Tendring Methodist Circuit Newsletter

November 2026







A wedding at Brightlingsea United Church



Great Holland created a Memorial Garden.
Their Harvest Festival.



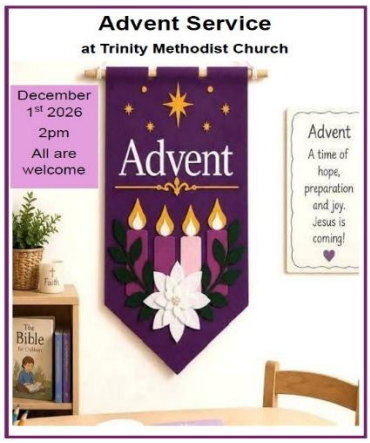
Emmanuel Walton's Awayday.

Some of our young folks went to 3 Generate in Birmingham



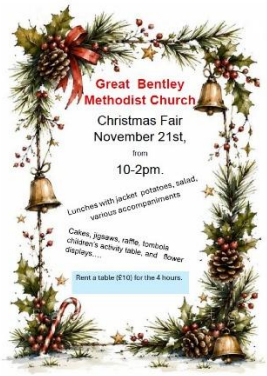


Jaywick Sands Singers Concert at Jaywick Methodist Church









A day in the life…….



"Have you ever wondered what I do all day? Well, this is a typical week in September, it was neither particularly light of heavy. Where no church is mentioned its more of a circuit aspect of my work. When I can I try to group meetings together to reduce travel. I don't know how much time was spend travelling but the mileage that week was 281.7. I hope you find it useful. Blessings, Luke

A week in the life of Revd. Luke Smith			
	AM	**PM**	**Evening**
Sunday	Worship (Dovercourt Central)	Lunch after service	
Monday	• Post office to post Wedding Schedule (Special Delivery) (Jaywick) • Staff Meeting • Meeting to discuss circuit assessment apportionment formulae	Pre-arranged pastoral visit with HC to housebound member (Great Bentley)	Circuit Meeting
Tuesday	Worship (Dovercourt Central), followed by unplanned pastoral conversation with person in need	• Admin (3 Gen), worship prep, book club prep. • Church leadership (Manningtree)	LP Book club
Wednesday	• Open House (Jaywick) so St. Helena Hosp. could take photo. • Pre-arranged video call supporting colleague	Funeral, burial and wake (Brightlingsea)	• Prayers in Church for family of Noah Woods (Manningtree. • Meeting to discuss Christmas with CofE)
Thursday	• Parent and Toddler (Great Bentley) • Pre-arranged visit to supernumerary (A)	• visit supernumerary (B) • Pre arranged care home visit with HC (Jaywick/Trinity)	• Event to showcase what takes place at church (Great Bentley) • Pre-arranged last-minute pastoral "visit" at church (Gt. Bentley)
Friday			Adventurers (Gt. Bentley)

Emmanuel Church Outing

On Saturday 5th September a group of 13 from Emmanuel travelled to Stonham Barns in Suffolk and visited the Owl Sanctuary there as well as enjoying lunch and a wander around the wide variety of shops in the afternoon.



We were lucky with the weather and after a cuppa at the café on arrival, we wandered down to the Owl sanctuary and got there just in time to see the outdoor flying display of various birds of prey and owls.



After this we had a look around the Sanctuary which included seeing meerkats, red squirrels, vultures, a red kite and various other birds of prey as well as the owls. There was also a very elusive porcupine. It was a bit too warm for some of the animals and they were keeping in the shade. Each time we went around different areas we had to stop and go through a foot dip (this is in response to the risk of bird flu and protects both visitors and animals) and it was at this point that you found out whether your shoes were waterproof or not!!



We all enjoyed a lovely lunch and then went for a wander around the shops. These included model shops, antiques, an old-fashioned sweet shop and books just to name a few. By this point most of us were exhausted not only by the walking but being out in the sunshine and decided to head off home. Our thanks to our drivers and especially Kate and Bob who looked after Muriel and June throughout the day.

