

Services for August

2nd 10.00am Rev Mrs C Shergold
9th 10.00am Ms Marilyn Dore
16th 10.00am Mr John Shaw
23rd 10.00am Rev Dr H Ofori-Attah
30th 10.00am Rev Mrs C Collins
Holy Communion

Services for September

6th 10.00am Rev H Moon
13th 10.00am Rev Mrs R Williams
20th 10.00am Mr Pete Honeyball
YDA Communion
27th 11.00am Rev A Cowburn
Note Time Harvest

Princes Risborough
Methodist Church

'The Messenger'
Aug /Sept 2026
Harvest



*This magazine comes to you with the
good wishes of the Church*

Princes Risborough Methodist Church
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Material for the Oct / Nov edition of *The Messenger*
to the editors, by Wednesday 9th September at the latest,
please.

***This Church is proud to be a member of ‘Churches Together in
Risborough’ associated with The Baptist Church, Elim Church,
St. Dunstan’s Church, St. Mary’s Church, St John’s, Kimble
Free Church and St. Teresa’s Roman Catholic Church***

Rotas for September 2026

	Duty Steward	Welcoming Stewards	Bible Readers	Tea/coffee
6th	Miss M Dore	Mrs M Stevens & Mrs B Oates	Mrs M Stevens & Ms Y Ayoola	Mrs S Wilson
13th	Mrs J Gerrard	Mr J Drake & Mrs F McMullan	Mrs M Judd & Mrs M Cookson	Mrs F McMullan
20th	Mr J Needham (tbc)	Mr & Mrs G Hudson	Mr & Mrs G Hudson	Mrs M Stevens
27th	Mr M Pullen	Mr & Mrs N Trout	Mr & Mrs N Trout	Ms P Scott

Weekend	Flowers	Cleaning	Grass Cutting
5/6		Mrs N Baker	Mr K Smith
12/13	Mrs C Palmer	Miss M Dore	Mr B McCleery
19/20 YDA	Mrs D Robbins	Mrs B Hudson	Mr G Hudson
26/27		Mrs F McMullan	Mr C McMullan

If unavailable, please arrange an exchange or replacement, notify the steward, and amend the porch and vestry lists. If you would like to be involved as a welcoming steward or Bible reader, or any other rota please speak to Joe Needham (07507 416421) or one of the other Stewards.

Those who kindly provide flowers, please leave the wrappings in the vestry so that the stewards have something to wrap the flowers in when they distribute them after the service.

Rest Day— Rev. Heegon Moon’s ‘day off’ is Monday; please try to respect this whenever possible.

Rotas for August 2026

	Duty Steward	Welcoming Stewards	Bible Readers	Tea/coffee
2nd	Mr N Marriner-Kyle	Mr J Drake & Mrs F McMullan	Mr J Drake & Mrs M Cookson	Ms V Spires
9th	Mr J Needham	Mr & Mrs G Hudson	Mr & Mrs G Hudson	Mrs M Stevens
16th	Miss M Dore	Mr & Mrs N Trout	Mr & Mrs N Trout	Ms Y Ayoola
23rd	Mrs J Gerrard	Mrs T Shephard & Ms V Spires	Mrs T Shephard & Ms V Spires	Ms V Spires
30th	Mr M Pullen	Mr & Mrs V Baker	Mr & Mrs V Baker	Ms P Scott

Weekend	Flowers	Cleaning	Grass Cutting
1/2		Mrs F McMullan	Mr C McMullan
8/9	Mrs M Judd	Mrs D Pullen	Mr M Pullen
15/16	Mrs M Stevens	Mrs M Stevens	Mr D Stevens
22/23	Miss P Scott	Miss P Scott	Mr J Needham
29/30	Mrs B Oates	Mrs K Trout	Mr N Trout

Volunteers Wanted

If any of you can help with taking a turn as a Welcoming Steward (being there to greet people as they arrive for church, give out hymn books, etc as required and to take the offertory forward during the service) it would be much appreciated. The more help we have the fewer occasions that each person does it – note that it does require those involved to arrive at church about 30 minutes before the service starts.

