LYNDON MAGAZINE







Lyndon Methodist



MINISTER IN PASTORAL CHARGE

Rev Dr. Joseph Ribeiro

Contact Tel 07824 565983



LYNDON ROOM HIRE

Contact via Tel: 07930 617301

Email via lyndonmethodist@btconnect.com

STEWARD TEAM

Contact via Tel: 07930 617301

Email via lyndonmethodist@btconnect.com

MAGAZINE EDITOR

Lynne Tyler

Email via lyndonmethodist@btconnect.com

Website https://lyndonmethodist.org.uk

Charity No: 1150167

INDEX

⊃age	Title
4	Minister's Letter
7	Prayer For November & December
8	Herbs in the Bible
12	Footprints in the Sand
16	Circuit Meetings - Autumn 2025
18	Harvest Festival – Sept 2025
20	Lyndon Christmas Fayre - We Need Your Help
22	Repair Works at Lyndon 2025
24	Volunteer Treasurer Required
25	Volunteer Flower Co-ordinator Required
26	Quiz & Puzzles
28	Notices & Events / Thought for the Month
30	Upcoming Services

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

MINISTER'S LETTER

THE DANGERS OF BEING A NOMINAL CHRISTIAN

The word "nominal" means: "a status or role that exists only in name". A nominal Christian then is one who, in spite of their claim of being a Christian is largely lacking in genuine authentic Christian experience. Nominal Christians may be regular church attendees, but church attendance, as good as it is, does not make a person a Christian. We all (including the writer) have the potential of being nominal Christians and must guard against it. In fact, the word "Christian" is found only once in the Bible and it was not used by any of the inspired writers but rather by non-Christians who on witnessing the lives of the



first century disciples of Christ commented that they looked like the Christ, whereupon the term "Christian" stuck. In the early church, members were referred to as: "disciples" and the term disciple means an apprentice. Think of a mechanic or an electrician apprentice. The apprentice learns from the master electrician or mechanic and eventually becomes like the master.

A Christian, therefore, properly speaking, is an apprentice of the Lord Jesus Christ. And just as a good mechanic or electrician apprentice vigorously seeks to become like the master so an authentic Christian, eagerly and vigorously seeks to become like the Lord Jesus Christ. Consider the scripture below:

"For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters." Rom. 8.29

A person who is not a Christian merely in name, is therefore undergoing a genuine transformation of character and daily becoming more and more like Jesus. We become disciples of Christ by a definite procedure set out for us in the Bible:

- 1. Repent of our sins
- 2. Believe that Jesus is the son of God who died and rose from the dead for our sins
- Receive him into our lives by personally inviting him to become our Lord and saviour

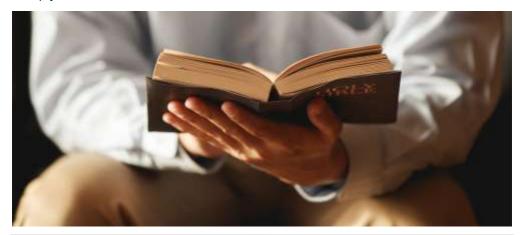
The word Lord properly means "an owner". Consider the term "landlord" - he or she is the owner of the land or property. The whole teaching of scripture is that when we receive Christ as saviour and Lord we are "born again" – a mysterious supernatural renewal takes place deep within us that makes us new people. A divine seed is planted in us, and this seed is then nurtured continually resulting in a

transformation of our lives that makes us resemble Christ in our daily lives. Christ is said to have purchased us with his blood, and he owns us and works in us if we will let him. A nominal Christian has never called on Christ to come into their hearts, IF HE HAS, HE STOPPED RIGHT THERE AND REFUSED TO GO FORWARD. A nominal Christian seeks no transformation of character and experiencing of Christ, but lays claim to the title "Christian" and is a member of a Christian denomination.

Marks of a genuine Christian

- 1. A genuine Christian is being progressively purified and perfected "Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works" Titus 2.14
- 2. A genuine Christian is filled with the Holy Spirit and lives by the conscious leadings of the Holy Spirit "For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God" Rom 8.14
- 3. A genuine Christian must increasingly experience the power of the Holy Spirit: power over sin, demon powers and power to do whatsoever needs to be done in life "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." Acts 1.8
- 4. A genuine Christian hears the voice of Christ in their heart with increasing clarity and certainty and lives by that voice "My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand" John 10.27-28

Space constraints limit me to the few above, but they are enough to set us thinking deeply.



