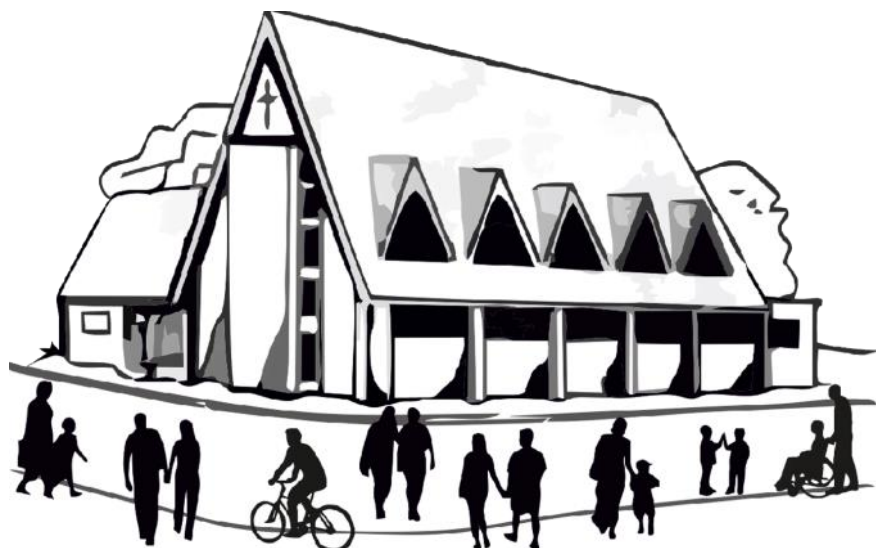


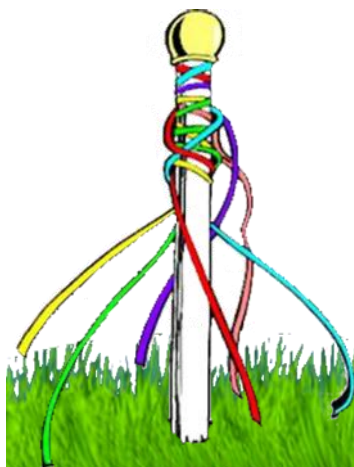
# LYNDON MAGAZINE



**MAY &  
JUNE 2023**



**Lyndon Methodist Church**



## **MINISTER IN PASTORAL CHARGE**

Rev Karen Webber

Contact Tel                    07505 109287



## **LYNDON ROOM HIRE**

Contact via

Tel: 07930 617301\*

Email via

[lyndonmethodist@btconnect.com](mailto:lyndonmethodist@btconnect.com)

## **STEWARD TEAM**

Contact via

Tel: 07930 617301\*

Email via

[lyndonmethodist@btconnect.com](mailto:lyndonmethodist@btconnect.com)

## **MAGAZINE EDITOR**

Lynne Tyler

Email via

[lyndonmethodist@btconnect.com](mailto:lyndonmethodist@btconnect.com)

**Website**

<https://lyndonmethodist.org.uk>

**\* Note new contact number, effective from 26 February 2023**

Charity No: 1150167

## INDEX

Page	Title
4	Minister's Letter
6	The Coronation of Jesus
9	Prayer For May and June
10	Easter at Lyndon 2023
14	May Day and the Maypole
16	Changes to Mobile and Landline Telephone Services
20	A new "Hampton Court garden" in Coleshill
22	Blossom Time
24	Which one are you?
26	Quiz & Puzzles
29	Lyndon Community Page
32	Notices & Events
34	Upcoming Services

The opinions expressed in this magazine are not necessarily those of the Ministerial team or the Editor

## MINISTER'S LETTER

*Dear Friends*

**A**fter the joy and celebration of Easter Day, we now journey through 50 days of the Easter season which will take us right up to Pentecost, the birth of the church. Life is full of journeys, which includes the many stories we make along the way. One of my favourite stories of the Easter season is, the walk to Emmaus. In the story, two disciples are walking to Emmaus when they encounter a stranger who begins walking with them. They have no idea that this stranger is actually the risen Christ.

As they walk and talk together, the stranger explains the scriptures to them and helps them to understand the deeper meaning of Christ's life, death, and resurrection. Only when they sit down to eat and the stranger blesses and breaks the bread do the disciples recognise that this is Christ, and at that moment he immediately disappears from their sight.

This story reminds us that Christ is always walking with us, even when we don't recognise him. He is with us on our journey through life, guiding us, teaching us, and revealing himself to us in unexpected ways. It also reminds us of the importance of breaking bread together. When we come together in community and share a meal, we experience the presence of Christ in a powerful



The disciples encounter Jesus on the road to Emmaus, relief on the baptismal font in the church of Saint Matthew in Stitar, Croatia

way. We become united in and by his love and his mission.

This story has resonances with me, particularly as we continue conversations around our partnership with the Birmingham Chinese Methodist Church. Having had one bring and share meal together, I'm really looking forward to more times when we can share food and conversation. It's in these moments of eating and sharing together that something new happens. Barriers and differences seem to melt away as we experience something of the presence of Christ in one another.

Although the journey ahead for us may seem a little scary, because we might feel like we are travelling into the unknown, we can be sure that Christ walks with us every step of the way, even though we often may not recognise him.

So, as we make the journey, may we always remember that Christ is walking with us every step of the way. May we be open to his guidance and his teaching in all things regarding our future mission, and may we continue to come together in community to share meals and break bread together. For in doing so, we will experience the presence of Christ in our midst, and our hearts will be filled with joy and hope.

*Go well, Karen*

*'When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. They said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?" That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. They were saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!" Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread. (Luke 24: 30–35).*



*He is not here;  
he has  
Risen!*

*Luke 24:6*

## The Coronation of Jesus

From time immemorial monarchs have been crowned in some way or other. The coronation of Jesus began at his baptism and mainly takes place after Jesus gave the third prediction of his death and resurrection.

(Matthew 20 v 17-19)

### Anointing

The second king of Israel, David, was only a boy of 15 when he was secretly anointed with oil by the prophet Samuel, to be king after the death of Saul, who had disobeyed God and had become a bad king. Oil represented holiness and the anointing was a setting apart for a special purpose. From the day of his anointing, the Spirit of the Lord came powerfully upon David. (1 Samuel 16 v13).

