



## TEWKESBURY & APPERLEY METHODIST CHURCH NOTICES

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Tewkesbury Methodist Church: Registered Charity no. 11179000



**This day is your precious gift, received with gratitude. Direct our thoughts and actions, that we might make best use of it in the worship and service of our lives. This day is your precious gift; help us share it with joy. 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 22<sup>nd</sup> June –**

**Tewkesbury –**

**9.15am – Praise and Worship**

**10.30am – Mr Robert Carr**

**Apperley –**

**11am – Mr Russell Buley**

**Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> June –**

**Tewkesbury –**

**10.30am – Local arrangement including a tribute to Pat Moss.**

**3pm – VE and VJ Days & Armed Forces Day Thanksgiving service.**

### THIS WEEK AT TEWKESBURY

**Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> June –**

**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 27<sup>th</sup> June –**

**2.30pm – Choir practice**

**Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> June –**

**10.00am – Book Club**

**10.30am – Eco group – all welcome**

**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.

### DIARY DATES

**Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> June**

**10.00am – Book Club**

**Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> June**

**3.00pm – VE and VJ days and Armed Forces Day Thanksgiving service**

**Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> July**

**2.30pm – Wives and Friends AGM**

**Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> July**

**10.30am – Mid week Holy Communion**

**Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> July**

**10am – Church summer fete**

**Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> July**

**9.15am – Wild Green Breakfast Club**

**Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> July**

**7.30pm – Church Council Meeting**

**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

**CROSSPOINT –** copies of the summer edition are ready for distribution.

**SUMMER FETE –** We are planning our fete on 5<sup>th</sup> July and would appreciate donations of books, jigsaws, Tombola prizes, unwanted gifts (not bric-a-brac please), crafts and jewelry. We shall also have several independent crafters selling on the day. In addition to coffee and cake, we will also be serving light lunches – thanks to Jackie and Heather. If you are able to assist on the day with any stall do let one of the stewards know. Help in setting up on the day before, and also clearing away at the end would also be appreciated.

**CHURCH CHAIRS –** We hope you find the new chairs comfortable. As we clear the church for the Fete on 5<sup>th</sup> July they will certainly be appreciated as they are light and stackable. They cost £175 each, and if you feel you would like to contribute to this cost and/or sponsor a chair please contact Adrian Shelley who would be pleased to talk to you about it. From Your Welcome Space Team.

**The story behind the hymn:**  
'Eternal Father Strong to Save'

*Eternal Father, strong to save,  
Whose arm hath bound the restless wave,  
Who bidd'st the mighty ocean deep  
Its own appointed limits keep;  
Oh, hear us when we cry to Thee,  
For those in peril on the sea!*

*O Christ! Whose voice the waters heard  
And hushed their raging at Thy word,  
Who walked'st on the foaming deep,  
And calm amidst its rage didst sleep;  
Oh, hear us when we cry to Thee,  
For those in peril on the sea!*

*Most Holy Spirit! Who didst brood  
Upon the chaos dark and rude,  
And bid its angry tumult cease,  
And give, for wild confusion, peace;  
Oh, hear us when we cry to Thee,  
For those in peril on the sea!*

*O Trinity of love and power!  
Our brethren shield in danger's hour;  
From rock and tempest, fire and foe,  
Protect them wheresoe'er they go;  
Thus evermore shall rise to Thee  
Glad hymns of praise from land and sea.*

**T**he author of these words, William Whiting, was an Anglican clergyman in Winchester, which is hardly a seaside town. Yet Whiting had not only grown up by the sea but had nearly died in it. As a young man he had been on a ship that got caught in a violent storm, and afterwards he felt certain it was only God who had saved the ship from sinking that night.

Some years later, as headmaster of the Winchester College Choristers' School, Whiting was approached by a student in distress. The student was due to sail to the USA and was simply terrified at the thought of 3,000 miles of ocean. To try and reassure the student, Whiting decided to share his experience. And so, he wrote this poem, basing the description of the power and fury of the sea on Psalm 107.

It is not known if it helped the nervous student or not, but within a year the poem had become a hymn, and soon sailed into the influential first edition of *Hymns Ancient and Modern* of 1861.

Another Anglican clergyman, John B Dykes, wrote the music for it. He was already a successful composer, with 300 hymns to his name. Dykes named this tune 'Melita', after an old name for Malta, where St Paul was once shipwrecked. Whiting released two more versions of the lyrics, in 1869 and in 1874.

During the rest of the 19<sup>th</sup> century the hymn became a favourite with the Royal Navy and the United States Navy. Other Services adapted it, including the Royal Marines, the Royal Air Force, the British Army, and the United States Coast Guard. Above all, it became known as the Royal Navy Hymn.

Well into the 20<sup>th</sup> century, it was the favourite hymn of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, who had served as Secretary of the Navy during the Second World War. In 1963 *Eternal Father* was played by the Navy Band, as President John F. Kennedy's body was carried up the steps of the U.S. Capitol to lie in state. (Kennedy had been a PT boat commander in World War II.)

More recently, *Eternal Father* made a 'guest appearance' in the Hollywood blockbuster *Titanic* and is also often chosen by ship's chaplains for use in civilian services at sea.



**NOTICES FOR JUNE** will be prepared jointly by Adrian Shelley - [adandgillshelley@gmail.com](mailto:adandgillshelley@gmail.com) or 01684 297411 and Jean Davies – Email [jed0606@yahoo.com](mailto:jed0606@yahoo.com) or 01684 772178. The deadline is 4.30pm on Thursday.