

Dear Friends

These last few months have seen us become increasingly active in terms of our new Welcome Space. In this project we are seeking to work with many different community partners to ensure we make the most of our building. This is in tune with one of our mission values which is to become as inclusive a church as we possibly can. Sadly churches of many varieties have not always offered a warm welcome to all despite claims of being 'friendly churches'.



Many people have experienced rejection based on their ethnicity, age, sexuality and disability and have discovered that the claims of friendliness really only applies to a select group who are deemed within certain boundaries of acceptability.

But in truth, we are all different and we all have our vulnerabilities. Jesuit priest and theologian Henri Nouwen says that we are all wounded in one way or another.

Another metaphor he uses for this is that we are all weary travellers in a strange land making our way home to God whether we know it or not.

Sometimes we will find ourselves in need of hospitality from someone else and sometimes we are called to offer hospitality to the other who is in need, whoever they may be, and especially the outcast as far as Jesus is concerned.

But the truth is that we can only really offer that hospitality when we ourselves are comfortable in our own home (which is a metaphor Nouwen uses for being comfortable with our own woundedness) in other words when we have become aware of our insecurities and the darkest fears in our own soul, that cause us to judge or to reject the other. Through such awareness our own wounds begin to heal and we are then free to welcome the stranger no matter how different that stranger might be. For the truth is, as humans, we are all valued by God.

And once we have the humility to really understand that, without our usual defences telling us otherwise, then we can serve the other without first judging and then rejecting or accepting accordingly. Nouwen goes on to say that this awareness and inner healing is important because at the end of the day the host is called to give their guests 'a friendly space where they can be free to come and go, to be close and distant, to rest and to play, to talk and to be silent, to eat and to fast. The paradox indeed is that hospitality asks for the creation of an empty space where the guest can find his own soul'.

As we continue to develop our Welcome Space may we reflect not only on what our building will become but what we might each become in order to be a truly welcoming host.

Blessings,
Jayne



November 2021 –

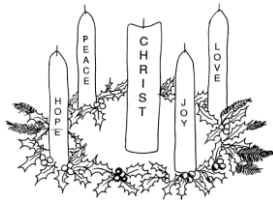
Many of you will know that I am a runner – well it's a fast walk really – I won't be doing any marathons! And my favoured time of day to do this is 6am. Now I'm also a bit of a SAD (Seasonal Affective Disorder) person so am inclined to be much more grumpy in the winter months. So it's a real effort to get out and run these mornings. In the summer it's a real joy to be up and out at that time – enjoying the nature around me and the birdsong. Recently I was jogging along feeling fed-up that we have a few months of dark days ahead and not really concentrating on my surroundings when I heard the lovely sound of a tawny owl – that lovely “twit-twoo”. And then gradually the other birds joined in even though it was still dark. And so now I take time to LISTEN and I realise that the birds were there all the time – the darkness was engulfing me and I just wasn't hearing them. It made me realise that my relationship with God can be a bit like that. Maybe things are a bit tough and I'm asking “Where are you God?” but as time goes on I realise he is always with me despite my grumpiness and my ungraciousness. I just need to take time to be still and listen for him.

I hope you enjoy this issue – there is lots of news and interesting articles and I'm grateful to everyone who has contributed. The next edition of Crosspoint will be a little later than usual so contributions will not be required until 6th March.

In the meantime very best wishes for a peaceful Advent and Christmastide – “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”.

Please all stay safe and well. God bless.

Jean Davies



Church Family News from Tewkesbury

We send our love and prayers to Mary Davies, Audrey Simpson, Rosemary and Andy Bainbridge, Joyce Cooper, Nesta Harris and family, Suzanne and Roger Smith and Joyce Sanders.

We are sad to report the deaths of Thomas McVey, widower to Isobel McVey and of Grace Brown and Nellie Pearson.



We remember them and hold them and their families in our hearts and prayers.

We remember and send our love to all the members of our church family who live in Residential Homes: Dianne Harrington, Joan Bottrell, Nora Booth, Nesta Harris and Pat Taylor. We have sent greetings to Nora who recently celebrated her 100th birthday. Nora came to Tewkesbury from Southampton some 20 years ago to live in the Maltings, and was a very regular presence at worship and the Guild. For the past few years she has been in Tewkesbury Fields, and more recently in Ashchurch View during the refurbishment of Tewkesbury Fields.