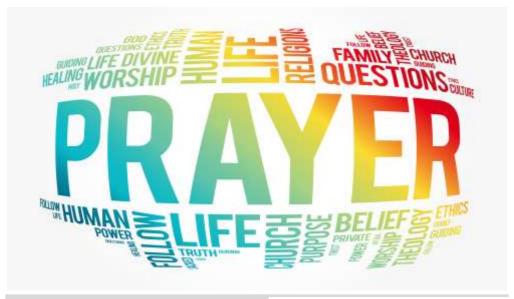
A nominal Christian knows nothing of the above. The REAL danger a nominal Christian faces is being immunized to the truth. When a person is immunized against any virus, they are given small doses of the virus, so they become resistant to the virus and when it attacks them, they do not fall sick. This principle works in a negative way regarding the truth of Christ. Small doses of the Bible not taken seriously and often ignored makes one ultimately resistant to the truth of the Bible until no amount of preaching has any effect on them. We can sit in church on Sundays and nod our heads and say "Oh! Nice sermon, nice sermon" while practically remaining the same year after year but we are supposed to be "changing from one degree of glory to another" 2 Cor 3.18

To have genuine authentic Christian experience we must

- 1. Receive Christ as Lord and saviour.
- 2. Earnestly study the scriptures and meditate on them daily AND DO THEM,
- 3. Be diligent in earnest fervent prayer
- Daily, ask God to fill us with the Holy Spirit and insist that he leads us in our lives
- 5. Earnestly believe in and seek to hear the voice of Christ and walk in fellowship with him

God bless you and never be a nominal Christian,

Rev. Dr. Joseph Ribeiro



Prayer For November & December

Please continue to pray for peace across the world. We are still bombarded by news stories about the conflicts between Ukraine and Russia which shows no sign of being resolved, and in Gaza where the ceasefire between Israeli and Hamas forces is very shaky.

As we celebrate Advent and Christmas, may we be reminded of the message of the angels who sang of "Peace on Earth and Goodwill to all Men", and pray that the angel's message can be realised.

Please pray that God's influence will be felt by the leaders, guiding them to making the right decisions so that the world becomes a more peaceful place.

Please pray for those who are affected by natural disasters and issues of climate change which are causing a detrimental effect on their livelihoods and putting many lives at risk. In particular please pray for the people in Jamaica hit by Hurricane Melissa as they start the painful process of rebuilding their lives. Please also pray for the many charities, agencies and medical personnel who are giving help where possible, often in dangerous situations. May we also strive to do what we can to limit our own negative impact on the world and support these agencies where we can.

Please pray for members of our community who are struggling during this festive season. May they know that they are not alone and that God is with them.

We pray for members of our own congregation and in our wider community who are sick or struggling to leave home, those who are anxiously waiting for tests, test results or operations and those who are facing an uncertain future due to job losses, money worries, homelessness etc. We also pray for those that have recently been bereaved. May they all feel our love reaching out to them and feel God's healing and comforting hand upon them, bringing them peace.

Please pray for the doctors, nurses, care workers and volunteers. Give them the skills and strength they need to support those in need.

We pray for the success of the Christmas Fayre that both those who are involved in planning and running it, and those who attend come away with the sense that the future will be brighter, leading to a positive impact on the people in our local community.

We also pray for our services in November and December and all those that lead them that we can all be truly uplifted and feel God's presence in all that we do.

We pray for all those volunteers that help our services to run smoothly, so that we can bring God's love and message to our community.

Amen

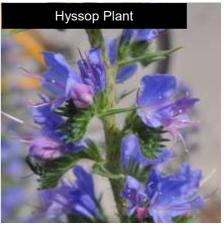
Herbs in the Bible

At our last Bible Study and Prayer group meeting we were looking at Psalm 51. On reading "Cleanse me with hyssop "(verse 7) someone asked, "What is hyssop?" This gave me the idea of writing about a few of the herbs mentioned in scripture.

Hyssop

Hyssop is a small bushy plant and a kind of wild marjoram which has symbolic significance. It represents cleansing and purification. In the Old Testament it was sprinkled to purify lepers.

The final plague which the Lord said he would send on Egypt was that the first-born son of the Egyptians would die, after which Pharoah would let the Israelites go. So that the angel of death knew which were the houses of the Israelites, Moses told them to hold a Passover meal and take a bunch of hyssop and dip it into a basin of blood from a



sacrificial lamb and put some of the blood on the top and sides of their doorposts. This signified that it was a house of an Israelite. (Exodus 12 v21-23)

The people were saved by the blood of an innocent lamb which was sacrificed. This foreshadows Christ, the lamb of God, giving his life to save us from our sins.

Psalm 51, referred to above, was a penitential psalm of David following his adultery with Bathsheba and the arranging for the murder of her husband Uriah. In this psalm David confesses and repents of his sin and has the faith that God will forgive him. In verse 7 he says, "Cleanse me with hyssop and I shall be clean, wash me and I shall be whiter than snow." He was asking God to purify him with the use of hyssop.

The sponge with the cheap wine vinegar which was offered to Jesus at his crucifixion was put on the stalk of a hyssop plant. (John 19 v29)

Balm

Balm is a member of the mint family and Lemon Balm is the variety most used. Its main use was for the healing of sores and wounds.

The bible often refers to the Balm of Gilead. It is first mentioned in Genesis 37 v25.

