

KEYWORTH METHODIST CHURCH

Reports for General Church Meeting – April 2026

4.1 Children and Families Worker Report

No change from Church Council report

KMC

Junior Church – Myself Ruth Greenaway, and now Judith and Liegh have been working together using Roots on the Web (and enjoying the material). We have over 10 children on the register and roughly 6-10 children still come regularly.

CYP Regular Groups

Open the Book – We did a Christmas specific story this year which linked into giving the schools the Posadas. By the time of this meeting we will have also done a Palm Sunday story too. The team this academic year is Rebecca B, Barbara L, Tim H, Fr Tom, Jane H, Connie B and Rev Helen when she can.

Wednesday Toddlers – We have an increased to an average attendance of 20 children coming each week. The group runs well each week with a rotation of toys and themed craft. The regular helpers currently are Rebecca CFW, Carla F, Lorna, Sonia, Ruth H and Linda. Thank you to Jenny and June who also help to set up and Geoff for sorting the chairs and coming in for chats at the beginning.

Toddler Praise – We had an average attendance of 25 families each week. The regular team currently are, Rebecca CFW, Jenny and Geoff D, June C, Pam W along with 2-4 volunteers who come from various Churches to help too. We continue to work through 'The Big Bible Story Book' on a 2 yearly (ish) rotation focussing on the most appropriate stories for our group. We have also had a few new volunteers step forward to help tell the stories. Thank you especially to Peter C who organises the chair rota.

Ignite – We had a great half term at Willow Brook with 28 children! We looked at 'What it means to follow Jesus' looking at the stories of Jesus calms the storm, Zacchaeus, Washing Feet, Paralysed man. I ran this along with Alex and Linda Brooks (Stanton Church) and Mrs. Hallsworth (Willow Brook TA). We will hopefully be at KPNS after Easter, or back at Willow Brook if not.

Encounter – We have had a handful of new people come meaning we have at least 1 other person (than myself and Alex (Stanton Church) who run it) there each week as not everyone is there at the same time. We have talked about God whispers, heart vs head and being present. Although small, I feel this group provides a good form of discipleship to those who attend.

Events

Light Party (31st October) – We had lower numbers than last year (Children - 2025 = 24, 2024 = 34, 2023 = 19), but the general consensus was the night went well. We had 9 volunteers who lead/assisted with 7 crafts, 3 door volunteers and the disco area in Church from 4 Keyworth Churches (not URC). Rev Helen and Rebecca shared the service. There was one opinion (aired) that questioned if this event is fruitful? At another meeting it was discussed that it depends on how

you are measuring success. We know that there is a big 'Trick or Treating' community in Keyworth, there is also an option of us all participating in 'Windows of Light' - we will discuss all this at the CYP meeting. It should also be noted that we did not advertise the event this year in Keyworth News but would do next time.

Posada (Advent) – x2 schools (KPNS and Crossdale) took part this year. Crossdale and KPNS enjoyed having them again. Thank you to Gwenda who has agreed to make some more Mary and Joseph's as some have been 'well loved'.

Angels (Advent) – Church members and friends knitted/crochet/crafted angel tree decorations to be hidden around Keyworth with a note linking to our website with the Church services/activities on. I tried to keep a track of how many went out, but this was impossible. But as a rough guesstimate - based on how many of the bags I had left – I would say about 350-400 Angels went out. It is hard to tell if any people came through our doors as a direct result of finding an Angel (unless they mentioned it specifically), but it certainly wouldn't have done the opposite. I also did see some people posting on social media that they had found them.

Festivities Day (6th December) – We did the Lego Nativity Trail and had spaces in the Barn, KMC, St.MM, Parochial Hall and Centenary Lounge. We had 16-19 volunteers (some had to pull out last minute) from the x3 CYP Churches to take on the roles. Initial Feedback was good and families were able to access the trail using their phones and a QR code. Thank you to all who took part on the day and beforehand gathering volunteers. I estimate we gave out 60-70 gift bags based on what was left.

Christingle (7th December) – Went very well, as it was a service the numbers weren't officially recorded, but again almost all seats were full. Rev Helen and Rebecca lead the service together.

