



TEWKESBURY & APPERLEY METHODIST CHURCH NOTICES

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Church Website: www.tewkesburymethodistchurch.org.uk

Tewkesbury Methodist Church: Registered Charity no. 11179000



God our Creator,
You are enough for us and we have
much to be thankful for.
Widen our view of life this Christmas
Lord, so that we see more of your
goodness in a world beset by so many
misfortunes.
Broaden our understanding of the gift of
Christmas and new beginnings in the
New Year to appreciate all that You are
doing on our behalf Lord.
Strengthen our faith Lord;
to yield more to your will,
to trust you for all that is, and is yet to
be,
to depend on your graciousness and not
our ways,
to extend ourselves and lend a hand
always,
to spend and be spent in making...
our communities,
our churches and
our world, a better place for all!
This we pray, in the precious name of
Jesus Christ,
born to save us all this
Christmas. 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 28th December

Tewkesbury

10.30am – Leo Gutteridge

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

10.30am – Covenant Service with Revd Richard Clutterbuck.

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.

DIARY DATES AT TEWKESBURY

Saturday 3rd January

10.30am – Bible Club with Revd Jayne Webb

Wednesday 7th January –

10.30am – Mid-week Holy Communion

Saturday 10th January –

10.30am – Eco Group meeting (Church)

Sunday 11th January – 10.30am –

Commissioning Service – Revd Jayne Webb

Friday 16th January at Holy Trinity –

2pm – Preparation meeting for World Day of Prayer (6th March) – please see Jean or Dorothy if you are interested in being involved.

Sunday 25th January –

10.30am – Locally arranged service for Leprosy Mission.

Saturday 7th February –

Da Capo Quartet concert – more details to follow.

FESTIVE LUNCH

SUNDAY 18th JANUARY 2026

A three course festive lunch will be served on Sunday 18th January 2026 at 12.30pm - the cost will be £15.00 per head.

Tickets will be on sale from Sunday 28th December from Church Stewards

Please advise of any dietary requirements when buying tickets.

With thanks

Your Catering Team



LOCAL NEWS - The Bishop of Tewkesbury, Robert Springett, is to be the Church of England's new Lead Safeguarding Bishop, taking over from Bishop Joanne Grenfell who leaves the role at the end of March 2026, when her three-year term ends.

Bishop Robert will work closely with the National Director of Safeguarding and other members of the National Safeguarding Team.

The C of E is continuing to strengthen its safeguarding practices by committing to independent scrutiny and improving delivery. Bishop Robert said, "Safeguarding should not be seen as a burden, but embraced with joy for the opportunity it offers to serve others."

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 TIPS – please recycle/re-use wisely over the Christmas period. Paper wrapping (if not shiny or glittery) in your paper waste. Food leftovers re-imagined or frozen for later.

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 2nd February 2026. More detail will follow.

Your Welcome Space Team

THANK YOU! – we take so many of our church family for granted so this is a big "thank you" to all of you – those that plan events, organise services, do readings, cover coffee mornings, make cakes, play for us, go up and down ladders, sort our repairs, take care of our pastoral needs, prepare communion, look after

our garden, arrange our flowers, clean our building, do our Powerpoint presentations, sort out our sound, deal with our lettings, look after our finances, organise endless rotas, maintain our website, prepare our weekly notices, contribute to our church magazine, those that pick up the endless small jobs that "someone" will do, and very much not least – those who pray for the church family and the life of our church. Bless you all – you are SO appreciated!! (Apologies for those I may have missed – these are the "invisible" servers quietly getting on with it....)

NOTICES FOR JANUARY will be prepared by Jean Davies – jed0606@yahoo.com or 01684 772178. The deadline is 4.30pm on Thursday.

Nigel Beeton writes: For some people their path to Christ is short – an epiphany moment, if you will. But the original recipients of an epiphany revelation – the magi – had a very long journey from the moment of seeing the star to that of worshipping at the feet of Jesus. That must have been a long and very difficult journey, with setbacks and temptations to rest a while in the oases, but they persevered and were rewarded for doing so...

Endless Desert?

We cross the endless desert sands
To seek a Royal Son,
We've travelled from our distant lands,
So long since we'd begun.

Oases lie along our way
With cool, clear waters deep;
Their wayside pleasures bid us stay
Therein to sup and sleep.

Yet, drawn by yonder shining star
We rise and take our leave;
Our onward route may yet be far
But we will still believe.

Ignoring pains and tempting calls
To cease our onward trek –
The faithful get up after falls
Their aim no fall can wreck.

At last we reach our journey's end
We meet God's Saviour Son!
Our gifts we offer as we bend –
Our path to life is won!

By Nigel Beeton