

**The Methodist Way of Life (MWOL)
Planning the Stations**

Preamble:

Having previously summarised the key themes of MWOL we can now make appropriate connections to the months, Christian Observances, and dates important in Methodism. (The station numbering has changed from previous work.)

- Sep** 1st Blandford MC starts the Methodist Way of Life.
Station 1: Worship “We worship with others regularly”.
Worshipping with others helps to knit us into a faith community, with mission as the natural, even inevitable, consequence.
- Oct** 6th Harvest Sunday followed by Lunch.
Station 2: Openness “We practise hospitality and generosity”.
Hospitality may include learning about and from other people, as well as cooking meals or hosting parties. It is not always us being hospitable to someone else. It is a blessing to receive hospitality too.
- Nov** 10th Remembrance Sunday.
Station 3: Challenge “We challenge injustice”.
God is a liberator. God always takes the side of people experiencing poverty and injustice and we are called to do the same.
- Dec** 1st First Advent Sunday, 15th “Carols at Christmas”, 24th Christmas Eve, 25th Christmas Day
Station 4: Flourish “We care for creation and all God's gifts”.
By learning about God’s love for His creation and our place within it, we can learn to take care of His world.
- Jan** 1st New Year’s Day, 5th Covenant Sunday
Station 5: Serve “We will help people in our communities and beyond”.
From the very beginning, God created us to need each other. When we help someone, or receive help from someone, God invites us to see God in one another.
- Feb** 12th Ash Wednesday, 14th Valentine’s Day,
Station 6: Live: “We live in a way that draws people to Jesus”.
We need to live authentically as a whole self; the self who God made us to be. In this way we worship God in our day-to-day lives at work, at home, and when we are “out and about.”
- Mar** 7th World Day of Prayer, 4th Shrove Tuesday, 5th Ash Wednesday, 30th Mother’s Day,
Station 7: Prayer “We pray daily”.
Prayer is simply a name for communicating with God. It is not a daily tick box exercise but should be a way we build a relationship with Jesus.
- Apr** 13th Palm Sunday, 17th Maundy Thursday, 18th Good Friday, 20th Easter Sunday
Station 8: Tell “We speak of the love of God”.
Speaking should always be accompanied by listening – allowing others to tell their story and allows us to notice God in them. Evangelism is not about us talking at other people, but forming meaningful relationships with others, and sharing our stories and experiences of God together.

- May** 11th to 17th Christian Aid Week, 19th Whit Sunday
Station 9: Care “We care for ourselves and those around us”.
It is all about love: love for God, other people, and yourself. Loving each other is at the centre of our spiritual journey. Love transforms acts of service into acts of care (both are good to practise).
- Jun** 8th Pentecost, 9th Whit Monday, 15th Trinity Sunday and Father’s Day
Station 10: Learn “We learn more about our faith”.
Jesus calls us to be disciples, which is like being an apprentice.
We need to learn, grow, change, and be surprised by God.
- Jul** 14th Action for Children Sunday
Station 11: Share “We share our faith”.
Many ways to share our faith, not just using words, and not just on our own either. Creative activities to connect people with God’s love and provide natural, fun ways to share about faith.
- Aug** 4th and 25th Summer Bank Holiday
Station 12: Noticing “God in Scripture and in the world”.
God is near and can be found. The Bible has a collection of writings of different people’s experiences of God at work in their lives. It helps us to understand and experience God for ourselves.

This month is a time for us individually and as a Church to reflect on the past year. What has changed in us? What “snapshots” were taken? What memories stay with us? What have we shared? What next?

Your comments are always welcome in the above. Ideas for how we can encourage others on our journeys individually, or as prayer partners, or bible/prayer groups, or as a Church. Also to offer opportunities to share on reflections, “light-bulb moments,” “snapshots,” etc.

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