Mini Time Travelling (23rd and 24th March) – By the time of this meeting we will have completed 2 days of MTT at St. Mary Magdalenes Church. Following the same structure as in previous years, we will have spent time with over 170 children, plus school staff and parent/carer volunteers from the 3 Keyworth Primary Schools (and Bunny) about being a Christian, why we pray and why Easter is important. Thank you to the 10 volunteers across the 4 Churches (not URC) for helping.

Other

Scouts Service (28th November) – This year I was able to join in the Scouts Annual Carol and Awards service held at KMC. I liaised with the Scout Leaders about the logistics of the service (as well as giving them some ideas they could do with their different age groups) and on the day lead a small devotional based on the Christmas Story and a final prayer.

Coming up

Good Friday Workshop – 3rd April 2026 10am-1pm KMC
Holiday Club – 28th-31st July 2026 9am-12pm KMC

Rebecca's Current Annual Leave

17th – 24th July 2026
21st Dec – New Year (ish)
(plus bank holidays where applicable)

Rebecca Bilsbrough

rebecca@keyworthcyp.org.uk

4.2 Christian Aid

I have resigned from the Christian Aid post and no one has replaced me. However Jennifer Anderson and I are arranging a CA coffee Morning on May 9th at the start of CA week, as is the custom, and hope someone will take up the whole position before next year's week, which is coordinated through Churches Together, particularly Nuala Snow.

Sue Jackson

4.3 Churches Together in Keyworth Report

No change from Church Council report

After our last Church Council (16 Nov. 2025) CTK members were first, naturally, much occupied by Christmas activities. In these there were opportunities to enjoy mutual fellowship such as in the Keyworth Square carol singing, joint Christmas services, and our joint CTK Christmas greetings page in the Keyworth News.

Since Christmas CTK has organised the Service for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity in January, held at KMC; the Service for the World Day of Prayer in March at St Mary Magdalene, and the inter-church Lent Study Groups at various venues, based on the film and book "Nothing More and Nothing Less". Coming up will be the Good Friday Workshop, Christian Aid Week in May, and then CTK also plans to have a presence again at the Keyworth Show.

Don Anderson

4.4 Church Flower Ministry

The flower ministry continues weekly when usually the display is able to be split into 3 bunches to be given out to members who are ill or having a special celebration. There are now only 6 volunteers to arrange the flowers regularly – Margaret Eggleston, Yvonne Bradley, Chris Cooke, Maureen Payne, Gwenda Copson and Helen Swift and we are most grateful to them, as well as those who help out occasionally.

I will refresh the outdoor tubs before the end of April and thank all who help with the deadheading which has kept the winter tubs going for so long, although they are all suffering now from a lack of water, as well as brick dust!

Please, Pastoral Visitors, help us to keep up to date with our members and fill in the form, too.

Sue Jackson KMC Flower Secretary

4.5 Craft Group Report

The Craft Group continues to offer a warm welcome to all on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month. There is a variety of craft activities happening at each meeting. These include knitting, crocheting, painting and drawing and rug making! As you can see a very talented and diverse group.

It is also a social meeting place full of chatter and laughter. The group is proving to be popular and we have several newbies who have joined in the sessions and have committed to regular attendance.

Sally Barker

4.6 Finance Committee Report

Report updated for GCM

I am sorry for the delay in producing this report but there has been quite a lot of movement in the accounts since Church Council in March with payments to Charities, Banners the builders, in respect of work being carried out, and receipt of the magnificent sum of £7379 in respect of gift day donations and I was anxious you should be given up to date figures of the balances in the accounts which as at 17th April are as follows.

Church account	£16000
Property account	£ 4325
CFB account	£30000
TOTAL	£50325

Benevolent fund £ 2225

There could be a small additional sum due to the builders within budget but notwithstanding a total payment of approx £23000 to the builders we will still have a reserve of approx six months expenditure which we are advised to hold.