We look forward to the next outing!



In November Great Holland Methodist Church created a Memorial Garden for the fallen of Great Holland.





Great Holland Methodist Church & GHM Friends

Lest We Forget

A Display of Remembrance and Gratitude

Honouring the Fallen- A Tribute Garden

Join us to honour, reflect and remember the 24 Great Holland men who gave their lives in WWI and WWII.

The Tribute will feature 24 ' Tommy ' silhouettes, in a field of poppies, each individually named together with information to commemorate each specific Fallen soldier.

The Soldier Display will be on view from Saturday 7th November

Refreshments will be available on:-

Saturday 7th & 14th November 10am – 4pm

Sunday 8th & 15th November 1pm – 4pm

Please come along and bring your family and friends
We will be honoured to welcome you.

Great Holland Methodist Church
Rectory Road
Great Holland
Frinton on sea
CO13 0JP





Harvest festival 2026. The produce went to Hope and also the local foodbank so nothing was wasted!

A BEAUTIFUL AND JOYOUS OCCASION



A wonderful celebration occurred on Monday 24 August when Jill, one of our church members, married David. Here they are signing the register.

A beautiful and very joyful occasion, officiated by our minister, Revd. Luke Smith.
God bless you both.

Prayers

Thank you My Father

To my God it makes no difference if I'm rather old.
To him it makes no difference if I'm going bald.
To my God it makes no difference if my teeth drop out,
If my hair is grey and my looks have gone and if I'm rather stout.

For God he loves the real me,
The one that no one else can see,
For he's created me and given me his life,
Loved me into sonship, made me his delight.

To him it makes no difference if I can't quite see,
To him it makes no difference if I can't think properly,
If my memories not sound and my glasses can't be found
And my purse is always empty when the rent man comes around.

When people turn away from me because I'm not their sort,
When people have forgotten me and don't give me a thought.
I wish that they would look and see the me my Father made
And delight with me in my Father's love and know that they are saved.

I give you thanks, my Father, that you're always here with me,
Training me and using me and pleased with what you see,
I give you thanks , my Father, that my purpose is not done,
You've more for me to do or learn or else you'd call me home.

written by Rev'd. Graham Edwards

Road Trip to Epworth

The Revd Jenny Pathmarajah visited Epworth Old Rectory in North Lincolnshire, the childhood home of John and Charles Wesley, along with her church members from Castle Street Methodist, Cambridge.

Blessed with good company, plenty of laughter and beautiful weather, we enjoyed a fascinating journey into the life and legacy of John and Charles Wesley.



Our day began with a private tour of the Old Rectory, where we learnt so much about the Wesley family and what daily life would have been like in the eighteenth century. The house is full of stories, none more dramatic than the famous fire in 1709, which destroyed the original rectory. We stood at an upstairs bedroom window in the current house and heard how a young John Wesley was rescued. This event shaped his understanding of God's calling on his life. John would later describe himself as "a brand plucked from the burning", believing that God had spared him for a purpose.

We also explored the fascinating Physick Garden, where medicinal plants were grown based on remedies recommended by John Wesley in his book *Primitive Physick*. Some of the suggestions seemed surprisingly sensible, while others were rather more unusual. One remedy for an upset stomach involved lying with a puppy on your tummy. Sadly, there were no puppies available for us to test the effectiveness of this particular treatment, much to everyone's disappointment!

In the afternoon we explored the village itself on a guided walking tour. We stood on the steps outside the Red Lion, where John Wesley preached regularly and where he stayed. Eventually, John Wesley was refused permission to preach inside the parish church where his father, Samuel Wesley, had served faithfully as rector for almost forty years. The new rector declared that there was nowhere in Epworth under his authority he permitted Wesley to preach. The reaction? The family owned the grave of his father so, standing on his father's grave, John declared that he was taking his father's pulpit, and from there preached to the crowds who gathered in the churchyard. It was a powerful reminder that sometimes God opens unexpected doors when others close them.

