

Dear Friends

Jesus was outrageously inclusive, even scandalously so as far as the religious authorities were concerned. Sadly the wider church has not always followed his example and this, at least in part, has contributed to many seeing the church as irrelevant in the context of modern life when diversity is such an inherent aspect of current society.



Most often excluding people is not an intentional act; it is more to do with a lack of awareness and understanding. Perhaps, for example, resources used in worship are not easy for some to use or perhaps the church building or its facilities are inaccessible for others. Sometimes though we make judgments about people who are very different from ourselves, and being as outrageously inclusive as Jesus was can feel very uncomfortable.

At Tewkesbury Methodist church we are committed to being as inclusive as we can be and have a number of up and coming priorities to work towards. In November we have a workshop for our leadership teams which will help us to better understand how we can embrace diversity. In the spring of next year we have on our church agenda a broad discussion about marriage and relationships which will also help us to understand and raise awareness of some of the key decisions to be taken at Methodist Conference in 2020.

Churches Together in Tewkesbury are also working towards embracing diversity and next year there will be a joint workshop for us all to engage in so that we might all reach out to our Town, its communities and its visitors with a strong message that all are truly welcome in this place.

If any of you are interested in getting more involved in this work or attending any of the forthcoming workshops then do watch out for more information in the notices or get in touch if you have any ideas or feel that you would like to be more actively involved with these priorities.

In the meantime I would like to commend to you a book that has helped my awareness no end since the parents of the author (friends of mine from a previous church) introduced me to it back in September. The book comprises the poems written by their very gifted son Matthew, who is autistic. Through each of the poems he shines a light for us on what it is to live with autism and what it is to be excluded. This beautiful book has entirely changed my perception and hopefully my ability to reach out to those who struggle to be understood in the way that Matthew has. Here is one of his poems.

Jayne

***The importance of play***

*They expected me to go and play  
With other children in the street  
But there were no rules; to my dismay so  
So I just stared down at my feet.  
I knew they were cross, but knew not why  
Why was playtime so important  
I didn't get anywhere though I tried  
Yet everyone seemed defiant.  
The teachers said that I must join in  
My parents ever had pursued  
To make me play - my head is in a spin  
This was something I could not do.  
The guilt that I felt sure new no bounds  
I knew that I was different  
Just from the looks and many frowns  
But that was quite irrelevant.*

Matthew Ansell © 2018

Uncovering Autism  
A Book of Poetry  
Matthew Ansell  
Paragon Publishing 2018  
ISBN 978-1-78222-642-0

NOVEMBER 2019 – Well – time has flown by since the last edition of Crosspoint, and it is now perfectly acceptable to mention Christmas! We are excited about our Christmas Tree Festival coming up – more about that later in the magazine. Suffice it to say, it will be spectacular!

It's lovely to hear from Ann Leathwood and Pat and Frank Manning in this edition. We remember them all with love and affection and continue to wish them good health and happiness as they spend time with their families.

We have exciting news for next summer, as we will be hosting a sculpture exhibition. These are sculptures by Debs Harrison who ed our worship during the summer and brought illustrations of her work. We were so impressed, we asked if we could exhibit them – they will be coming in May for 6 weeks, and she and Jayne have spent time planning four of the Sunday services themed around a different piece each week. We are so privileged to have these amazing works of art in or church. More information in our next edition.

We are beginning to get to know our new friends at Winchcombe, and we all enjoyed afternoon tea at TMC in September together with friends from Apperley, Hartpury and Tibberton. A further “social” is planned for next summer.

Once again, a thank you to our contributors. Your input makes it a much more interesting magazine to read - please keep them coming. Contributions for the next edition need to be with me by 9<sup>th</sup> February please.

Finally please consider making a donation to our Advent Charity – Homelessness and Hospitality. More information about this later in the magazine.

Very best wishes for a peaceful Christmastide from all in the Publicity and Crosspoint team – “Prepare our hearts, O Lord, not only for the celebration to come, but also for sharing the good news with friends and family. Give us courage and a willingness to share the love that came to earth and walked among us”.