After the death of Saul, the men of Judah went to Hebron and anointed David as king of the tribe of Judah. (2 Samuel 2 v 4).

Later, all the elders of the tribes of Israel went to Hebron and David was anointed over a united kingdom of Israel. (2 Samuel 5 v3)

At her coronation in 1953, Her Majesty Elizabeth II, was anointed three times with oil. First on her hands, then on her breast, and thirdly on the crown of her head.

Jesus was anointed at his baptism. The gospels record that at his baptism while Jesus was praying the heavens were opened, and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form like a dove, and a voice came from heaven saying, "You are my Son, whom I love; with whom I am well pleased." (Luke 3 v 21-22). Jesus was set apart to carry out the work he was sent to do and anointed by the Holy Spirit.

The second anointing by the Holy Spirit was at the Transfiguration. Peter, James, and John were with Jesus on the mountain and while they were enveloped in a bright cloud, they heard a voice which said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased. Listen to him! "

(Matthew 17 v 1-13)

The third anointing took place at Bethany on the journey from Galilee to Jerusalem after the third prediction Jesus had given of his death and resurrection. We do not know how long the journey took but it was a distance of between 70 – 90 miles depending upon where in the area of Galilee the journey began. On the way Jesus and the disciples called to visit their friends Mary, Martha, and Lazarus at Bethany, about two or three miles from Jerusalem. Mary took half a litre of nard, a very



expensive fragrant ointment and poured it on Jesus' feet and wiped his feet with her hair. It was worth about a year's wages. This was an act which anticipated the burial of Jesus and a declaration of the faith Mary had in Jesus as the Messiah. This was a unique act for a special occasion which does not teach us that money should always be spent extravagantly for Jesus.

### **The Procession**

When King Charles III attends his coronation, he will arrive in the modern 20<sup>th</sup> century Diamond Jubilee Coach and return in the Gold State Coach of the 1760's. which the late Queen described as horrible and uncomfortable.

For Jesus there was no such choice. He made the final two-mile triumphal journey from Bethpage to Jerusalem on an unbroken in foal of a donkey. The ride would have been



bumpy and uncomfortable and there was also the risk that the young untrained animal would be frisky. The narrow road which ran from Jericho to Jerusalem would have been busy with many pilgrims making their way to Jerusalem for the Passover. Jesus chose a donkey rather than a horse as it was regarded as an animal of peace compared with a horse which was an animal used in war. This mode of entry was prophesied 500 years earlier by the prophet Zechariah. (Zechariah 9 v9).

The disciples laid their cloaks on the donkey as there was no saddle. On the way, the crowd cut down palm branches and spread them on the road. Recognising that he was the Messiah they sang "Hosanna to the son of David". Meaning "Save us we beseech thee". (Matthew 21 v1-11)

Almost a thousand years earlier Solomon was put on a mule to go to Gihon where he was anointed with oil by the priest for his proclamation as king over Israel, following the abdication of his father David due to old age. (1 Kings 1 v 28-40).

One hundred and fifty years later, when Jehu was anointed king of Israel, the people quickly took off their cloaks and spread them under him on the bare steps, blew the trumpet and shouted, "Jehu is king". (2 Kings 9 v 1-13)

After his coronation was over Jesus did not return home or have a grand procession but shuffled through the narrow streets of Jerusalem carrying his heavy cross. Instead of cheers and flag waving from the bystanders there was mockery and jeering. (John 19 v16b-18)

### **Enthronement**

When entering the Abbey for the coronation service the monarch wears the

crimson Robe of State. Prior to being crowned this is removed which is symbolic of being divested of all worldly vanity and of standing bare before God. The monarch is then robed with the purple Imperial Robe symbolising the divine nature of the office of being Sovereign. The Sovereign is then crowned and handed a sceptre and orb. The sceptre is symbolic of the power which the monarch holds and the orb, a stick with a ball on the end with a cross on the top, represents the power of God, and a reminder that all power and authority derive from God.

Pilate handed Jesus over to the soldiers to be crucified. They stripped him and put a purple robe on him. Instead of a jewelled crown they twisted together some thorns to make a crown, and for a sceptre and orb they placed a staff in his right hand. Instead of sincere homage they knelt down before him and mocked him. The soldiers then took off the purple robe and put his own clothes on him. (Matthew 27 v 27-31)

Jesus then had to walk to Golgotha where he was crucified. Over his head they put a notice "This is Jesus, the king of the Jews" (Matthew 27 v 37). The coronation of Jesus was complete. His work on earth was now complete. He was and is the king of kings.

### The Future

After hours of agony Jesus died and was put in a borrowed tomb from which he rose victorious three days later. The authorities believed that they had done away with Jesus the son of God, but they had not recognised him for who he really was. By his resurrection he showed that he had conquered death and was alive for ever more. When he returns every knee will bow before him and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord. (Philippians 2 v 10-11) *Barry Davis*





## Prayer For May and June

**F**or King Charles III as he is crowned at the official coronation ceremony on 6th May. Help him to keep the solemn promises that he makes during the ceremony. Give him the grace, wisdom and strength to lead this country and the peoples of the Commonwealth. Pray also for Camilla the Queen Consort, William Prince of Wales, the Princess of Wales, and all the Royal Family; that they may love and support the King as he bears the burden of his office.



Continue to pray for the citizens of Ukraine and Russia and for their leaders and world leaders. Continue to pray for successful diplomacy that will bring an end to this human suffering and assault on democracy which has now lasted for over 12 months. Pray for the Ukrainian citizens wherever they may be and for those who continue to help them.

For the people in power in government, within trade unions, help them to work together and listen to each other in order to end the strikes which are still having such an impact on our country.

### **Also please pray for:**

Pray for those we know who are unwell or with serious illness and for the families of the bereaved. May they feel God's healing touch.

Pray for those families who are struggling to put food on the table and keep themselves warm as the cost of living crisis deepens. Help them to know that God is with them and that help is out there.

Pray for our services in May and June as we go through the period towards the Ascension and Pentecost. Pray for all those who access our building that they may feel a touch from you.

