

Dear Friends,

Wednesday 22nd July is the day dedicated, in some western Christian calendars, to Mary Magdalene (if you're interested the Eastern Orthodox churches, using the Julian not Gregorian calendar, mark her day on the 4th August) and it's also the day that this letter is likely to be sent round the Circuit.....

So – Mary Magdalene....Saint or Sinner? What's your view? Do you even have one?

I searched for 'free images of Mary Magdalene' on the web and one of the options it suggested was this one.



Obviously, we have no actual idea what she looked like but at least this one is respectful of her Palestinian heritage and not portraying her as pale skinned, blue-eyed, blond haired and swathed in pristine pale blue garments!

In 2016 Pope Francis elevated her feast day from an 'obligatory memorial' to a full liturgical feast day – which may not instantly mean a huge amount to us Methodists but suffice to say this is a big deal and a recognition of her importance in the Good News of Jesus Christ story contained in the Gospels.

She appears in all four Gospel accounts, explicitly named in the following:

Matthew 27:56 & 61 & 28:1 (but included in the activity through to verse through to verse 10)

Mark 15:40 & 47; 16:1 (again, included through to verse 8 & 9 if you include the 'so called' longer ending of this Gospel)

Luke 8:2; 24:10 (as above, part of a longer story spanning verses 1-11)

John 19:25; 20:1 & 18 (again, she would appear active or at least present throughout these 18 verses).

Luke 8:2 is an interesting exception to all the other mentions of Mary which are all linked to his Crucifixion, death, burial and then resurrection. In the earlier reference in Luke, Mary is recorded as being part of a group of women travelling with Jesus, along with the disciples ('the twelve') in his preaching and teaching ministry. The Gospel states that:

'[the women] had been cured of evil spirits and infirmities: Mary, called Magdalene, from whom seven demons had gone out...' (Luke 8:2, NRSV)

Our modern day understanding of Mary's predicament, may well point towards some kind of mental poor health, or even spiritual or personal trauma but I think we're generally meant to see that, with the reference to SEVEN demons, that whatever her trouble was,

it was of debilitating significance and a huge release for her to feel well and then be able to travel and support Jesus in his ministry.

[Luke continues Chapter 8, verse 3 – after referencing Mary and other women by name along with many others unnamed] ‘who provided for them (i.e. Jesus and The Twelve) out of their resources.’

These women, including Mary, had a place within Jesus’ close circle of supporters and with the resources they had at their disposal, provided active resourcing for his spreading of the Gospel.

And yet, it’s only around the culmination of the Gospel story, that in all four gospels, Mary Magdalene (of Magdala, on the Western shore of the Sea of Galilee) really comes into her own: watching on as Jesus is crucified (John 19:25 placing her and others closer to the cross), noting where or sitting by his tomb, preparing to anoint his body and meeting the risen Christ and then sharing her bewildering yet joyful news of his resurrection, in some accounts, with varying degrees of success (see Mark 16:10-11 and Luke 24:10-12) – along with the extended narrative in John 20:1-18 of her meeting with Jesus in the garden, leading her to announce to the disciples: “I have seen the Lord.” (John 20:18)

I think Mary has earned her name that she has borne historically as the ‘Apostle to the Apostles’ but wonder what her story offers you today?

Maybe it’s worth taking a little time to read some of these passages and to reflect, what does her story, her example, her message say to you today? A life changed, a healed soul, a travelling companion with Jesus, a brave woman in the face of fear, heart-break and unimaginable suffering, then joy and wonder at meeting Jesus with her again...

Maybe she might just prompt us to realise where we have ‘seen the Lord’ and encourage us to be a little more ‘apostle-like’ ourselves in sharing that Good News with others!

May God’s peace be with you in these summer days!

Sam

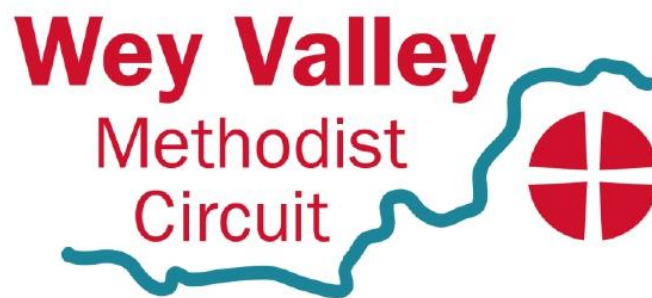
Resources/Good News

And the winner is..... Scarecrow John Wesley!

What do John Wesley, Pavarotti and Taylor Swift have in common? On the surface very little but they all appeared together, in scarecrow form, at the Hunshelf Scarecrow Trail in South Yorkshire.

[Scarecrow John Wesley - The Methodist Church](#)





Welcome Service

for

Revd Paul Tabraham

Our new Superintendent Minister

Light refreshments will be served before the service



Sunday 6 September 2026

6.00pm

**Knaphill Methodist Church
Broadway, Knaphill, GU21 2DR**

COFFEE MORNING FOR

AL-AHLI HOSPITAL – GAZA

(The oldest and only Christian Hospital)

Thursday 10th September
Coffee and Cakes from 10.30am
at Merrow Methodist Church

Talk by Dr Ang Swee Chai at 11.30am

A Senior Consultant at Barts Hospital. She has worked as a surgeon in both Gaza and Lebanon and has spoken at the United Nations. She is a founder member on the Board of MAP (Medical Aid for Palestinians).



Please come and listen to this wonderful, courageous lady who has worked tirelessly against injustice.

STOUGHTON METHODIST CHURCH

(On the corner of Stoughton Road and Grange Road)

COFFEE CORNER

Tuesdays from 10 am – 12 noon



2nd June
9th June
16th June
23rd June
30th June

2026

7th July
14th July
21st July
28th July



Enjoy Coffee & a Chat, Coffee & a Game, or Coffee & a Book
The choice is yours!

Everyone welcome – bring a friend!



COFFEE MORNING



IN AID OF

KSSX

AIR AMBULANCE CHARITY
KENT SURREY SUSSEX

Registered Charity No: 1021367

AND

SALE

There will be various stalls including:

Cakes, Guess the Weight of the Cake, Raffle, Tombola, Guess the Name of Teddy, Guess How Many Sweets in the Jar, Model Railway, & Bric-a-Brac.

Offers of help and donations of items welcome! Contact Tarina Berry



TEA
COFFEE
BISCUITS
BACON
BUTTIES

Bacon Butties!



To be opened by **Cllr Saj Hussain**

KNAPHILL METHODIST CHURCH HALL

Saturday 5th September 2026

10am to Noon

www.knaphillmethodist.co.uk





Saturday 21st November 2026
2pm

At Walton Methodist Church Hall
A maximum of 6 people per team
Refreshments being served at half time.

Email:

waltonmethodistchurchsecretary@virginmedia.com

to book your place!

tearfund.org/quiz

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