



TEWKESBURY & APPERLEY METHODIST CHURCH NOTICES

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Tewkesbury Methodist Church: Registered Charity no. 11179000

Jesus, like a mother you gather your people to you; you are gentle with us as a mother with her children. Despair turns to hope through your sweet goodness; through your gentleness we find comfort in fear. Your warmth gives life to the dead, your touch makes sinners righteous. Lord Jesus, in your mercy heal us; in your love and tenderness remake us. In your compassion bring grace and forgiveness, for the beauty of heaven may your love prepare us.
Anselm (1109)

We send love and blessings to those amongst our church family and beyond who are suffering illness, loss or loneliness at this time. Our prayers are with you.

Love and warm greetings to all our friends who are unable to get to church – you are still very much part of our church family.

**Sunday 15th March – Mothering Sunday
Tewkesbury**

9.15am – Praise and Worship

10.30am – Locally arranged service

Sunday 22nd March –

Apperley 11am – Revd Jayne Webb

Tewkesbury 10.30am – Stuart Hobbs

THIS WEEK AT TEWKESBURY

IMPORTANT - With effect from **Monday March 9th** the path to the rear Link doors of the Church will be **CLOSED** for both entry and exit from Monday to Friday whilst building work is carried out at the rear of the buildings. It is anticipated this will be reopened by Good Friday April 3rd if not earlier. Access to the front of the Church and the single door into the Link can be gained via one of the nearby alleys into Barton Street and then in through the front gates.

Thursday 19th March – 10am Craft group in the church

Friday 20th March – 2.30pm – Choir practice in the church.

Saturday 21st March – 10.30am – Coffee morning

Our Prayer group might not be meeting in person at present but will still be praying for those both in the church family and the community about whom they have been notified. Please write any special requests for prayer in the book in the vestibule, but please have the recipient's permission to do so.

Sunday March 29th

Tewkesbury Churches Together United Service in Tewkesbury Abbey

6.00pm – Wondrous Cross – a meditation based on 'The Seven last words of Christ' by Alan Bullard

Please note change of venue

AWAY DAY - I am pleased to say we have approximately 28 people signed up for our **AWAY-DAY** at **HOLLAND HOUSE** on Wednesday 22nd July between 10.30am and 4.30pm including friends from Bishops Cleeve and Winchcombe.

I now need to collect your £10 deposits please so I can advise the House of our final numbers. Please can you pass this to me preferably in an envelope with your name and marked "Away-Day". Information re dietary requirements and transport will be sorted at a later date. Please note deposits are non-refundable. Thank you.
Jean Davies



PTO

ECO GROUP - Free tickets for 'A Town Called to Speak', about the rivers and flooding, at the Roses on 18th March are available at the box office. A brand-new play, *River Stories – A town called to speak*, developed from conversations with local children and elders through *Tewkesbury StoryLab*, followed by creative audience interaction to explore how communities can adapt to change together. Created by the Tewkesbury community, written with *Acta Community Theatre* and performed by Drama students from *UWE, Bristol*, the *Tewkesbury FuturesLab* is an exciting new way to locally envision collective futures. There will be creative activities in the Upstairs Bar from 4.30pm with the show starting at 6.00pm for approx 1hr.

COMMUNION STEWARDS - we would be grateful for a couple more volunteers to assist at Holy Communion services please. This involves preparing the bread and wine prior to the service (and clearing away after) and directing the congregation to the communion rail. You would not have to assist the minister - stewards will do this.

Communion is normally held on the first Sunday of the month and on the first and third Wednesday at 10.30am. Please let one of the stewards know if you can help.

BIBLE CLUB - please note that Saturday morning Bible Club will cease with effect from 7th March for the foreseeable future. Thank you to those who have attended in recent months. Jayne.

COFFEE ROTAS – Saturday and Sunday

We would appreciate your help in keeping the church open on a Saturday morning by serving coffee. Also if you can assist with serving coffee after our Sunday service, please sign the appropriate rota. Your support would be appreciated.

PASTORAL – please let me know of any of our church family who are unwell or are in need of some support. Our outreach worker, Jan, will be working in maintaining contact with all our church family. Jean Davies

LARGE PRINT – if you are unable to read the words on the screen and the large print hymn books are not suitable for you, please see one of the stewards so we can ensure large print copies are available.

NOTICES FOR MARCH will be prepared by Jean Davies – jed0606@yahoo.com 01684 772178 - The deadline is 4.30pm on Thursday.

There is an old Jewish saying: *God could not be everywhere, and therefore He made mothers.*

Mother Church, Mother Earth, Mother of the Gods – our human mothers – all of them have been part of the celebration of 'Mothering Sunday' – as the fourth Sunday in Lent is affectionately known. It has been celebrated in the UK since at least the 16th century.

In Roman times, great festivals were held every Spring to honour Cybele, Mother of all the Gods. Other pagan festivals in honour of Mother Earth were also celebrated. With the arrival of Christianity, the festival became one honouring Mother Church.

During the Middle Ages, young people apprenticed to craftsmen or working as 'live-in' servants were allowed only one holiday a year on which to visit their families – which is how 'Mothering Sunday' got its name. This special day became a day of family rejoicing, and the Lenten fast was broken. In some places the day was called Simnel Day, because of the sweet cakes called simnel cakes traditionally eaten on that day.

In recent years the holiday has changed and in many ways now resembles the American Mother's Day, with families going out to Sunday lunch and generally making a fuss of their mother on the day.