Turn our minds and hearts to visualising the church we want Lyndon to be in the future. It's a time for new opportunities – give us your wisdom and strength and open our hearts to being directed by you.

Don't forget to thank God each day for the blessings he has given you.

*Amen*

## Easter at Lyndon 2023

Easter at Lyndon started this year with a Messy Palm Sunday; a different way of celebrating the journey by Jesus into Jerusalem. The morning started with breakfast in the coffee lounge, followed by a craft activity in the hall. An opening prayer and welcome were followed by everybody making palm trees with young helping old and vice versa. The leaves of the palm trees were made by drawing round your hand, so they were all different shapes and sizes. Once completed, everybody was handed a palm cross and processed into church singing "He'll be riding on a donkey when he comes" and following Jo playing her clarinet, a bit like the Pied Piper!

A short service in the church followed including a sketch between the donkey and his master with the donkey reliving his experience on that special day and the master interpreting the hee-haws. We even managed to sing a hymn with the left hand side of the church answering the



right hand side. Rev Karen's intercessory prayers focussed on the Palm trees we had made. In particular, we considered the fingers on the palm leaves and the palm crosses we had been given. A great service with a difference which was enjoyed by all (although I admit I am biased!)

On Wednesday, as part of the Prayer Group, we had a Tenebrae service, led by

Rev Karen. This took the form of a hymn, a bible reading and then a short service of communion and a prayer. Then things changed. Six candles were lit and then the lights were turned off. We then read a series of bible readings following the



story of the betrayal of Jesus, His trial, and His crucifixion. After each reading, the person doing the reading blew out the candle in front of them, with the room getting darker and darker. Once all the candles were extinguished, we then tidied, cleared the room, and left in total silence. It was a truly immersive experience and really made you think about the suffering and sacrifice that Jesus made on that first Good Friday.

Good Friday was a wholly different experience. A group of us gathered at church including many children. The children, with the help of Brenda and

Barry, made the wonderful Easter Garden that was in the vestibule whilst their parents sat and ate hot cross buns and drank coffee! We then locked up the church and walked, together with members of the RCCG church, to the Coventry Road to join in a Good Friday service outside Savers with members of Hatchford Brook Churches Together. The weather was very kind to us as we sang hymns, said prayers, and listened to the Scriptures and message delivered by





representatives of all the different churches. There were over 60 people witnessing to God's love for us.

On Easter Sunday, as usual, the church was beautifully decorated with flowers prepared by the ladies of the flower club. In addition, members of the congregation were invited to put a flower in the cross when they arrived at church, and this was then carried up at the start of the



service and put by the cross that we had been focussing on during the period of Lent.

Thanks must go to everyone who helped to make this year's Easter celebrations so great – those who helped in the canteen, those who decorated the church and those who led or took part in the services with such enthusiasm. In fact, this covers everyone who attended a service! We couldn't have done it without you.

Thank you all - *Lynne*



# May Day and the Maypole

## May Day

**M**ay Day is a May 1 celebration with a long and varied history, dating back millennia. Throughout the years, there have been many different events and festivities worldwide, most with the express purpose of welcoming in a change of season (spring in the Northern Hemisphere). In the 19th century, May Day took on a new meaning, as an International Workers' Day grew out of the 19th-century labour movement for worker's rights and an eight-hour workday in the United States.

The Celts of the British Isles believed May 1 to be the most important day of the year when the festival of Beltane was held. This May Day festival was thought to divide the year in half, between the light and the dark. Symbolic fire was one of the main rituals of the festival, helping to celebrate the return of life and fertility to the world.

When the Romans took over the British Isles, they brought with them their five-day celebration known as Floralia, devoted to the worship of the goddess of flowers, Flora. Taking place between April 20 and May 2, the rituals of this celebration were eventually combined with Beltane.

## Maypole

While the exact origins of the maypole remain unknown, the maypole tradition appears to date back to the dances ancient people used to do around actual trees in hopes of harvesting a large crop or as part of a fertility ritual, where the pole symbolized male fertility and baskets and wreaths symbolized female fertility.

Historians have suggested that maypole dancing originated in Germany and travelled to the British Isles courtesy of invading forces. In Great Britain, the dance became part of a fertility ritual held every spring in some areas.

By the Middle Ages, most villages had an annual maypole celebration. In rural areas, the maypole was typically erected on the village green, but a few places, including some urban neighbourhoods in London, had a permanent maypole that stayed up year-round.

The earliest recorded evidence of Maypole use in the UK comes from a Welsh



poem written by Gryffydd ap Adda ap Dafydd in the mid-14th century, in which he described how people used a tall birch pole at Llanidloes, central Wales. Literary evidence for maypole use across much of Britain increases in later decades, and "by the period 1350–1400 the custom was well established across southern Britain, in town and country and in both Welsh-speaking and English-speaking areas.

The practice became increasingly popular throughout the ensuing centuries, with the maypoles becoming "communal symbols" that brought the local community together – in some cases, poorer parishes would join up with neighbouring ones in order to obtain and erect one, whilst in other cases, such as in Hertfordshire in 1602 and Warwickshire in 1639, people stole the poles of neighbouring communities, leading to violence. In some cases, the wood for the pole was obtained illegally, for instance in 1603, the earl of Huntingdon was angered when trees were removed from his estates for use as maypoles without his permission.

The rise of Protestantism in the 16th century led to increasing disapproval of maypoles and other May Day practices from various Protestants who viewed them as idolatry and therefore immoral. Under the reign of Edward VI in England and Wales, Protestant Anglicanism was declared to be the state religion, and under the Reformation many maypoles, such as the famous Cornhill maypole of London, were destroyed; however, when Mary I ascended the throne after Edward's death, she reinstated Roman Catholicism as the state faith, and the practice of maypoles was reinstated. Under later English monarchs, the practice was sporadic, being banned in certain areas, such as Doncaster, Canterbury and Bristol, but continuing in many others, according to the wishes of the local governors. In Scotland meanwhile, which at this time was still an independent state, Protestantism, in the form of Presbyterianism, had taken a more powerful hold, and largely wiped out the practice of maypoles across the country.

