

BUXTED METHODIST CHURCH

The regular Sunday Morning Services, held at Buxted, will be led as shown below:

September Services 2025

7 th	10:30	Cathy Agius	Local Preacher	
14 th	10:30	Rev Sheila Foreman	Minister	Holy Communion
21 th	10:30	Rev Andy Melvin	Minister	Harvest Festival
28 th	10:30	Wendy Parker	Local Preacher	

October Services 2025

5 th	10:30	John Berryman	Local Preacher	
12 th	10:30	Rev Sheila Foreman	Minister	Holy Communion
19 th	10:30	Rev Andy Melvin	Minister	Church Council
26 th	10:30	Ian Srodzinski	Local preacher	

An evening service (6:00 PM via Zoom), normally hosted by Rev Barbara Evans-Routley, will continue to be broadcast throughout 2025.

Activity Dates for September 2025 and October 2025

1 st	September	2:00 PM	Emmaus
13 th	September	10:30 AM	Coffee Morning
13 th	September	2:00 PM	Art Group – Holidays
24 th	September	10:30 AM	POP-IN
6 th	October	2:00 PM	Emmaus
11 th	October	10:30 AM	Coffee Morning
11 th	October	2:00 PM	Art Group
19 th	October	12:00 AM	Church Council
29 th	October	10:30 AM	POP-IN

Art Group

The theme for September will be 'Holidays'.

National Alert Advance Warning

A test of the **National Alert Warning** will take place in September. This should result in a text message being sent to all mobile phones. No action is required upon receipt of the text message.

BUXTED METHODIST CHURCH

Harvest Festival and Lunch

The Harvest Festival and Lunch will be held on **Sunday 21st September**. Our minister Rev Andy Melvin will be leading the service.

The lunch will be served following the morning service.

Church Council (Advance notice)

The Autumn Church Council will be held on **Sunday 19th October** following the morning service. Our minister, Rev Andy Melvin, will be leading the service and the Church Council.

Community Banking Services

Community banking services are now available at The Uckfield Civic Centre:

1. on Wednesdays between **9.00am** and **2.30pm** and
2. on Fridays between **9.00am** and **3.00pm**.

Buxted Guys Display



The Bonfire Society challenged the residents of Buxted to produce and display some 'guys'. Three appeared on the bench at the junction of Gordon Road and A272 before 10th August (see pictures).



Torch Light Procession



The annual torchlit procession is planned for **Saturday 27th September**. The procession follows a route up the high street to Pound Green and back.

BUXTED METHODIST CHURCH

Methodist Connection Magazine – Summer 2025

The following article has been copied from the magazine.

Channel Islands Celebrations

As we celebrate 250 years of Methodism in the Channel Islands we reflect on its beginnings.

In the late 18th century Jersey was a major trading location with a thriving boat building industry and boats would sail from Jersey to the Canadian coast. In 1774 two fisherman from Jersey -Pierre Le Sueur and Jean Tentin – were converted to methodism by the preacher Laurence Coughlan in Newfoundland where they had gone to fish for cod.

The two men returned to Jersey, where churchgoers were becoming increasingly disconnected from the Anglican Church. In some parishes, the clergy didn't turn up for services and those services that did take place were delivered in poorly understood English. (Many islanders spoke Jerrais, a French dialect.) What began as a modest spiritual renewal soon grew into a transformative force. Methodism offered an alternative to Anglicanism, reshaping the religious landscape of the Channel Islands.

The first Society of Methodists was created shortly after Le Sueur and Tentin's return when soldiers stationed with the English-speaking regiment on Jersey joined the new converts and their families. Pierre Le Sueur bought a disused Catholic chapel and Methodists started meeting there. However, local people treated the Methodists badly, so most meetings were held in people's houses. These gatherings quickly drew attention – and resistance - from Anglican authorities and civil leaders.

WESLEY VISITS

In 1783 John Wesley sent Robert Carr Brackenbury to Jersey as the first Methodist missionary to the Channel Islands. Brackenbury was pivotal in organising the early Methodist societies in Jersey. An early convert to Methodism was Jean de Quetteville, who became a preacher in Guernsey.

Wesley also travelled to the Channel Islands himself in 1787 . He went first to Guernsey, where he preached and was received by the Governor before arriving in Jersey on 20 August 1787 . He wrote: 'About eleven we landed at St Helier's, and went straight to Mr Brackenbury's house. I preached in the evening to an exceedingly serious congregation, on Mark iii, and almost as many were present at five in the morning; whom I exhorted to go on to perfection; which many of them, Mr Clarke informs me, are earnestly endeavouring to do.'