After Joseph's brothers had thrown him into a cistern and were having their meal they looked up "and saw a caravan of Ishmaelites coming from Gilead. Their camels were loaded with spices, balm and myrrh, and they were on their way to take them down to Egypt". They then sold Joseph as a slave to the Ishmaelites.

Years later when there was a famine in Canaan and Jacob sent ten of his sons to Egypt to buy grain he said, "Take as a gift - a little balm and a little honey, some spices and myrrh." (Genesis 43 v11)

Gilead was on the east of the river Jordon and after the Israelites entered the promised land of Canaan the tribes of Reuben, Gath and half of the tribe of Manasseh settled there. It was on the great trade route from the east down into Egypt.

Because of the abundance of balm in Gilead, and as it was on the main trade route, many physicians also settled there.

The phrase "Balm from Gilead" was also used to speak of spiritual healing. Jeremiah refers to it in that sense when he wrote "Is there no balm in Gilead? Is there no physician there?" (Jeremiah 8 v22)

Spikenard



Spikenard is considered to be a herb and its natural habitat is in the Himalayas of Nepal, China and India. It grows at an altitude of between 10,000 to 16,000 feet. Its rhizomes (roots) are crushed to form perfume or anointing oil. It is a member of the honeysuckle family.

For centuries it has been used for medicinal purposes or anointing purposes for honoured guests. It was also made into a fragrant ointment imported from India and known as nard.

On his last journey to celebrate the Passover at Jerusalem, Jesus was

invited to a dinner given in his honour by Lazarus, Martha and Mary at their home in Bethany.

Mary took half a litre of pure nard and anointed the feet of Jesus and wiped his feet with her hair. The text refers to it being pure nard which means that it would have

been very expensive. In the narrative, Judas Iscariot refers to it being worth a year's wages. Mixed nard was much cheaper.

Pure nard was considered a gift worthy of royalty and a symbol of love and loyalty.

We have unanswered questions:

How did she afford to buy it?

Did she buy it specifically to anoint Jesus, or did she have it for some other purpose?

Did she have a feeling that this was the last time she would see Jesus?

The act of feet washing was normally carried out by the lowest servant of the household and not a member of it. By doing what she did, Mary showed her complete devotion to Jesus and threw convention aside by appearing in the presence of men with her hair untied. (John 12 v1-7)

Other herbs

Bitter herbs

At the annual celebration of the Passover meal the Israelites were to eat roast lamb with bitter herbs. These symbolised the bitterness of slavery in Egypt. (Exodus 12 v8)

Mint, dill and cumin

By law, the Israelites were required to pay a tithe on everything produced from the land. (Leviticus 27 v30-32).

By the time of Jesus, the teachers of the law and Pharisees had set rules with meticulous detail over the tithing of garden herbs. Jesus pointed out just how absurd this was, when they had neglected more important matters. He said "Woe to you, teachers of the law, and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You give a tenth of your spices – mint, dill and cumin. But you have neglected the more important matters of the law – justice, mercy and faithfulness. You



should have practised the latter, without neglecting the former." (Matthew 23 v23)

Cinnamon, myrrh, calamus and cassia

When the tabernacle (a large portable tent) had been completed and all its furnishings and utensils were in place, God instructed Moses to make an anointing oil to consecrate the tabernacle and its contents. The mixture was to include the above herbs plus olive oil. (Exodus 30 v22-33)

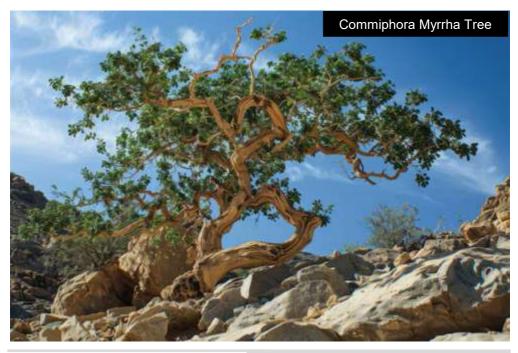
Myrrh was also used in cooking as well as a perfume and for embalming. It was also one of the gifts which the Magi brought to the



baby Jesus at Bethlehem. It was a prophetic illustration of Christ's future death and burial. (Matthew 2 v11)

After the death of Jesus, Joseph from Arimathea and Nicodemus took the body of Jesus and placed it in a tomb. They took a mixture of about 35 kilograms of myrrh and aloes to anoint the body of Jesus in accordance with the Jewish burial customs. (John 19 v38-42)

Barry Davis





One night I dreamed a dream.

I was walking along the beach with my Lord.

Across the dark sky flashed scenes from my life.

For each scene, I noticed two sets of footprints in the sand, one belonging to me and one to my Lord.

When the last scene of my life shot before me
I looked back at the footprints in the sand.
There was only one set of footprints.
I realized that this was at the lowest and saddest times of my life.

This always bothered me and I questioned the Lord about my dilemma.