Royal support contributed to the outlawing of maypole displays and dancing during the English Interregnum. The Long Parliament's ordinance of 1644 described maypoles as "a Heathenish vanity, generally abused to superstition and wickedness." The only recorded breach of the Long Parliament's prohibition was in 1655 in Henley-in-Arden, where local officials stopped the erection of maypoles for traditional games.

In England, the Puritans managed to quash the maypole celebration for roughly two centuries. But by the late 19th century, the custom regained popularity as the British people took an interest in their country's rural traditions. This time around the poles appeared as part of church May Day celebrations, which included dancing but were more structured than the wild maypole dances of centuries past. The maypole dancing practiced today is likely connected to the dance's revival in the 1800s and not to the ancient version of the custom.

## Changes to Mobile and Landline Telephone Services

Over the next few years there will be big changes to Mobile Phone and Landline services. Whilst, largely, there is nothing to worry about, people need to be aware of what is happening to make sure they make the right choices when buying new phones and equipment or even the company you buy your services from.

### Mobile Phones and the Switch Off of 2G & 3G Services



Currently the UK's mobile services use four different 'generations' of mobile technology: 2G, 3G, 4G and 5G. The 3G networks have been around since 2003 and are used to deliver calls, texts, and lower speed data services. The 2G networks have been around longer and are generally used for older feature phones and for internet of things (IoT) devices such as smart meters, eCall systems and 'smart' devices in the home.

### When The Switch Off Occurs, Your 2G & 3G Device's Will Stop Working

Unfortunately, if you have a phone or device that can only use 2G or 3G when the switch off occurs your phone or device will stop working. There is nothing you can do to change this; you will have to buy a new mobile phone or compatible device.

### The 3G Switch Off

The 3G switch off is happening first and the date for the 3G switch off varies between providers. Currently there are four main providers in the UK and every other provider uses one of the four to provide their service.

Vodafone has already started its switch off in certain parts of the country. EE and Three will have switched off their 3G services by the end of 2024. O2, as yet, have not announced their plans.



### The 2G Switch Off

In some ways the 2G switch off is more worrying than the 3G, although there is a lot more time before this switch off happens, which is scheduled to be by 2033.

2G is in more devices and you might not even realise they have an internet connection. For example, virtually





all smart meters connect via 2G. More worrying many of the home emergency devices operate on 2G.

### What Should You Do?



Largely nothing, there isn't much you can do. However, for devices such as mobile phones you should check whether yours can connect to 4G or 5G services. If not, at some point before the switch off you will need to change your device.

If you are looking for a new device now, make sure it can connect to 4G or 5G services. There are surprisingly still a lot of phones on sale that are 3G only. This is especially true in the mobile phones designed for the older person.

As to 2G, there is time for the companies and service providers to change the equipment. However, if you are thinking of purchasing any internet of things (IoT) devices, car trackers etc. be aware they may come with built in obsolescence. As the switch off approaches though manufacturers will bring out products that will work on 4G and above.

### Landline Telephone Services

The UK's landline telephone network is going digital. The telecoms industry has even set a deadline that's backed by the UK government – the old copper network will be switched off at the end of 2025.



If you weren't aware of plans to switch off the PSTN (public switched telephone network), you aren't alone, a survey in March 2021 found that 91% were unaware that all phone lines would become digital by the end of 2025.



These changes will affect everyone who has a landline they'd like to keep using; soon these will work via a broadband connection instead. You may need a new landline telephone as not all current phones will be compatible or convertible.

## Why are traditional phone services being taken away?

The phone network that has existed since the Victorian era is coming to the end of its life. While its physical infrastructure remains similar to when it was installed, our communication needs have changed immensely. The current physical infrastructure is expensive to maintain, and modern broadband is faster than copper, generally more reliable, more resilient, and easier to maintain.

## What if I don't have or want a broadband connection?



Those who currently only have a landline won't be forced to pay for broadband services that they don't want or need. Your digital phone service will work using a special dedicated broadband connection and shouldn't cost any more than what you pay now.

## What are the risks of the move to digital voice?

There are a million UK voice-only customers, some of whom will not have any access to broadband. People in this group are more likely to be older, financially vulnerable, not working or from lower socioeconomic groups. Ofcom say it that will keep a close eye on the progress made by phone providers to help ensure all customers, particularly those who are vulnerable, are supported through the transition.

## Do digital voice services work if there's a power cut?

A positive aspect of analogue phone services is that they continue to work in a power outage. That's not true of digital services, if there is a power cut the digital phoneline won't work.

However, for at least the most vulnerable customers, landline/broadband providers are responsible for additional protections to ensure customers can reach emergency services, such as battery backups.

## What about other devices that use phone lines?

Landlines aren't the only things that rely on the phone network. It also supports devices ranging from healthcare devices, burglar alarms, ATMs and card machines to traffic lights, motorway signs and railway signals. The copper phone network supports thousands of personal alarms and home