Wesley spent the next ten days preaching in various places in Jersey including the Long Room of the United Club in St Helier. His lack of French was a problem so Robert Carr Brackenbury translated for him.

Wesley's said: "I rode to [Le Marais] St Mary's where at the house none could speak English so Brackenbury interpreted sentence by sentence; and God owned His word..."

He was warmly welcomed by the people on Jersey and there was a rapid growth in Methodist membership after his visit, leading to more chapels and circuits across the island.

METHODISM GROWS

Methodism did not spread unchallenged across the islands and persecution of Methodists was common with attacks on people and the vandalising of buildings. Some Methodists objected, on grounds of conscience, to undertaking militia drills on Sundays. This led to fines and prison sentences until King George III intervened, supporting the right of Methodist islanders to have their beliefs respected.

In Jersey, the Methodists renovated an old Catholic church for their own use. They went on to build 42 chapels between 1790 and 1912 and split into French- and English-speaking circuits.

BUXTED METHODIST CHURCH

MODERN TIMES

In the 20th century the Methodist community in the Channel Islands was affected by the German invasion during the Second World War. Some were caught up in the deportation of civilians from Sark (vividly recalled in Nellie Le Feuvre's memoir, "[A Sark Teenager's Deportation](#)").

There were no winners during the war: some on the Channel Islands remained in their homes, facing fear and privations, while others were evacuated to mainland Britain where many were homesick and found themselves in financial hardship.

During the war the islands' Methodist communities' were allowed to continue worshipping, although buildings such as Sunday schools might be commandeered. Local chapel histories include both harrowing and heart-warming accounts of life during this period. The Revd David Chapman has produced an excellent account in his book: "[Chapel and Swastika](#)".

Today, the Methodist Church remains a vital part of Jersey's spiritual life and this year celebrations to mark the 250 years of Methodism included a special service in April attended by the President and Vice-President of 2024/ 2025.

The legacy of the early pioneers lives on in chapels, schools, community outreach, and in the Methodist Church's work with ecumenical partners. What began as a response to unhappiness with the Anglican Church grew into a movement of passionate faith and evangelism. Local people found in Wesleyan Methodism a voice, a vision and a spiritual home.

Restored Through Rest: A Sabbatical Reflection

During my sabbatical I realised that I was not that good at 'rest' and so I was drawn to reflect on what rest was. So here are some of my thoughts:

In our self-obsessed world where seemingly busyness is a badge of honour, the well-worn ancient paths of Christianity reveal a revolutionary countercultural truth: rest is not only permitted but prescribed—woven into the very fabric of creation and redemption. To be restored through rest is not a luxury for wimps, but a command from our LORD Himself to enter into His wholeness, healing, and restoration.

Biblical Foundations of Rest

GOD himself rests: "[God rested on the seventh day from all his work that he had done](#)" (Genesis 2:2, ESV). The LORD is almighty and doesn't need to rest but chooses to, shouldn't we do the same then!? Throughout Scripture, rest is both a command and a promise. The Fourth Commandment, "[Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy](#)" (Exodus 20:8), calls God's people to stop working, and to remember their dependence on Him, and to delight in His provision. The Sabbath is a weekly reminder that our worth is not measured by our output, but by our relationship with the One who calls us beloved. The Psalms tell us of King David's own journey from turmoil to peace: "[He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters. He restores my soul](#)" (Psalm 23:2-3). In rest, God calls us to meet Him there in a shared vulnerability, enjoying time just to 'stand and stare' or to sit and dream.

Jesus himself practiced and taught rest

Jesus Himself practiced this rhythm, withdrawing to solitary places to pray (Mark 1:35), and inviting His disciples, "[Come away by yourselves to a desolate place and rest a while](#)" (Mark 6:31).

Rest an elusive necessity

Rest can be difficult, even elusive to come by because of work, family and / or church commitments, ill health or financial restraints but not finding rest leads to all kinds of ill that God did not want for us. Some are blessed by sabbaticals but we all can be truly blessed by rest if we truly and honestly seek it out. Sabbath is not just about coming to church fellowship, but about setting aside our everyday activities and worries to enjoy rest for our body, mind and soul with our gentle, loving, healing God.

God bless you

Andy