"Lord, You told me when I decided to follow You, You would walk and talk with me all the way. But I'm aware that during the most troublesome times of my life

there is only one set of footprints.

I just don't understand why,
when I need You most,
You leave me."

He whispered, "My precious child,
I love you and will never leave you,
never, ever, during your trials and testings.
When you saw only one set of footprints,
it was then that I carried you."

Back in August, Claire Frew used this poem as part of her service. I thought that it would be good to reproduce the text of her service in this month's magazine so that the message is spread to more people.

The poem "Footprints in the Sand" is frequently framed for display in living rooms and bedrooms. You can buy keychains and tea towels and decorative plates featuring this well-known piece of writing. It's not scripture, but "Footprints in the Sand" does offer hope for the reader who recognizes God's promises between the lines.

Who Wrote "Footprints in the Sand"?

"Footprints," is most commonly attributed to Margaret Fishback Power as the author. Harper Collins published her biography before a public argument erupted over copyright between Power and the estate of Mary Stevenson.

Margaret Fishback Power wrote the most widely recognised version of this poem during a time when she was "searching for direction and faced a crossroads in her life."

While the writer and narrator's challenges were deeply personal, and the poem was written in the 20th Century, Power's word choices evoke struggles faced by Biblical figures such as King David and the Apostle Paul.

The poem's readership is a modern one, among whom many may have never opened a Bible and may not consider themselves gospel-believing Christians. The words of this poem, however, are rooted in a personal relationship with God.

The Promise Found in "Footprints in the Sand"

The modern Christian reading this poem, can easily apply it to the challenges of daily life. In the 5th stanza, the Father says, "My precious, precious child, I love you and I would never leave you."

This is what the Lord has promised in Deuteronomy 31:6: "The Lord your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you." What was true of God then is true today. He is the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow.

By the blood of His Son Jesus Christ, God has fulfilled His promise to be with us all the time and keeps that promise by not only being omnipresent, but by giving the Christian a helper in the form of the indwelling Holy Spirit.

"Footprints" connects direction, identity, and example with the promises of God. He will protect. He will also equip His people to follow. Paul prayed that God would "equip you with everything good for doing his will, and may he work in us what is pleasing to him, through Jesus Christ." Hebrews 13.21

4 Practical Ways to apply "Footprints in the Sand" to Your Life

This reality should give us real, solid hope. After all, if God is unchanging, and He has told us He will never leave nor forsake us:

- **1. We never have to be afraid.** "If our God is for us, then who can be against us?" asks Paul in Romans 8:31. What enemy is bigger, more frightening, or more powerful than God? Can there be any time in our lives so low that He is not there, sheltering us in the shadow of His Almighty wings?
- **2. We are never alone.** Jesus prepared us for adversity and division, even within households. "I did not come to bring peace, but a sword." Matthew 10.34. Christian beliefs are an affront to some people; however, Christ provides the defence and companionship of His Spirit "which is the word of God." He is fighting for you.
- **3.** We are not strong God is. "My grace is sufficient," is what God said to the Apostle Paul. Paul decided to "boast in my infirmities" because, in them "Christ's power may rest on me." 2 Corinthians 12:9. God really is carrying us even if life seems unbearably difficult. He is carrying us particularly when life is at its toughest.
- **4. We can give this hope to others.** Many people find consolation in the poem "Footprints," but their consolation is shaky if it is based on a powerless view of God who is just an energy in the universe, not Lord and not personal Saviour. Christians can use this poem as a way to discuss the "surpassing greatness of His power" with unbelievers.

So, do we find "Footprints in the Sand" in the Bible?

There is no place in all of scripture where a single line from the poem is evident. Some parts of scripture are evoked here, but there are no biblical quotes; only biblical ideas.

You can see where God's word mentions "footprints" or says that God will never leave His children. The tone of this modern poem is suggestive of the Psalms, speaking directly to God about personal struggles, a person questioning God in confusion.

"I don't understand why, when I needed you most, you would leave me."

The exact wording of "Footprints," however, comes from the author.

"Footprints in the Sand" seems to draw much of its inspiration from the Psalms where the writer remarks "The steps of a man are established by the Lord when he delights in His way, though he fall, he shall not be cast headlong for the Lord upholds his hand." Psalm 37.23

In Psalm 77.19, the writer remarks that God's footsteps "were unseen."

Psalm 119.133 begs God to "steady my steps according to your promise and let no iniquities get dominion over me."

While the poem has been translated into many languages for worldwide distribution, the Christian reader searching for spiritual meaning behind each stanza might be fascinated to know where the actual word "footprints" will take them.

For instance, the Hebrew word for "step" is "aqab" meaning "footprint, heel, trail, or rear guard." The Greek "ichnos" translates into "track, footstep, impression." Many ideas overlap within the word "footprint."

There is the idea of following a trail; of copying someone's example. In 1 John 2.6 we read: "Whoever claims to live in Him must live as Jesus did." Which is saying: Do as He did; follow in His footsteps.

