

MAR 2026



THE MESSENGER

CIRCUIT MAGAZINE

MESSAGE FROM ROB

DEAR FRIENDS,

It seems good to be writing to you all as we prepare for Easter, during the season of Lent and to have the opportunity to reflect on all the good things that God is doing in our midst, whilst anticipating so much more in the weeks and months to come.

After a wonderful Christmas together, it has been great to host JB Gill and his agent Dave Bemment for an amazing launch event of Alpha and to have 70 people register for the course. We will reflect more upon this in the next edition of 'The Messenger', as the course develops. But, we are very encouraged by the large number of new people attending, who have also joined our Sunday worship and by the progress made in improving the décor of Market Drayton's hall and lounge.

The Pastoral Work also continues, as we seek to care for the whole community role of both churches in partnership with our Pastoral Visitors, as the sense of being the family of God develops. This magazine is an important opportunity to remind everyone that they are valued and that we serve the local community. As we were reminded during the 'Gifted campaign' the local church is a gift to the local community, loving and caring for everyone living locally and particularly those in need.

We are looking forward to all of our Easter services of reflection and Celebration as we remember the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus. One highlight will be the 10.30am Baptismal Service at Market Drayton on Easter Sunday, when it is hoped that a number of people doing the Alpha Course will be ready to

make this public act of commitment and testimony. This will be followed by a Joint Pentecost Sunday Celebration Service when we receive new members into our Churches and Circuit. This will in some sense be a Pentecost Party and more details will be soon available.

Alongside this, we are exploring the possibility of hosting Retreat Days at Ashley, the first will be on May 30th with Rev Helen Kirk (Chair of District) the title is 'A Day of personal Spiritual Renewal' (further details later). We are also planning a Family Fun Day at Tern Hill Hall Hotel, 11am – 4pm on Sunday 14th June 2026, when the whole community will be invited to join us for this day, as we showcase who we are as a Methodist Circuit and bless as many as possible in the local area.

'The calling of the Methodist Church is to respond to the Gospel of God's love in Christ and to live out it's discipleship in worship and mission'. Using

the heading MDMC 'RENEWS', we Reach Out, we Equip God's people, Nurturing relationships, Encouraging our members, Worshiping with relevant experiences, Supporting local people and groups.

I trust that this magazine gives you a flavour of who we are as churches and of all that is to come. On behalf of Carol, myself and our leadership teams, I pray that this Easter you will experience meaningful worship and a real sense of the Resurrection Joy of Christ.

Your friend and minister,

Rob

Revd Rob Cotton

CONTACT REV ROB

minister@mdmc.org.uk

or

minister@ashleymethodist.co.uk

01630 652631

Normal working days: Sunday - Wednesday

LIFE GROUPS - 'DOING LIFE' TOGETHER

Loving, sharing, learning and serving, becoming the people and community that God always intended.

Our life groups are a great way to 'be church' during the week, to connect with each other, and go deeper with God.

The shared DNA of each of our life groups is to encourage each member to grow:

- In love for God
- As individuals and disciples of Jesus
- As groups in love and care for each other
- To reveal Jesus to people who don't know him.

We believe that being part of a life group is vital for us to grow in our love for God, for each other and our community.

We have groups aimed at children, youth and adults, which meet in various times and places. All of our groups share the above DNA and aims, but they seek to achieve this in different ways through various activities, including bible study, prayer, sharing meals, games and community outreach.

If you would like to find out more, or, even better, join one of our groups, please speak to Rev Rob or a member of the Leadership Team and they can help find the group which best suits your needs.



Market Drayton Methodist Church,
Shrewsbury Road, Market Drayton.
TF9 3DL

CHURCH FOCUS | ASHLEY

Reading the bible for the first time?

Or the hundredth?

BIBLE STUDY

“Our Ecumenical Bible Study takes place on Thursday mornings at 10am at Church and lasts around 90 minutes. It is a time for friendly and informal fellowship and we extend a warm welcome to anyone wishing to join us with no commitment to attend regularly.

Together we choose a different book of the bible or study focus each term and members of the group who feel able, take it in turns to lead our study each week.

We also enjoy a chat and a catch up over a coffee and,

more often than not, a biscuit too!”

From its humble beginnings a number of years ago, meeting in people’s homes, to the group it has become today, the bible study has always kept a friendly and informal feel to it, inviting conversation and a great opportunity to get to know the bible more.

Speak to Jill or Margaret for more information or pop along one Thursday morning.



Ashley Methodist Church,
Wesleyan Road, Ashley. TF9 4JT

Interested in self-led bible study?
check out the resources on our website:
www.ashleymethodist.co.uk/bible-study

MIDWEEK GROUPS & SERVICES

We have so much going on in the churches during the week. Check out our websites for more information on when our groups meet.

Bible Study

V.I.P. Club

Befrienders

**Baby & Toddler
Groups**

**Men's
Fellowship**

**Wednesday
Communion**

Ukulele Groups

Social Hour

Life Groups

Open The Book

Crafty Folk

Youth Groups

CONNECT WITH US

Pop in on Sunday

Wesleyan Road, Ashley

Shrewsbury Road
Market Drayton

Our Websites

www.mdmc.org.uk

www.ashleymethodist.co.uk



Follow us on Facebook

@MarketDraytonMethodist

@AshleyMethodistChurch

or YouTube

@MarketDraytonMethodist

Have you received a paper copy of this magazine and would like to get future editions by email? Please drop Aimee a message at

circuitadmin@mdmc.org.uk



Retreats

At Ashley Methodist Church



£20
per
person

Upcoming retreat

'A DAY OF PERSONAL SPIRITUAL RENEWAL'

led by Rev Helen Kirk (Chair of District)

Saturday 30th May, 10am – 3pm

a day of prayer, quiet time and guided reflection,
including lunch and refreshments

email retreats@ashleymethodist.co.uk to book

We have a small number of funded places available for the day, so if you would like to access one of those, please mention on enquiry.

FAMILY CELEBRATION
FOOD
CRAFTS
GAMES
THE BIG FAMILY GATHERING
LIVE MUSIC BANDS / CHOIRS
WORSHIP
TERN HILL HALL
SUNDAY 14TH JUNE
11AM – 4PM
COMPETITIONS
STORYTELLING
DANCING
PUPPETS
SAVE THE DATE!

WATCH THIS SPACE. MORE INFO TO COME VIA FACEBOOK & OUR WEBSITES.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



MARCH

Sat 7th - Beetle Drive - 4-6pm - MDMC

Tue 10th - Presbyterial Synod - MDMC

Fri 12th - Sat 13th - Alpha Weekend - Ashley

APRIL

Thu 2nd - Maundy Thursday Service - 7pm - MDMC

Fri 3rd - Good Friday @MDMC - 10am

Short service followed by walk of witness

Fri 3rd - Good Friday @Ashley - 12pm

Reflective service

Sun 5th - Easter Sunday Early service - 8am - MDMC

Holy Communion followed by breakfast
(sign up via newsletter & website)

Sun 19th - Easter Offering Service - 3.30pm - Ashley

MAY

Sun 10th - Market Drayton 10K

Sun 24th - Circuit Service - 10.30am - MDMC

AND BEYOND

Sun 14th June - Family Fun Day - Tern Hill Hall Hotel

July - The Extreme Tour returns (TBC)

KEEP UP TO DATE WITH US

Our churches each have a weekly news sheet, and the circuit magazine will be a quarterly publication. If you would like to be added onto the email list to receive any of the above, please send an email to circuitadmin@mdmc.org.uk and let Aimee know which you would like to receive.