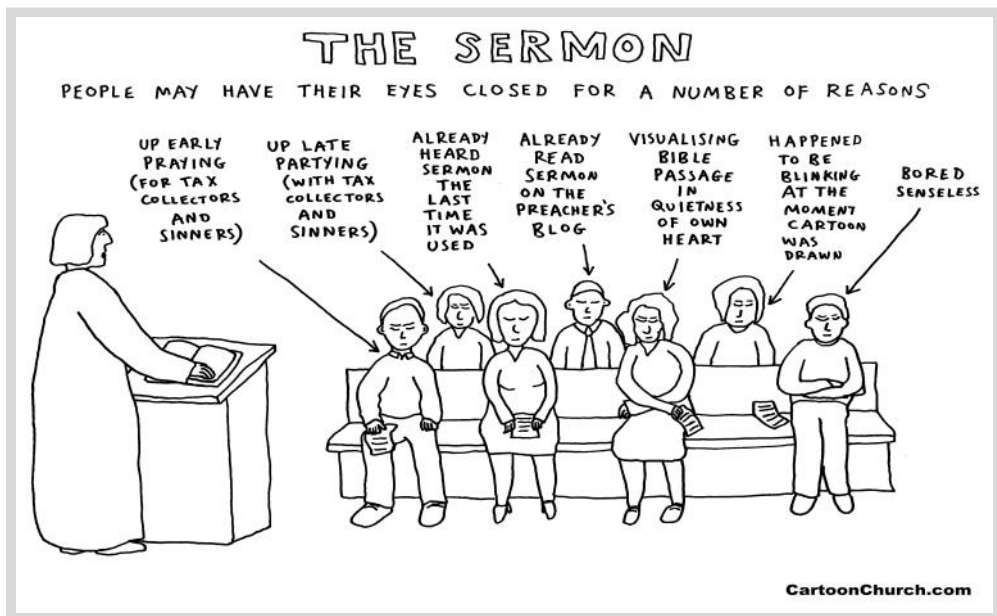
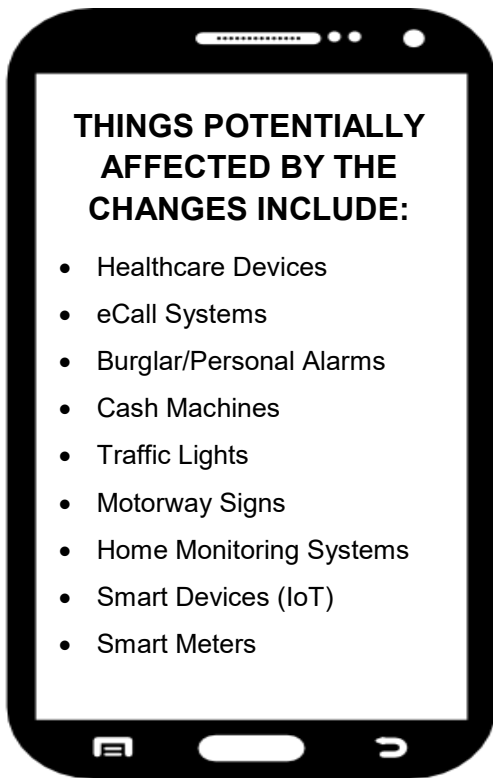


monitoring systems that allow disabled people and those who are older or have health problems to access help if they need it. There are 1.7 million people using these telecare devices in the UK.

Effective digital solutions will still need to be put in place for all of these before the copper network is switched off. So currently there is nothing to worry about but just be aware change is coming.

### Scam Warning

With all these changes we are sure there will be an increase in scams using all of these changes to trick people. Your provider will contact you to let you know when the changes will affect you and what options you have. As ever, never give out personal information to cold callers. If in doubt put the phone down and contact your own service provider directly.



## A new “Hampton Court garden” in Coleshill

*A local story from January 2021.*



Historians have been left stunned by the discovery near Coleshill on the outskirts of Birmingham - which has been dubbed "Warwickshire's answer to Hampton Court".



Archaeologists working on the HS2 train line have unearthed one of the best preserved 16th century gardens ever discovered in Britain.

The ornamental garden does not appear in any historical records and was completely unknown until excavators recently uncovered the 300 metre-wide (656ft) foundations. The remains of Coleshill Manor and an octagonal moat were

first picked up by archaeological teams working on the HS2 high-speed railway two years ago, but as the dig progressed, the outline of a massive garden - dating back to the 1600s - were discovered alongside the impressive manor house.

Stunning aerial photos show well-preserved gravel paths, planting beds, garden pavilion foundations and ornaments organised in a geometric pattern. It is believed Sir Robert Digby, who owned the house, married an Irish heiress and built his gardens in the modern style to show off his new wealth and status. The 500-year-old site has parallels to London's Hampton Court Palace and has been described as "one of the most exciting Elizabethan gardens" ever found in England.



Dr Paul Stamper, a specialist in English gardens and landscape history who works at the University of Leicester, said: "This is one of the most exciting Elizabethan gardens that's ever been discovered in this country. The scale of preservation at this site is really exceptional and is adding considerably to our knowledge of English gardens around 1600. There have only been three or four investigations of

gardens of this scale over the last 30 years, including Hampton Court, Kirby in Northamptonshire and Kenilworth Castle, but this one was entirely unknown.

"The garden doesn't appear in historical records. There are no plans of it and it's not mentioned in any letters or visitors' accounts. The form of the gardens suggests they were designed around 1600, which fits in exactly with the documentary evidence we have about the Digby family that lived here. Sir Robert Digby married an Irish heiress, raising him to the ranks of the aristocracy. We suspect he rebuilt his house and laid out the huge formal gardens, to signify his wealth."

HS2's Historic Environment Manager, Jon Millward said: "It's fantastic to see our huge archaeology programme making another major contribution to our understanding of British history. This is an incredibly exciting site, and the team has made some important new discoveries that unlock more of Britain's past."

Wessex Archaeology's Project Officer, Stuart Pierson added: "For the dedicated fieldwork team working on this site, it's a once in a career opportunity to work on such an extensive garden and manor site. Evidence of expansive formal gardens of national significance and hints of connections to Elizabeth I and the civil war provide us with a fascinating insight into the importance of Coleshill and its surrounding landscape.

"From our original trench evaluation work, we knew there were gardens, but we had no idea how extensive the site would be. As work has progressed, it's been particularly interesting to discover how the gardens have been changed and adapted over time with different styles. We've also uncovered structures such as pavilions and some exceptional artefacts, including smoking pipes, coins and musket balls, giving us an insight into the lives of people who lived here."

The documentary evidence of the manor, known as Coleshill Hall, and its previous

occupants point towards a great feud between the de Montfort and Digby families. The hall came into the hands of Simon Digby in the late 15th century and the change of ownership set in motion huge alterations to the landscape around Coleshill and the hall, including a deer park and the formal gardens in the 1600s. Excavations have revealed structures dating to the late medieval period, with evidence of a large gatehouse alluding to a possible 14th or 15th century date.

*Drawn together by Peter Harding from extensive web coverage in Jan 2021.*

## Blossom Time

Birmingham was once described as “a town ringed by blossom” because of the lush orchards and gardens that enclosed it. Cherry Street in the city centre, running SE from the cathedral to



Corporation St, is named after the three cherry orchards it once crossed in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. These orchards belonged to the nearby Priory of St Thomas of Canterbury on the NE side of the cathedral. This was a house of Augustinian canons in medieval Birmingham just north of Bull St, then called Chapel St. The priory was a monastery and hospital for the poor. It was closed in 1536 by Henry VIII as part of his Dissolution of the Monasteries, but the cherry trees survived.