We have heard from Andrew and Anne Houghton who have now moved to their new home – they would like to share their address with you – 33 Green Lane East, Cabus, Garstang, PR3 1JS and they would always be pleased to see or hear from old friends at Tewkesbury. We have also heard from Pat and Frank Manning and their letter appears later in this edition. We appreciate them keeping in touch as we all like to know how they are doing. Likewise Anne Leathwood has sent her usual Christmas letter which I'm also delighted to include. Anne's health was not good earlier in the year, so it is lovely to hear from her.

We were delighted to see Peter and Jane Dickinson recently when they joined us for morning worship – they have settled well in their new home and have been made very welcome by their local church.

Our good friend Revd Richard Atkins who presented the Sunday morning radio programme on BBC Gloucestershire has now moved away. I wrote on behalf of the church to wish him well and his reply is later in this edition.

We welcome some new attendees and appreciate their regular attendance to worship with us and indeed their willingness to help with various things in church! Please chat to any of the stewards or other church members if you'd like more information about our church and its activities etc.

Christmas Thoughts

Anonymous

"It's sharing your gifts, not purchasing gifts;
It's not wrapping presents, its being present
and wrapping your arms around the ones you love;
It's not getting Christmas cards out on time,
It's sending any card, anytime, at the right time;
It's not having the biggest and best Christmas light
display,
It's displaying the Christ light that comes from your heart;
It's not Santa coming down the chimney,
It's Jesus coming down from heaven,
and giving us the gift of eternal life."



**However did we arrive here?
or
A potted history of the Christian Church in umpteen
episodes
Part 9**

In 1784, just seven years before his death, John Wesley, the founder of Methodism, said, "I believe I shall not separate from the Church of England until my soul separates from my body". When it began in 1739 Methodism was intended to be a renewal movement within that Church to which the Wesley brothers belonged and to whose ministry they had been ordained. For instance, in the early days Methodist preaching services were not allowed to be held at the same time as worship in the local Parish Church. As late as 1766 the Methodist preachers were warned not to absent themselves from Anglican worship more than twice a month and not to end services with the Lord's Supper. Why, then, are today's Methodists part of a separate Methodist 'Church'?

The answer is perhaps three-fold. Firstly, The attitude of the Methodist people, many of whom were not Anglicans, and who had a strong sense of being very different from Anglicans. The preachers in particular were often pressing for greater freedom - the right to celebrate the Lord's Supper etc. Secondly, the attitude of many Anglicans, who regarded the Methodists as disloyal and dangerous - on occasions John Wesley, when preaching in the open air, had to face an angry mob stirred up by the local vicar.

Thirdly, and perhaps most importantly, the actions of John Wesley himself! He has been described as "like a skilful rower who keeps his eyes on the shore whilst every stroke of his oars takes him farther away". One such stroke was as early as 1739 when he began to preach in the open air. Anglican priests were not permitted to preach except in a consecrated building in their own parish, but Wesley famously declared that the world was his parish! Today's Methodists might well applaud that sentiment - but it didn't exactly endear him to the authorities of his own day.

Another significant stroke of the oars was the opening in 1778 of what today we call 'Wesley's Chapel' in City Road, London - complete with Communion area and burial ground. Three events in 1784 hastened the inevitable separation - the setting up of a Conference to be the governing body of Methodism after Wesley's death (as it is today); the ordination by Wesley of preachers to serve in the newly independent

American colonies (only bishops were authorised to ordain); and finally his revision of the Anglican Prayer Book to be used by Methodists as the *Sunday Service*.

Final separation was now inevitable, but it didn't actually happen until after John Wesley died in 1791, so he could rightly claim to have lived and died a "Church of England man"!

The circle was almost completed at the Methodist Conference of 1969, that I attended as an ordinand, when Conference voted by the required 75% majority to accept a scheme of union with the Church of England - only for the Anglican General Synod to fall short of that 75%. So, in 2021 Methodist and Anglicans work closely together in most places, and there are many local shared Churches - but there is still a separate Methodist Church nationally.

Next time - how the history of Methodism is like a cream tea!

John Beardsley

We should be rigorous in judging ourselves and gracious in judging others.

John Wesley

FAIRTRADE

Look out in the notices for further openings over the autumn and winter months. Your continued support is appreciated.

Roger and Dorothy Davis

GREETINGS FROM ANN LEATHWOOD

Greetings from sunny Rhos-on-Sea! Yes the sun is shining this morning after many wet, windy, wild, dark days.

This year has flown – it's certainly been very different and challenging in many ways for all of us, but the good Lord has seen us through, and we're very thankful.