You may find the recently updated annual budget of some help in understanding the Church's finances

INCOME/RECEIPTS

General

Standing orders/cash	£53200
Church anniversary gifts	7400
Gift Aid refund	12300
Donation from Baptists	
-re family worker	3000
Sundry income	
-sat coffee/ funerals etc.	2700

Property

Lettings	11400
Christmas Fair	3700
Other income	800

EXPENDITURE

Circuit assessment	£44000
Costs re family worker	20000
Charitable donations	5300
Photocopier costs	2300
Sundries	3400
Utilities	7000
Maintenance/ repairs	4000
Cleaning/materials	2900
Insurance	2300
sundry	1400

Totals £94500

£92600

John Stuckey

4.7 Music Group Report

We have continued to play as a group for our major church festivals and celebrations over the past year and to appreciate working together with our varied range of instruments. Such times are inevitably busy for musicians but we wouldn't wish to miss them. Christmas can be especially taxing, with morning and evening services and in addition the portable instruments accompanying carol-singing in the Square - though the weather has to play its part too!

Nine of us make up the group at present, but due to different commitments we rarely have the full complement at any one time. That is fine, however, as it means the general sound varies, and it calls for that little bit extra from each one of us. I believe we are a truly supportive group, both towards each other and in our willingness and eagerness to support and lift our preachers and congregation to the best of our ability.

For her part Helen, our minister, has been most supportive towards us and we are delighted to be invited to play more frequently. We would ask for both your prayers and for whatever feedback you may be able to offer, so that we may continue to supply the needs of worship and of all members of the church family into the future.

I will finish by offering my own heartfelt thanks to the hardworking and willing band of musicians who contribute so much to the life of worship in our church.

Anne Leake

4.8 Pastoral Report to KMC Church Council

Report updated for GCM

Since the last GCM our Membership list has increased by 13 to 126 due to several new members welcomed recently and also others who have transferred their membership from Tollerton Methodist Church. The Friends of KMC list has decreased by 4 to 90 due to those who have become members and the recent passing to glory of Mary Glodkowski.

At our recent Pastoral Spring Meeting in February there were 25 in attendance which was slightly fewer than normal due to the ill health of several of the committee.

Listening Skills

The main item was a thorough, excellent and wide-ranging discussion on 'Listening Skills' introduced by Helen Fyall which was much appreciated by everyone. If you would like to know more, I have copies of the meeting minutes and a 'Listening Skills' sheet produced by Helen.

Circuit Meeting Dementia Awareness

This, as all I spoke to agreed, was a most valuable session and was held at KMC on Saturday 21st March with over 70 in attendance. Tom Clifford led the meeting and lively discussion.

Flower Ministry Review and Update

Sue Jackson had written to thank everyone involved in the Flower Ministry. More help is always useful for distributing the flowers. It was decided that next Christmas that we would have flowers each Sunday but a plant would be useful for all services held midweek.

Safeguarding Update, including DBS checks and Safeguarding training

We are all indebted to Peter Whitney for all the DBS checks he has completed. There are very few left to process. The new KMC Safeguarding Policy and leaflet is in place and on the Church website. Geoff had also completed two information forms for the Circuit for Safeguarding and Congregation Size and passed on Safeguarding information to both Peter Whitney and Mark Greenaway. Helen F mentioned a District Safeguarding event that would be held on Saturday 13th June. She would send details when they were available.

KeyNotes – Pastoral Visiting

Our Church magazine is now published 3 times a year in early December/Christmas, Easter and at the beginning of the Methodist Year in September. We are grateful to all our Pastoral Visitors for giving it out to all their group Members and Friends. It is also published on the Church website and later by email to over 140 addresses.

Dates of the next meetings

AGM 2026 Wednesday October 21st 10.00 am

Spring Meeting 2027 February 17th 10.a.m.

At the end of the Spring meeting Geoff expressed everyone's thanks for all Helen has done and achieved since she had started her ministry in September. The meeting agreed!

Geoffrey Daft

Pastoral Secretary 2004 - 2026

4.9 PCC Report

No change from CC report

REPORT FROM ST MARY MAGDALENE CHURCH

As part of our preparations for Easter we continue to join in with the ecumenical Lent groups. It was good to host the World Day of Prayer on 6th March & again this popular service was well attended.

