TEWKESBURY & APPERLEY METHODIST CHURCH NOTICES
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Tewkesbury Methodist Church: Registered Charity no. 11179000

At this dark and dismal time, when the year is closing down and our lives get busier and the world more confusing, we can sometimes become discouraged and low in spirits. Help us to adjust our perspective, to turn and look up, to focus afresh on You, to remember that Your name is above all names, above discouragement, above despair, above confusion. Help us to be thankful for each day that You have made, recognising each one as a gift from You, to be treasured and lived fruitfully. May we welcome Your powerful, healing light into our hearts and lives – Your light, which no darkness can dim. Help us to remember your words,

I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.

Help us to follow you and walk in the light, this November and always. In 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 1st November –
Tewkesbury
10.30am – Revd Jayne Webb – Holy Communion
Sunday 8th November – Remembrance Sunday
Tewkesbury
9.15am – Coffee and croissants
10.55am – Act of Remembrance at the Cross
11.15am – Steward-led short Remembrance service
Apperley
11am – Revd Jayne Webb

THIS WEEK AT TEWKESBURY
Tuesday 3rd – 2.30pm – Wives and Friends
Wednesday 4th – Men Allowed
Thursday 5th – 10.00am – Craft group
Friday 6th – 2.30pm Choir practice (check if running)
Saturday 7th – 10.30am – Coffee morning
10.00 – 12.00 – Christmas workshop

FORTHCOMING DATES
Tuesday 10th November – 7.30pm – Church Council
Saturday 5th December – 10am – Christmas Fete
Tuesday 14th December – 7.30pm - Jubilate choir concert
Sunday 20th December – 3.15pm – Mince pies and punch followed by Carols by Candlelight
Sunday 17th January 2027 – 12.30 – Festive Lunch
Saturday 30th January 2.30pm – Quiz afternoon with refreshments

We have a supportive and caring prayer group at our church who continue 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 church, but please have the recipient's permission to do so.

MID-WEEK HOLY COMMUNION –
Unfortunately we haven't been able to start this again due to various difficulties, so no services during November. We will advise the recommencement as soon as possible.

DINNER LADIES CHRISTMAS LUNCH – I have booked a table for Thursday 10th December at Browns (at Tewkesbury Garden Centre) at 12.00. Copies of the menu are available from me, and if you would like to come along we will have to pay a deposit of £10 each and pre-book our choices. Can you please add your name to the list on the notice board so I can confirm the booking to the restaurant.
Please note ladies - this is open to all –please join us if you are able. Jean Davies

CROSSPOINT MAGAZINE – please let me have any contributions for the winter edition by next Sunday 8th November. This will be the Christmas magazine so anything seasonable is particularly welcome. Jean Davies

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SWEET CONTAINERS – Can you please save sweet containers (such as Celebrations, Roses, Heroes etc) as these will replace the shoe boxes to be filled with essentials for those in need. This is an ongoing effort not just for Christmas so you don't have to eat the chocolates all at once! Please bring to the church and Suzanne will collect them. Many thanks.

Pat Taylor would like to remind the church family that she will send cards of greeting and /or support to those who are unwell, unable to attend church or suffering loss. Please keep her updated as to who might like to receive a card sending love and support.

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.

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, is working in maintaining contact with all our church family. Jean Davies

THE GREEN PAGE – The eco group met on 24th October and drafted a detailed plan of the garden, for submission to the Premises Committee. We had really great ideas for colour and attractiveness to bees and butterflies, with more bushes on either side, where there are gaps, bulbs along the wall by the pavement, to add colour in the spring, and a tiny little water feature.
Roger Davis will have a bench, exact place to be decided by the Premises Committee and Dorothy.
When the plan has been approved by the Premises Committee, we will publish a list of what flowers or bushes we want to add (all perennials) and we hope you will be able to donate, either the whole plant or part of it in cash, so that the church does not have to pay for anything. We will also feel that it is our garden, if we have contributed to it in nature.
Finally, the triangular grass area will be kept wild, with natural native flowers which will attract our bees and butterflies. There will be a pretty notice explaining that 'this area is kept wild for nature to flourish'. Any one good at pretty lettering and design, please contact one of us.
The next meeting will be on 14th November; you are all welcome to join in. We will look at continuing the application for the Gold Award now that we have things to say from the garden (a big part of the award).

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

ALL SAINTS DAY – 1st November

At the beginning of this month, we celebrate 'All Saints' (1st November), when we remember all those heroes of the faith who have in one way or another been a witness to Christ in what they said and what they did. But sometimes the saints of old- those portrayed in Renaissance pictures or in craggy, oversized sculptures- can matter less to us than the saints we have personally known.

For instance, one minister tells of a good friend of his, Stan, a farmer on the Yorkshire Wolds, who died earlier this year. Stan was the sort of man you'd meet at the mart, or stop to have a chat with in the village. He always had time for you. You'd go away thinking 'salt of the earth', and you would be right.

But Stan was much deeper than that. He was a devout Christian, with a simple but profound faith, used by God in many situations that never made the public eye. His farm had a Site of Special Scientific Interest in that it captured many of the unique features of the Wolds. He was a knowledgeable plantsman, although you would have to drag it out of him. In his day he had taken Bibles to Soviet-era Ukraine and Romania, and received the thanks of Christians there who were so encouraged that they were not alone, that someone cared, made the effort to bring them the Word of God.

So Stan, although a quiet family man living on a fairly remote farm, had had a profound influence for God and for good in many people's lives, both in the area – and in Ukraine and Romania.

And there have been multitudes like him. This month, are there folk in your life who have been an influence on you for God and for good? What difference did they make to you?

All Saints-tide is the ideal opportunity to give thanks for them. They are life's unsung heroes, who help others steer a path closer to God by their wise words, or their support, their prayers. The impact of a good life on others can be enormous. For all of them, let's thank God.