



TEWKESBURY & APPERLEY METHODIST CHURCH NOTICES

Minister: The Revd Jayne Webb

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Tewkesbury Methodist Church: Registered Charity no. 11179000

On our walk with you, we rest for a while, listen and worship, for you are the one who guides us, the one who feeds us, the one who blesses us and the one who keeps us safe. On our walk with you, we rest for a while, listen and worship.

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 26th April –

Tewkesbury 10.30am – Alan Jackson

3pm - Service to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the Imjin River Battle, Korea
- Revd Steve Ward

Apperley 11am – Locally arranged service

Sunday 3rd May –

NO BREAKFAST CLUB TODAY

Tewkesbury 10.30am – Revd Jayne Webb –
Holy Communion

THIS WEEK AT TEWKESBURY

Thursday 30th April – 10am Craft group in the hall

Friday 1st May – 2.30pm – Choir practice in the hall

Saturday 2nd May – 10.30am – Coffee morning

COMING UP

Wednesday 6th May – No Holy Communion.

Wednesday 6th May – 2.30pm Wives and Friends

Wednesday 6th May – Men Allowed

Saturday 9th May – 10am – 12.00 Eco Group Open Meeting to discuss a possible sensory garden at the front of the church. Please come along if you would like to contribute to the discussion.

Revd Tony Windsor – It was with sadness that we hear of the death of the Revd Tony Windsor, who was our minister here at Tewkesbury between 1987-1992. Our thoughts and prayers are with his wife Margaret and their three daughters. I have details of the funeral arrangements. Jean Davies

MID-WEEK COMMUNION

Wednesday 6th May – unfortunately we will still not be able to hold mid-week communion due to ongoing building works. Please check notices regarding the service that should be held on 20th May for updates.

WELCOME SPACE

The contractors will be working in the church for the next six weeks or so.

IMPORTANT – PLEASE READ

Although some activities will be booked into the Hall the builders will be working in the carpark and Guild room as well as in the Church itself. Please avoid entering from Swilgate road in the daytime. Access will be from the front down the side passage. This arrangement may have to continue for two weeks or so.

SATURDAY and SUNDAY COFFEE MORNINGS –

As work begins in the church, we are reassured that we will still be able to hold our Sunday worship in the building.

However, coffee mornings are more difficult as we shall be without a kitchen for a few weeks. We want to continue the coffee mornings but need to relocate to the hall for a few Saturdays and Sundays from 18th April.

We will put a notice outside the front of the church, but if you see the front doors closed, 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

PTO



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.

GREEN GROUP ISSUES - A member of the Eco group had asked for the names of cleaning products that are good for the environment. I had a suggestion: Plastic free ocean Saver, daily shower spray refill.

It comes in a little sachet with which you make 750ml of the cleaning product, in a spray bottle. The box says: Used daily, a few sprays remove soap scum, and prevent the build-up of limescale". It does not contain any harmful ingredients and is easy to use.

Sophie Franklin

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

This article is written by Dr Ruth M Bancewicz, who is Church Engagement Director at The Faraday Institute for Science and Religion in Cambridge. Ruth writes on the positive relationship between Science and Christian faith.

A few years ago, I visited the Smithsonian Museum's Hall of Human Origins. Our guide, the curator of anthropology, was keen to help Christians understand his research. Whatever you make of the evidence for human evolution, the fact remains that other species a bit like us were around before we came on the scene –

or in the case of Neanderthals, at the same time.

Part of the exhibit included lifelike reconstructions of the face and hair of several different hominins, displayed on pillars at the right height for each species. So, I could crouch down to 'meet' *Homo floresiensis* or stand tall to look into the eyes of *Homo heidelbergensis*. Most of these – beings? creatures? – were on other branches of the evolutionary tree to us, and we share a common ancestor much further back. I did, however, feel as if I was meeting my forebears.

As I walked between the statues I asked myself, "Why us?" There's evidence that Neanderthals used symbolism as we do, and also buried their dead. Did they have the potential to evolve to a point where they could do similar things to us? The curator explained how, as the ice ages came and went, human beings moved around but other species appear to have stayed put and suffered the consequences – they just weren't ready yet for that big change. As I took in the displays about how we began to gather socially around a fire, make music or write, I felt humbled. We managed to adapt, but we could so easily have disappeared with the rest.

In his book *The Message of Creation*, theologian David Wilkinson shares his view that being made in the image of God has nothing to do with our own cleverness or abilities, but instead it is a gift. God created us on purpose (I believe through the long slow process of evolution) and chose to enter into a relationship with us, making us His representatives on earth.

Thankfully I don't have to figure out how to interact with other human-like hominins today. I do, however, have an equal share in humankind's God-given commission to tend and keep creation. Am I ready to go further than ensuring my own species' survival – not necessarily because we have evolved further than our ice-age ancestors, but because I have one of the 'new hearts' promised in Ezekiel 11:19? Can I work together, in a true spirit of humility, with people from all over the world to ensure the full diversity of life can flourish?