

Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you will abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.  
Romans 15:13



**Deadline for June to August 2023 edition  
Tuesday 25 July 2023**

Please send all articles for inclusion in the next edition to the Circuit Administrator at:

**Yeovil and Blackmore Vale Circuit Office  
Yeovil Methodist Church  
Vicarage Street, Yeovil  
BA20 1JZ**

**01935 432173 / 07423 837504  
yandbvcircuit@gmail.com**



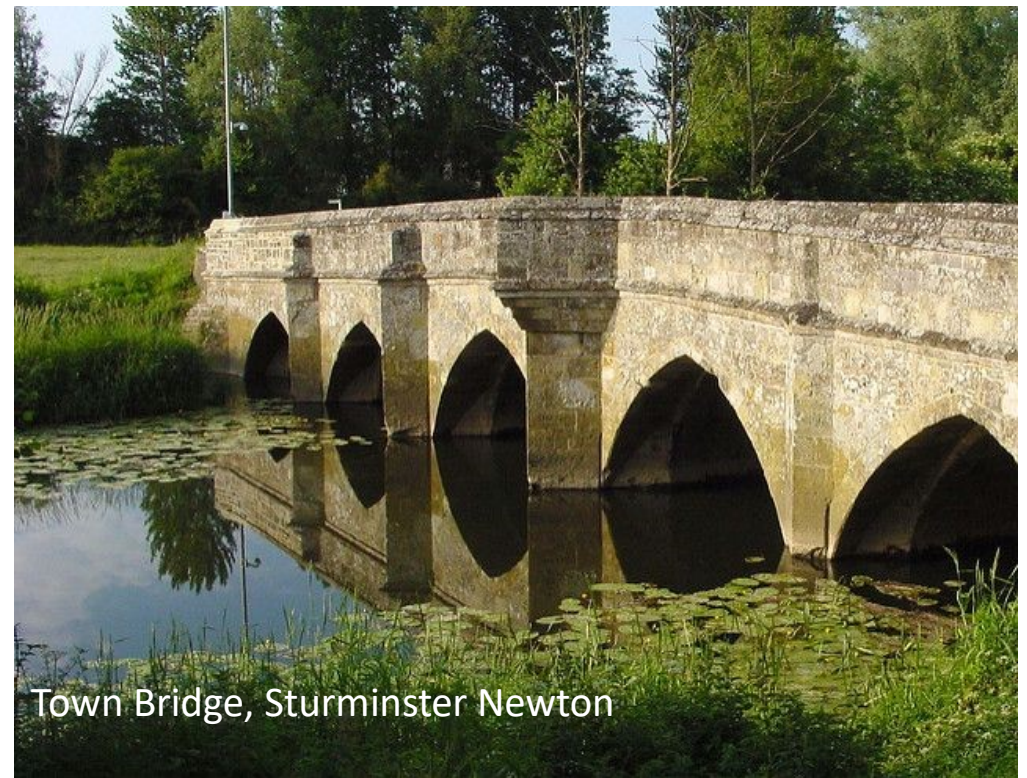
**[www.yeovilblackmorevalemc.org.uk](http://www.yeovilblackmorevalemc.org.uk)**

**THE**  
  
**Bridge**

**Circuit Magazine**

**Including  
Circuit Plan  
Issue 36**

**June to August 2023**



Town Bridge, Sturminster Newton

**Our Mission Statement**

**To Know God's Love, To Show God's Love,  
To Share God's Love**



## From the Circuit Office

The Circuit Office is open on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month between 9am and 2pm. Otherwise I will be working from home Tuesdays to Thursdays between 9am and 1pm. I continue to have full access to the circuit email. Messages left on the office answerphone are being retrieved regularly for more urgent matters I can be contacted on 07423 837504 during working hours.

### DATE FOR YOUR DIARY:

**Circuit Meeting — Tuesday 13 June — 7pm at Wincanton Methodist Church**

Please continue to send your News and details of upcoming events for the Bridge Magazine to the Circuit Office.

Items for the next edition should be received **well before Tuesday 25th July 2023** Many thanks.

If you are contributing by email could you please identify each contribution (image or article) with the name of your church or group. It helps identify them much more easily.

