



Circuit Contact

Welcome to our Circuit Worship for

11th October 2026 Prepared by Dr Lynne Bradbury

Worship in the following locations:

Wellspring Methodist Church, Cheadle- At 10:30am - With Mr and Mrs Massey

Endon Methodist Church - At 10:00am - With Rev Joyce Smith and Ms Lynne Bradley

Ipstones Methodist Church - At 10:30am - With Rev Julie Hassall

Rudyard Methodist Church - At 11:00am -With Ms Gill Meredith - Holy Communion

The Gathering At St Andrews, Cheddleton - At 16:00pm

Trinity Church, Leek - At 10:30am - With Rev Denise Williamson

Waterhouses Methodist Church - At 18:30pm - With Rev Julie Hassall

Wetley Rocks Methodist Church - At 14:30pm - With Mr Mark Fallows - Harvest Festival



Welcome to this time of worship together.

My last bulletin worship, in September, shared my joy in meeting and receiving God's love through an encounter which took place on the beach, while we were on holiday.

Perhaps this new bulletin should be called 'Encounters Part two.' I hope it brings you some joy, fun, and a catalyst to make us all think more deeply about our encounters with God.

Let's sing: (StF 99) All creatures of our God and King [All Creatures of Our God and King \(Tune: Lasst uns Erfreuen - 4vv\) \[with lyrics for congregations\]](#)

A few moments of silence, and then let's share this prayer together:

Loving Lord, so often I wonder why you would want to love me. You are great and glorious, loving and all-seeing; and yet you still love me, even when I find it very hard to love myself. I am sorry for all the times when I make unfair judgements about others, or forget that I am your child, and a disciple linked to your command that we should love one another. I am sorry for the times when I let you down. I pray that your Holy Spirit will move me and mould me so that every sinew of my being will shout of the love of Jesus Christ.

Reading: Mark 5 v21 – 34 [Mark 5:21-34 NIV - Jesus Raises a Dead Girl and Heals a - Bible Gateway](#)

In this passage we see Jesus having a number of encounters. A synagogue leader call Jairus approaches Jesus, falls on his knees before him, and begs Jesus to come to his dying daughter. He has absolute faith that, if Jesus would just put his hands on here, the little girl would live. Naturally, he is very urgent in his pleading, but Mark tells us that among the huge crowd waiting to see Jesus perform a miracle, is a woman who has suffered from bleeding for twelve years. She, too, is desperate for a miracle. Instead of asking

Jesus to heal her, we hear that she believes that, just to touch his garments, will take away her suffering. This woman, who has spent all she had, and had suffered at the hands of many doctors, reaches out and touches his clothes, in a desperate, but anonymous quest for healing. What an incredible belief and faith she must have had. But Jesus, aware that healing has taken place, turns and asks who had touched him. The woman throws herself before Jesus and, trembling, owns up. Jesus, far from angry, hails her faith and sends her away in peace. What a wonderful encounter. And, of course, Jesus goes on and raises Jairus' daughter to life.

And so, my latest encounter! A few weeks ago my daughter Kathryn took me to A&E. I had only been discharged from hospital 36 hours earlier, but with a warning about the need to return urgently if particular symptoms occurred. They did and, very much against my better judgement, we went to A&E. I am sure that many of you have had experience of this department and the amazing people who work there in what appears, to lay visitors, to be chaos, with staff often being confronted by angry and difficult patients. As we sat in the waiting area, I felt an overwhelming desire to just go home and put up with whatever might be the consequences. At just the right moment, our lovely Eirwen, from Wellspring, walked past and noticed us. She came over, and we shared a hug (of course!), and she asked whether she could help. I suggested that we should sing some hymns together, and I particularly wanted 'Guide me Oh though great Jehovah.' But I wanted her to sing it in Welsh, in which my mum sang almost constantly when I was a little girl. As she looked around the packed waiting room, it was clear that Eirwen was more than a little reluctant, and, unfortunately, she didn't know the Welsh words. So, we settled for 'Calon Lan' (which translates as 'A Pure Heart'). The words say that a happy, honest soul is much more important than worldly wealth, or a luxurious life. I don't know all the Welsh words to this hymn, but as Eirwen sang (very quietly, in my ear), I joined in with the few words of Welsh I could remember (also very quietly!). What a beautiful encounter! Thank you Eirwen. Whether anyone heard us, or not, doesn't really matter. But it brought me great joy, and, for both of us, a lot of laughter! And so, in this 'Encounters Part Two' perhaps we could turn our attention to the myriad encounters we have each day, which bring us the opportunity to share, more fully than perhaps I managed that day, the love, the grace, and the joy of knowing Jesus.

Let's take a few minutes to consider and to pray about how we might turn brief encounters into a time for sharing God's love.

Let's say The Lord's Prayer

Let's sing together (StF 102) For the beauty of the earth [For the Beauty of the Earth \(John Rutter\) \(Singing the Faith 102 / StF 102\) - YouTube](#)

And now may the blessing of God, Creator, Son, and Holy Spirit rest, remain, and abide with us, and urge us on to use every encounter to point to God's love in the crucified and risen Jesus Christ, forevermore. Amen.