In the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the Quaker chocolate manufacturer George Cadbury built his “garden village” of Bournville for his workers to give them good living conditions. Each house had a good-sized garden that came ready planted with six fruit trees so people could grow healthy food and flowers.

In the 21<sup>st</sup> century, the People’s Postcode Lottery has funded the National Trust to bring the blossom back to Birmingham. The city has lost 157 of its 186 orchard acres to urban growth since 1900, the equivalent space of 9 Bullring shopping centres. The National Trust is working with dozens of partners to plant 500 blossom trees, either ornamental or fruit trees in neighbourhoods across the city to make a new ring of blossom, linked to the circular N<sup>o</sup>11 bus route. The blossom trees that were in planters in Cathedral Square last year for the Commonwealth Games have also been replanted.

Blossom tree circles began in East London in the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park, then went to Charterhouse Heritage park in Coventry as part of its year as City of Culture, and to Newcastle, Nottingham and Plymouth. In winter 2022 new blossom spaces were planted in Birmingham, Leeds and Swindon and will be flowering for the first time this spring.

Orchards are where the shared histories of people and nature are woven together. It is likely the Romans were the first to cultivate orchards here, and they became an important part of our landscape, so they have a lot of traditions linked to them like wassailing, especially in cider areas. Orchards are very important for insects and birds and more generally for wildlife. Their beauty in spring, the air cleaning services they offer and the fruit and nuts benefit people and other wildlife and support our health and well-being.

The largest National Trust orchard is at Brockhampton in Herefordshire. 21 acres of assorted fruit and nut trees are part of this traditionally farmed estate dating back to the 14<sup>th</sup> century. Lost orchards have been restored here with over 700 maple, hazel, elder, blackthorn, apple, damson, pear, plum and quince trees, all chosen to benefit nature. There is a new 1.8 mile accessible path around the estate so everyone can enjoy the blossom.

Cherry blossom times depend on weather, so are hard to predict precisely, but usually from mid-March to mid-April. Other blossoms come later so there is a long blossom season.

#### **Good places to see blossom locally:**

- ◇ Birmingham Botanical Gardens Westbourne Rd B15 3TR - one of Brum's top attractions
- ◇ Castle Bromwich Gardens in central Castle Bromwich B36 9BT, an unique survival of an 18<sup>th</sup> century formal garden.
- ◇ National Trust properties at Packwood House near Lapworth and Moseley Old Hall in Wolverhampton. Lots more info about blossom on the National Trust website or their #Blossomwatch
- ◇ Or for a slightly different take there is a permanent cherry blossom tree in the Tattu Chinese restaurant in central B'ham at 18 Barwick Street B3 2NT.
- ◇ Worcester Cathedral or the Worcestershire Vale and Spa Blossom Trail. 2023 is the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this 50-mile AA signposted trail around the Vale of Evesham, famous for its orchards. The trail includes places to stop off and visit en route from mid-March to mid-May. The trail can be downloaded on the internet from [www.valeandspa.co.uk/blossom](http://www.valeandspa.co.uk/blossom)



*Kate Harding*

*Articles reproduced with permission from Acocks Green Methodist Church Magazine*

## Which one are you?

I read this story recently and it made me stop and think about how I react to tough times. Hopefully, this will give you food for thought, too, especially given how the alarming rate at which the cost of living has been rising has meant that some people feel that they cannot tighten their belts any further.

The author of this story is unknown; however, it could be that there is someone that you know that is facing such a situation.

The story tells of a woman who is going through a really hard time. She is stressed, anxious and weary and doesn't know where to turn. She decides to speak to her Gran who has always been a great support to her and pours her heart out to her.

Her Gran takes her into the kitchen and fills three pans with water. Into the first she puts some carrots, in the second some eggs and in the third some ground coffee beans. Then she puts them on the stove and allows them to boil without saying a word.



After 20 minutes, her Gran takes the pans off the stove. She fishes out the carrots and puts them in a bowl. She does the same with the eggs and the coffee. She then turns to her granddaughter and asks, "What do you see?"

"Carrots, eggs and coffee," the woman replies.

"Look closer. Feel the carrots".

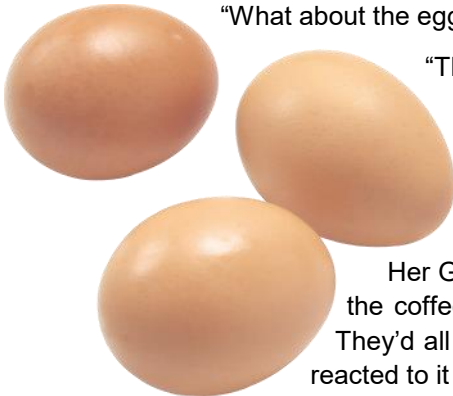
"They're soft and mushy," the woman replies.

"What about the eggs? Take off the shells," says her Gran.

"They're hard boiled," answers the woman.

Finally, her Gran tells her to sip the coffee. The woman smiles as she tastes the rich flavour of the coffee and smells its deep aroma.

Her Gran explains that the carrots, the eggs, and the coffee beans had all faced the same adversity. They'd all been subjected to boiling water but had all reacted to it in a different way.





The carrots had gone into the water strong and hard, but the boiling water had made them soft and weak. The eggs had been fragile when they entered the water with the liquid inside being protected by the shell. However, the effect of the boiling water was to make them hardened.

The ground coffee beans were unique as they had changed the water!

“Which one are you?” Gran asks.

The woman thinks for a bit. Having always been a strong character, would she now come out of her testing times wilted and feeble like the carrot, or would she be like the egg – hard and tough, but perhaps now with a bitter heart.

She decides that she would like to come out like the coffee bean; succumbing to the hot water had released its fragrance and flavour and the result was something delicious. She begins to realise that the things that had brought her stress, anxiety, and weariness, if accepted with humility, could actually produce something pleasing in her.