*Helen.*

If you are submitting photographs for publication in the Bridge Magazine please ensure that anyone portrayed in pictures is aware that it is being taken and may be published. **It is particularly important that written parental consent is obtained to publish pictures of children.**

### Circuit Presbyters

Superintendent Minister: Revd Lin Francis 01747 823777.

Ministers: Revd Denise Binks—01747 854631; Revd Kate Konrad—01935 415837

Supernumerary Ministers: \*Revd Richard Clarke; Revd Ruth Farrant; Revd Christina Le Moignan; Revd Margaret Oxenham; Revd Judy Turner-Smith; \*Revd Catherine Campbell-Hyde; Revd Soon Cheol Choi (\* before the name indicates 'not active')

**Community Café and Clothing Exchange**

BELL STREET UNITED CHURCH, SHAFTESBURY (Bell St entrance)  
Every WEDNESDAY 10.00am - 12 noon

Come along for refreshments, chat, children's clothing & baby accessories, toy corner.

Whether you are a parent (bring the children), a grandparent, a student, someone on their own, whatever your situation or age - join us for a warm welcome!

Always eat alone? Tired of cooking?

**Community Meal**

Every 1st Friday of the Month

At:- 12 Noon. YMC, Chelston Avenue, Yeovil

2 Course Hot Meal & Tea/Coffee.

Cost £5

To book your place please contact:-  
Beryl: 475541 or Kate: 472702

**COME ALONG AND MEET NEW FRIENDS!**

We look forward to seeing you.

NEED A BIRTHDAY PARTY VENUE?  
**EASY!**

Hire a room at YMC Chelston Avenue, Yeovil!

Milford area, Yeovil. We'd love to have you at YMC Chelston! Includes hall/kitchen hire & tables/chairs  
\*Other times/places are available

**Only £39 for 3 hours\***

Contact: Damilola (Bookings Manager) 0746 741 6577  
Email: yeovilincbookings@gmail.com

**Mid-Week Worship**

Tuesday's 12 noon  
YMC @ Quedam  
for 30 mins

You are invited to join us.  
God isn't just for a Sunday.

4th Sunday Month

**OVERFLOW**  
In The Spirit

Modern Worship  
Relaxed & Informal  
Opportunity for conversation & Questions  
Perhaps a Drama  
**COME & HEAR OUR BAND!**

4pm @ YMC, Chelston Avenue

Please join us for cake and refreshments afterwards.

1st Sunday of the Month

**Munch Bunch**

BREAKFAST CHURCH  
10:30am—11:30am At YMC: Chelston Ave.  
Come and enjoy Worship with Breakfast and Chat.  
**EVERYONE WELCOME!**

**The FASS Club 50's 60's 70's**

is a Circuit club for the over fifties.  
Based at Yeovil Methodist Church, Chelston Ave.  
A small group continue to meet on Zoom on Wednesday afternoons.  
For details please contact Richard England [rje@england-family.org/](mailto:rje@england-family.org/)  
01935 850726

**And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.**

Romans 8:28 NIV


# What's happening around the Circuit



Yeovil Methodist Church, Chelston Ave  
**Seedlings**  
 Baby & Toddler Group  
 Thursdays on term time 9.30-11am  
 Toys & Crafts, Singing & Snacks  
**£1 per family**  
 For More info please contact  
 Lucy: 0796 673 6240




**LITTLE SUNBEAMS**  
**@ MOTCOMBE**  
 A friendly group for  
 parents / carers with  
 babies and pre-school children  
 Term-time Thursdays 10 – 11.30 am  
 Motcombe Methodist Church,  
 The Street, Motcombe, SP7 9PF  
 FRIENDSHIP, PLAY, LEARNING, SINGING AND FUN!  
 NUMBERS LIMITED SO PLEASE BOOK IN ADVANCE  
 Contact Sarah on 07814 275985 Facebook: Sunbeams@Motcombe



**THE BOYS' BRIGADE & GIRLS' ASSOCIATION**  
 >the adventure begins here  
 Anchors 5-8 years 6:30–7:30PM  
 Junior 8-11 years 7-8PM  
 Company Section 11-14 years 7:30pm-8:30pm  
 Why not come along and see whats going on. We'd love to see you!  
 Thursdays @ Yeovil Methodist Church, Chelston Avenue.  
 For more info contact Andy Voizey:- 1yeovilboysbrigade@gmail.com