Some of us also do the Bible Readings, but there is no obligation to do those as well if you don't want to. If you are able to help, please let me know so that I can include you on the rota in future months.

Joe Needham

From the Manse ...

Dear Friends, As I write this letter, I am reflecting on England's recent World Cup semi-final loss to Argentina. It was a heart-breaking defeat—the second World Cup semi-final loss for England in eight years. At times like these, emotions run high, and we feel things deeply. Football has a remarkable way of bringing people together. During the World Cup, I watched fans laugh, cry, celebrate, and sometimes suffer together. They give their time, energy, and money because they want to be part of something bigger than themselves.



To be honest, I am not much of a sports fan myself. I prefer watching tennis on television from the comfort of my home, rather than buying a ticket to watch in person. However, I have great respect for those who do—who wake up early, wait in crowds of strangers, and return home either celebrating or heartbroken. That takes real commitment!

A few years ago, my best friends from South Korea visited. The one place they wanted to see most was Tottenham Hotspur Stadium, because of Son Heung-min, the Korean footballer. I could hardly believe it! Traveling all the way from Korea, and this was their ultimate dream! I had never been to a football ground, but because they were so eager, I spent the whole day taking them there.

As I watched the crowds that day, I began to understand that it wasn't just about football; it was about connection. People wanted to be part of something that gave them excitement and a sense of community. They wanted to feel alive.

That experience got me thinking. For many people, sport, especially football, is something that makes them feel truly alive. For others, it is family, church, music, holidays, or simply spending time with the people they love. That trip to the stadium, combined with this summer's unfinished hope of football "coming home," made me wonder: What excites you? What gives you real joy? What makes you feel truly alive?

Whatever it is, I hope you take the time to nurture it. I also hope we can discover—or rediscover—what makes our faith community come alive. What draws us together? What gives us hope? What helps us feel part of something bigger than ourselves? Because that is exactly what the Church should be: a place where we all feel truly alive. Jesus said, **"I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full."** (John 10:10)

Tuesday Fellowship

We will be having a break with no meeting during August. Our next meeting will be on 15th September at the Church at 2pm when Rev. Sally Prendergast will be coming to join us. She is a Stole-maker and will be bringing with her some of the Stoles that she has made and will be sharing the details with us.

New members are always welcome to join us.

Pam Scott

SALT Group

The SALT group (Sharing And Learning Together) will resume our study of Paul's Letter to the churches in Galatia in September after taking a break during August. Our meetings will be on September 10th & 24th, and will be held at the home of Fran McMullan (check in the notices for any change in venue) from 7.45 for tea/coffee and chat, with Bible Study commencing soon after 8pm.

Even if you have not joined us before, you are welcome to come and try us out! Each study session is 'self-contained' so attendance at every meeting is not essential.

Joe Needham

Table Top Games

We meet every **Friday** between 10.00am to around 12.00 noon, to play Scrabble, Upwords, and Rummikub, to name but a few. The attendance fee is £2.00 and refreshments will be served. There will be NO meetings in August.

Sue Wilson

Harvest display

The church will be open between 2.30 and 3.30pm on Saturday 26th September to receive anything you may want to bring for the Harvest display, as well as foliage and flowers, and help with setting up the display then would be much appreciated. You can also leave items in the church from Friday onwards.

See page 9 for details for the lunch and for Whitechapel donations.

Judith Gerrard

Diary Dates for August

10th	Bereavement Group, Chapter House, St Mary's, 3pm
16th	Big Sing, Haddenham Church, 3pm
29th	Ladies Breakfast, St Mary's Hall, 9.am

Diary Dates for September

10th	SALT, Fran McMullan's, 7.45pm
14th	Bereavement Group, Chapter House St Mary's, 3pm
12th	Ride and Stride
15th	Tuesday Fellowship, Church, 2pm
22nd	Steering Group, Church, 7.30pm
24th	Karibuni Golf Day, book via the Karibuni site
24th	SALT, Fran McMullan's, 7.45pm
26th	Harvest preparation, Church, 2.20pm - 3.30pm
27th	Harvest Festival & lunch

Forthcoming events

10th Oct	Karibuni concert, Ellesborough Band, Fairford Leys, 3pm
20th Oct	Church Forum, Church, 7.30pm

Ride and Stride

Mike is hoping to ride for this excellent charity, which also benefits our church and this year he is going to try and visit more than 40 churches and probably in excess of 40 /50 miles

All sponsorship would be appreciated

Mike Pullen

Challenge

As we know the best way to encourage people to come to church is personal invitation. Failing that do you have any outreach ideas to encourage users of the premises and those not connected with our church to come along at Christmas, traditionally a time when people consider going to, or back to church? I'm sorry to mention Christmas at the start of summer but in order to give time to act on any suggestions we need to be planning now!