Reuben Baldwin, on trial as a Local Preacher, said, "The staff at Epworth Old Rectory have done a great deal of work to turn the building into a living museum, vividly illustrating daily life for the Wesley family. Above all, they have highlighted Susanna Wesley, her personality, her ethic, and her historic contribution to the Methodist movement, along with the turbulent lives of her children. It presents a fuller portrait of John and Charles Wesley than the somewhat heroic stories we are often told on a Sunday morning. Well worth visiting!"



Days like this also strengthen the life of our churches. Away from committee meetings and Sunday routines, we have the opportunity to talk, laugh, learn and pray together, building friendships that enrich our fellowship long after the coach has brought us home. As we continue to explore our Methodist heritage, we are reminded that we are part of a much bigger story, one that inspires us to carry the same spirit of faith, courage and service into our own communities today.

If you would like to visit The Old Rectory with your own church community, please contact **vcm@epwortholdrectory.org.uk.** Or, for a uniquely designed visit, including activities for children in your group, contact Lois Albans at **olem@epwotholdrectory.org.uk**.

www.epwortholdrectory.org.uk

Brightlingsea Christmas Tree Festival

Get Ready for the 2026 Brightlingsea Christmas Tree Festival!

It is never too early to start feeling festive! Plans are already well underway for this year's **Brightlingsea Christmas Tree Festival,** which will return to the beautiful All Saints' Church on Saturday 12th and Sunday 13th December 2026.

This wonderful community event brings our town together in a spectacular glow of creativity and Christmas spirit. To make this year's display our most magical yet, we are inviting individuals, families, local businesses, schools, and community groups to plant the seed of an idea now and plan your festival entry.

Entering a tree is completely free of charge and a fantastic way to have some family fun, showcase your group, promote your business, or simply share some festive joy with thousands of visitors.

Let your creativity run wild! Your entry doesn't have to be a traditional spruce. Trees can be real, artificial, or maybe handmade out of recycled materials—any shape or size is welcome!

Whether your theme is traditional, funny, thought-provoking, or tied to your organisation's work, we'd love to see it.

To enter your creation, watch out for the online form soon to be on the Brightlingsea Tree Festival website **(**https://brightlingseachristmastreefestival.co.uk/about/ **).**

The Festival is entirely run by volunteers and additional helpers are always needed so if you can help, please email christmastreefestival21@gmail.com .

With thanks, the Christmas Tree Festival team.





News from Jaywick Methodist Church





On Tuesday, 16th June 2026, between 7.00 and 8.30 pm, friends at Jaywick were thrilled to welcome the Jaywick Sands Singers. The choir presented a concert of popular songs entitled "Music for a Summer's Evening" and we provided refreshments. The amazing sum of £326.73 was raised in aid of St. Helena Hospice. On 16th September, James Martin-Whymark, Community Fundraiser (Tendring), visited Open House at Jaywick to meet with us and members of the choir and thank everyone for their fundraising effort. He also gave us an update on the work of the Hospice.

We are delighted to announce that Jaywick Sands Singers will return to Jaywick Methodist Church on Tuesday 8th December at 7.00 pm with another selection of songs for us to enjoy. There will be light refreshments, and donations will be shared between church and choir funds. Do come along and share in a fun evening.

You are also invited to Jaywick for our "Carols and Christmas Cake" afternoon on Saturday 5th December at 2.00 pm. We look forward to welcoming you for an afternoon of Carols and seasonal refreshments.

Events:

Jaywick Sands Singers are again giving a concert at Jaywick Methodist Church on Tuesday, 8th December at 7.00 pm.
There will be light refreshments.
Donations will be shared between choir and church funds on this occasion.
All are welcome.



Carols and Christmas Cake event at Jaywick Methodist church on Saturday, 5th December from 2.00 pm.