Jesus' life leaves a visible impression and also a direction. His life provides the pathway we are searching for and also marks us as "His." Jesus told His disciples "By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." John 13.34-35

If disciples live as "children of light" they will be identifiable - marked - to a watching world.

There is the notion of being protected by a soldier (rear guard) defending His people: "But the LORD is with me like a mighty warrior." Jeremiah 20.11

In our faith journey, one of the most beautiful promises we can hold onto is that God has pledged to walk with us. This assurance fills our hearts with hope and peace. When we understand that God walks beside us, it becomes easier to face life's storms with confidence. We might feel alone at times but knowing that the Creator of the universe is walking near us gives us courage. Through every valley and peak of our lives, He is our constant companion. Each of these verses reminds us that His presence is always in our midst, offering guidance and love.

My question today is, "In a world where there is no sand and no footprints in the sand, how do you know that Jesus is walking along side you – in fact how do you know that Jesus is carrying you?"

One day when you are in heaven you will be able to look back on all those different memories, and you'll be able to see the nail marks in Jesus's feet in the sand and he will say to you "That is where I carried you". Amen

Claire Frew's text from her service on 17/8/25

Circuit Meetings - Autumn 2025

The Summer was drawing to a close and a New Methodist Year was upon us when I received an e-mail from the Circuit inviting me to the Circuit Meeting in September together with relevant enclosures in preparation for the Meeting. The enclosures related to various reports that had been prepared by people relating to the Circuit as a whole covering such topics as Finance, Property and Human Resources issues as well as other items.

What struck me initially was the amount of work that had been put in compiling the Reports mainly by people working in a voluntary capacity for the Circuit as well as possibly also having other responsibilities within their own Church Communities. In all honesty, this made me think that the least that I can do is to have a read of them and see what they had to say!

The main trend of the Reports seemed to indicate that the total Membership of Methodists within the Circuit is on the decline although there are occasional pockets where there has been a slight increase. This has resulted generally in less income being received from collections and some Churches are finding it more difficult than others to meet their obligations in maintaining their buildings and paying their assessments* to the Circuit. A number of Churches rely on securing extra finance to supplement their funds, often by way of letting out their premises to outside organisations. At the moment the Circuit is running at a loss which cannot be sustained indefinitely. Running costs are obviously on the increase due to the country's present economic climate and as I have already alluded to a number of Churches are finding it ever more difficult to increase their assessment monies to keep pace as the individual cost of running each Church has also increased substantially too.

On the positive side, much enthusiasm is evident within the Circuit. This includes the Pioneer Project which is underway in the Stechford and surrounding districts of Birmingham which is an attempt to take the Methodist Church out into the Community. Another project which the Circuit is involved with is Citizens U.K. where the Circuit is particularly interested in improving the general housing conditions within Birmingham. Various Churches have undertaken projects and had improvements done to their premises. With effect from September, the Circuit now belongs to the West Midlands District which covers more Churches than previously. **

The meeting took place on 11th September but due to a decision having to be made concerning a Human Resources Matter, there was no time left to deal with the other issues and so we were advised that another Meeting would need to be held to deal with the remaining items that were on the original Agenda.

The Extraordinary Meeting was arranged for 7th October and accordingly I attended this, too. It seemed to me to be more relaxed than the previous Meeting. It started off with a period of reflection bearing special relevance to the September Meeting which had been quite fractious. The Meeting went off smoothly and mainly was to consider all the General Business Items that could not be dealt with earlier and involved agreeing to the reports that the various sections had prepared.

From my perspective, I have learnt a lot by attending the Meetings. It is always interesting to have a chat with people who attend other Churches within the Circuit and to perhaps get a different viewpoint on things.

The next Meeting is due to take place in March 2026.

Janet Rudge

Postscripts - *Assessment is the amount of money that each Church contributes to the Circuit to cover running costs such as salaries and office charges. Each Church pays a different amount, largely dependent on the size of the Church and is reviewed annually.

** Each Methodist Church belongs to a Circuit. Our Circuit is the Birmingham Methodist Circuit and is a group of around thirty Churches which are within Birmingham and the surrounding area. Each Circuit then joins with other Circuits to form a District. The District has just become larger to form the West Midlands District.

West Midlands Methodist District has a website - www.wmmethodists.org.uk - where you can get information concerning key developments and opportunities within the District



FRIENDSHIP CAFE

Solihull Methodist Church invites people to come and join them at their Friendship Café. They meet in the Community Hall at 10:30am on the second and fourth Friday of each month (except August). It normally finishes around noon or a little later.

It is an opportunity to have a tea or coffee and a cake or biscuit, have a chat if you wish, and possibly make some new friends.

We also like to play a game or two. Our current favourite is Rummikub.