It was a thrill to receive "Crosspoint" again, and I so appreciate it being sent to me. Seeing familiar names and new ones too and knowing how well many of the young people (who were children when we were with you) making their way in the world, contributing so much to society and a needy world – great!

I'm happy to say that our grandchildren are well and busy – Jemima 30 years old in September! – lives and works in Germany with Philipp, her partner. Jeremy, 26, works for Royal London in finance, and William, 22, has finished his 4 year course at York University and is working in car sales near Selby, Yorkshire. I thought this job sounded very boring, but I'm assured it's really interesting and challenging and William is in his element! They deal in electric cars and he drives one all the time – his own petrol car is standing on his drive, so he's thinking of selling it! He has other ideas in mind – hoping to use his degree in French and German – but in the meantime he uses French occasionally now and all experiences teach us something!

They are all looking forward to coming home for Christmas – Jemima has already booked her flight. We hope all this materializes.

I hope you all have a meaningful Advent and a truly Blessed, Joyous and HAPPY CHRISTMAS! I will be surrounded by the ones who are nearest and dearest to me in rather limited circumstances, but we will celebrate the wonder of Emmanuel – God with us, and the Light that shines in a dark world will never be extinguished. GOD'S EVERLASTING LIGHT.

With love and fondest memories –

Ann (Leathwood)

OUR REVEREND

Jayne will be taking her postponed sabbatical next year between June and September – though she will also be unavailable for the last week of May and first week of September. She is required to have NO contact with her churches during this time. Arrangements are being made for cover for Jayne and we are not expecting to have any Church Council meetings or formal church business between those dates. A sabbatical is an important and relevant part of the ministry of our presbyters, and is indeed compulsory – a time to study, research, refresh and renew and I'm sure we all wish Jayne well during this time, and will hold her in our prayers.

There is just time and space to report back on our Christmas table-top sale held last Saturday - 13th November. We have raised in the region of £600 which is a huge achievement for our very scaled down version of our normal Christmas Fete. Many thanks to everyone who supported the sale and coffee morning and to those who spent time setting this up and helping on the day.



LETTER FROM THE ISLE OF MAN – from the Manning's!

We have now been here on the Island for some 2 and three-quarter years! - unbelievable!! It is a great joy for us to be so close to one half of our family, the other half in Australia where, even if we wished to, we could not go to live - they wouldn't have us!!

Life on the Island is good and with regular contact with half of our family we are well blessed. We are now established and have been made very welcome at Church. We have carefully avoided getting 'roped in' to any 'official' position but have joined in some of the social events which take place - mainly the ones where 'eating' is involved!!! As with all Methodist Churches there is an excellent team who do the catering.

We both have health 'issues', which, I suppose is not surprising as we are both getting nearer to 90 than 80, but we are able to get about and with family making daily checks on us we are well cared for.

For Frank, one of the main health 'issues' is memory loss and, although not severe, means that he has had to give up preaching and leading services, although we both do take an active part in readings and sketches on occasion.

By the time this gets into print, Christmas will be just around the corner, so we take this opportunity to wish a Very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all our friends at Tewkesbury Methodist Church.

With our love and Blessings Pat and Frank xx

The next issue of Crosspoint will be produced a little later in the spring – please send copy for the next edition to Jean Davies (Tel: 01684 772178) by Sunday 6th March please.

Articles including family news are welcomed. It helps if you are able to send via email. Send to Jean Davies:

jed0606@yahoo.com

God moves in a mysterious way - or does He?

By Mike King

Our modern, mainly secular, society has become increasingly reliant on technology and scientific advances to “explain” everything and make our lives more comfortable.

Many people see “religion” as an outmoded belief system, which evolved a long time ago, to answer life’s big questions at a time when knowledge and science / technology were in their infancy. They will say that religion filled the gap left by the inability of the human mind to explain and rationalise these fundamental issues.

Sceptics will quote many negative examples of religious fundamentalism and extremism in the modern world to undermine what genuine, enlightened faith communities try to put forward.

So what is God, as an all-seeing, all-knowing entity, doing about this?

People nowadays demand “proof” and “evidence” before anything can be accepted.

In New Testament times, the miracles performed by Jesus (and especially his ultimate resurrection), provided incontrovertible evidence of the power and wonder of God. This power was made tangible and understandable to everyone by the life and teachings of Jesus.

Nowadays, we rarely, if ever, witness or hear about such dramatic and incredible happenings.