A monthly Breakfast Church at St Mary's, Bunny is now held and during Lent, 'Stations of the Cross' take place there on Friday lunchtimes with the offer of a soup lunch after the service.

Another confirmation service took place in Keyworth on 1st March, this time led by Bishop Andrew. Recipients for our Christmas collections followed our usual pattern of one home and one overseas charity & this year were shared equally between Aquabox & the Lincs & Notts Air Ambulance.

'Warm Welcome Space' has continued on Fridays over the winter months with the final one of the season due to take place at the end of March.

On-going problem with the drains at Church is expected to involve more digging along the churchyard path. Working parties are due to return to their work both in church and also in the Hall and church grounds. The arrival of the daffodils and spring bulbs in the grounds are a welcome sight after such a long season of rain & dull days.

Lesley Coote

4.10 Prayer Group

Meetings have continued to be held in church every Thursday. Over 20 people attend quite regularly, with usually at least 15 on any one day, and 10 different people have led at least once during the year. Each has made a distinctive contribution, including Mary Glodkowski, who sadly died recently, and Elspeth Jackman, who currently has health issues.

We have welcomed several new members and were particularly glad to see Jackie Webb back with us after her recent medical "time out".

We are again very grateful to Anne Leake and Peter Curtis for the KMC *Day by Day* Prayer Diary, which they have produced for several years and is used at every meeting of the group. The 2026 edition was offered to everyone who attended the service on Easter Sunday and is available for anyone who would like one.

As ever, we are on the lookout for people's individual prayer needs and more general matters for prayer and would also be pleased to welcome anyone who might drop in to join us at 10am on any Thursday.

Roger Gould.

11 Property Committee Report

Report updated for GCM

Over the past year, the Property Committee have been busy resolving property issues and replacing items as required. We have also continued to address outstanding items raised by the 2021 Quinquennial report.

Various maintenance jobs and improvements have been carried out including

- Removing and re-fitting guttering on both sides of the church to eliminate 'fluttering' sound when windy
- Fixing security lights and kitchen tap
- Replenishment of first aid boxes
- Changing the PA mixing desk to a digital mixer to improve the control of balancing multiple microphones and reduce the incidence of feedback.

A First Aid course was organised and several of those who attended have agreed to be listed as someone who might be called upon to help should someone take ill on the premises. A procedure has been drafted covering actions that should be taken on the rare occasions when someone is taken ill during an event (eg church service). This aims to ensure timely action for the individual as well as the management of others who are not involved in any action.

Hire of the premises continues to provide good income for the church and we are almost fully booked, mainly through bookings for U3A groups, with few available slots to hire the hall. Our rates for non-church users of the premises were reviewed last autumn and small increases were implemented from January 1st. These range from 6 – 10% increases and are the first increases we have had to make since January 2023. We are still much cheaper than the Village Hall for hiring.

An energy audit was carried out last November, mostly funded by the District who are encouraging churches to improve their energy efficiency/carbon footprint. This has provided us with guidance on ways in which we can improve the energy efficiency of the building and we will be looking at insulating the loft areas in both the church and hall, completing the change of remaining lights to LED units, and replacing the roof lights in the hall extension flat roof with new insulated domes.

The remaining major project arising from the last quinquennial inspection is the renovation of exterior brickwork and repairs to the hall roof. Bonsers are undertaking this work at present with most of the brickwork renovation complete and the roof work in progress. Total cost is approximately £23,300.

Scaffolding should be removed from the church by the end of April.

The committee continue to respond to issues as they arise and oversee the maintenance and cleaning of the premises. We would be happy to hear from anyone else who might have an interest in caring for the premises and being involved in organising the purchasing of new items, or arranging any maintenance jobs that need doing.

Finally, a thank you to all users of the premises for continuing to keep it in good order and reporting any issues that arise.

Malcolm Shaw *Chair of KMC Property Committee*

4.12 Saturday Coffee Mornings Report

It's a real pleasure to co-ordinate this event. We have been delighted to welcome new helpers on to the team and now have 35 people willing to work in pairs or teams to fill our rota by offering their services and their welcome just three times a year. This 'in house' team is supplemented by others who request a morning from time to time (Christian Aid, Keyworth Choir, U3A etc).