Jean Davies

## ***Church Family News from Tewkesbury***

We send our love and prayers to John Beardsley, Kath Hutton, Wendy Treble, Tony Duford, Betty Martin, Janet Webster, Dianne Harrington, Denise Dempster, Mary Davies, Betty Martin, Bette Usher, Wendy Allen, Pat and Phil Taylor, Audrey Simpson, Jenny LeMarechal and Arthur, and Anders Alling (resident in Sweden).



We remember and send our love to all the members of our church family who live in Residential Homes: Joan Bottrell, Nora Booth, Joan Batsford, Nellie Pearson, Nesta Harris and Irene Pye.

We also send greetings to all those who have moved away but still receive a copy of Crosspoint.

Many of you will be aware that Pam Heming has recently died and we hold Pam and family in our prayers.

Congratulations to Roy and Sue Edlin who have recently celebrated their diamond wedding anniversary and to Roy who has had a 90<sup>th</sup> birthday! Roy has asked that I pass on their thanks for all the good wishes they have received. We love a celebration Roy! Iris Brown has also celebrated a milestone 70<sup>th</sup> birthday and we enjoyed a lovely cake after morning service. Hot off the press, I'm pleased to pass on the good news of the safe arrival of Benjamin Paul Stych, son for Adam and Bethany (and brother for Amelia) and another grandchild for Peter and Margaret. Many congratulations to all the family. Adam and family hope to get over to the UK next year.

Our usual Christmas message from Ann (Leathwood) has arrived. It is always a pleasure to hear from Ann and the message she sends to us all.

“Writing this message for the Christmas edition of Crosspoint, has challenged me to think – ‘How will I prepare myself once again for this Holy Season?’

And with all the turmoil and anxiety of the situation regarding our own country and the world, it is hard to put everything into perspective. ‘Amidst the noise of sin and strife – we want to hear again the angels sing the good news’ of the coming of Jesus which certainly changed the world for ever.

I have therefore decided to use again a book I purchased and used a few years ago, which on re-reading I know I will find food for thought and stimulation for Advent, Christmas and Epiphany. I can recommend Maggi Dawn’s ‘Beginnings and Endings’. Maggi is an Anglican priest who at one time was Chaplain of Cambridge University, now living, I believe, in the USA. She is a song writer too and I came across Hymn 173 in Singing the Faith – I quote verse 3 –

O Holy Child Emmanuel,  
Hope of ages, God with us,  
Visit again this broken place,  
Till all the earth declares your praise,  
And your great mercies own,  
Now let your love be born in us,  
O Come Lord Jesus, come.

Maggi Dawn

I pray that this Advent season will bring joy to your heart, a joy the world cannot give, a joy to uplift you when your spirit feels low, a joy to sustain you when your life feels weary, the joy of knowing that the Lord is with you this Christmas and always.

Every blessing and good wishes with the assurance of my continuing love, concerns and prayers for you all.

‘Emmanuel – God is with us’.

A Happy Christmas and a brighter, peaceful New Year. Fondest remembrances and our love –

Ann Leathwood and family

**God bless you Ann, for your words. We too, send greetings and love to you and your family.**

### **A Prayer for Advent**

**God of hope who brought love into this world, thank you for the love that dwells between us.**

**God of hope who brought peace into this world, thank you for the peace that dwells between us.**

**God of hope who brought joy into this world, thank you for the joy that dwells between us.**

**God of hope, the rock upon which we stand, thank you for the vision that unites us this day and throughout this Advent time.**

#### **From Jackie Dobbs – Christmas Fete**

I would just like to thank everyone who helped at the Christmas fete despite the appalling weather conditions. Moving chairs, putting up 13 stalls, decorating the church, working in the kitchen, helping on the stalls and clearing up afterwards - A small team who did an amazing job and raised £871 on the day. (Now increased to £930).

A special “thank you” must go to Audrey Simpson who although unwell still ran her jewellery stall which through the years has raised thousands of pounds for the Church.

So thank you one and all.

## However did we arrive here?

Or

### A potted history of the Christian Church in umpteen episodes – Part 6

Ours is not the only non-Anglican Protestant Church in Tewkesbury. There is, for instance, an active Baptist Church, and until the early 1970s there was a Congregational Church in Barton Street. To discover how they arrived on the scene we must go back to where the last episode in our story ended – with the Church in England breaking away from Rome, but remaining Catholic in worship and doctrine.

