



## TEWKESBURY & APPERLEY METHODIST CHURCH NOTICES

Minister: The Revd Jayne Webb

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Tewkesbury Methodist Church: Registered Charity no. 11179000



*You challenge us this Advent time  
This season of preparation  
To put aside our pride  
And understand our need  
For repentance  
Forgiveness  
And mercy  
Less of self  
More of you  
Preparation for our journey  
To the stable and beyond  
Purify our hearts  
Sanctify our lives  
That we might serve you  
Faithfully this day and all days. 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 7<sup>th</sup> December**

**Second Sunday in Advent**

**9.15am** – Revd Jayne Webb – Wild Green Breakfast Club

**10.30am** – Mrs Liz Ledger Theme - Peace

**Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> December**

**Third Sunday in Advent**

**Tewkesbury**

**10.30am** – Robert Carr Theme - Life

**Apperley –**

**11.00am** – Revd Jayne Webb

### THIS WEEK AT TEWKESBURY

**Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> December**

**11.00am** – Prayers for the church and community. Please write any special requests for prayer in the book in the vestibule, but please have the recipient's permission to do so.

**Friday 12<sup>th</sup> December**

**2.30pm** – Choir practice

**Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> December**

**10.30am** – Coffee morning

**10.30am** – Eco church meeting

### DIARY DATES –

**Monday 15<sup>th</sup> December –**

**7.30pm – Jubilate Choir** – Nowell Tidings including festive favourites, readings and audience carols – suitable for all the family. Please support if you can – a brilliant choir who have performed at our church before.

**Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> December – Carols at Apperley** 7pm followed by coffee and mince pies. All are welcome.

**Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> December – Carols by**

Candlelight at **Tewkesbury** at 4pm preceded at 3.15pm by coffee and mince pies. All welcome.

**Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> December – 10am –**

Christmas Day service (note early start)

**Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> January** – please note there will be no Breakfast Club today.

**10.30am – Covenant Service** with Revd Richard Clutterbuck.

**Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> January – 10.30am –**

**Commissioning Service** – Revd Jayne Webb

**Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> January – 12.30pm – Festive Lunch** (tickets on sale in the new year).

### COFFEE ROTAS – Saturday and Sunday

If you are able to cover a Saturday for our regular coffee morning please sign the rota in the vestibule. Likewise if you can assist with serving coffee after our Sunday service, please sign the appropriate rota. There are only a few regulars doing this now, so your support would be appreciated.

**ECO GROUP** – the next meeting will be on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> December.

**GREEN TIPS** – When you buy food (and other things, but food is the most common purchase), do you look at where it is coming

**PTO**

from? Please keep your food-miles to a minimum – it helps the planet and ensures your food is fresher. Eating local food in season is much better for your health too. So please avoid asparagus from Peru – they will have cost a lot of energy to get here – and buy fresh asparagus in Worcestershire.

**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.

**WELCOME SPACE** – You will be pleased to hear that following a meeting with the architect and builder the start date for the work will be Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2026. More detail will follow.  
Your Welcome Space Team

**NOTICES FOR DECEMBER** will be prepared by Jean Davies – [jed0606@yahoo.com](mailto:jed0606@yahoo.com) or 01684 772178. The deadline is 4.30pm on Thursday.

*Canon Paul Hardingham considers the Christmas story.*

### **Christmas Unwrapped!**

All of us have received unwanted gifts at Christmas. For Joseph the gift of a child, as recorded in Matthew chapter 1, was not something he really wanted. Although he was engaged to Mary, her pregnancy would be grounds for divorce. Not surprisingly, with the associated social disgrace, Joseph wanted to divorce Mary quietly (Matthew 1:19). However, God intervened in a dream: *'The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call Him Immanuel, which means, God with us.'* (1:23). In a scary and uncertain world, what does the message of **Immanuel** say to us today?

### **God is present with us**

God assured Joseph that He was working in all that Joseph was going through. The eternal and creator God entered time and space as a baby. This baby is both uniquely divine but also fully human. This means that we can know God personally, not just know about Him. The Holy Spirit is committed to making Jesus' life and character real in us, and bringing meaning to our circumstances, just as He worked in Mary's life.

### **God is on our side**

Christmas touches some raw nerves in our lives, including stress, family rows, loneliness and financial pressures. However, God does not remain aloof from our experiences. In Jesus He enters our world of hopes and fears, joys and disappointments. He understands what we are going through, as He is alongside us. By the cross and resurrection, He gave His life that we might know His love, joy, peace and forgiveness.

For Joseph, as well as us, the Christmas message is one of hope in an uncertain world. It is a time to re-consider the claims of **Immanuel** ('God with us') as we entrust ourselves to Him for the coming year.