Neville Trout

Prayer Circle

The Prayer Circle is 'here for you' so if you know of someone who would appreciate our prayers, please contact anyone in the table below.

Please contact me if you are interested in joining the Prayer Circle.

Name	Preferred contact	Email/Mobile
Vicky Spires	Email or text but calls in evening	E: vixspireslane@gmail.com M: 07786901454
Anna Rogers	mobile	E: amrogers@talk21.com M: 07496853701
Chris Palmer	Email	E: christinepalmer100@gmail.com M: 07709556785
Maureen Judd	Email	E: maureenj148@gmail.com
Beverley Hudson	Email	E: beverleyshudson@gmail.com M: 07969366625
Neville Trout	Email	E: Kathryn.trout@tiscali.co.uk
Kathryn Trout	Email	E: kathryn.trout@icloud.com M: 07716904157
David Robbins	Email	E: drobbuk@yahoo.co.uk
Judith Gerrard	Email	E: judithgerrard.ww@btinternet.com

Vicky Spires

Weekly Church Notices

Please contact Mrs Maureen Judd by telephone, 01844 617650, or email: maureenj148@gmail.com by noon on Friday with any information to go into the weekly notices. .

Missions Report

The amounts below have been donated to the Methodist World Mission and Mission in Britain Funds by members.

World Mission - £154.20

Mission in Britain - £100.00

Thank you to all those people who have boxes and save regularly and to all who have contributed towards these totals.

Pam Scott

Church BBQ

Aren't we lucky to have a church garden, and folk willing to help with the mowing and tending? We enjoyed using it for our BBQ in July, although it was so hot many of the 33 people present preferred to sit inside.

Thanks to everyone for all the wonderful contributions of a gazebo for shade, tables and chairs outside and indoors, manning the BBQ in the heat, providing the varied and delicious food, and washing up.



Because of your generosity there was a small 'profit' which will go to the local 'One Can' charity.

Judith Gerrard
Photo—Vic Baker

Congratulations to:

Margaret Hunt who celebrated her 90th Birthday in June having wonderful celebrations with all her family. She also thanks her Church Family for all their good wishes.



Diana Robbins who will be celebrating her 80th Birthday on 24th September.

Messenger Appeal

During the last year 'The Messenger' has been produced every 2 months. The cost per edition is in the region of £78 or about £450 per year. Although the magazines are freely distributed, donations to offset this cost would be gratefully appreciated. Included in this month's 'Messenger' is a donation envelope which can be returned through the weekly Sunday Offertory plate, handed to your Messenger distributor or to a Church Steward.

Thank you to Neville & Kathryn Trout & Vicky Spires for all their hard work in the production of 'The Messenger,' to Marilyn Dore and Margaret Stevens for proofreading the copy, to all those who contribute items and to the Pastoral Visitors for distributing them to their groups.

Thank you for any donations that you can make towards this cost.

Pam Scott

(We should also say thanks to Pam for sending out copies to preachers and remind people that the Messenger is also now posted on the Church website.)

Bereavement Drop In

This group meets on the second Monday of every month throughout the year offering a warm welcome to anyone struggling with the grief of bereavement. We share together over a cup of tea or coffee, talk about our experiences or just listen. Many find comfort in talking about their loved ones with others who know what they are going through.

We next meet on 10th August, and 14th September in the Chapter House at St. Mary's Church, Princes Risborough, at 3.00pm, and everyone is welcome, of any faith or of no faith at all. Please contact Rose Williams if you need further details.

Revd Rose Williams 01844 274225

Prayer Handbooks

Please let me know by August Bank holiday if you want to join my order this year to save postage on the URC 2027 and Methodist 2026/27 Prayer Handbooks.