In the latter years of Henry VIII's reign those who had been influenced by the Continental Reformation gained ground and the Church of England became more Protestant. When Henry died in 1547 he was succeeded by the 9-year old Edward, his son by his third marriage, to Jane Seymour. Under successive Protectors ( Regents ) , who had great authority, the Reformation of worship and doctrine continued. Cranmer's liturgical English ( still beloved by many today ) made its appearance in the moderate 1549 Prayer Book, whilst the 1552 Book reflected Reformed liturgy and doctrine in all its fullness. The Church was thoroughly Protestant !

Until Edward died in 1553 and was succeeded by Mary Tudor, daughter of the discarded Katherine of Aragon, who had no cause to love the new religion. England became Roman Catholic again, and many of those who didn't change with it paid the ultimate price. Just outside the Cathedral Close in Gloucester is the memorial to Bishop John Hooper, who was burnt at the stake there in 1555, with the Cathedral Chapter being forced to watch from a window. He was one of almost 90 such victims of cruel bigotry during Mary's reign. Lest we Protestants become too smug, however, we should reflect that there is not too much to choose between being burnt alive and being hung, drawn and quartered, the fate of some Catholic priests under Mary's Protestant successors !

Now ( at last ! ) we come to the link between this and Protestant Non-conformity, as represented by Baptists, Congregationalists etc. To escape persecution in Mary's reign many Reformers fled to the Continent, and there became "more radicalized". When Elizabeth became Queen in 1558, on the death of her half-sister, and England again became Protestant, they were able to return home. Many, however, were unhappy with Elizabeth's "middle of the road" approach

and the Church of England created by it. They maintained that only such things as were specifically prescribed in Scripture should feature in worship. Out should go the sign of the cross in baptism, the ring in marriage etc. Some of these Reformers remained in the C of E, and became its Puritan wing. Others broke away and formed new congregations. Some of these were Presbyterian, joined with others in groups called "Presbyteries": others were "Independent" or "Congregational", valuing self-government : others were "Baptists", believing that baptism should be of believers and by total immersion in water. The first "Independent" congregation was created in London in 1567, and the first Baptist secession from the Independents was in 1612.

In Tewkesbury there was a Baptist presence by 1623 – the Old Baptist Chapel is probably later than that, but well worth a visit. The former Congregational chapel in Barton Street ( now housing the Jehovah's Witnesses ) was originally Presbyterian, but was made over to the Independents around 1670 as their numbers increased. In the C18th a Dissenting Academy was founded – now the "Tudor House" Hotel. The hymn-writer Philip Doddridge ( ( see StF 171, 475 & 669 ) ministered in our town in the 1700s, and his wife is I believe , buried behind the Barton Street chapel.

Here we must leave the Protestant Dissenters! Next time – the Methodists appear.

John Beardsley



church\_1 www.fotosearch.com



## ADVENT OFFERING

It has been our practice in recent years to support a charity during Advent as a means of giving rather than receiving. We have filled “bags for life” with groceries for the Foodbank and also given Dignity Bags for distribution to refugee women from Syria and other countries. This year we would like to support the charity promoted by the Methodist Church. The following is from the Methodist Church website.

**Our theme for this year's Advent Offering for the Mission in Britain Fund is 'Homelessness & Hospitality'. It focuses on personal stories from people with experience of homelessness who are making positive changes to their life thanks to the hospitality of the Bristol Methodist Centre. The support they are receiving is varied: from meals, clothes and shower facilities to one-to-one counselling, help with benefits and prayer.**

**According to the housing charity Shelter, more than 320,000 people in the UK were without a home at the end of 2018 – and the numbers just keep on rising. Join us in lifting the veil of stigma surrounding homeless people to reveal the real human heart beating beneath.**

**We also take a look at the *Homeless Jesus* statues that, from 2013 onwards, have mushroomed all around the world. The life-size sculptures are a visual translation of **Matthew 25:37-40**, a powerful reminder that “... *just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.*”**

**We will be leaving envelopes in the pews during Advent and hope that you will consider making a donation to help those so much worse off than ourselves.**

