



TEWKESBURY & APPERLEY METHODIST CHURCH NOTICES

Minister: The Revd Jayne Webb

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Church Website: www.tewkesburymethodistchurch.org.uk

Tewkesbury Methodist Church: Registered Charity no. 11179000



May peace beyond all understanding, which has its source in Father, Son and Spirit, be with us as we meet, to still our souls, and join our hearts as one. May the gentle whisper of the God of grace speak to us through our worship, the reading and understanding of scripture, and be the message of our lives as we leave this place. 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 11th May

Tewkesbury

10.30am Robert Carr

Apperley

11am Revd Jayne Webb

Tewkesbury

Sunday 18th May – Easter offering service –
Local Arrangement

THIS WEEK AT TEWKESBURY

Thursday 15th –

10am – Craft Group

11am – 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 16th –

2.30pm – Choir practice

6.30pm – Methodist Players' Rehearsal

Saturday 17th –

10.30am – Care for Creation Eco Group

10.30am – Coffee Morning

7.30pm – Tewkesbury Drama group
performance (Church)

Sunday 18th –

12.15pm – Gerald's birthday lunch (Hall)

DIARY DATES

Wednesday 21st May –

10.30am – Midweek Holy Communion

2.30pm – Welcome Space committee meeting

Saturday 24th May –

10.00am – Book Club

Saturday 31st May –

7pm – Methodist Player's Concert

Sunday 1st June –

9.15am – Wild Green Breakfast Club

Tuesday 3rd June –

2.30pm – Wives and Friends

Wednesday 4th June –

10.30am – Midweek Holy Communion

Friday 6th June –

Deadline for Crosspoint contributions

Saturday 7th June –

10.30am – Bible Club

Jubilate Chamber Choir (time tbc)

Saturday 14th June –

Afternoon tea at Di and Robins' home – see
notice.

Saturday 5th July –

Church summer fete

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

ATERNON TEA IN THE COUNTRY – Di and Robin Jones have kindly invited members of the church family to tea at their home at Stratford Bridge on Saturday 14th June. To assist with catering please sign the list in the vestibule if you would like to attend and add any dietary requirements. There will be no charge but you are encouraged to make a donation towards church funds.

MAF POSTCARDS – I have been in touch with the charity to see if they are still accepting picture postcards to support their work. They are – so please post any used or unwanted new postcards in the box in the link and I will arrange for them to be sent to the charity.

DINNER LADIES JOINT LUNCH – we had a very enjoyable lunch at The Hunter's Inn recently. I have now booked a Sunday in order to take advantage of their carvery (which is only served on a Sunday) and it is on 15th June at 12.30pm. As this is a special one-off Sunday booking it has been suggested that partners be invited to join us so please add names of partners if they would like to come.
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 jointly by Adrian Shelley - adandgillshelley@gmail.com or 01684 297411 and Jean Davies – Email jed0606@yahoo.com or 01684 772178. The deadline is 4.30pm on Thursday.

Tewkesbury Methodist Players
Present
 
Aspects of Love
An Evening of songs and sketches
at
Tewkesbury Methodist Church
Saturday 31st May 2025 at 7pm
 Light Refreshments 
All proceeds to Charity
Tickets £3 available on the door



He gave us eyes to see them: El Greco's 'The Tears of St Peter'

In the 19th century John Bowes, the 10th Earl of Strathmore, built a museum in the French style, with landscaped gardens, at Barnard Castle in Teesdale. He bequeathed it 800 paintings, including a previously unknown Van Dyck.

But visitors to the Bowes Museum often make a beeline for its amazing 18th century silver swan automaton. As the music plays, there is the illusion of flowing water: the swan preens itself,

bends down and catches a fish in the water. It is a thrill and a joy to watch. At the other extreme and striking a different mood and emotion is El Greco's painting of 1580: 'The Tears of St Peter.' It was reluctantly purchased in 1869 for a price less than that paid for the monkey puzzle tree in the grounds outside.

The gospels tell us that St Peter wept bitterly when he heard the cock crow, as he had denied knowing Jesus three times. El Greco shows the saint, his eyes welling with those tears of betrayal, kneeling and turning to heaven for forgiveness. The sky is overcast, reflecting the sad scene below, and we can see ivy growing as a sign of the constancy so lacking in Peter's life.

At the Last Supper he had been the opposite: ready to follow, brave and generous with his words. But Peter leaves Jesus to drink the cup of sorrow alone in Gethsemane. In the courtyard of the high priest, warming himself by the fire, he utters that threefold denial. This was the lowest moment in his life, when instead of being solid rock, he showed that he was merely shifting sand.

And then the wonder and glory of Easter. We glimpse it in the background of the painting with the angel and Mary Magdalene at the tomb. And we know that everything changes for Peter by the shore of the Sea of Galilee. Like the silver swan in the Bowes Museum looking for fish, the disciples have returned to their old way of life.

But it is the risen Lord who directs them to a marvellous catch, and the charcoal fire of betrayal in the courtyard is now the charcoal fire of breakfast, a new day, and a new way of life for Peter. No denial now – he answers the three questions of our Lord positively and realises that he is loved by Jesus in his failure and weakness. It might have seemed the end for Peter in the courtyard, but the risen Lord comes to tell him 'I make all things new' and that includes you.

Peter is often known as the stumbling saint. Here, in El Greco's painting, he has stumbled and fallen to his knees in prayer. As we look at him, we know ourselves to be as weak and fearful. But the Lord comes to us as He comes to Peter. He lifts us up and puts us back on our feet again. With Peter, we know Him as our crucified and risen Lord.