So, when the trials in your life are the greatest, and the hours are the darkest, how do you handle adversity? *Lynne*



**Are you a carrot, an egg, or a coffee bean?**

# May & June Quiz

Your answers, or part of your answers should suggest a river. Good luck

1	“Ding Dong” ..... who’s calling?	
2	The fourth letter of the alphabet	
3	Who is the red Tellytubby?	
4	Who played Mary Beth Lacey in Cagney and Lacey?	
5	A rough woollen fabric	
6	Which horticulturist presents Gardeners World?	
7	Not, How, What, When or Where but...	
8	Len Goodman’s favourite call in Strictly Come Dancing?	
9	What golfers drive off	
10	What links England and Everton’s goalkeeper and Katy Price?	
11	Which American songwriter wrote “Anything Goes”, “Begin the Beguine” and “What is this thing called Love”?	
12	What is the name of the Orangutan in the film “Any which way but loose”?	
13	In which film did The Beatles join Captain Fred on a journey to Pepperland?	
14	Which ventriloquist was the voice of Lord Charles?	

**Answers please to Lynne Tyler or Church Email  
by Thursday 15th June 2023**

## Pentecost - Anagram Puzzle

HCHUCR

--	--	--	--	--	--

5

CESLDIPSI

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

9

HYOL

--	--	--	--

20                  24                  3

MAFEL

--	--	--	--	--

23                  1

VNEHAE

--	--	--	--	--	--

7                  16                  2

ESTPTOENC

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

6                  19

DUNSO

--	--	--	--	--

8

PISTIR

--	--	--	--	--	--

10                  11                  14                  13                  12                  15

GTSUNEO

--	--	--	--	--	--	--

4                  21                  22                  25

DWIN

--	--	--	--

17                  18

--	--	--

1                  2                  3

--	--	--

4                  5                  6

--	--	--	--

7                  8                  9                  3

--	--	--	--	--	--

10                  11                  12                  13                  14                  15

<b>B</b>	
----------	--

16

--	--	--	--

17                  18                  19                  20

--	--	--

3                  21                  22

--	--	--	--

23                  24                  17                  2                  3                  25

## Coronation Wordsearch

H	E	F	K	U	A	S	O	Y	Y	S	S
M	O	G	V	I	E	B	R	N	T	L	O
O	M	W	A	L	N	P	B	O	L	L	V
Q	X	V	R	I	J	G	D	M	A	A	E
M	D	A	S	R	R	B	Q	E	Y	N	R
F	H	J	H	E	A	R	H	R	O	O	E
C	R	O	W	N	S	M	A	E	R	I	I
H	J	S	Q	P	J	I	E	C	H	N	G
O	W	U	A	L	L	I	M	A	C	T	N
O	E	R	S	A	Z	N	B	O	T	E	D
T	T	S	C	E	P	T	R	E	R	D	I
Y	N	O	I	S	S	E	C	O	R	P	E

ANOINTED

BANQUET

CAMILLA

CARRIAGE

CEREMONY

CHARLES

CROWN

KING

ORB

PARTY

PROCESSION

PROMISES

ROYALTY

SCEPTRE

SOVEREIGN

### March & April Quiz Answers - New & Odd One Out

1) **New**castle United 2) **New**foundland 3) Paul **New**man 4) **New** Zealand 5) **New** Street 6) **New** Seekers 7) **Old** Testament 8) Isaac **New**ton 9) **New** every morning 10) **New** York 11) **New** Mexico 12) **New** Forest 13) Brave **New** World 14) **New**market 15) Happy **New** Year 16) No 7 – the only question with OLD in the answer (ps The New Testament has 27 books)

Congratulations for 100% correct answers to Sarah Baldwin and commiserations to the Hunt family who got 1 wrong.

## Lyndon Community Page

**W**e really would like to make this page and the whole magazine relevant, therefore, please get in touch. Let us know what you like and don't like and send or give any important events, ideas, offers, stories, feedback or tips personally to Lynne Tyler or by e-mail to [lyndonmethodist@btconnect.com](mailto:lyndonmethodist@btconnect.com).

As previously mentioned, to keep this section going, improve this magazine and to try and create a closer community we really need your interaction.

### NEW GOVERNMENT EMERGENCY ALERT SYSTEM

The government trialled a new Emergency Alert System on 23rd April. It was sent to all 4G and 5G mobile phones.

It gave a message with a siren saying, "in a real emergency, follow the instructions in the alert to keep yourself and others safe". It gave a sound and vibrated for 10 seconds even for phones on silent.

The alert system will be used to warn of extreme weather events, such as flash floods or wildfires. It could also be used during terror incidents or civil defence emergencies if the UK was under attack.

Hopefully, this system will never be needed but, unless you have a modern 4G or 5G mobile phone you will not get the message. To receive the messages you also need an Android phone currently running version 11 or above or an Apple phone running iOS 14.5 or later.

Government officials said it will revolutionise the ability to warn and inform the public. About 90% of phone users in an emergency affected area would be able to receive the alerts and the government does not need your phone number or personal details to send such alerts.

It is possible to opt out of the system if people needed their phone to stay concealed, either by turning off emergency alerts in their settings or simply having the phone switched off during the test.

Visit [gov.uk/alerts](https://gov.uk/alerts) for more information.



## MONEY SAVING TIPS

If you have a slice of pizza left over that has gone too hard to eat, blitz it until it is almost powder. You can use these flavoured bread crumbs to thicken stews or sprinkle over soup.

You can also use "Smash" or other instant potato powder to thicken soup,

Don't throw away out of date baking powder which no longer fizzes when it is tested in hot water; instead put a little in the soap dispenser with the washing powder in your machine: it acts as a water softener. Borax or borax substitute can also be used in the same way as a water softener.

I hope people will find these useful. *Best wishes Beryl Jalil*

## THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH



**'Be a rainbow in someone's cloud'**

## RADIATOR REFLECTORS

Although spring is here, and the use of the central heating will decrease over the summer now is the time to start looking at ways to make your home more energy efficient before next winter.

One cost effective way to do this is with the use of radiator reflectors. Relatively cheap and easy to fit they are an extremely effective way of cutting your home heating costs. The concept is very simple: as a radiator emits heat, much of it is lost to the wall, however radiator reflectors will do just as their name suggests and reflect the heat back into the room.

There are a range of different types of radiator reflectors on the market, with some manufacturers claiming they can reflect around 95% of the heat. They're quick and easy to fit, and, given how effective and cheap they are, they're a must-have for anyone serious about reducing their energy bills.