# **FAIRTRADE**

**Just a reminder that the sales are held in the church after service on the second Sunday and during the coffee morning on the fourth Saturday each month. Please tell your friends and neighbours about the Saturday morning stall so that we can spread the word about Fair-Trade in a practical way.**

**Roger and Dorothy Davis**



RECIPROCAL

Download from [maggot.com/2004/08/](http://maggot.com/2004/08/)

## **HOUSE GROUPS**

**Save the date! – House Group  
Away-Day –  
Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> June 2020  
At Holland House, Cropthorne**



there I Am in the midst

## **CHURCH FAMILY AWAY DAY**

As you are aware we can no longer have our Church Family Away weekends at Lindors as it has now been sold.

Whilst trying to find a new venue we thought it would be nice to have just an Away Day, at Holland House in Crothorne. It is residential but is not really suitable for us to stay, with no lifts or ensuite rooms. However, it is a beautiful place for a Day retreat. The building is a Tudor house with a lovely light and modern chapel, and all set in beautiful grounds which sweep down to the river.

I have booked Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> August 2020 for our day together. The cost will be £20 per person which includes coffee and biscuits, a two course lunch and tea and cake.

Please put the date in your diary if you are interested or give your name to either myself or Mike Jebson. There will be further details in the February edition of Crosspoint.

Jackie Dobbs

### **HARTPURY METHODIST CHURCH**

**The Morris Room**

**Now available to hire: medium sized room with kitchen adjoining.**

**Suitable for parties, retreats, meetings etc.**

**Reasonable hire charges!**

**For more information please contact Janet Freeman (01452)840334  
or Liz and David Ledger (01452) 840978**

## **A Letter from Frank and Pat Manning**

Our 15<sup>th</sup> journey to Australia to attend the wedding of our grandson Andrew!

We left the Isle of Man at 8.45am on 2<sup>nd</sup> September, very excited at the thought of seeing our other family again. Arriving in Sydney at 6.15am on 4<sup>th</sup> September, without luggage – that was in Doha due to the late arrival in Doha. The luggage arrived the next morning. So good to be there, met the family dog, Lexi – very exuberant!

We were immediately involved in doing things for the wedding – it was lovely to be helping. The wedding day was clear and bright – a photographer arrived at 9am taking pictures all day. The Wedding service, in a Coptic Christian Church, was mainly in Arabic as Monica is Egyptian, two bible readings in English, also the Lord's Prayer. There was no congregation input, no hymns – we stood or sat as needed, many icons and pictures, very golden, lots of priests and deacon with chanting and cymbals and triangle. Andrew and Monica enjoyed their marriage service so much, and looked so happy and relaxed throughout.

The Reception was at an Activity Centre about an hour out of Sydney – we were there for 2 nights in a cabin – wonderful! – could have stayed a week! The young people were Glamping, including the bride and groom – amazing. Bacon and egg butties the next morning, BBQ and tea. A wonderful occasion.

Home on 30<sup>th</sup> September – always sad to leave the family, but good to be home again. Andrew and Monica are to be on the Island for Christmas and New Year – great, and maybe our middle grandson Peter, and his girlfriend, Tara!

We wish all at TMC a very happy, peaceful and meaningful Christmas!

Blessings

Pat and Frank Manning

## NEWS FROM APPERLEY

*From Peter Stych*



Writing this page now as we have just had the first major flood of the winter reminds us of the inconvenience of not being able to get to our usual venues or carparks for our activities.

But in early September we welcomed to our Church Anniversary a lady visitor who had travelled from Birmingham especially as she was researching her family tree and had arrived at a young man who had originated here in Apperley and was killed in World War 1.

She was very interested to find more details from a plaque and recent information panel on the Church wall and we have been able to follow this up with further information about the family. It was interesting to learn that she had found our service details from the Tewkesbury and Apperley website.

Our Harvest Festival at the end of September was another very successful occasion. I am pleased to pass on the thanks of Tewkesbury Food Bank to everyone for your generous contributions. It was unfortunate that the weather prevented us from enjoying our bring and share lunch out in the gardens, but the indoor fellowship was most enjoyable.

