

I arrived in Royal Wootton Bassett just a few short days ago, having left my home of the last 8 years, and after retiring from the NHS where I have worked out my ministry for the last 28 years or so. In that time, it has been my privilege to work with people across all ages in times of joy, celebration, grief and sadness, often just briefly touching people's lives, at their request to explore challenging questions amid life.

You have, for a season shared a similar journey with Shirlyn and colleagues from around the circuit, but at the beginning of a new connexional year, we are together beginning a new journey, whose path lies open before us. We do not know all the particulars of the journey but travel with the assurance that Jesus travels with us, wherever he may lead us.

We will each have things which it is right that we put down – new year (as this is in a connexional sense) provides an opportunity for re-assessment. Alternatively, it may be that just as God in Christ calls us as a Circuit to Journey together for a season, you may sense the Holy Spirit whispering gently and leading you to explore something new. Again, new year provides a natural opportunity. So, in this time of transition, I would like us together to ask:

What do I **notice** about my journey with Jesus so far?

Take time to think back over recent and more distant times. Notice when you have felt distant from Jesus, and when you have felt close.

What do the things that you notice, make you **wonder** about?

You might be pondering why Jesus allowed certain things to happen, or seeing something new about yourself, or others, causing you to **realise** that God is at work in ways you had not seen before.

As we journey together into this new season, I invite you to pray with me that we will be able to celebrate and build on all that we notice God in Christ has done, to wonder what our gracious God is revealing day by day, realise day by day the closeness of the one who no longer calls us '...servants, but friends.' (John 15:15)

Gracious, loving and generous God, as we enter into a new season with you and with one another, help us to take time to notice what you are saying to us, to prayerfully ponder what we notice, and realise each day your powerful presence in our lives, so that through our words and actions people will see for themselves the power of your love. AMEN

Rev'd Anthony (Tony) Brookes M.A

The Methodist Church

Bristol District
Upper Thames Circuit 7/23
Registered Charity No. 1134231

September to
November 2026

Dates for the Diary

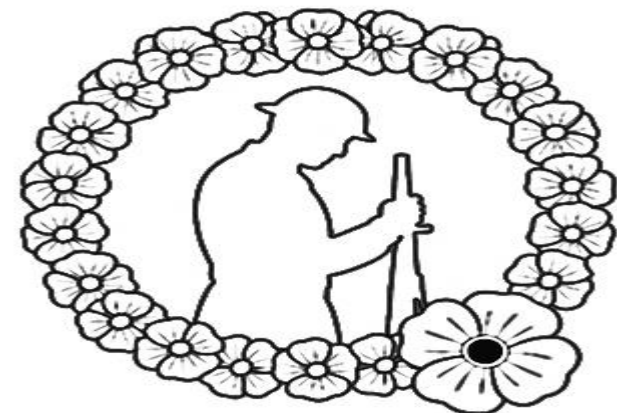
**Circuit Meeting – Thursday 17th September 2026 at 7.30 pm
at Highworth MC**

**CLT Meeting – 9th November 2026
10 am in the Circuit Office.**

**Local Preachers & Worship Leaders –
Tuesday 20th October 2026 at 7.30 pm at Toothill MC**

**Local Preachers and Worship Leaders Training Day
10th October 2026 10 am to 4 pm at Immanuel Church, Swindon**

REMEMBRANCE DAY



LEST WE FORGET

		September 2026				October 2026				November 2026				
Date		6 th	13 th	20 th	27 th	4 th	11 th	18 th	25 th	1 st	8 th Remem brance	15 th	22 nd	29 th Advent 1
Lectionary Readings Year A		Exodus 12: 1-14 Psalm 149 Romans 13: 8-14 Matthew 18: 15-20	Exodus 14: 19-31 Psalm 114 Romans 14: 1-12 Matthew 18: 21-35	Exodus 16: 2-15 Psalm 105: 1-6, 37-45 Philippians 1: 21-30 Matthew 20: 1-16	Exodus 17: 1-7 Psalm 78: 1-4, 12-16 Philippians 2: 1-13 Matthew 21: 23-32	Exodus 20: 1-4, 7-9, 12-20 Psalm 19 Philippians 3: 4b – 14 Matthew 21: 33-46	Exodus 32: 1-14 Psalm 106: 1-6, 19-23 Philippians 4: 1-9 Matthew 22: 1-14	Exodus 33: 12-23 Psalm 99 1-6, 13-17 1 Thessaloni ans 1: 1-10 Matthew 22: 15-22	Deuteronomy 34: 1-12 Psalm 90: 1-6, 13-17 1 Thessalonians 2: 1-8 Matthew 22: 34-46	Revelation 7 9-17 Psalm 34 1-10, 22 1 John 3: 1-3 Matthew 5: 1-12	Isaiah 52: 7-12: Psalm 46: Revelation 22: 1-5 Matthew 5: 43-48	Judges 4: 1-7 Psalm 123 1 Thessaloni ans 5: 1-11 Matthew 25: 14-30	Ezekiel 34: 11-16 20-24 Psalm 95 1-7a or Psalm 100 Ephesians 1: 15-23 Matthew 25: 31-46	Isaiah 64: 1-9 Psalm 80: 1-7, 17-19 1 Corinthians 1: 3-9 Mark 13: 24-37
Cricklade StF HP SF 1&2	10.30	OA	Scoones	Fellows HC	Price	R Dowling	OA	Speaker Dr Roz Savage MP HF	Fowler HC	Hoar	US St Sampsons	Longhurst	Francis HC	Mead
Highworth HP StF	10.30	M Dowling	Mead HC	OA	Mead HF	Cafe	Mead HC	Musungu	Mullin	Phoenix Stone	German 10 am	Mead HC	Wiltshire CA	R Dowling
Purton HP MPA	10.30	German	Brookes HC	Brookes HF	Musungu	Bunce	Brookes HC	OA	Longhurst	Brookes HC	Corkett	Mullin	Mead	German
Royal Wootton Bassett HP StF MPA	9.00		Brookes HC				Brookes HC				Brookes HC			
	10.30	Musungu	Longhurst AIW	German	Brookes HC	Corkett	Mullin HF	German	Brookes HC	OA	Brookes	R Dowling	Brookes HC	SS
Shrivenham StF CMP	10.30	Phoenix- Stone	Mullin	Mead HC	Torchon	US St Andrews Mead HF	M Dowling	Mead HC	OA	Bunce	US St Andrews Mead	Musungu	Joint Service at Highworth	Brookes HC
Toothill StF	10.30	Brookes HC	Corkett	Bunce	German AAW HF	Brookes HC	Phoenix Stone	Brookes	Mead AAW	OA	M Dowling	Brookes HC	Musungu	Mullin AAW

AAW All Age Worship
AIW All In Worship
B Baptism
COV Covenant

CI Café Inspire
CS Circuit Service
F Family Service
HF Harvest

SS Stewards Service
HC Holy Communion
AGM Annual Church Meeting
OA Own Arrangement

P Parade
PP Prayer & Praise
N Nativity Service
V Village Service

C Carols
CA Church Anniversary
US United Service
SP Songs of Praise

C Aid Christian Aid Service
Y Youth Service
CH Christingle
GCM General Church Meeting