and those around us, ‘What have I learned about rest this summer that I can bottle up and take with me into the autumn?’. If God has shown me something good, why deny it or ignore it for the next nine months? For me, that’s unhurried time with God in the morning, reading a good book, time away from my phone, and days where I don’t see a mirror.

Whatever the answer might be for you, how can you intentionally take what God has taught you into the next season? While the seasons change, our beautiful Saviour does not. Jo Evans LICC

Dates for October and early November 2024

Sunday 6th at 10.30 – Roger Stone including Sacrament (Connexion President).

Monday 7th at 19.30 – Deacon’s Meeting at 3 Kensington House.

Sunday 13th at 10.30 – Phil McDermott (Lymm Independent Methodist Church).

Sunday 20th at 10.30 – Susan McArthur. Followed by Church Annual Meeting in the hall.

Sunday 27th at 10.30 – Fellowship Led Worship – Theme Young People - Kim Wellens of Warrington Youth for Christ.

Sunday 3rd at 10.30 – Rob Brooks including Sacrament.

Monday 4th at 19.30 – Church Council Meeting – Fellowship Room.

Sunday Morning Worship can be shared on Zoom. Meeting ID: 874 0789 6194 and Password: 427632.

Proposed Connexional Heating Grant payable to individuals. Could this help you?



The Connexional Finance Committee have proposed to Connexional Committee that Churches can apply to the Connexion for a £300 heating grant for any member of their congregation who will suffer hardship as a result of the government’s withdrawal of the Winter Allowance. Individual churches will identify any members who will suffer hardship from this cut and provide the Connexion with the number requiring help. No names are required. If you are going to suffer hardship this winter

as a result of the loss of the Winter Fuel Allowance, please contact Rob. The matter will be handled in strictest confidence.

The Finance Committee of Connexional Committee should be congratulated on their imaginative and bold initiative.

Improved Audio and Visual Equipment for Church – We have also been informed that the Finance Committee have responded to the grant request from our church and have recommended that we receive £5, 500 towards these planned improvements. The work is due to be carried out from Monday 14th October and is expected to take three days.



Relocation of furniture at the rear of church – To accommodate a new control desk at the rear of church the mobile bookcase will be re-sited nearer the door entrance. This will be the logical location once the clutter of the existing audio equipment is removed.

Donate a Ceramic Pot or Rockery Stone. Work on the garden is drawing to a close for the year. There has been a tremendous effort by a handful of volunteers to reach our current position on the Barton Avenue corner where the ground has been cleared, weed control matting laid and stone and flags positioned. We want to decorate this new low maintenance area with several ceramic pots which will contain suitable plants. If you have unused ceramic pots (minimum 30cm) or wish to purchase or donate money for the purchase of one, please contact Veronica or Allyson.

Thought for the Month. “By planting a garden, you are planning for the future”.

Long Promised Clear Out and Declutter. A skip is to be arranged for the week beginning the 4th November. The storeroom, behind the organ and the shed will be targeted. The clear out will start immediately and ‘rubbish’ should be deposited on the spare ground near the shed.



The return of the Christingle Service on Christmas Eve. At the suggestion of several people including the Brownies, it has been agreed to hold a Christingle Service on Christmas Eve at 18.30. We hope to publicise the event widely and hope that as many members as possible will attend. **Other News from Church Council** - It is hoped that the fellowship room will be decorated in the coming month following the replastering of the wall and ceiling. The proposed Quiz for the end of October has been cancelled. A donation of £100 has been made to Lymm IM Church Romania Appeal.

A Christmas Concert will be held on Tuesday 10th December with Nikki and Pip who have entertained us in similar concerts over recent years. Admission is by donation with a suggested amount being £5 for adults. Children will be free. All proceeds to be donated to the Children’s Society.

Thanks to all those who contributed to Church Lunch on the 1st October. It was a great success.



October Prayer Points. During the Church Council Meeting on the 30th September the importance of prayer support for all our activities was emphasised. So, during the coming month please pray for the following.

- Offer prayer support for the person who will occupy the pulpit on the next Sunday. That God will give them a message that is clear and relevant.
- For the opportunity to invite people to the various activities that we as a church arrange.
- That we as a church find opportunities to engage members of the local community.
- In the wider world pray for the escalating war in the Middle East. Pray for peace and that no more innocent lives will be lost.

October Birthdays. 6th – Mike Lynsky, 10th – Brenda Newlan, 15th – Ken Rowlands, 25th – Karen Hart.

Wedding Anniversaries. 5th – Philip and Brenda Newlan, 28th – Sonali and Kar Lei.