We look forward now to our **Christmas services**. In particular our **Carols by Candlelight** at **7.00 pm** on **Wednesday December 18th** and our **Morning Carol Service** at **11.00 am** on **Sunday December 22nd** This will be the first visit to lead worship by Revd. John Hellyer, the new Circuit Superintendent, so we look forward to meeting him for this special occasion.

I wish everyone a happy and joyous Christmastide.

## WINCHCOMBE METHODIST CHURCH

It has been an interesting, and not too testing a time for us as we adjust to 'our Jayne' and, of course, she to us – Methodism has lots of faults but the idea of periodically moving our clergy around the country provides many challenges.

Ideas and thoughts are so interesting as we, the congregation, realise that the hymns and also the ways of each of us are so varied -- gone are some of those

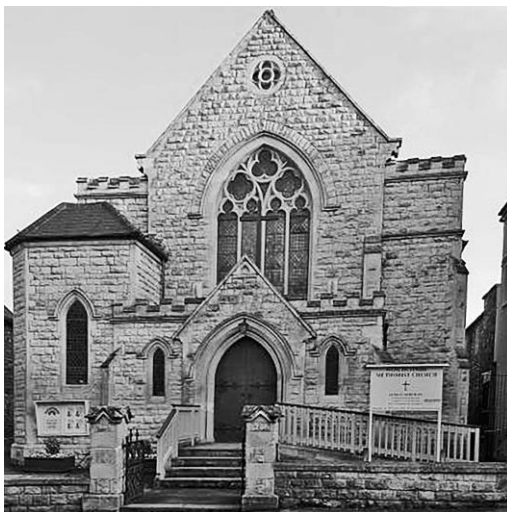
familiar tunes and words (good job say some!) – adaptability is such a great asset and as the years pass we find it more and more difficult to change those paths!

Christmas is looming large and we have much to be get excited about – busy, busy: but in the midst we are reminded more and more of the amount of foodbanks and the poverty surrounding us, not just overseas but here and now- not the Cotswolds they say --- but yes truly!

Winchcombe has a wonderful, recently introduced Open Evening, generally the first Tuesday in December – the churches open their doors, as do the shops, there is a street market, carol singers and brass bands, much merriment and an atmosphere of the town folk coming together, irrespective of colour or creed.

The fellowship of masses of people meeting is experienced at the August Bank Holiday Show and the solemn, but very powerful, assembly on the main village square on Remembrance Sunday. Over 100 names are on the memorial cross and the 'togetherness' of friends and strangers is palpable.

Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2020 is a very special day as we once again gather for our covenant service at which we celebrate all that God has done for us and affirm that we give our lives and choices to God with our most wonderful John Wesley prayer---- I am no longer my own but yours.....



You don't need a pass to visit us – all ARE WELCOME – try a ride out on a Thursday and have coffee from 10am until noon.

All good wishes from your friends and family in the Cotswolds

From Geoff Onions – Senior Steward

**The distinctive characteristics of the Gospels of Mark,  
Matthew & Luke**  
**(Article by Robert Carr)**

The Gospels of Mark, Matthew and Luke differ in style and their intended readership, but hold in common many of the same parables and similar ordering of events. This close alignment in content and ordering of events has led them to be referred to collectively as the 'Synoptic Gospels'

There has been much debate and study about the sources the Gospel writers used. One of the most popular theories, about the sources used for the Gospels, suggests that Matthew and Luke used Mark as a reference source. Matthew and Luke then added material from other unknown sources, some of which may have been first-hand accounts, plus other writings and sayings about Jesus.

Mark is thought to be the earliest Gospel and was written for gentile, or non Jewish Christians around 70AD, after the first Jewish revolt and the destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem. The beginning of the Gospel declares Jesus is the 'Son of God' with John the Baptist making way for the Lord, foretold about by Isaiah 40:3, although the first line is taken from Malachi 3:1.

Mark, unlike the Gospels of Luke and Matthew, does not see the need to explain the genealogy of either Jesus or John the Baptist to his intended readership, who would have known about Jesus' and John's ancestry. His style is very direct giving a sense of immediacy and concern for explaining about the 'good news of Jesus'. Very little is said about the disciples or Jesus' relationship with them and how they met. Mark tells of how the disciples dropped what they were doing, leaving their old life behind and giving insight into how we should view discipleship.