**Bright Beginnings**  
 BABY GROUP  
 A support group for  
 parents/ carers  
 of babies up to  
 10 months.  
 Please contact Ruth Jones on 07764 497532 for more information  
 at Bell Street United Church  
 Shaftesbury, SP7 8AL



**youth club**  
 AGE 8yrs +  
 @ Yeovil Methodist Church: Chelston Ave  
 Fridays Fortnightly  
 Feb: 10th, 24th  
 March: 10th, 24th  
 April (Easter Hols), then back on 21st  
 May: 5th, 19th  
 6:30pm – 8pm  
 £1.50 + Money for Tuck Shop  
 More Info call Lindsay: 0781 727 1001



Sunday School for all ages.  
 Sunday's 10:30am @  
 YMC, Chelston Avenue.



**Every 3rd Saturday of Month!**  
**10am – 12ish.**  
 AT:- YEovil METHODIST CHURCH: Chelston Avenue  
 WE HAVE LOADS OF ARTS, CRAFTS, SONGS, SCIENCE, FUN & GAMES FOR YOU TO ENJOY & YOU ARE ALL INVITED TO STAY FOR A MEAL TOGETHER TOO!  
 WE CANT WAIT TO SEE YOU. EVERYBODY WELCOME!  
 DATES: March 18th  
 April 15th  
 May 20th  
 This is a free event for all, but contributions would be gratefully received should you feel able to contribute.  
 FOR MORE INFO PLEASE CONTACT Lindsay:- 0781 727 1001

## From The Revd Lin Francis

June 2023

Dear Friends,

Geoff and I have discovered The Bakery at West Camel on the A 303. All bakeries are like heaven on earth to my Geoff; the smell of freshly baked bread, the variety of cakes and savouries and the wide choice of sandwiches they prepare is a joy to behold.

With the summer holidays coming up we will go into the shop and buy Lardy Cake to take to our friends in Cornwall as has become our custom. Our friends also shop their when they travel up this way to family, so we have a mutual love of bread and lardy cake. Despite the economic crisis we are struggling with aren't we all very fortunate that we can choose a variety of food to eat, we are in plentiful supply of any food stuff we want and malnutrition is not an every day occurrence for us. We are fortunate, or are we?

There is malnutrition in this land, a very different sort of malnutrition. When the word of God is neglected we suffer from spiritual malnutrition. Liz Babbs in her book 'Into God's Presence' talks of The Word of God being our food. She reminds readers that the Bible calls it our milk, bread, solid food and sweet dessert. God's Word is not an optional extra – the side order, it is a vital necessity. She suggests that we savour on the scriptures, meditate on them just like a four course meal. Here are some of her examples:

### Milk

- Like newborn babies you should crave (thirst for, earnestly desire) the pure (unadulterated) spiritual milk, that by it you may be nurtured and grow unto [completed] salvation. (1 Peter 2:2 AMP)
- In fact, though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the elementary truths of God's Word all over again. You need milk, not solid food! (Hebrews 5:12 TNIV)

### Bread

- It is written: 'Man does not live by bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.' (Matthew 4:4)
- I have treasured the words of his mouth more than my daily bread. (Job 23:12)
- Then the Lord said to Moses, 'I will rain down bread from heaven for you. The people are to go out each day and gather enough for that day. In this way I will test them and see whether they will follow my instructions.' (Exodus 16:4)

(Continued on page 4)

- Keep falsehood and lies far from me; give me neither poverty nor riches, but give me only my daily bread. (Proverbs 30:8)
- While they were eating, Jesus took bread, gave thanks and broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, 'Take and eat; this is my body.' (Matthew 26:26)
- 'My food,' said Jesus, 'is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work.' (John 4:34)

**Solid Food**

- I gave you milk, not solid food, for you were not yet ready for it. Indeed, you are still not ready. (1 Corinthians 3:2)
- But solid food is for full-grown men, for those whose senses and mental faculties are trained by practice to discriminate and distinguish between what is morally good and noble and what is evil and contrary either to ivine or human law. (Hebrews 5:14)

**Sweet Dessert**

- How sweet are Your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth! (Psalm 119:103)
- Eat honey, my son, for it is good; honey from the comb is sweet to your taste. Know also that wisdom is sweet to your soul; if you find it, there is a future hope for you, and your hope will not be cut off. (Proverbs 24:13-14)

These are definitely words for spiritual feeding. Chew them over, digest and absorb them and may this food be the fuel for our Christian lives. Enjoy the summer and all the feeding it offers you.

