



TEWKESBURY & APPERLEY METHODIST CHURCH NOTICES

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Tewkesbury Methodist Church: Registered Charity no. 11179000

God of mountain peak and valley floor, who knows our joys, our sorrows, our highs and lows, who picks us up as we stumble and sets us on the road again, be the blessing we receive and the blessing we give as we join in fellowship to praise your name. Amen

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 17th May

Tewkesbury

10.30am – Colin Pascoe

Week of Actions - A Million Acts of Hope – As mentioned at last Sunday's service you will find paper heart on your seat today – please can you write what simple acts of hope you can think of (shopping for a neighbour, giving lifts etc) and we will hang them on the prayer tree and read some out next week.

Sunday 24th May

Tewkesbury

10.30am – Revd Jayne Webb – Holy

Communion

Apperley

11am – Andrew Maxwell

THIS WEEK AT TEWKESBURY

Thursday 21st May – 10am Craft group in the hall

Friday 22nd May – 2.30pm – Choir practice in the hall

Saturday 23rd May –

10.00am – Book club

10.30am – Coffee morning

We have a supportive and caring prayer group at our church who continues to pray 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.

UPCOMING DATES –

Thursday 4 June - Men Allowed

Sunday 7th June –

9.15am Wild Green Breakfast Club

12.00 - Annual Church meeting

Tuesday 9 June – 2.30 Wives and Friends

Saturday 13 June – 10.30 Eco group

AUDREY SIMPSON – The funeral service for Audrey will take place at our church on Thursday 28th May at 11am. There will be a private burial but friends are invited to Gupshill Manor following the service.

EASTER OFFERING SERVICE

Sunday 31st May – Easter Offering Service. Envelopes have been available in the church for a few weeks and our service of dedication will be on 31st May. As a church this is the only time we collectively support World Mission so if you have not yet made a donation and would like to do so, please use the envelope provided and return by 31st May. If you can donate with Gift Aid that will help the charity even more. Many thanks.

CHURCH AWAY-DAY AT HOLLAND HOUSE – Wednesday 22nd July

The House now require the balance of the payment for your place on the AwayDay which will be £32 - together with any dietary requirements. It would be helpful if you are able to make your payment to the church account via bank transfer or if you prefer the cash can be given to me in a sealed envelope clearly marked with your name and AwayDay. Also do let me have your dietary requirements either via email or in a note to me – many thanks! The church account is “**Tewkesbury Methodist Church Society**” sort code **40 44 10** account **20800031** and if you could mark the reference as **AWAYDAY** please.

It would be helpful if you could let me know when you have paid your balance or mark the sheet in the hall. Many thanks – Jean Davies

PTO

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

WELCOME SPACE

The contractors continue to work in the church and will shortly be completing the work on the rear access to the Guildroom. It is hoped that all work will be completed early in June.

Coffee mornings continue in the hall until further notice. We will put a notice outside the front of the church, but please use the side entrance to the link and hall. We thank you all for your understanding.

Your Welcome Space Team If you have any queries please speak to Peter or Adrian

CROSSPOINT – a reminder that copy is required no later than Sunday 7th June and preferably before that date. Please submit any articles, or family news you would like to share to me. Suggestions for additions to the magazine always appreciated! Many thanks. 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 MAY will be prepared by Jean Davies –

jed0606@yahoo.com 01684 772178 - The deadline is 4.30pm on Thursday.

A prayer for Ascension Day

Giving and loving God,
on this special day we remember your loving actions in this world,
the sending of your Son and the glory of your rising from death at Easter.

Thank you that you guide us.

We recognise that we are never alone,
for we are always surrounded by your love.
Help us to witness your presence in a world that needs your love.

Strengthen us with your Spirit
and let your light shine through us.

Amen.

40 days after Easter comes Ascension Day. These are the 40 days during which the Risen Christ appeared again and again to His disciples, following His death and resurrection. (*Matthew 28; Mark 16; Luke 24; and John 20.*)

The Gospels give us little of Christ's teachings and deeds during those 40 days. Jesus was seen by numerous of His disciples: on the road to Emmaus, by the Sea of Galilee, in houses, etc. He strengthened and encouraged His disciples, and at last opened their eyes to all that the Scriptures had promised about the Messiah. Jesus also told them that as the Father had sent Him, He was now going to send them – to all corners of the earth, as His witnesses.

Surely the most tender, moving 'farewell' in history took place on Ascension Day. Luke records the story with great poignancy: 'When Jesus had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, He lifted up His hands – and blessed them.'

As Christmas began the story of Jesus' life on earth, so Ascension Day completes it, with His return to His Father in heaven. Jesus' last act on earth was to bless His disciples. He and they had a bond as close as could be: they had just lived through three tumultuous years of public ministry and miracles – persecution and death – and resurrection! Just as we part from our nearest and dearest by still looking at them with love and memories in our eyes, so exactly did Jesus: 'While He was blessing them, He left them and was taken up into heaven.' (Luke 24:50-1) He was not forsaking them, but merely going on ahead to a kingdom which would also be theirs one day: 'I am ascending to my Father and to your Father, to my God and your God...' (John 20:17)

The disciples were surely the most favoured folk in history. Imagine being one of the last few people on earth to be face to face with Jesus, and have Him look on you with love. No wonder then that Luke goes on: 'they worshipped Him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. And they stayed continually at the temple, praising God.' (Luke 24:52,53)

No wonder they praised God! They knew they would see Jesus again one day! 'I am going to prepare a place for you... I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.' (John 14:2,3) In the meantime, Jesus had work for them to do: to take the Gospel to every nation on earth.