Harvest Festival – September 2025

Our Harvest Festival service this year was held on 28th September and was ably led by Gareth Davis, a local preacher from the circuit. Not only was it the harvest service, it also included our Girl's Brigade enrolment service. We have a thriving GB company which consists of 4 Explorers, 19 Juniors, 12 Seniors and 2 Brigaders, fantastically led by a team of 5 officers led by Captain Sarah Marks. As part of the service. the airls and the staff committed themselves to the Brigades and the church, as well as members of congregation promising the and committing to support them.

As usual, the church was beautifully decorated as you can see by the pictures and thanks must go to the team of flower arrangers who dressed

the church and those who donated monies, greenery and gifts of tinned and packeted foods.

The flowers looked amazing and were given to church members who were unable to be at the service as well as others that were there, so that their beauty could be appreciated for as long as possible.

The tins and packeted foods were given to the food pantry that we support based at South Yardley Methodist Church. Please see the letter that I received thanking us all for our contributions.

Don't forget that there are blue boxes in the vestibule and on the church centre reception for gifts for the Pantry all year round. We have volunteers who deliver them up to South Yardley regularly, and all your gifts of tinned and packeted food are gratefully received.





Lyndon's Annual Christmas Fayre - We Need Your Help!

Our Christmas Fayre this year will be on Saturday 29th November between 10am and 1pm but we really need your help to put it all together and make this the best one ever!

Could you help on Friday 28th November to set up tables, run a stall on the day itself or help to set down after the event?

If so, please let Rebecca Marks or one of the stewards know so that they can pass on your details. You can contact Rebecca directly by e-mail at rebeccamarks1508@gmail.com or send her a message on 07952 051823 for more information.

We would also like to ask for donations from week commencing 27th October leading up to the event as follows:

- Chocolate for the GB chocolate stall.
- An item for the Christmas stall eg, a roll of gift wrap, a bag of bows, gift tags,
 Christmas cards, Christmas decorations
- An item for the "prize every time" grocery tombola stall eg tins of vegetables, packets of biscuits, sauce mixes, bottles eg pop, tomato sauce, bubble bath (no alcohol, please), rice, baked goods, bath items
- Any unwanted and unopened presents for the gift stall eg candles, bath soaps, sprays
- Cakes (including homemade) on Saturday. Please give details of flavour and if they contain nuts or are GF or lactose free.

We have two choirs to entertain you this year – Song Squad from Olton Primary School and Born to Sing who rehearse at Lyndon each week.

There will be a variety of stalls and things for you to enjoy, as well as a visit from the man himself and a chance to meet him in his Grotto! Ho! Ho! Ho!

Don't forget, entry is free. We can't wait to see you all there!

Thank you so much!





Repair Works at Lyndon 2025

Hi everyone, I expect many of you might have been wondering about the scaffolding which has been going up and down at Lyndon recently. Well, following storm damage during storm Darragh in December 2024, we were left with slipped tiles at the apex. We went the insurance through and appointed eventually local approved contractor for the repairs. This was the first lot of scaffolding. They also repaired some slipped tiles over the Centre doors.

We are still left with the scaffolding at the front and rear of the Church following a huge painting job on the external paintwork which includes the courtward I'm sure you will agree



courtyard. I'm sure you will agree, it is looking fabulous. These works have been paid for by Lyndon at huge cost but were very necessary in order to offer protection for years to come.

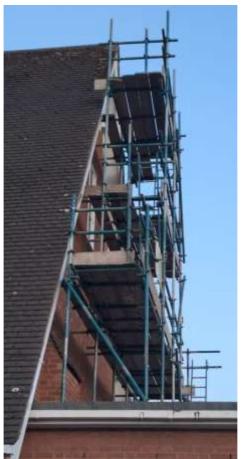


Slowly but surely, the inside of the Centre has also been redecorated by Matthew Baker, leader in the Girls' Brigade. Matt has completed the Quiet Room and Wesley Room, and they are looking very smart, please do take the time to have a peek. The rear corridor has also had a paint job, leaving it looking nice and fresh. Community Room is on the list but this is a much bigger job as the light fittings, window coverings and floor covering also need replacing. Matt is also working his way down the main Centre corridor with a stormy shade of blue/grey accent colour. The stains behind the desk have finally gone with a nice bright white covering them and the dusty, dirty pipes have also been given a fresh lick of white paint. The Girls' Brigade have been footing the bill for the interior paint, bulbs, a section of replacement guttering, replacement toilet flush, new door handles, paint for the white line on the ramp, adhesive, vent and end trims to name but a few items.

Matt also has designs on our well-loved lounge but again, that is a huge room with issues in the plaster work and will require a good amount of TLC to bring it up to the standard of the other refreshed rooms.

There are other property items requiring our attention so if you can offer any assistance, please speak with Sarah and if you're loving our second home that is Lyndon and want to contribute, please speak with one of the stewards or the treasurer. However small, it will gratefully be received.