With every blessing, Lin

*Lin*

thank you for all the hard work and preparation that was put into the afternoon, particularly the spring plants and flowers to brighten the church.

**Yeovil Methodist Church in the Quedam**



Maundy Thursday services took place at Chelston Avenue, led by Rev Ruth, focusing on The Upper Room and The Garden. Ruth also led on Good Friday afternoon, a service of meditation - a time of reflection and quiet, with emphasis on the seven words from the Cross - these notably can be found in Luke, Mark and John. It was good to be in a quiet place to ponder and digest those very powerful words.

Good Friday morning had seen the Walk of Witness take place, people joining at various stages to form a large gathering for a short service outside St. John's, before moving down through the town, singing on the church lawn, then further fellowship followed in the main hall for a bread and cheese lunch.

To mark Easter morning an invitation was given by Kate to join her on a prayer walk at Wyndham Hill, followed by an act of prayer beside the cross at Chelston Avenue at 9am for those not able to walk, this in turn was followed by coffee and croissants before the main service, led by Rev Ruth. We gathered round the breakfast tables for worship and communion, which was distributed by the stewards to each table, a small bowl with the bread passing, passing it to each other, followed by the cup of wine. It was good to see such a full church coming together to mark this special day with praise and thanksgiving.

Flowers had been brought to decorate the cross, which was standing in church and then at the close of service the 'dressed cross' was taken outside for all to see.

Alleluia! Christ is Risen!!

He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

*Thelma*

**Yeovil & Blackmore Vale Methodist Circuit**

**Circuit Easter Offering Service**

Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> June 6pm

**Gillingham Methodist Church**

**Celebrating the work of Methodist Women in Britain**

**On Conference Sunday**

**Farewell Service**

for

**Deacon Rebekah-Joy Spinks**

**Sunday 23rd July**

**Vale Methodist Church**

**Sturminster Newton @ 4pm**

**Afternoon Tea 3pm**



**Yetminster Methodist Church**

[www.yeovilblackmorevalemc.org.uk/our-churhes/yetminster](http://www.yeovilblackmorevalemc.org.uk/our-churhes/yetminster)



## Yeovil Methodist Church

<http://yeovilblackmorevalemc.org.uk/our-churches/>

Greetings - During January the mid-week prayer course on zoom explored 'Lectio Divina' an ancient spiritual practice - a prayer way of reading the Bible, allowing God to speak through the Scriptures. This course of 5 weeks was extended during Lent for

those not on zoom, being held in Sherborne and Yeovil.

A worship workshop has been held to explore how there might be different styles to incorporate into a Sunday Service. The first Sunday of March we welcomed Andy Dye, from the Global Relationships team of the Methodist Church, to lead worship. A busy weekend for him as he had led on the Saturday at Cheap Street, a day of Learning, Sharing and Thinking on global actions. He had been a 'Mission' partner in Granada, and we learnt about his work and the work of Mission Partners across the globe - a very inspiring and informative service, followed by a lovely hot lunch and mouth watering puddings! - Something to suit everyone's pallet! So, a big thank you to the catering team and helpers for all their hard work, when's the next one?!

The weather didn't disappoint for Mothering Sunday - a truly spring day, with much happening in YMC. Led by Rev Kate, with valuable help from many! We were encouraged to write a few words on how we viewed Mother's Day, what it meant to each and everyone of us - these were joined together. There were tealights on the various tables for us to light and remember.

There was also the dedication of a delightful little girl, with many members of the family coming together to mark this special event in her life. Vows were taken by her parents, with the body of the Church responding with their support.

Holy Communion followed and posies were then distributed, followed by refreshments including the cutting of a Birthday cake with rendering of 'Happy Birthday' to Rachel. We also enjoyed the singing from our Fijian friends. Thanks to all those involved with refreshments and posy making, all very much appreciated.

