

Dear Friends,

If one looks on the Methodist website you will see that it states: Sabbaticals are a required part of a presbyter's or deacon's performance of his or her duties. They can be extremely beneficial both for the individual minister and for the health of the wider Church and can significantly enhance the ministry of the whole people of God.

For Methodist presbyters and deacons, a sabbatical is a period of release from ordinary ministerial duties, in addition to normal holidays, for the purpose of pursuing an approved programme of study, research, work or experience. It is intended as a time for re-equipping, refreshment and renewal.

All presbyters and deacons in Full Connexion and stationed in an appointment within the control of the Church are expected to take a regular sabbatical. The years in which sabbaticals may be taken are normally every seventh year of travel as a minister.

Sabbaticals are part of the continuing development of ministers and as such need to be carefully planned, well in advance. Here are some downloadable resources to help ministers, districts and circuits as they prepare for ministerial sabbaticals.

My aims are: to be able to have the time to rest, deepen my relationship with God. To experience God in new and different places. To revalue my relationship with 'The Church' and my calling. To have the time to learn something new, which I would not normally have opportunity to do in Circuit ministry.

Methods: Attending a retreat at Lee Abby and other quiet days, visit quiet/prayer gardens. Visiting France, Ypres, Passchendaele, Arras, Viny Ridge and The Somme. Visiting churches in the Shrewsbury area who I know can be engaged in 'Forest Church.' I plan to attend at least one craft/art course, such as stained glass, pottery, wood carving, or similar, plus have the opportunity to paint/draw. Attending a Bee keeping course for beginners. Trips out on our tandem, with my husband Richard. Rest, recreation and time to spend with my family and friends.

Timing: From March 3rd 2023 for three months.

During this time The Rev'd Nick Wood will be acting Superintendent. The Rev'd Robert McBain will have pastoral oversight of Wimborne, The Rev'd Linda Chester will have pastoral oversight of Colehill and Blandford Methodist Churches. My thanks go out to all who will be helping and supporting the churches and Circuit over this period.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Pauline". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background.