Great Bentley



This year's 3Generate explored the theme *On The Way*, a celebration of the lifelong and ever-unfolding journey of faith. *On The Way* invited every child and young person, whatever their starting point, to take a meaningful next step with God. Each attendee received an *On The Way Adventure Book*, providing a year's worth of activities and reflections.

Great Bentley Methodist Church Adventurers

Just a very big thankyou to everyone in the circuit who allow Great Bentley Adventurers to attend 3 Generate. We had 4 young people and four Adults. What a Christian Experience and witness for all those who attended. There was plenty of Christian input. Even on the craft work , climbing wall , pray hub, health and social wellbeing. To name but a few. Absolutely everything was linked to “On the Way”. “I am the Way, the Truth and the Life” John 14:6

We would also like to thank Rev. Luke Smith for arranging the whole weekend. The Sunday after the week end away all the young people and adults came to church to explain all about the weekend and gave a glowing report.

The most important thing is they are talking about NEXT year, so they can go again and meet up with their new friends. One boy is still in contact with his new friends.

At present we are desperate for some younger staff to help on a Friday evening from 6:30 -8 pm.

Our evening consists of craft work, large games, such as Billard's, Hockey, suggestions for the youth such as Music and Cookery. Not to forget the most important Bible Story usually from U- Tube. Friday evening from 6:30 -8pm. Please keep this in your prayers, so the right people come forward to help with this.

The present staff are young at heart but, are struggling to keep up with the young folk and feel we won't be able to do it in the same format in the New Year.



A report from the Adventurers: The Sunday following the trip to 3Generate everyone that had been came to tell us about it at our morning service. Some of us had been there on the Friday afternoon to wave them off as the adventure began. The group shared transport with folk from the Ipswich circuit.

The journey took longer than hoped and having missed the planned activities they had to leave the centre to find something to eat. Not the best of starts.

However the beds were very comfortable and everyone was ready the next morning, especially after a good breakfast, to make the most of the many activities available. One played football, others did some craft, one climbed a wall, computer games were played. One told us he enjoyed making new friends.

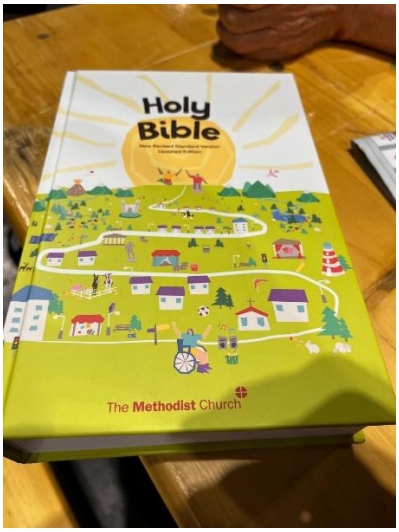
There was a time in the day when the activities ceased for all 2,000 plus that were there to come together for worship. Although this was lively and loud there was an area for those that are not comfortable with noisy events to gather so as not to miss out. This was appreciated by at least one of our group.

The young people had each been given a bible, which they were proud to show us. They also each had a journal with activities to be completed as the year goes on. We were able to look at one of them.