### **Do radiator reflectors work with all kinds of radiators?**

Radiator reflectors will work with most radiators, although they're easiest to hide behind the more commonly used panel radiators. If you've got a designer radiator, or a traditional-style column radiator, you may be able to see the silver reflector through it. Bear in mind that magnetic reflectors won't stick to aluminium or other non-magnetic radiators.

### **What are radiator reflectors made from?**

Some radiator reflectors are made from laminated metal foil with a highly reflective coating, while others are more like bubble wrap coated with a metallic film. Either are hard-wearing and resistant to high temperatures over long periods of time, representing a fit-and-forget solution.

### **How to fit radiator reflectors**

Some will hang off the brackets fixing the radiators to the walls, some will use self-adhesive pads, and some are magnetic. Note that magnetic reflectors won't stick to aluminium radiators.

### **How much can a radiator reflector save me?**

Around 40% of the heat released by a radiator is directed at the wall, where much of it is absorbed and lost. The amount of heat reflected back will depend on the radiator reflector you use but single sheet could save nearly 9kg of CO<sub>2</sub> and up to 83kWh per year. The precise amount you will save will also vary depending on the gap between the radiator and the wall – ideally it should be around 25mm – but pretty much everyone could benefit from fitting reflectors around the house.

## Notices & Events

**Ladies Club** - 2.00pm to 4.00pm

Wednesday 3rd, 17th and 31st May

Wednesday 14th and 28th June

**Lunch Club** - Fridays 12pm to 1pm

MAY

05th Cheese and Potato Pie

12th Spaghetti Bolognaise

19th Sausage Casserole

26th Quiche and Salad

JUNE

02nd CLOSED - Half Term

09th Chilli Con Carne and Rice

16th Chicken and Mushroom Pie

23rd Ham Salad

30th Salmon and Parsley Sauce

No need to book - Just come along

**Monthly Prayer and Bible Study** - 7.00pm - 8.30pm

Wednesday 3rd May

Wednesday 7th June

**Hobs Moat WI** - 7pm to 9pm

Monday 15th May

Monday 19th June



## **Notices & Events**

### **CORONATION BRING AND SHARE BRUNCH - 7TH MAY**

We will be holding a bring and share brunch after our service on Sunday 7th May to celebrate the King's coronation.

After morning worship we will move into the coffee lounge to share food and conversation together. Hopefully we will do this in partnership with RCCG and the Romanian Church.

Please come along to help us celebrate this historical event.

### **ANNUAL CHURCH MEETING - 21ST MAY**

This year's annual church meeting will be held after the service on 21st May.

The meeting is open to anybody who is interested in the church and the way that it is run, although only members of the church council are able to vote.

Although the agenda has not yet been set, it is likely to include the following :

- 1 Receive the 2022 annual report, including comment, questions and discussion
- 2 Appointment of stewards
- 3 Election of Representatives to Church Council
- 4 Any Other Business / Matters Arising

If you would like to become a member of the Church Council or would like to offer your services as a steward, please speak to one of our existing stewards or Rev Karen Webber.

### **USED STAMPS**

Please continue to collect your used stamps. Brenda Davis is currently researching which charities will still receive used stamps and is hoping to share more details in the next magazine.

## Services in May

### Sunday 7th May

10:30am Communion Service led by Rev Karen Webber

### Sunday 14th May

10:30am Service led by Barry Davis - Christian Aid Sunday

6.00pm Lyndon People

### Sunday 21st May

10:30am Service led by Rev Karen Webber

### Sunday 28th May

10:30am Own arrangement service

## Services in June

### Sunday 4th June

10:30am Communion Service led by Rev Donald Ker

6.00pm Lyndon People

### Sunday 11th June

10:30am Parade Service led by Rev Karen Webber

### Sunday 18th June

10:30am Service led by Barry Davis

### Sunday 25th June

10.30am Own arrangement service

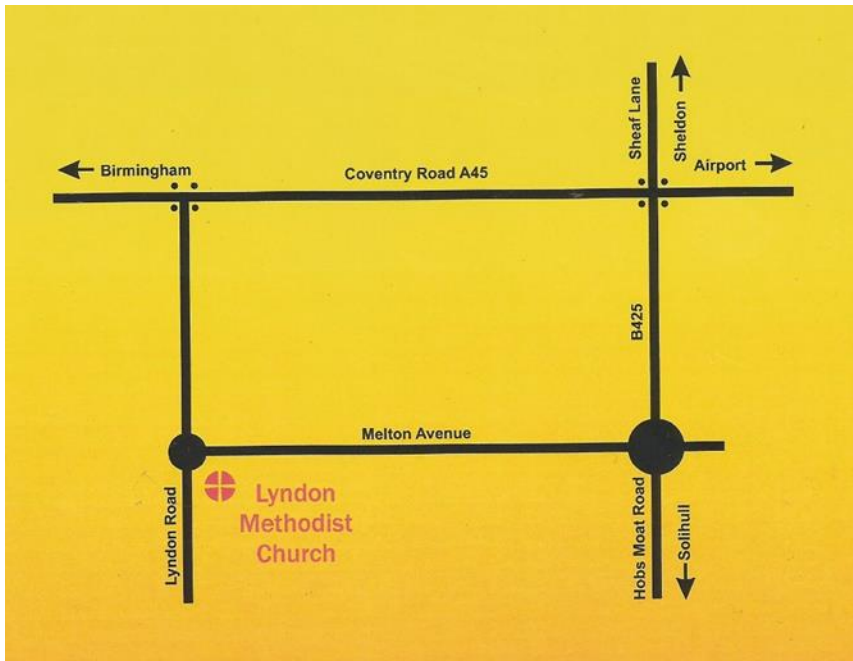
*Our next issue will be July 2023*

*I am looking forward to receiving your contributions by*

**15<sup>th</sup> June 2023**

*by email to Lynne Tyler or to [lyndonmethodist@btconnect.com](mailto:lyndonmethodist@btconnect.com)*

*or by post to Church – address below*



Lyndon Methodist Church  
Melton Avenue  
Solihull  
West Midlands  
B92 7QX

<https://lyndonmethodist.org.uk>

Charity No. 1150167