So how, if at all, is God working in the lives of all people - atheists, agnostics, members of all faith communities, and everyone else?

I believe that there is a simple truth that explains much of this enigmatic question.

God works through those created in his own image - i.e. the entire human race - every member of which has that spark of God within them. Whatever our culture, geographical location, lifestyle etc. etc. - we learn what we need to learn through the daily interactions with

others, and the circumstances which arise in our lives.

Those of us in the Christian community have more direct access to the knowledge of God's will through the teachings of Jesus, as related in the Gospels. However, we must accept that not all (probably the majority of the population) are not receptive to the benefits of church attendance and biblical teachings. This is not to say that Christians, or any other Faith members, have an easier ride through life. Most of us have some difficult lessons to learn, irrespective of our possession or lack of religious belief.

I came across the following text passage, which rings true with my own life experience, And I would dare to say is also true for many others. Hopefully this will clarify and expand on what I have said previously.

“People come into your life for a reason, a season, or a lifetime. When you figure out what it is, you will know what to do for each person. When someone is in your life for a REASON.....it is usually to meet a need you have expressed. They have come to assist you through a difficulty, to provide you with guidance and support, to aid you physically, emotionally, or spiritually. They may seem like a godsend, and they are! They are there for the reason you need them to be. Then, without any wrongdoing on your part, or at an inconvenient time, this person will say or do something to bring the relationship to an end. Sometimes they die. Sometimes they walk away. Sometimes they act up and force you to take a stand. What we must realise is that our need has been met, our desire fulfilled, their work is done. The prayer you sent up has been answered. And now it is time to move on.

When people come into your life for a SEASON.....because your turn has come to share, grown or learn. They bring you an experience of peace, or make you laugh. They may teach you something you have never done. They usually give you an unbelievable amount of joy. Believe it! It is real! But, only for a season.

LIFETIME relationships teach you lifetime lessons; things you must build on in order to have a solid emotional foundation. Your job is to accept the lesson, love the person, and put what you have learned to use in all other relationships and areas of your life”.

Author unknown.

NEWS FROM REVD RICHARD ATKINS

Thank you so much for your lovely letter and card which I received this morning.

I always enjoyed coming to Tewkesbury, in fact it was the last Methodist Church in the Gloucestershire Circuit where I led worship before taking what I thought might be a number of years sabbatical.

How wrong I was, so many changes have taken place over the past six or seven months including my move to Warsash to be with Dee, before get married in April, stepping back from presenting the programme and of course changing Methodist Districts. In fact, I'm back where I started, as I was brought up in Salisbury, which is in the Southampton District and my first services as a Methodist LP on Note were in the New Forest.

Now, over a year after visiting Tewkesbury I'm leading worship once again, in the East Solant and Downs Circuit. My first service last weekend was a harvest festival in Havant. Dee has left her very big and modern Baptist Church to join me in the Methodist Church and everyone has been very kind and welcoming especially at our new home church in Fareham. We are very much a team leading worship, it's a shared ministry.

We are very happy in our new home near the sea and the River Hamble.

Dee is well known in this area as she was the BBC South weather presenter for a number of years in the 2000's so people are always recognising her in one place or another. I'm still working for BBC Radio Gloucestershire and BBC Wiltshire as a hybrid producer working from home. My successor at BBC Glos, Jon Smith, is going to be brilliant and take the programme onto new success.

Please say thank you to the congregation at Tewkesbury, for their kindness, prayers and love over the years. I shall follow with interest the plans to have for the church and your future ministry.

Regards – Richard

CHURCH CLEANING

We were sad to lose our cleaning team – Lorraine and Alex – but they have decided to return to Malta for a 6 month period to take care of Lorraine’s mother who is in poor health. She has left us a lovely card expressing how much she has enjoyed working at the church and appreciating the support she has received from our members.

I’m sure we will all want to send best wishes and prayerful support to Lorraine over the next few months. And also safe travels as they are driving all the way to Malta!

We are currently recruiting a cleaner to help us out for the next few months and look forward to welcoming her to Team TMC!



BREAKFAST PRAISE –

Started again in September and we welcome everyone but with particular emphasis on families and young children to this short, very informal service with crafting. There is an open invitation to anyone who wishes to join us. Breakfast is provided (cereal, toast, juice, and delicious bacon rolls!) so please come and join in the fun! It is normally held on the first Sunday of the month but do check notices for confirmation.