Matthew, was originally thought of as the earliest of the four Gospels, but Biblical scholars now consider it was written later, at around 80AD to 90AD. It is thought to have been written for Jewish Christians or Jews and is concerned with establishing Jesus' genealogy back to King David and Abraham, placing Jesus within Jewish heritage.

Matthew frequently quotes from the prophecies, to demonstrate that Jesus' actions are a fulfilment of the prophecy about the coming of the Messiah. He includes many more sermons of Jesus' and stories told by Jesus than Mark.

Throughout Matthews Gospel there are many sayings and repeated phrases of Jesus which give a sense of continuity, and depth to the places and people. Matthew sees it as important to the story that we understand that the stories involve real people and their lives, we see this in details given about the work the disciples did before they followed him and the events that led up to them becoming his disciples. He really brings the sermons to life; the language makes you feel you could have been there, listening to Jesus talking. The style of the text feels very much like something that was said, rather than written.

Luke's Gospel is considered volume one of a two part work; the second volume being 'The Book Of Acts' in which he chronicles the missionary work of the faithful including St Paul. In both works he addresses Theophilus, who could be a real person of standing in Roman society, or it could mean 'Beloved by God'; meaning any Christian.

Luke's writings are very different to the other two Gospels. He uses a very poetic and polished style that gives the impression that every phrase was carefully chosen to make the right impression on the reader.

He is concerned with recording and setting everything out to give a true account (Luke 1:3 – 4).

There are slight changes to the order of some events, compared to the other two gospels. Some sayings of Jesus are used in connection with different events. One such saying 'Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head' (Luke 9:58), is used just after Jesus has been turned away from the Samaritan village, whereas Matthew (Matt 8:20) uses this saying after



crossing the lake.

Luke, gives us a sense of the importance, of spreading the gospel; he is the only writer to mention sending out the 'seventy-two', although Mark and Matthew write about taking the gospel to the nations. It is Luke who looks forward to the continuation of Jesus' work, the Ascension and the promise to send the Holy Spirit (Luke 24:49) which the disciples receive at Pentecost (Acts 2:4).

The three gospels each tell the same basic story about the life, death and resurrection of Christ, but they come at it from their different perspectives. Mark, writing as he did for the Gentiles, did not see it as necessary to the story about Jesus' ministry, to explain how Jesus' life and work was a fulfilment of the prophecies. Matthew, considered it important to his Jewish readers, who would be mindful of the prophecies, and would be asking, is this man the Messiah? Matthew goes to great trouble to point out and establish Jesus as the Jewish Messiah. Luke, looks to the future and ends on a joyous note with the Ascension of Jesus and the promise of the coming of the Holy Spirit.

The Gospels tell of how God initiated a new relationship with the faithful, one that was foretold about in the Old Testament. This new relationship is based on love, truth and justice, and is revealed to us in Jesus Christ. Through the work of the people, written about by the New Testament writers, we our inspired, as our forebears were, to continue the work of bringing the 'Good News' of the Gospels to the world.

*Dear Friends,*

*I hope you enjoyed reading this article on the Synoptic Gospels. The article forms part of the work required for the WL&P course and it would help if you could spend 5 minutes to give me feedback. The following questions could be used to help guide your response: 1) Did you learn something new? 2) Has the article deepened your understanding about why these three Gospels are in the Bible? 3) Does this article help or hinder your understanding about the life of Jesus Christ? 4) Have you gained any new insight into how the Bible developed?*

*Please place you responses in the 'Link tray' or email [robert@maketime4life.co.uk](mailto:robert@maketime4life.co.uk).*

*Thank you*

*Robert Carr*

## Article from John Rowe of Winchcombe - a compulsive article writer)

Over a period of 20 plus years a favourite uncle and I would exchange letters on a quarterly basis and sometimes more frequently, commenting on all kinds of topical subjects and observations and about life's experiences.

Here is an extract from my letter sent 21<sup>st</sup> November 1999 exactly 20 years ago as the Millennium was about to end.

I was commenting on modern technology and how fashions and phraseology is being influenced by these changes. I went on to list my current pet hates and to ask if he had similar comments and observations.

