



TEWKESBURY & APPERLEY METHODIST CHURCH NOTICES

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Tewkesbury Methodist Church: Registered Charity no. 11179000



**Into your presence we come,
God of grace and peace, who
was, and is, and ever shall be
the eternal one. In fellowship
we come, bound together in
the love that died and rose
again, our Saviour Jesus Christ.
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.**

**Tewkesbury
Sunday 27th April –
10.30am Revd Carrie Seaton**

**Tewkesbury
Sunday 4th May –
9.15am – Wild Green Breakfast Club
10.30am - Revd Jayne Webb – Holy
Communion**

**THIS WEEK AT TEWKESBURY
Monday 28th April – 3.30pm Welcome Space
Friday 2nd May –
2.30pm – Choir practice
6.30pm – Methodist Players' Rehearsal
Saturday 3rd May -
10.30am – Bible Club with Jayne
10.30am – Coffee Morning**

This week we welcome Jan Hoskins to our church team. Jan will assist with pastoral work and with outreach connected to our Welcome Space project. Jan will be helping out for the Breakfast Club next Sunday and we hope you will all get the opportunity to meet her over the next few weeks.

DIARY DATES

Tuesday 6th May – 2.30pm Wives and Friends' Anniversary

Wednesday 7th May –

10.30am – Mid week Holy Communion

Thursday 8th May –

10am – Craft group resumes

Sunday 11th May –

3pm – Circuit Assembly at Cinderford

Saturday 17th May –

10.30am – Climate and Creation Eco group

Sunday 18th May –

10.30am - Easter Offering Service (locally arranged)

12.15pm – Gerald's birthday lunch

WIVES AND FRIENDS – Tuesday 6th May is a special date for the group as it is their 75th Anniversary. There will be a short service followed by afternoon tea. All are welcome. Please see Lin Sallis for more information.

EASTER OFFERING SERVICE – this will be held on Sunday 18th May and is a service prepared by Methodist Women in Britain – all monies raised will go to the World Mission Fund. You will find envelopes for your Easter offering, on the chairs and tables throughout the church and these can be received up until 18th May. Please give generously as you are able.

SUNDAY 18TH MAY – Gerald would like to celebrate his 50th birthday with a lunch after church on 18th May. If you would like to join us please add your name to the list in the vestibule **before 9th May** together with any dietary requirements. From Rachel and Gerald

WORD FOR TODAY – the summer publication is available now. Do take a copy from the vestibule. We receive these copies free of charge – please let me have your feedback about the publication as I think we need to reduce the number of copies to avoid wastage.

Jean Davies

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

CROSSPOINT – due to other commitments I have only a one-week window to produce the magazine in June ready to distribute on 22nd June, which is definitely do-able, but it would be really helpful if I can have any contributions and information about events as early as possible – Friday 6th June is the deadline but earlier would be appreciated. Thank you! Jean Davies

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.

COFFEE MORNING ROTAS – please check if you are able to fill any of the gaps on the coffee rota's. Many thanks!

CLIMATE AND CREATION – Sophie Franklin has volunteered to set up a group to consider our planet and how we should care for it. A meeting has been arranged for Saturday 17th May at 10.30am in the church. If you are interested in being part of this please make a note in your diary and come along.

DINNER LADIES JOINT LUNCH – we had a very enjoyable lunch at The Hunter's Inn last week, so much so that I have booked another date. I have 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. I will put a list up in due course for you to sign up. 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 and Jean Davies – Email jed0606@yahoo.com or 01684 772178. The deadline is 4.30pm on Thursday.

THE MERRY MONTH OF MAY

May is the month when the ancient pagans used to get up to 'all sorts'! The Romans held their festival to honour the mother-goddess Maia, goddess of nature and growth. (May is named after her.) The early Celts celebrated the feast of Beltane, in honour of the sun god, Beli.

For centuries in 'Olde England' the people went mad in May. After the hardship of winter, and hunger of early Spring, May was a time of indulgence and unbridled merriment. One Philip Stubbes, writing in 1583, was scandalised: 'for what kissing and bussing, what smooching and slabbering one of another, is not practised?'

Henry VIII went 'maying' on many occasions. Then folk would stay out all night in the dark rain-warm thickets and return in the morning for dancing on the green around the May pole, archery, vaulting, wrestling, and evening bonfires. The Protestant reformers took a strong stand against May Day, and in 1644 May Day was abolished altogether. Many May poles came down – only to go up again at the Restoration, when the first May Day of King Charles's reign was 'the happiest Mayday that hath been many a year in England', according to Pepys.

May Day to most people today brings vague folk memories of a young Queen of the May decorated with garlands and streamers and flowers, a May Pole to weave, Morris dancing, and the intricacies of well dressing at Tissington in Derbyshire.

May Day is a medley of natural themes such as sunrise, the advent of summer, growth in nature, and – since 1833 – Robert Owen's vision of a millennium in the future, beginning on May Day, when there would be no more poverty, injustice or cruelty, but harmony and friendship. This is why, in modern times, May Day has become Labour Day, which honours the dignity of workers. And until recently, in communist countries May Day processions were in honour of the achievement of Marxism.

There has never been a Christian content to May Day, but nevertheless there is the well-known 6am service on the top of Magdalen Tower at Oxford where a choir sings in the dawn of May Day.

An old May carol includes the lines:

*The life of man is but a span, it flourishes like a flower.
We are here today and gone tomorrow – we are dead
within an hour.*

There is something of a sadness about it, both in words and tune, as there is about all purely sensuous joy. For May Day is not Easter, and the joys it represents have always been earth-bound and fleeting.