CHRISTMAS

A reminder that instead of our normal “grand” Christmas exhibition, we have a mini Festival of Light at our church on Saturday 11th December and we shall brighten our church with candles (safe ones!) and other decorations to celebrate the Christmas season. And of course, our wonderful angel will make an appearance! This will be a church “social” open to all and we shall remain open from 10am to 4pm - there will be some carol singing and we shall have fruit punch and mince pies on offer so please come along and bring your family and friends.



Christmas Eve Prayer

Frank Borman, Apollo 8 space mission, 1968

"Give us, O God, the vision which can see Your love in the world in spite of human failure.

Give us the faith to trust Your goodness in spite of our ignorance and weakness.

Give us the knowledge that we may continue to pray with understanding hearts.

And show us what each one of us can do to set forward the coming of the day of universal peace."



WIVES AND FRIENDS GROUP

The Wives and Friends group are now meeting again and would be very pleased to see some new faces. The next meeting will be on Tuesday 7th December at 2.30pm when the group will be making Christmas cards together with the Craft Group. (There is also an exchange of Christmas parcels - no more than £2.50). The group intend to have a meal out in January. If you would like any further information please see Lin Sallis.



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NEWS FROM APPERLEY

Sincere apologies for getting the last issue's contribution wrong! Put it down to age and lack of practice after 18 months break! JED

From Peter Stych



Those of you with a keen eye or a good memory will have noticed that the News from Apperley page printed in the last issue of Crosspoint (September 2021) was the same one as in March 2020 - before we were all thrown into lockdown - instead of the one written for it. No-one questioned it since - even Jean printed the old one without realising! So I have some ready made notes to include this time along with current news.

So Halleluia! It is great to be back and picking up the threads of those plans from eighteen months ago. Some things will be different but it is so good to actually see friends in person, and here at Apperley we are delighted to have seen all our Church Family at one service or more. Welcome back everyone.

So Apperley and Tewkesbury have had the sorrow of losing Jim Holder in July this year. As restrictions were partly lifted by then his funeral at Cheltenham Crematorium was well supported and as often happens people who had never met before were brought together by the one person no longer here. We shall remember Jim for his quiet unassuming loyalty and faith used to support the work and friendship of numerous local Christian congregations.

But that sorrow was overtaken at Apperley as only the week before we had been blessed to welcome the second grandson of Gail and Brod Whiting, Magnus, by Baptism. As restrictions on numbers were still operative at that time Revd Jayne held a separate Sunday afternoon service for the Family and friends and a few members of the general congregation. The chapel was catapulted into the 21st century by the service being electronically connected to family members in Norway

and other countries. Apart from a half hour delay in 'getting it all together' it was a really wonderful occasion as well as setting the foundation for another disciple for Jesus!

We recently celebrated Harvest with a large congregation and a correspondingly generous table of gifts which Tewkesbury Food Bank were pleased to receive.

We shall share **Remembrance Sunday, November 14th**, with our Anglican friends on the Green at 10.50am and in **United Worship in their Church afterwards**. We are looking forward to re-opening one or two weekday activities soon – our Bizzy Fingers ladies group and a new monthly lunchtime venture to be set up by Jayne.

Planning for Christmas is more positive this year. As well as a **Sunday Christmas Communion with Carols at 11.00 am on December 12th** we are hoping to hold our **Carols by Candlelight** again at **7.00pm on Wednesday December 22nd**. We look forward to seeing many of you at any of these services and we wish all readers a joyous and peaceful Christmas.

WINCHCOMBE METHODIST CHURCH

Christmas Alphabet

C is for the candy trip
around the Christmas tree
H is for the happiness of
all the family
R is for the reindeer
prancing by the window pane
I is for the icing on the
cake as sweet as sugar cane
S is for the stocking
beneath the chimney wall
T is for the toys beneath
the tree so tall
M is for the mistletoe
where everyone is kissed
A is for the angels that make up the Christmas list
S is for old Santa who makes everyone his pet-
Be good and he'll bring you everything in your Christmas alphabet!





Be Careful Grandma



As grandma was getting ready to leave the house on Christmas Eve, Olivia looked at her with concern. "Make sure to be really careful on your way home; Santa is delivering presents."

Her grandmother smiled at her.

"I don't think I have to worry about Santa."

Olivia looked at her incredulously.

"Haven't you heard? He's already run one grandmother over!!!!!!!"