Instead of sending a letter or ringing an organisation you are asked to – “Contact us on WWW.....or you can email if you cannot raise me on my mobile” – which incidentally will cost you considerably more than sending a letter. This technology was quickly used by the younger generation and the following could happen. When answering my mobile I might be in a boring lesson and using my mouse to surf the internet. That child could be a six year old who cannot add up or spell correctly. Teenagers are the biggest users of mobiles - they could be speaking to a friend that they spoke to five minutes earlier, when they forgot to say I'll see you at the night club at about 11pm after our parents have gone to bed! A typical overheard conversation could sound like this – ‘You know like, he's a cool guy like, anythink goes with him, you know his pad is way out like!’

Other sayings used in all walks of life: - ‘At the end of the day,’ ‘Oh my God’, ‘Brill’, ‘Basically’, ‘I'm devastated,’ ‘The concept is,’ and so on.

The Irish who are always “having meaningful dialogue” whilst carrying out the political process.

So what has changed, not much for the better I am sad to say.

## ECO – CHURCH

I'm delighted to report that our monthly Viriditas meetings led by Jayne, are proceeding well after 3 sessions. Lots of ideas have come out of the meetings including:-

- striving for our Gold Eco-church award
- Do some toilet-twinning
- Invite speakers on “green” matters to our church
- Investigate Vision 21 – a local charity
- Establishing a “Living Wall” in our Link area together with a dedicated notice board for “green” issues.
- Experience our “oneness” with God through nature, and creation spirituality
- Look at the work of Extinction Rebellion
- Continue to encourage recycling and reuse of everyday items.

If you have anything you want to add to our list, or have suggestions as to what we can do to preserve our world for future generations do let me know, or even better come along to the meetings held on the first Saturday of each month either in the church or guildroom.

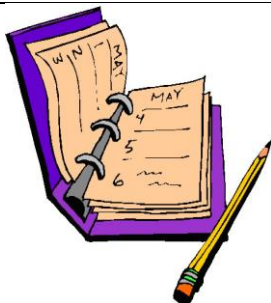
Jean Davies

## CHURCH MEETINGS

**Church Leadership Team – Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December and 7<sup>th</sup> January**  
**Worship Forum – Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> March**  
**Property – Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> January**  
**Stewards – Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> January**  
**Tewkesbury Churches Together – Monday 13<sup>th</sup> January**  
**Pastoral – Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> November 11am**  
**Publicity – 10<sup>th</sup> February**

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Please see the weekly notices or our website for more detailed information about events



### **November**

Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> – Tewkesbury Christmas lights

Sat 30<sup>th</sup> – Pastoral meeting 11am Guildroom  
Messy Church

### **December**

Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> – Breakfast Praise

Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> – First Monday 2.30pm

Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> – Tewkesbury Players Concert

Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> – Advent service at the Abbey 6pm

Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> – Christmas Tree Festival opens

Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> – Tewkesbury Town Carol Service

Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> – Coffee morning with carol singing. Christmas Tree  
Festival Celebration 3pm

Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> – Carols by Candlelight at Apperley 7pm

Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> – WI Carol Concert

Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> – Carols by Candlelight – punch from 5pm.

Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> – Christmas Eve service 11.15pm

Christmas Day – Family Service 10am

### **January 2020**

Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> – Breakfast Praise – Epiphany theme

Epiphany service at the Abbey 6pm

Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> – Festive lunch 12.30 (pre-booking required)

Please note that in **March** we will have “Green” worship on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup>. There will also be the World Day of Prayer at our church at 2pm.

## **CHURCH SERVICES –**

Any alteration to dates and or times will be shown in the weekly notices (also available on our website). The church is also open to visitors on Saturday mornings (coffee morning) and most Wednesday mornings between 10am and 12 noon during the winter months.

*A service is held every Sunday at Tewkesbury at 10.30am service (with occasional changes to times as per the notices).*

*10.30am service **with** Holy Communion is the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of each month.*

*Breakfast Praise takes place on the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month at 9.15am. An evening service **with** Holy Communion is held on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of each month at 6pm.*

*We do not have a Junior Church as such, but all families and children are welcome to any of our services though there will be particular emphasis on involving children in our 9.15am Breakfast Praise.*

### **CROSSPOINT MAGAZINE COSTS**

**We would appreciate your continued financial support for the production of Crosspoint, which costs about 60p a copy to prepare. There is a box in the church porch for donations. The suggested donation is 60p per copy or £2.40 for the year. Those who pay annually by cheque please mark the envelope clearly. Thank you for your support.**

**ITEMS FOR THE NEXT ISSUE OF CROSSPOINT** (March, April, May) to Jean Davies (Tel: 01684 772178) by Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> February please.