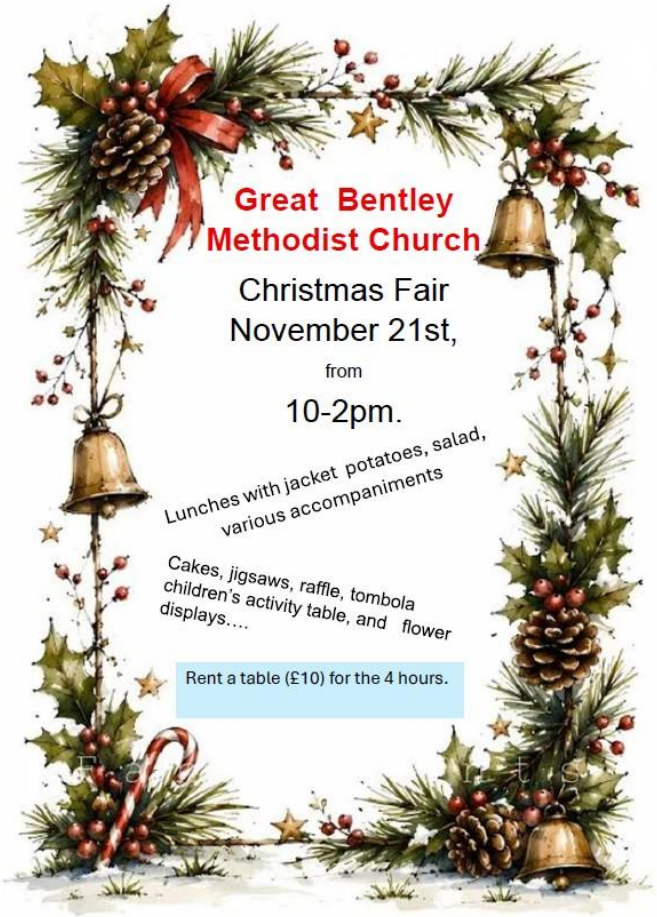
Sunday started with the camping area the group used having to be cleared of their belongings and moved to a holding area until they needed to leave. Time to fit in some activities before an act of worship. Then time to say goodbye and make the journey home.

The adults told us how safe the arena was and how quickly help arrived when someone was not well. They would have liked more fruit and veg to be available, the children didn't seem at all worried about that, but appreciated the tea and coffee being constantly available.

All had obviously enjoyed the experience and are talking of what next year will be like, as they plan to go again. God willing that will be so. Most of the group are beginning their faith journey, we all know how up and down that can be. Let's hold them in our prayers, pray that the Spirit will continue to grow within each and every one.






Great Bentley
Methodist Church
Christmas Fair
November 21st,
from
10-2pm.
Lunches with jacket potatoes, salad, various accompaniments
Cakes, jigsaws, raffle, tombola children's activity table, and flower displays....
Rent a table (£10) for the 4 hours.


Winter Sale
at
Holland-on-Sea Methodist Church
Saturday November 14th
10am - noon
Tea, coffee, biscuits & cakes
Christmas items
bric-a-brac


Advent Service
at Trinity Methodist Church
December 1st 2026
2pm
All are welcome
Advent
Advent
A time of hope, preparation and joy. Jesus is coming!
Faith
The Bible


You are warmly invited to the
Hope @ Trinity
Carol Service
Sunday 20th December
2026
At Trinity Methodist Church
3pm
Christmas refreshments will be served.


Christmas
Market
Saturday 5th December
10.00am – 2.00pm
GIFTS CRAFTS CARDS
CAROLS ENTERTAINMENT
TOMBOLA
EMMANUEL CHURCH
NEW PIER STREET
WALTON ON THE NAZE
CO14 8EB
Hot Soup Sausage Rolls Mince Pies
ADMISSION FREE
CONTACT 07702 242394 TO BOOK STALL
emmanuelnazewelcome@gmail.com