+++++

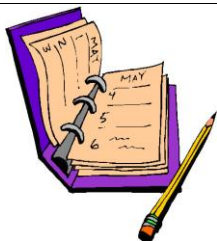
Have a wonderful Christmas – love to all from Winchcombe Methodists
Geoff- Senior Steward

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.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

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



November

- Saturday 27th Coffee morning 10am – 12 noon
Pastoral meeting – church 10am
Sunday 28th – 10.30am Revd Richard Clutterbuck

December

- Saturday 4th – Tewkesbury Players Concert 7pm
Sunday 5th – 9.15am Breakfast Praise
10.30am Holy Communion – Revd Jayne Webb
Thursday 9th – Town Carol Service 7pm
Saturday 11th “Light for Life” – 10am to 4pm
Sunday 12th - 10.30am Stuart Hobbs
Wed 15th - Sea Cadets’ Carol Service 7.15pm
Sunday 19th – 10.30am Revd Diane Daymond
6pm – Carols by candlelight – Revd Jayne Webb
Christmas Day – 10.30am – short service – Revd Jayne Webb
Sunday 26th – NO service

January

- Sunday 2nd – 10.30am – Covenant service – Revd Jayne Webb
(No Breakfast praise)
Sunday 9th – 10.30am – Simon Monkton
Sunday 16th 10.30am – Revd Carrie Seaton
Thursday 20th – Prayers at our church 12.00 – 12.30pm for the Week of
Prayer for Christian Unity (Tewkesbury Churches Together)
Sunday 23rd – 10.30am Nick Butler
Sunday 30th – 10.30am Revd Jayne Webb

CHURCH SERVICES –

Any alteration to dates and or times will be shown in the weekly notices (also available on our website). The church is generally also open to visitors on Saturday mornings (coffee morning).

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 first Sunday of each month.*

Breakfast Praise takes place on the first Sunday of the month at 9.15am.

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.

CHURCH GROUPS AND MEETINGS

Church Leadership Team – tbc

Church Council – Annual church meeting 16th October

Worship Forum – tbc

Finance/Property – 23rd November 7.30pm

Stewards – Tuesday 11th January 11am

Tewkesbury Churches Together - tbc

Pastoral – Saturday 27th November 10am

Publicity – tbc

Viriditas – tbc

Wives and Friends – Tuesday 7th December 2.30pm

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 Winchcombe Methodist Church

Apperley Senior Steward – Peter Stych Tel: 01452 780508

Tewkesbury Senior Steward - Linda Sallis Tel: 01684 294169

Registered Charity No: 1136205

***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

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.



CROSSPOINT is planned by the Tewkesbury Methodist Church Publicity and Editorial Group: Jackie Dobbs, Dorothy Davis, Jean Davies, Hilary Jebson, Michael Jebson, Adrian Shelley. Colour section and cover design by Adrian Shelley. Photographs as credited. Crosspoint is printed on recycled paper. We are members of the Association of Church Editors (ACE)

**Tewkesbury Methodist Players
Proudly present –**

“OUR GREATEST HITS”

**Saturday 4th December 7pm
at
Tewkesbury Methodist Church
at The Cross. GL205PA**

Light Refreshments

Free entry

Donations for Charity on the night

**Please wear a mask if possible
but are optional.**



Take Time to be Aware

Edward Hays, *A Pilgrim's Almanac*, p. 196

"Take time to be aware that in the very midst of our busy preparations for the celebration of Christ's birth in ancient Bethlehem, Christ is reborn in the Bethlehems of our homes and daily lives. Take time, slow down, be still, be awake to the Divine Mystery that looks so common and so ordinary yet is wondrously present.

"An old abbot was fond of saying, 'The devil is always the most active on the highest feast days.'

"The supreme trick of Old Scratch is to have us so busy decorating, preparing food, practicing music and cleaning in preparation for the feast of Christmas that we actually miss the coming of Christ. Hurt feelings, anger, impatience, injured egos—the list of clouds that busyness creates to blind us to the birth can be long, but it is familiar to us all."



"Loving Father, help us remember the birth of Jesus, that we may share in the song of the angels, the gladness of the shepherds, and the worship of the wise men.

"Close the door of hate and open the door of love all over the world.
"Let kindness come with every gift and good desires with every greeting.

"Deliver us from evil by the blessing which Christ brings, and teach us to be merry with clear hearts.

"May the Christmas morning make us happy to be your children, and the Christmas evening bring us to our beds with grateful thoughts, forgiving and forgiven, for Jesus' sake.
Amen!"

~ Robert Louis Stevenson