Articles including family news are welcomed. It helps if you are able to send via email. Send to Jean Davies: [jed0606@yahoo.com](mailto:jed0606@yahoo.com)

# THE METHODIST CHURCH

## Priorities for the Methodist Church

To proclaim and affirm our conviction of God's love in Christ, for us and for all the world; and renew confidence in God's presence and action in the world and in the church

### **Main contacts for Apperley and Tewkesbury Methodist Churches**

Minister: The Revd Jayne Webb

Tel: 01684 298650

*Who also has pastoral responsibility for the following churches in our section: Hartpury and Tibberton)*

Apperley Senior Steward – Peter Stych Tel: 01452 780508

Tewkesbury Senior Steward

Linda Sallis Tel: 01684 294169

***We are in the Methodist Circuit of Gloucestershire, part of the Bristol Methodist District***

### ***Web site for Apperley and Tewkesbury Methodist Churches***

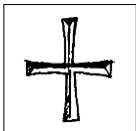
**[www.tewkesburymethodistchurch.org.uk](http://www.tewkesburymethodistchurch.org.uk)**

**Tewkesbury Church phone:** 01684 291101 This is situated in the vestry with an extension to the vestibule kitchen and is intended primarily for use by church officials and for emergency use.



### **IMPORTANT Booking rooms and events**

**If you are arranging any event on the church premises of Tewkesbury Methodist Church, the room and time must be arranged with the bookings secretary, Roger Davis Tel: 01684 293423. Church events at other venues, such as at home, should be put on the Church Calendar in the hall.**



**CROSSPOINT** is planned by the Tewkesbury Methodist Church Publicity and Editorial Group: Jackie Dobbs, Dorothy Davis, Jean Davies, Jane Dickinson, Hilary Jebson, Michael Jebson, Adrian Shelley. Colour section and cover design by Adrian Shelley. Children's pages by Jane Dickinson. Photographs as credited.

Crosspoint is printed on recycled paper. We are members of the Association of Church Editors (ACE)

# Tewkesbury Methodist Players Present



## *Transports of Delight* (songs & sketches on a transport theme)

6.30pm on Dec 7<sup>th</sup> 2019

Tickets £3 to inc. refreshments  
(all proceeds go to charity)



## CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL DECEMBER 2019

We are expecting a minimum of 25 trees on display during our Festival of Christmas Trees. The exhibition will open on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> December and will remain open between 10-12 and 2-4 each day up to 21<sup>st</sup> December. WE hope the trees will remain in place until into January and certainly up to Epiphany. On Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> we shall have carol singing in the church at 11am and at 3pm there will be a Celebration of the Festival with Tirlbrook school children taking part and festive refreshments. Please do join us and encourage family and friends to come along. We have become famous for our exhibitions! Also our beautiful Teabag Angel will be on display again.



**Epiphany falls on 6 January** and is the time when we celebrate the coming of the wise men to visit the baby Jesus. The word Epiphany means 'showing clearly.'



**God of our journeys,  
you always beckon us forward.**

Give us the courage to follow your  
star,  
even if it leads us to poverty and  
danger.

We pray for all who have no option  
but to travel,  
whose journeys are hard and  
dangerous,  
who do not know where they will find  
a home or freedom or safety.

As we seek out Him  
who was born in a manger,  
give us a generous spirit to share  
our resources with those who have  
little,

the wisdom to recognise the gifts they offer us,  
and the humility to receive with open hearts;  
so that together we may journey onwards  
to a future where peace reigns  
and all your children are free.

Amen

You are invited to

# **Carols by Candlelight**

**Followed by Coffee & Mincepies**

**At Apperley Methodist  
Church**

**Wednesday 18th Dec. 2019 @  
7.00 pm**

**In aid of Action for Children**

**Extra parking at cricket club - bring a torch to  
walk down the lane**