Sarah Marks







Repair Works at Lyndon 2025 23

Volunteer Treasurer Required

- Become Our Next Church Treasurer at Lyndon Methodist Church
- Make a Difference in Your Community

We're looking for an enthusiastic, organised individual with basic computer skills to join us as our **Volunteer Treasurer**. Full training will be provided!

What You'll Do:

- Manage online banking and monthly transaction reconciliation
- Ensure invoices are paid on time
- Record and bank weekly collections and rental payments
- Maintain clear, accurate financial records
- Monitor regular payments and account balances
- Prepare and present annual budgets and cash flow reports
- Support Gift Aid and HMRC tax claims
- Submit **annual accounts** to the Circuit and Charity Commission
- Keep records for 6 years and archive older documents
- Attend Treasurer and Circuit meetings

Skills & Support:

- Basic computer literacy (we'll train you!)
- Attention to detail and good organisation
- Willingness to learn and work with our Finance team

	^	_	2	•	O	n	
_	u		a	ш	u		

Lyndon Methodist Church, Solihull, West Midlands, B92 7QX

Interested?

We'd love to hear from you!

Contact Tony Ludlow, Claire Frew or Rev Joseph Ribeiro for more information.

Volunteer Opportunity: Flower Co-ordinator Needed

Following 12 months as our temporary flower co-ordinator, Lorraine Sibson has decided that it is time to retire from the role. We're incredibly grateful for all she's done to keep our floral displays running smoothly and beautifully.
For now, Claire Frew has stepped in and sorted out the donor list for the next twelve months but we're looking for someone to take on the role more permanently.
No flower arranging skills required! This is a behind-the-scenes role supporting our flower ministry — ideal for someone who enjoys planning and connecting with others.
Your Role Will Include:

- Contacting donors two weeks before their scheduled date to confirm their donation
- Helping co-ordinate special arrangements for Easter, Harvest, Remembrance, and Christmas

If you're organised, enjoy working with others, and want to support a cherished tradition, we'd love to hear from you.

□ **Interested?** Please speak to **Lorraine Sibson** or **Claire Frew** for more information.

November & December Quiz

All the answers are to do with Christmas

1	What is the highest waterfall in the world?	
2	Ankara is the capital city of which country?	
3	What is the name of the pet greyhound in 'The Simpsons'?	
4	What connects Ms Kirkwood, the original co-host of Countdown and the author of Alice in Wonderland	
5	'If music be the food of love' is from which Shakespeare play?	
6	Which of the Gallagher brothers is the oldest?	
7	As well as Paul McCartney, which other Beatle was left handed?	
8	Who was a jolly happy soul with two eyes made out of stone?	
9	What breed of dog was Rin Tin Tin?	
10	Which former host of 'This Morning' now presents 'Dancing on Ice'?	
11	Which film starred Colin Firth as George VI and Helen Bonham Carter as the Queen Mother?	
12	The kids love to visit RATS NOT GOATS (anagram) unscramble the letters for what?	
13	Harvard, Yale, Princeton University and many other are collectively known as what?	
14	In the Batman films, Adam West played Batman, what part did Burt Ward play?	
15	And finallyIf you take the girl who was quite contrary - the patron saint of carpenter and the film portraying a pig who thought he was a sheepdog what three people have you got? (I'm sure you have solved this - if not read Luke 2 v16)	

Answers please to Lynne Tyler or Church Email by 15th December 2025

THE NAME OF THE LORD IS... WORDSEARCH

Н	K	V	S	J	N	N	Р	Н	Q	Н	Т	В	K
L	Р	0	W	Е	R	F	J	L	Υ	0	S	S	R
Т	Υ	Р	Х	Ι	D	R	0	L	Т	LI.	С	Т	F
Т	S	K	I	0	0	Р	Z	С	Н	Υ	K	R	Р
С	Α	I	Υ	V	I	M	R	S	G	S	D	0	Α
J	0	С	R	Α	Е	Е	Е	R	I	Р	R	Ν	F
F	Ι	J	0	Ι	Α	C	Е	М	М		Е	G	Р
L	Α	K	N	Т	С	D	Α	F	L	R	Н	Т	J
Α	D	Т	0	S	I	S	0	Е	Α		Р	0	Α
S	Р	R	Н	V	Е	F	U	Н	Р	Т	Е	W	K
U	S	Р	0	Е	С	L	Н	S	С	Х	Н	Е	Υ
S	U	R	K	K	R	L	L	С	Е	I	S	R	W
L	Р	Н	Е	Α	L	Е	R	0	N	J	W	D	I
N	Н	G	I	Н	Т	S	0	М	R	J	Е	Х	L

ALMIGHTY COUNSELLOR CREATOR

FATHER HEALER HOLY SPIRIT

JEHOVAH JESUS CHRIST LORD

MOST HIGH PEACE POWERFUL

PROVIDER SHEPHERD STRONG TOWER

September & October Quiz Answers

1) AID – AIDE 2) GREAT - GRATE 3) HEAL - HEEL 4) LED - LEAD 5) MEET - MEAT 6) AUNT - ANT 7) SUNDAE - SUNDAY 8) WARN - WORN 9) TUNA - TUNER 10) RAIN - REIGN 11) QUEUE - CUE 12) MORE – MOOR 13) TURN – TERN 14) CURRANT – CURRENT 15) MADE – MAID 16) OR – OAR 17) MINOR – MINER 18) VAIN – VEIN 19) STATIONARY – STATIONERY 20) ROSE - ROWS

Last month's quiz certainly got those little grey cells working! Only one set of answers that got 100% correct and that was from the Hunt family. Commiserations to Kate Collen and Elaine and Jennifer who got 2 wrong. How did you do?

