

Wendover Free Church

October 2026 Newsletter 253

SHORT LETTERS

In 2026 when we can send messages to one another in the blink of an eye and receive an answer within seconds, it's easy to forget how letters were sent in New Testament times.

A letter painstakingly written with a quill on parchment would need to be delivered by hand perhaps over hundreds of miles by road and sea.

It was the only way to communicate with people unless they lived nearby.

And so, any letters would be important and meaningful. Nobody would put in that much effort to send a thumbs-up emoji!

The Bible contains many letters sent to encourage new churches and Christian leaders in the faith. Each letter was chosen from among similar ones as significant for Christian faith and teaching. Choosing was a long and difficult (and somewhat strange) process, so we can assume that all that were chosen to be in the New Testament are worth studying.



We are beginning a new series in October exploring what a few of the letters are about and what we can learn from them.

They are all **short letters**, and not so often studied as others. Even so, there won't be time to look at every word, so you may want to look at some on your own.

They are all to be found near the end of the Bible. None of them are more than a ten-minute read. They were written for people in very different times to our own.

It will be interesting to discover what God is saying to us today through these ancient writings.

2 John

Titus

Philemon

Jude

2 Peter

PRAY FOR 'EMBRACE'

Embrace is a Christian Development charity tackling poverty & injustice in the Middle East.

On 25 September 2025 Hassan was standing amid the rubble of what had been his house.

What had taken months of hard work and years of savings had been bulldozed by the Israeli occupying authorities because Hassan had not got a permit from them for building his home. These are all but impossible to obtain.

Hassan had built his house on his small plot of land in Al Khader so that he could more easily tend his olive trees. But now many of those trees lay uprooted or broken, collateral damage as his house was torn down. What stayed with Hassan most was not the destruction but the way in which it was done.

The bulldozers left without clearing anything or offering any explanation, leaving him alone to face what was left behind.

But Hassan did not walk

away. Over the days and weeks that followed he cleared the debris and saved what trees he could. It was slow, exhausting work.

This spring, thanks to **Embrace** supporters who sponsored trees through the Olive Tree Project, he

was able to plant 40 olive tree saplings. He does not know yet if he will try to rebuild.

But his new olive trees mean he can continue to work and protect his land. Every day, he is there, planting and tending to his small

olive grove. His house may be gone, but, thanks in part to the Olive Tree Project, his livelihood and his connection to his land is not.



Please pray for **Embrace** and the many projects it supports. Find out more about the Olive Tree Project at <https://embraceme.org/olivetreeproject>

What's on in October?

(In the Christian Centre unless otherwise stated)

Thurs 1st 2.30-4.30pm Flower Arranging Group

Friday 2nd 10.30am Poetry Please

Weds 7th & 21st 10am-12 noon Craft Group

Thurs 8th & 22nd 2-4pm Board Game Café

Sat 17th 10.30-11.30am Book Club

Sun 18th 10.45am Messy Morning

Every Sunday 10.45am Morning Worship

Every Tuesday 10-12 noon Coffee Drop-in

Every Friday 7.30pm Table Tennis

I'm Dreaming of a Green Christmas!

SATURDAY 14TH NOVEMBER 10.30 TO 3.30

Wendover Free Church is running this community event to encourage people, including ourselves, to celebrate Christmas more sustainably. We remember that this is God's world which we need to look after even (especially) at Christmas time!

An exciting programme is planned to include our usual fundraising Fair for 'Embrace the Middle East', including stalls for craft, cakes and preserves, refreshments, soup lunches & cream teas.

In addition, in St Anne's Hall, there will be 'green' ideas for Christmas presents, decorations and so on, plus workshops and information from local organisations, clubs & societies – all focused on making Christmas sustainable without spoiling the fun.

Please support the event. Sign-up sheets available!



POETRY PLEASE

Whether it be mountains or marshes,
cities or seascapes, this month's theme
is poetry that is rooted in a sense of place.
All welcome who share a love of poetry.
Friday 2nd October from
10.30am to 12 noon.



From 2 Peter chapter 1 (one of our 'Short Letters')

"Do your best to add goodness to your faith;
to goodness add knowledge; to knowledge add self-control;
to self-control add endurance; to endurance add godliness
to godliness add Christian affection; to Christian affection add love.
These are the qualities you need, and if you have them in abundance, they
will make you active and effective in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus
Christ."

At our September Church Meeting...

- We floated the idea that we could hold meetings this autumn for anyone would like to take part in our Sunday services more – perhaps with a view to taking a service together in the New Year. If you are interested, please speak to Remco.
- We learnt that parents are grateful to be able to use our car park at school times and would like to be able to donate money for the privilege. A QR code is being created to enable contributions.
- One of the ways of helping with 'I'm Dreaming of a Green Christmas' is to offer to run short workshops, helping children and adults make decorations or presents. Could you do that? Both Emma Critchley and Christine Wright have ideas for workshops – or you may have your own ideas. Please let Emma or Christine know.