Methodist Handbook. £4.99 + share of postage

"For 2026/2027, the words Sorrow and Joy are chosen like grid references on a map, compass bearings. As with many paradoxical word phrases – faith and doubt, life and death, light and darkness, noise and silence – 'sorrow' and 'joy' are like ingredients mixed and baked in a batch of bread, blended and distilled, creating the unique flavours of our lives.



As a Church, we offer mission, ministry and worship in a world increasingly in conflict and divisions, bringing much sorrow. How we deal with conflict and divisions personally and together within the life of the Church matters. In our collective life of faith, we want to recognise and support Methodist people who may need a boost of joy in the Lord to keep being and doing what we are called to be and do.

May our prayers recognise that sorrow and joy run and flow through each other and through each one of us, because maybe one is the way to the other, because Jesus holds them both with us."

URC Handbook. c£6.99 + share of postage

The details of the URC Handbook, which unlike the Methodist Handbook runs to a calendar year, and the cost are not yet available other than the title : " A Larger Belonging". I will circulate more information in a future Messenger.

Neville Trout

Karibuni Golf Day.

For the golfers amongst us, there is a Karibuni Golf Day at Sandy Lodge Golf Club in Northwood on Thursday September 24th, following the successful event held last year. The cost for the day is £120 and includes tea/coffee and bacon/egg roll on arrival, 18 holes of golf, a 2 course dinner and prizes. Book via the Karibuni website www.karibuni.org.uk/shop .

The Big Sing

Princes Risborough Methodist Church hosted the Circuit periodic Big Sing at the start of July. Thank you to all those who made it the event it was, including the providers of refreshment.

A total of £85 was donated from the collection to Rennie Grove Peace Hospice Care.

Eds

View from the Pew

On 19th July Heegon preached on Matthew 13 vv 24—30, the parable of the wheat and the weeds. I had understood the message previously to be that good and evil co-exist in the world but God will separate them at the end of the age. Uprooting the bad may cause more difficulty and disruption for the good.

What I took from Heegon was that we should also all play our allotted roles—rather than judging, we need to grow as Christians and to bear witness among the weeds. We should thereby learn patience, which is a fruit of the spirit. We should leave it to God in his wisdom to take care of those who are apparently evil and focus on our own development.

Neville Trout

Tuesday Fellowship

CANON Rob was the most excellent speaker at The Tuesday Fellowship on 16th June. His subject was “Journeys” and he spoke of his journey and his artistic ability. It was a pleasure to listen to such a fine speaker.

He brought along boxes of greetings cards which he had made from re-cycled materials and which were sold for the organ fund at St Dunstan’s Monks Risborough.

Vic Baker

Smile

What is the best way to study the Bible — you *Luke* into it

How did God cure Moses’ headache — He gave him two tablets

Which Bible character was super fit — Absalom



From Chris Palmer

To say thank you seems so inadequate, and yet I do say it most sincerely. The support that both Barry and I received from our loving church family over several years kept us afloat and something for which I will always be grateful — the many offers of help, your prayers, the meals both at your homes and brought to our home, and keeping Barry company while I was at Church or elsewhere. The practical help on Sunday mornings, the visits, taking me to see Barry once he was admitted to hospital, and later to the nursing home in Iwer. And more latterly the many visits when he was cared for locally.

Barry would frequently want to know ‘who is the minister this week at church?’ And we did attend the monthly church service in the home, where Peter plays the keyboard.

Thank you for the many cards and messages of sympathy, it is truly a blessing to belong to such a wonderful Church Family.

Methodist Homes envelopes

Our annual envelope appeal in June resulted in £120, which has been sent to support Methodist Homes. They say:

Through 86 specialist care homes, 67 retirement living schemes and 45 vibrant community services and befriending, we inspire the best care and wellbeing at every stage of later life. With over 75 years’ experience people are at the centre of all our homes and schemes across Britain. All donations and any surplus we generate is invested into the services for our 18,500 residents and members. We have over 7,600 dedicated colleagues and are supported by over 4,000 volunteers. Our mission is to ‘enable people to live later life well’ by inspiring the best care and wellbeing at every stage to later life. Our values underpin our entire approach: We nurture mind, body and spirit; We respect every person, treating them with dignity; We inspire the best in each other.