That afternoon the Fijians opened the doors to our Church in the Quedam, to give us a taste of how children mark Palm Sunday Services, with readings, singing, devotions, a time of reflection. It was a chance to explore a global fellowship and a fresh expression of church. Further services are in the pipeline, food and fellowship followed in the hall. A big



**Yeovil Methodist Church at Chelston Ave**



## Bell Street United Church, Shaftesbury with Ashmore Chapel

<http://www.yeovilblackmorevalemc.org.uk/our-churches/bell-street-shaftesbury/>

<http://www.yeovilblackmorevalemc.org.uk/our-churches/ashmore/>



## Cheap Street Church with Longburton Chapel

<http://www.yeovilblackmorevalemc.org.uk/our-churches/cheap-street>

<http://cheapstreetchurch.co.uk/index.php>

<http://www.yeovilblackmorevalemc.org.uk/our-churches/longburton/>



We have just received the news that our minister Rev Duncan Goldie is taking early retirement on health grounds. We are thankful to Rev Kate Konrad who has been looking after us for the last year.

We have been celebrating Easter and have a cross decorated with flowers on the entrance pathway to remind the passers by that new birth has begun.

We will be seeking to put into practice the lessons learnt from our recent Lectio course of hearing God as this is vital for the future of our fellowship.

The POD continues to be our main contact point with the wider public and we seek ways to develop that work.

The Songs of Praise continues on the third Sunday at Longburton at 6.30pm for the summer months.



## THE NEW BREAST CANCER UNIT APPEAL YEOVIL HOSPITAL

The POD in Sherborne run by the Methodist Church has been a fantastic support to this appeal. They have allowed us one of their windows to display the jewellery being collected for the appeal, sold it for us and been a collection point for people wanting to donate jewellery and watches. As well as doing this the POD has raised over £1000 for the appeal. Last Autumn the jewellery fundraising for the appeal won an award in the fundraising section of the BBC Somerset Radio awards. We are so grateful to the POD for helping us to achieve this. We are still collecting unwanted and broken jewellery and watches until this much needed unit is built. We also give talks about the appeal and what we do with the jewellery and watches.

Thank you to everyone at Sherborne Methodist Church on behalf of the appeal committee for the new unit.



## Gillingham Methodist Church

<http://yeovilblackmorevalemc.org.uk/our-churches/gillingham/>

### Music at Gillingham Methodist Church:

[www.musicatgmc.org.uk](http://www.musicatgmc.org.uk)

### Gillingham Community Cinema:

[www.filmatgmc.org.uk](http://www.filmatgmc.org.uk)



## The Last Word from Hazelbury Bryan Methodist Chapel

The church as you can see from the picture is finally cleared and empty. Although we will no longer hear the resounding voices of the congregation singing the Lords praises or the sound of fun and laughter from young and old at Youth Club or Toddlers and other celebrations, we can keep them in our hearts as lasting precious memories.

The process of clearing, cleaning, sorting, keeping and letting things go has at times been very difficult, but it has allowed time to reflect and remember so many joy full times spent within those strong walls: Walls that were built despite hardship and difficulties that those faithful people faced and with determination and Love for the Lord they showed the people of Hazelbury almost 160 years ago just what their faith meant to them.



The seasons change and one thing leads to another. I too am learning to adapt and change as well. We don't know what the future holds for the building but it is ready for its new life and chapter the same as we are.

I am very grateful for friends and family that have helped with the process and a special thanks to Annette Newman from Ibberton who with her technical knowledge and contacts has been an enormous help to me. I hope I have done what is right for this wonderful building which has been my spiritual home for 30 years.



I feel very grateful that I have been welcomed by members of King Stag and Sturminster Newton and have joined Vale Methodist Church as they are now known. I look forward to new adventures with them and with God walking alongside us I am sure it will be good.

*Anne Cook*



## Live at Home Scheme Wincanton Methodist Church

Are looking for an Assistant to cover Maternity leave from July 2023 to January 2024.

- 3 days at 7.5 per day would be 22.5 hours per week £13,121 (£11.21 per hour)
- Working Tuesday, and Wednesday and Thursday
- From beginning of July to cover Maternity leave until middle of January 2024

If you are interested, please contact:

Judith Charmer, Scheme Manager, MHA, |  
MHA Communities South Somerset,  
50 High Street, BA9 9JF

Email: [Judith.Charmer@mha.org.uk](mailto:Judith.Charmer@mha.org.uk); Tel: 01963 33588;

Mobile: 07565296790;

Website: [mha.org.uk](http://mha.org.uk)

# GO THEREFORE AND MAKE DISCIPLES OF ALL THE NATIONS

THE BIBLE, MATTHEW 28:19





## Tisbury Methodist Church

<http://yeovilblackmorevalemc.org.uk/our-churches/tisbury/>



## Vale Methodist Church Incorporating the chapels at Sturminster Newton and Kings Stag

<http://yeovilblackmorevalemc.org.uk/our-churches>



On Maundy Thursday a Passover Meal with Communion was held at Kings Stag, The was attended by 9 people from Vale Methodist Church.



