



TEWKESBURY & APPERLEY METHODIST CHURCH NOTICES

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Tewkesbury Methodist Church: Registered Charity no. 11179000



God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
whose years never fail
and whose mercies are new each returning
day:
let the radiance of your Spirit renew our
lives,
warming our hearts and giving light to our
minds;
that we may pass the coming year
in joyful obedience and firm faith;
through him who is the beginning and the
end,
your Son, Christ our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. 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 4th January – please note there will be **no** Breakfast Club today.

10.30am – Covenant Service and Holy Communion 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

Wednesday 7th January –

10.30am – Mid-week Holy Communion (with Revd Carrie Seaton)

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 18th January – 25th January – Week of prayer for Christian Unity.

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

Week of prayer for Christian Unity – 18th – 25th January 2026 This year the prayers and reflections are from the Armenian Apostolic Church, along with the Armenian Catholic and Evangelical Churches.

These resources draw upon centuries-old traditions of prayer and petitions used by the Armenian people, along with hymns that originated in the ancient monasteries and churches of Armenia, some of which date as far back as the fourth century.

They extend an invitation to draw upon this shared Christian heritage and to delve more deeply into our fellowship in Christ, which unites Christians worldwide.

PTO

Do you want to try saving a little more during 2026? Maybe for next Christmas or maybe for your favourite charity.....? Try the 1p Savings Challenge! You start by saving 1p on 1 January, then 2p on 2 January, then 3p on 3 January and so on – saving what you saved the day before, plus a penny more each day – right the way up to £3.65 saved on the last day of December. So – with all that being said – if you start on 1 January 2026, then by 31 December 2026 you'll have saved a grand total of £667.95. Got it?

COFFEE ROTAS – Saturday and Sunday

Rotas are now up including dates into the summer (now there's a nice thought!) so if you are able to cover a Saturday 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 – no specific tips today but this is the ideal time to make a new year resolution to be much more conscious of how you can help our planet by your actions and being more mindful of what you can do – every small action will help, for example, decide to buy only eco-friendly cleaning products this year.

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.

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.

This month we celebrate Epiphany, the occasion on which we remember the Magi from the East following a star to find the baby Jesus: *'Where is the One who has been born king of the Jews?'* (Matthew 2:1). At the start of a New Year, in an uncertain world, we can be asking the same question. The gifts the Magi offered point us to how Jesus can answer our concerns and worries: *'they bowed down and worshipped Him...and presented Him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.'* (2:11).

The *gift of gold* reflects that the Magi saw in the baby a king, destined to rule over us all. In this coming year we need to remember that Jesus is on the throne, the seat of power and authority in the whole universe. Will we crown Him king of our lives and dedicate all that we are and do to Him?

The *gift of frankincense* reflects that the visitors saw not just an earthly king, but God in human flesh. Incense symbolises the prayers of God's people and so this gift reminds us that God is worthy of our worship and prayer. Will we offer our praise and prayer, as we seek God to guide us through the uncertainties of this coming year?

The *gift of myrrh* reflects that these astrologers saw beyond the baby's birth and life, to His death which would secure life for all. Jesus was offered myrrh on the cross and was a spice used in His tomb. As we face challenges in the future, we can be confident that Jesus knows and understands our experience. Are we ready to trust Him in everything?

'Glorious now behold Him arise, King and God and Sacrifice! Heav'n sings Hallelujah: Hallelujah the earth replies.' ('We Three Kings').