(As the Messenger is being edited and printed, the Action for Children July envelope appeal is ongoing, the result will be in the next Messenger.)

CTR : Churches Together in Risborough



Churches Together in Risborough

At our most recent meeting, the main item on the agenda was an update on Lighthouse (useful for those relatively unfamiliar with it), with a good explanation of the costs and various sources of funds which Lighthouse receives. There was some discussion on the matter of trying to get parents to understand the costs of Lighthouse and how best to get contributions from them.

This was then followed by discussions on the idea of doing a follow up activity in the autumn for which information would be given out during Lighthouse week. The plan is to try to put on an activity (possibly based on something which has been done in previous years by St Mary's) on October 31st as an alternative to Hallow'een. The Lighthouse team would be involved in order to give some degree of continuity to Lighthouse itself, thereby encouraging the children and young people to get involved with this new venture.

Following the discussion at the last meeting about CTR having its own Public Liability Insurance to cover outdoor events held by CTR, it had been established that 2 Insurance companies - Methodist, and Ecclesiastical (C of E) offer this kind of insurance for Churches Together organisations at a reasonable cost – and this would be finalised over the next few weeks. This would not require CTR to register as a charity with all the regulation and costs involved.

Joe Needham

Ladies' Breakfast

The next Risborough Ladies' Breakfast is on Saturday August 29th at 9am in St Mary's Hall. Our speaker is Rev Sally Prendegast who came before to tell us about her stole making business and now returns to share with us her exciting new project! All ladies and friends welcome

Please let Rose know if you are coming this time by Thursday August 27th on 01844 274225 or rosewilliamsgp@yahoo.co.uk

Rose Williams

Harvest and Lunch 27th September at 11am (don't forget the later time!)

Our Harvest Festival Service on Sunday 27th September will be led by Rev A Cowburn. The service, at the later time of 11am, will be followed by the harvest lunch: juice, a choice of hot main course, and a selection of puddings. During September there will be a list in the church porch for you to sign up if you would like to come, and also volunteer to prepare a dish if you wish (expenses will be paid) or wash up afterwards. Everyone is welcome, and tickets for the lunch are £6 for adults, £3 for children.

Any profit will go to *All We Can* the Methodist development charity helping people in some of the world's poorest communities. They work through partnerships with small local organisations (often Christian-inspired) already aware of how to improve the quality of life and create positive long-term change in the most disadvantaged places in the world. This year the theme is 'Education is a Harvest That Lasts', raising funds to enable children, particularly in Sierra Leone, to be able to learn and have opportunities to flourish. At harvest time, as we thank God for creation and the environments that cause vegetation to grow, we will think about the factors that hinder children in Sierra Leone. The Kingdom Jesus envisions is one of justice and joy, where all can flourish under his care and live free of hindrances.

For our Harvest Display in the church we usually have a mixture of fresh and dried goods. We welcome fresh produce for the display as part of a traditional harvest. These items will be sold off among ourselves after the service to raise funds for *All We Can*. There will also be gift envelopes in the church porch (or on seats) if you cannot stay for the lunch but would like to make a donation.

All the dried goods will go to Whitechapel Mission, for their amazing work with the homeless in East London, including providing at least 350 cooked breakfasts daily, sometimes up to 600. The items they need can be seen on their regularly updated website, whitechapel.org.uk, which identifies all the other items they use and what is most needed. They desperately need: Cornflakes, Weetabix, Ketchup, Brown Sauce, Coffee, Instant Hot Chocolate, Chocolate Spread, Nutella, Plum Tomatoes, Chopped Tomatoes, Baked Beans, Sugar, Honey. Remember it is quantity they require, not top quality brands.

They are also always looking for good quality used (mainly men's) underwear, t-shirts and socks, jeans and shoes, professional clothing for those looking for work, gloves, hats and scarves, winter coats and jackets, rucksacks, blankets and towels, toiletries (toothbrushes, soap, toothpaste, deodorant, hand cream and shampoo.