Regularly more than 30 folk call in for tea / coffee and a really good chat and often the number rises above 40. It's a wonderful opportunity for the church to be open and welcoming to the community and for folk from within the church and not yet within it to call in to enjoy warmth, friendship and welcome. It builds bridges between church and village and enables some who might not otherwise do so to step on to church premises. It's mission without arm-twisting! Thanks to our dear friend Derek Oakley who started it all off so many years ago and to those who are happy to enable it to continue and to grow.

Peter Curtis

4.13 Steward's Report

The year 2025 to 2026 has been a year of changes . We said goodbye to Rev Tony Simpson and hello to Rev Helen Fyall. We have welcomed a number of new people as well as some returnees. We have also welcomed members from Tollerton Church after its closure. We have celebrated a number of significant birthdays and anniversaries, as well as other rights of passage in baptisms and funerals. In some of these celebrations we have almost exceeded our capacity! What a great problem to have!

I would like to thank all stewards and Sunday stewards who have been responsible for seeing all these events take place. Many thanks to Sonia Durston who retires this year from her baptism of fire into Methodist practice! We welcome Jacqui Campbell and Pam Whitney to the team. We thank Christine Cuthbert , Chris Dashwood, Janet Derrick and Julie Greenwood for serving as Sunday Stewards as they retire.

One of the joys of new people joining us has been their willingness to offer to fill posts and to offer new ideas. We are happy to be challenged! We still need someone to represent the church for Christian Aid and we will be looking for new stewards next year. Please consider prayerfully if there are ways in which you can help in our mission to serve God here in Keyworth, in worship, in sharing our faith with our community, and promoting care for one another and our community, and serving God in the wider world with concern for social justice, care for the earth and peace for all people.

June Curtis

4.14 Sunday Coffee Report

Refreshments are now regularly served after the Sunday morning service to about 50 to 60 people enabling a time to chat and catch up. Many thanks go to the team of volunteers who make this possible. Unfortunately sometimes they are ill, or have a holiday, so if you feel this is something you could consider being involved with then please have a word with me or with a steward, so that we can add your name to our list of volunteers . Thank you.

Yvonne Bradley

4.15 Time to Discover Report

The group has continued throughout the year with our normal fortnightly Thursday evening meetings in homes.

Going up to **Summer 2025** we had a range of topics including '*Wisdom*' in the Bible, *Ascension*, *Pentecost*, and concluding with a really special meeting with Paul Johns, Patsy Wattle (of Bridgeway Hall) and Roger Gould sharing their respective experiences of *Maundy Money Services*.

During the **Autumn** our topics included *The Creeds*, experiences at the *Kendal Convention*, two meetings on '*Philippians*', *old and new words of Harvest Hymns*, and sharing in a '*Christmas Miscellany*'.

Our **New Year 2026** restart was initially delayed due to a winter storm, but we then had Paul Johns leading us on '*The Story of Hagar*', that pivotal point in the Old Testament when the promise to *Abraham* of 'many descendants' came to pass with his sons *Ishmael* (with Hagar) leading to Islam, and *Isaac* (with Sarah) leading to Judaism and eventually to our own Christianity.

This led into **Lent**, when the Time to Discover Thursday evening time was used weekly for five **Churches Together Lent-Group meetings**, using the *film 'I Daniel'*.

This led us into a number of social aspects, including how excessive bureaucracy in the then benefits system led to desperate circumstances and largely stifled a biblical Christian ethos of compassion, with nevertheless some shining examples of humanity in relationships between friends.

We will be resuming as 'Time to Discover' after Easter, to arrange our forward topics **into Summer 2026**. It has been really good to have continued regularly meeting together, and sharing in our wide-ranging discussions, generally with some 10 – 15 participants at meetings.

Robin Wilcockson.

4.16 Thursday Bible Study Report

Though Nottingham Trent University tried to turn me into a manager, I guess I've always remained a teacher at heart and that's why I love this group. We've now been running for nearly four years. Most who come have been part of the group from the very beginning - such stamina and commitment! - but others have joined along the way and are still joining; and the door is always open. It's lovely to have the help of Peter Whitney to lead sessions when I am away.