Our Christmas Services

Church	Other events	Carol Services	Christmas Day Friday 25th
Brightlinsea United	**AUTUMN FAYRE** - Saturday, 21 NOVEMBER - 9.30 - 2 pm **29th November Memorial Service** Rev. L. Smith 10.30 a.m	8th December 2.30pm	9.30am Rev. Luke Smith
Dovercourt Central		13th December M Smith Carols outside 5pm	
Emmanuel Walton	Christmas Market 5th December 10.00-2.00.	20th December 3pm	Rev. S. Sutton 9am
Frinton Methodist	Sat 12th Dec - Table Top Sale 10.30 Fri 18th Dec - Concert by First Class Brass 7pm	Carols by Candlelight 6.00pm	M. Mear 10.30am
Great Bentley Methodist	**Christmas Fair** November 21st, from 10-2pm **Carols and Christmas Cake** 2.30pm Advent Sunday 29th November. **Coffee and Chat** mornings on 4th December and 1st January, 2027 10am	L Smith Adventurers Carols 13th December 6pm	M. Smith 10am
Great Holland Methodist		11am 20th December	
Holland-on-Sea Methodist	Winter Sale on November 14th November. 10 to noon	Sunday 20th December 10.30am	Rev B. Huntley 10.30am
Jaywick Methodist	Jaywick Sands Singers concert Tuesday, 8th December at 7 pm.	Carols and cake Saturday, 5th December from 2.00 pm.	
Manningtree Methodist	6th December L Smith Town carols 3.30pm **Carols and Cakes** 12 December 10.00-12.00	Rev Stephen Carter 10.15am 20th December	Rev. L. Smith 11am
Trinity Methodist		20th December 3pm	

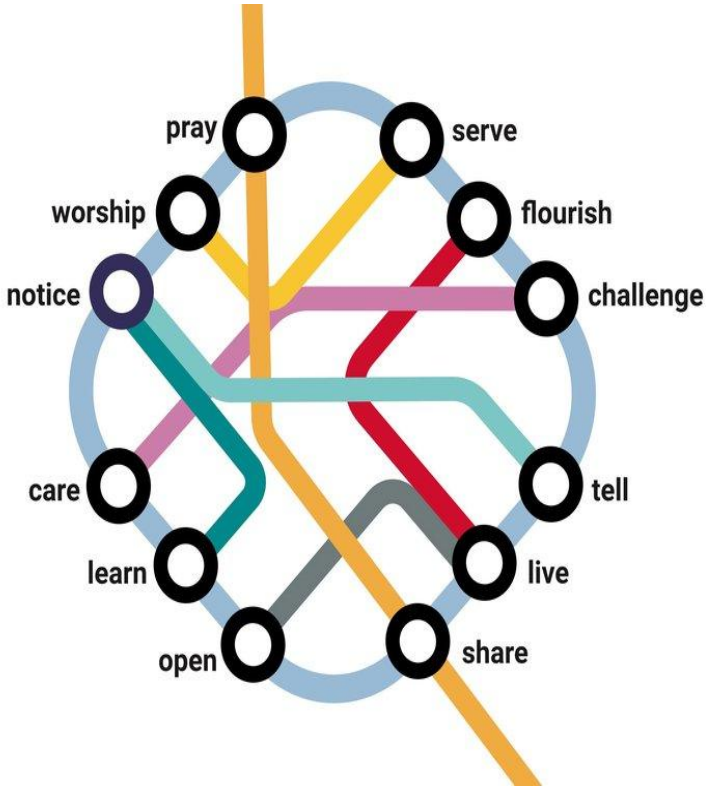
The Methodist way of Life

God loves you unconditionally, no strings attached.

That's good news.

Nothing we do can make God love us more – but it can help us realise how deeply we are loved by God.

God longs to take you on a **journey of a lifetime.** Being a disciple is a bit like being a traveller on a train; taking an adventure through life, taking risks, growing and learning. **A Methodist Way of Life** is a journey through **twelve spiritual practices** for everyday life. Each practice, or station, can become a 'thin place' – a moment where God's presence comes into focus – helping us encounter God's grace in ordinary life and be shaped and changed by it.



Home stations

Some stations may feel familiar, comfortable or deeply life-giving. They might feel like a natural fit, something you are drawn to, or a place where faith feels settled and secure. We often call these our **home stations**. A home station may connect with a sense of vocation, but it can also reflect something quieter or simpler that anchors your faith.

Growth stations

Other stations may feel unfamiliar, stretching or even unsettling. These can be places we would rather avoid because engaging with God there feels hard or risky. Yet they may also be places where something new is beginning to grow. We call these **growth stations**. Growth stations can feel exciting or terrifying, but they are often where faith deepens and changes, helping us to discover more of God and more of ourselves.