

## A Methodist Way of Life for June 2024 Have you noticed?

Our General Church Meeting in May 2024 included a conversation about mission and growth. Amongst other things we wondered what we might do about growing as followers of Jesus. Our local arrangement service on 23rd May focussed on the “Call to Discipleship”. We revisited the accounts of Andrew and Philip, and you might remember the imaginative reflection from that unhappy neighbour wondering why on earth Jesus called to Matthew, saying “Follow Me”. We remembered again how Jesus’ love reaches out to all. After that service, we looked ahead to the ministry at our Church in September 2025 and discussed some of our strengths and weaknesses. We aired concerns over “all getting older”, “sometimes lacking energy” and even possibly “survival of the Church”. On the plus side we rejoiced in a clear desire to serve and to “do outreach” amongst the people in Blandford.

What might we do?

You are invited to come on an expedition to explore the “Methodist Way of Life”.

What are some of the important areas of our Christian life? How do we live those out?

Each month, from this September, we’ll explore more about what following Jesus might mean in different areas of our Worship, Outreach (another word for Evangelism), Learning and Caring, and Service.

The Methodist Way of Life resources encourage us to think of our expedition as going on a train journey with a number of (12) possible stations to explore. You might want to travel alone or with a friend. We would encourage you to find your best way to make a record. Maybe take “snapshots”, jot down a postcard, write a letter, or even draw some doodles to note any light-bulb moments, things that speak into your life, things that speak into our life together, or simply even areas you might like to explore further.

Our hope is that we will all feel able to share some of these thoughts and reflections so that we might share together moments of growth, encourage one another, and give thanks to God.

Every time we visit a station, we will learn something new about ourselves and Jesus, as the

Holy Spirit works in us. That's why it's important to reflect on our experiences, alone and with others, as we explore the Christian way of life.

### What's next?

Please accept, if you haven't already, this invitation to intentionally explore together what it means to live and share a Christian way of life together.

Look out for some more details of where we might travel in August's Link newsletter.

And of course, if you have any concerns or suggestions, then do please let me or John know of them.

Let's pray that our Lord will bless each of us as we embark on this adventure.

Light and life. Mark

God loves you unconditionally.

That is the Good News we know and seek to share with those we meet.

We respond to God's love through the way we live our lives.