We come to sessions with very different degrees of knowledge or previous study, but somehow merge into a group of friends that wants to learn together. We continue to meet fortnightly at 2.15 in homes as advertised in the church notices - and thank you to the Dafts and Goulds for being willing hosts. We start with tea/coffee and splendid biscuits, then work from 2.30 for a generous hour or so, always ending with a summary handout to take away.

In the last year we've explored the Old Testament Books of Ruth and Ecclesiastes, and in the New Testament we've explored the story of Paul's relationship with the emerging church in Corinth and have now begun an in-depth study of John's Gospel.

Peter Curtis

4.17 Missions Report

Over the years fund raising has been our main focus for Mission in Britain (formerly Home Missions), and the Fund for World Mission (formerly Overseas Missions). And we give thanks to Gill and Ena for all that they have raised through the Thursday coffee mornings. We give thanks too for all those who have contributed to the World Mission Fund through the Self Denial Appeal each year. But Mission is about so much more than fund raising, as the Mission Statement for our church tells us, as quoted in our Prayer Diary.

Over the last year we have had a number of services which have as part of our worship a sharing about various charities which we support eg Methodist Homes, Action for Children, Jericho Road, Framework, Bags of Blessings, Mercy Ships and Self Help Africa. Embrace and Leprosy Mission and Transform Trade provide many of our Greeting and Christmas cards.

As a designated Fair Trade Church we use fairly traded coffee, teas and other kitchen items. We continue to support Bridgeway Hall with food and provision of Sunday suppers and clothing for the winter months. We continue to support Ukraine, through donations of clothing and candles.

Many thanks are due for the very generous support of time, money and effort put into fulfilling our Mission, not only locally but also World wide. God bless you all and your giving. May we continue in the future as we find more ways of serving God in serving the needs of others.

June Curtis

4.18 Worship and Ministry

No change from Church Council report

At the meeting on 14.1.26:

- The KCT Lent programme, based on the film "I, Daniel Blake" was noted and it was agreed to give Bible Month a try this year. It will be on Philippians in June.
- There were favourable reflections on recent event and services.
- Follow-up items from the 2023 Anniversary Weekend were reviewed and agreed.
- I stood down as Secretary and Peter Whitney agreed to take over the role.

Roger Gould

6. Minister's Report for General Church Meeting 2026

Having been back in circuit ministry for almost 8 months, the General Church Meeting offers the opportunity for reflection. It has been a steep learning curve as I have sought to learn how the three churches work, so many people's names and the different demands and commitments of church-based ministry compared to hospital chaplaincy. People regularly ask me how it's going and I often say, 'OK, I think!' but the real answer is that I feel like I have 'come home' and it's an absolute joy to be here to serve God with you.

Leading worship and preaching regularly has been challenging and rewarding as I try to share God's message and lead us closer to Him in relevant ways. Sharing pastorally and ministering to those in need has always been deeply fulfilling for me and continues to be so. Thank you for welcoming me into your homes. Please know I am here for you.

A special joy has been to join in with Rebecca's ministry to children and families through 'Open the Book', Toddler's and the special events through the year. I am especially excited to be part of the monthly Tea Time Praise service from June.

Other highlights have been the weekly prayer group, the dementia awareness session, Christmas & Easter services, welcoming new members and working alongside the stewards and other committees. I am genuinely humbled by the caring, committed and capable people who serve so diligently as part of KMC and give so much constantly, thank you.

Bible Month will provide us all with an opportunity for our faith to grow deeper as well as the Quiet Day for time to be still and reflect. I encourage us all to find space to draw closer to God through His word and in prayer. My own faith has deepened as I constantly turn to God and trust Him for guidance and inspiration. He is faithful.

The words of the song 'Lean Hard' by Lou Fellingham have become so meaningful through Andy's health difficulties as I learn to lean more on God's everlasting arms;

'He lavishes grace as our burdens grow greater
He sends us more strength as our labours increase
To added afflictions, he offers more mercy
To multiplied trials, he multiplies peace.'

*With love and prayers,
Helen.*