



TEWKESBURY & APPERLEY METHODIST CHURCH NOTICES

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Tewkesbury Methodist Church: Registered Charity no. 11179000

God of today and all days, be with us as we meet –
the love that binds us, the peace that calms us,
the touch that heals us, the joy that fills us, the
arms that hold us.
Be with us as we meet, God of today 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 27th September –

Tewkesbury

10.30am – Liz Ledger

Apperley

11am – Revd Steve Ward

Sunday 4th October –

Tewkesbury

10.30am – Revd Jayne Webb – Holy Communion

THIS WEEK AT TEWKESBURY

Thursday 1st – 10.00am – Craft group

Thursday 1st – 7.30pm – Men Allowed meal

Friday 2nd – 2.30pm Choir practice (check if running)

Friday 2nd – 6.30pm – Methodist Players' rehearsal

Saturday 3rd – 10.30am – Coffee morning

7.00pm – Methodist Players' Concert

ROAD CLOSURES - Just a reminder that the Mop Fair will be in Tewkesbury on Friday 9th and Saturday 10th October.

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.

SWEET CONTAINERS – Can you please save sweet containers (such as Celebrations, Roses, Heros 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.

CROSSPOINT MAGAZINE – the autumn edition is now available. Do pick up a copy if you have not received one. And note that material for the next (Christmas) edition will be required no later than 8th November. Your contributions are welcome. Jean Davies

"MEMORIES ARE MADE OF THIS"

Don't forget to get your tickets for the Tewkesbury Players' Concert next Saturday 3rd October at 7pm, price £3 – tickets available from Gill Shelley

CHRISTMAS – We were planning an extravagant Tree Festival for 2026 but due to our big building project this year, and time restrictions we have put this on hold until 2027. However for 2026, we will have a mini nativity festival (some may recall we did this a few years ago). **SO** – if you have a nativity scene that you are willing to loan to the church to display from early December, we will arrange these on the communion table and surrounding area. We will do our best to take care of these but please loan at your own risk.

CHRISTMAS CRAFT WORKSHOPS – as part of the nativity display we are going to have two workshops on Saturday 17th October and Saturday 7th November from 10.30am, to make a variety of stars and other nativity symbols – maybe a sheep or two...! The workshops were enjoyed last year and they are for ALL abilities – designs will be simple but effective. Our craft group and Di Jones are helping prepare these.

PTO



DIARY DATES – Sunday 17th January 2027
12.30pm – Festive Lunch
Saturday 30th January 2.30pm – Quiz
afternoon with refreshments.

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

COFFEE ROTAS – Saturday and Sunday

If you are able to help serve coffee please sign the rota in the vestibule. We have quite a few gaps.

THE GREEN PAGE – Greening your home this autumn. Tackle climate change and reduce your heating bills by finding and reducing the draughts in your home. Find the gaps that let cold air in and warm air out (keyholes, letterboxes and gaps around windows, doors loft hatches and floorboards for example). Do what you can to fix these gaps – there are lots of tutorials on how to do this online. It's also a good time to prepare for the winter by putting radiator reflector foil or baking foil behind the radiator. This will reflect heat back into your room.

NOTICES FOR OCTOBER will be prepared by Adrian Shelley – adandgillshelley@gmail.com. The deadline is 4.30pm on Thursday.

What is an angel? Easy, people think: a shining figure with glorious wings, who appears from time to time to do some mighty work for God or bring a very special message from him.

Well, that's right in one sense (apart from the wings, which owe more to stained glass windows than the Bible). But the fact that not all 'angels' in the Bible are 'glorious' or 'shining' should make us hesitate to categorise them in this spectacular way. After all, the three apparently

ordinary men who visited Abraham and Sarah to tell them that she would have a son even though she was long past child-bearing age had none of those outward embellishments. Nevertheless, Abraham recognised them as divine messengers.

The Bible is full of angels, from the early chapters of *Genesis* to the last chapter of *Revelation*, and often they had a key role in crucial events. It seems, from just two instances, that Michael was their leader, an 'archangel'. In many stained glass windows he's seen with a sword, because in a vision in *Revelation* he led the angelic host who fought and defeated Satan and his army.

In the Gospels, an angel of the Lord appeared to Zechariah in the Temple, to tell him that his elderly wife was to have a son, the forerunner of the Messiah, John the Baptist. An angel – Gabriel – appeared to Mary to tell her that she would be the mother of the Messiah, the Son of God. An angel appeared 'in a dream' to Joseph, the village carpenter in Nazareth, to tell him to go ahead and marry his fiancée, Mary, and later – also in a dream – warned him not to go back to Bethlehem. A 'young man', whom we take to have been an angel, was sitting in the empty tomb on Easter morning, waiting to tell the startled women that Jesus wasn't there – He had risen (Mark 16:5).

Without going into every biblical reference to angels, those should be sufficient to show that the word covers an enormous diversity of experience. So the Letter to the Hebrews speaks of those who practice hospitality as sometimes 'entertaining angels unawares'. Sometimes people recognised angels for who they were, and sometimes they didn't. Angels, quite simply, are God's agents or emissaries, messengers and ministers of His will. Sometimes they are human; sometimes they seem to be spiritual beings.

Perhaps we could even say that *anyone*, in any situation, who is at that moment God's 'messenger' to us, or serves us graciously, is an 'angel'. So, when we say, 'Oh, be an angel and pop up to the chemist for my prescription', we may be nearer the heart of the matter than we think!