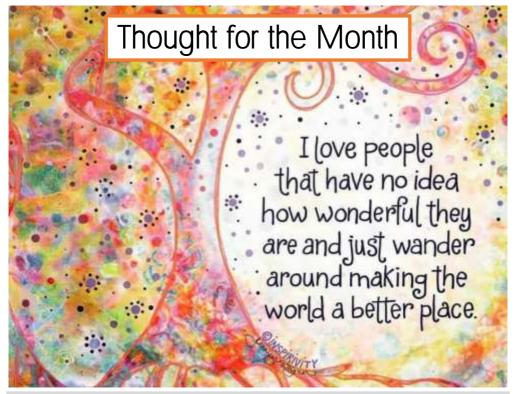
Notices & Events

Ladies Club - 1.30pm to 3.30pm

Wednesday 5th and 19th November Wednesday 3rd and 17th December

Monthly Prayer and Bible Study - 7.00pm - 8.30pm

Wednesday 5th November Wednesday 3rd December



28 Notices & Events

Notices & Events

HARVEST FESTIVAL Sept 2025 - THANK YOU



Sincere thanks are extended to everyone who contributed to the harvest gifts received for our Food Pantry and café. Your generosity is much appreciated.

The work of the Pantry continues every Thursday meeting a real need in the community. Our visitors number between 40 and 60 each week. Most come to shop but others come just for the

company and friendship they enjoy in the café.

Your gifts have made a real contribution to this valuable work.

Thank you!

South Yardley Methodist Church / Oasis Hobmoor Food pantry

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

The flower ladies will be decorating the Church for the Christmas services on Friday 19th December. If anyone would like to help in anyway, please contact Lorraine directly. If you have any holly or ivy that we could use, please bring it to the church on the morning of 20th December between 9.30am and 10.00am.

If you would like to donate towards the cost of the flowers, however small, it would be very much appreciated. Please hand your donation to one of the Stewards or Lorraine. Thank you,

Lorraine Sibson

CHRISTMAS EVE COMMUNION and CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICES

Please note that we will be having a communion service on Christmas Eve this year. The service will start at 7.30pm and will be a joint service with the congregations from South Yardley Methodist Church and RCCG, one of the other churches that worships regularly at Lyndon. It is hoped that more people will be able to attend due to the earlier start time.

As last year, there will be no service at Lyndon on Christmas Day, but you are cordially invited to attend the service at South Yardley Methodist Church, B25 8JF at 11.00am.

Services in November

Sunday 2nd November

10:30am Communion Service led by Rev Joseph Ribeiro

Sunday 9th November

10:30am Remembrance and Parade Service led by Rev Ian

Howarth

Sunday 16th November

10:30am Service led by Rev Martin Freeman

Sunday 23rd November

10:30am Own arrangement service led by Jez Wassall

Sunday 30th November

10:30am Service led by Barry Davis

Services in December

Sunday 7th December

10:30am Communion Service led by a minister from the Circuit

5.00pm Lyndon People

Sunday 14th December

10:30am Service led by Rev Joseph Ribeiro

Sunday 21st December

10:30am Crib service led by Lynne Tyler

6.00pm Carol Service led by Rev Joseph Ribeiro

Wednesday 24th December

7.30pm Joint Christmas Eve Communion Service led by Rev

Joseph Ribeiro

Thursday 25th December

11.00am Joint Christmas Morning Service with congregation at

South Yardley Methodist Church, B25 8LW

Sunday 28th December

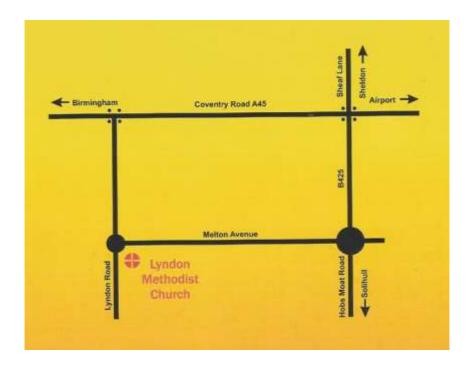
10.30am Own arrangement service led by Claire Frew

Our next issue will be January 2026

I am looking forward to receiving your contributions by

15th DECEMBER 2025

by email to Lynne Tyler or to 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