On Good Friday we held our usual morning Meditation at Sturminster Newton and then met with members of the `Christians Together` in Sturminster Newton and area for a short Service of Remembrance in the Market Square at midday.



## Wincanton Methodist Church

<http://www.yeovilblackmorevalemc.org.uk/our-churches/wincanton>



## Christian Aid week

May 2023

David Hart

Christian Aid

Church Engagement and  
Fundraising Officer

No mum should have the heart-breaking choice of which child to educate and which one will miss out on their dreams. No hardworking young person should be forced to give up on education, locking them into poverty. But these types of 'choices' are faced in Malawi by countless families.

Jen Bishop, a loving mum in Malawi, dreams of her children being able to have the education they deserve. Her hard-working boys have earned places at top colleges – but Jen cannot afford to send them both.

Jen works hard to provide for her children. But she can barely scratch a living from the soil. Soaring costs of food, fuel, fertiliser, school uniforms and school fees are crushing dreams and keeping her family in poverty.

Christian Aid's partners in Malawi, empower vulnerable communities to find practical and sustainable ways out of poverty, including giving them the skills to grow crops that are more resilient to the climate crisis and join cooperatives to earn more for their crops.

The churches across the Winscombe and Sandford area are united in their hope to eradicate poverty, injustice and inequality. We partner with Christian Aid to turn that hope into action.

We dream of a better world. We want every child to be able to have the education they need to break free of poverty. Together, we can help people secure a better future for their families. With your help, we can make dreams come true around the world.

We have our own Yeovil and Blackmore Vale Methodist Christian Aid donation webpage. Access it via the web address below or you use the QR code on your phone.



<https://envelope.christianaid.org.uk/yeovilandblackmorevale>



Christian Aid works with local partners and communities to fight injustice, respond to humanitarian emergencies, campaign for change and help people claim the services and rights to which they are entitled. Christian Aid stands with people of all faiths and none and is the official relief, development and advocacy agency of 41 sponsoring churches in Britain and Ireland.



## Marnhull Methodist Chapel

<http://yeovilblackmorevalemc.org.uk/our-churches/marnhull/>



## Motcombe Methodist Church

<http://yeovilblackmorevalemc.org.uk/our-churches/motcombe/>



**Holy Week:** A thought provoking display in the porch showed the events which led up to the crucifixion on one side and the tomb on the other side.

A cross was placed outside the church. Thank you to Sarah who prepared all of this display (see photos).

Revd Sue Litchfield led our service on **Easter Sunday** when we were able to celebrate our Risen Saviour.

A take away **Lent lunch and coffee morning** in aid of Christian Aid was held in March. 35 lunches were

taken away and many cups of tea and coffee were served. £273 was raised for this worthy cause.

**Lent bible studies** continued and many issues were discussed.

**Mothering Sunday:** Little Sunbeams potted a geranium for their Mums , and Isa potted the rest so that everyone was able to be given one on Mothering Sunday.

In March a **Thanksgiving Service** was held for Bob Taylor who used to

*(Continued on page 9)*

attend regularly until he became unwell. Bob's family together with church members made the afternoon a great celebration of his life. Lots of happy memories were shared and confidence in meeting Jesus.

**Ladies' Fellowship** The **world day of prayer** programme, prepared by the people of Taiwan took place in our church this year. The theme was 'I have heard about your faith' and was based on the reading from Ephesians 1 v 15-19. Part of the service included making a 'jigsaw' of the map of Taiwan (see photo) Our fellowship group was joined by people from St Mary's church and also others from the village who attend other churches. It is always good to know that this service is being used by countries throughout the world during this day. £124 was collected for WDP . This enables the National Committee to award grants to registered Christian charities in the UK and worldwide.

In March we went to the Udder Farm shop for tea and cake. A very enjoyable afternoon!

*Stella Taylor*



“So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.” Col 2:6-7