**Dear Friends** 

So I have been back from my sabbatical now for 6 weeks (at the time of writing). It is so good to be back and I have enjoyed seeing everyone again and catching up with all the news.



If you are coming to the AwayDay I will be

sharing more about my sabbatical then but just by way of the headlines here is a quick review.

I spent a good deal of my time travelling in and around Scotland, Ireland and Wales by sea and road and staying in some remote and stunning places.

I have always been very interested in Celtic history, culture and mythology and I am also fascinated by how Christianity merged with the pre-Christian culture and spirituality and studying these themes has been my great pastime for many years. The sabbatical gave me a great opportunity to dive even more deeply into these themes which for me was pure indulgence. There were three main areas that I focused on, these being:

- 1) The Irish Language. I have been learning this for a while now (ancient and Modern) but my time away enabled me to give this a daily focus which has made all the difference. Since then I have kept up the habit of daily early morning lessons so that I can continue the momentum. Not that I am planning to hold any conversations in Irish but it is a useful skill to have for a deep study of Irish texts and in particular those surrounding Celtic mythology.
- 2) Celtic Mythology. This is a favourite subject for me and I have been able to spend quality time in places from which many of these myths herald! I became fascinated with Irish myth when I was researching the Desert Fathers for my MA and discovered *Crosspoint December, January, February 2023*

how they were the first to christianise Ireland. I wanted to know what Ireland was like religiously and culturally at the point when those early monks arrived there. This led me on a journey ever backwards into the shrouded mists of time and the astonishing tales surrounding the deep mythological roots of Ireland.

3) Celtic Festivals. There has been a growing awareness in recent times of the earth's wisdom embedded in the psyche of indigenous peoples across the world. As the earth faces such challenging times we are in desperate need for such wisdom. In our Celtic Isles much of this was suppressed or appropriated by the incoming Christian religion which was undergoing a big shift in its development back then in order to root out all that was deemed heretic. Sadly we rather threw the baby out with the bathwater and much earth wisdom was lost. A deep search of the traditional prechristian festivals reveals so much about the people's relationship with nature and how it was cared for and respected in ways that we no longer seem to understand.

And so it was that my sabbatical afforded me this time and the travel opportunities to immerse myself in these three areas of fascination. It has been truly wonderful with breathtaking sights, deep conversations and some very enjoyable places to stay. It has been an absolute privilege for which I will always be grateful

I had hoped that by the end of my time away I would have at least a draft of a full write up with possibly even a view to publishing at some stage but in truth I am still processing the whole journey and I think this hope was rather ambitious. In time I am sure that this experience will be written up in full with accompanying ideas for celebrating the nature festivals from a Christian perspective with the overall aim of enabling us to revere God's creation and to discover what our forebears knew of the deep wisdom contained within it.

Blessings Jayne

November 2022

Happy Autumn days all! We've been very fortunate with some lovely warm, sunny days this autumn though as I write the heavy showers have arrived. The colours though have been wonderful! And now we prepare ourselves for the onset of the winter months and the season of Advent. We have a lovely letter of greeting from Ann Leathwood in this edition and she has some excellent recommended reading for Advent.

Also we have greetings from Jean and Roy Greenslade with lovely news that they hope to return to worship with us in the New Year. They have been greatly missed but always in our thoughts and prayers.

It is also heart-warming to hear from Pat as to how her grandchildren are getting on. Sara and family have had some difficult times and it is lovely to hear how well the young people are getting on now.

In this edition we have contributions from two Mikes – King and Mills! And we have our usual contributions from our sister churches at Apperley and Winchcombe. We hope that Jayne's "new" church at Bishop's Cleeve will contribute in future editions as one of our section churches. All our section churches are invited to join us on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> December for a festive coffee morning when we hope to sing a few carols as well. The church is going to be decorated similar to last year with lots of lights and bright decorations so should look lovely!

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".

Love and blessings to all Jean (Davies)

## Church Family News from Tewkesbury

It is with sadness that we report the death of Mary Davies, a much loved friend and longserving church member. Our thoughts and prayers remain



with her family and friends. Mary had been unwell for some time and she was ready to meet her God. Rest in peace Mary – we will miss you.

We remember and send our love to all the members of our church family who live in Residential Homes: Joan Bottrell, Nora Booth, Joyce Sanders and Pat Taylor.

We send love and best wishes to those suffering health issues and pray for a speedy recovery. Please reach out to your pastoral visitor if you need support or contact Jean Davies (pastoral secretary).

A message from Jean & Roy (Greenslade) - We would like to wish everyone a very Happy Christmas and many blessings in 2023. Roy is now greatly improved and is hoping to finish his weekly immunosuppressant injection within the next few weeks and therefore we hope to be able to re-join you all again in the New Year. We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has kept in touch with us during these difficult times. Your kind kindness and prayers have really helped and have been very much appreciated.

## FAMILY NEWS FROM PAT TAYLOR ALL GOOD!

Emilia, who now wishes to be called Evan, is now living at home with support and is doing well after 4 years in various hospitals.

Sam is doing well at Star College and enjoying working in the greenhouse, Café, and Reception. He also works at the Abbey Shop

and Abbey Refectory. He is also raising awareness of changes to the "Blue Badge" for it to be made more inclusive and not only show a person in a wheelchair.

It will be lovely for Sara and Rob to have a family Christmas. They really appreciated the prayers and support from their pastoral visitor and church.

Stephen and Carole's son James, has finished university and now has a 2:1 and a good job, and Stephen's granddaughter, Shayna, is now at Goldsmiths in London.

I am so fortunate that I have such a lovely family.

Pat Taylor

### ANN'S CHRISTMAS LETTER

It is lovely to continue to hear from Ann Leathwood, who never fails to send us Christmas greetings despite not having kept the best of health in recent times. Ann will be reading Crosspoint in the near future, so I'm sure we all join together in wishing her a happy and peaceful Christmastide. Love and blessings to you and your family, Ann! (Ed)

I'm sure I'm not the only person thinking it's hardly possible that we are nearly into November! Where has the year gone?

First of all I thought what do I do personally to prepare for Advent and Christmas. For our first Christmas here in 2005, on and I decided we would buy a special House present, so we bought "Willow Tree2 figures of the Nativity which fit on the mantelpiece in the lounge. So for the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Advent I will put them in their usual place, and they are often a real talking point and a lovely reminder.

Then I decide which Advent book I will read, so I've already taken 4 books to look at – ones that I have used before – "Beginnings and Endings" by Maggi Dawn, "Approaching Christmas" by Jane Williams (wife of Rowan), "Glimpses of Glory" by David Adam and "Christmas Blessings" published by Leprosy Mission. The one I have chosen is the

one I could hardly put down so felt that must be the one – it is "Glimpses of Glory". I can recommend any of them – they're all very helpful.

For my daily devotions in normal times, I am using "The Celtic Wheel of the Year" and for use at night it says – "As I end this day in your safekeeping I count these three blessings before sleeping". Looking back over my day I can easily count many more that three blessings ("Blessings all mine and ten thousand beside!") GOD IS GOOD!

On a shelf on my welsh dresser in the dining room I have a card which I received a few years ago from Peter and Jane Dickinson – it plainly says "EMMANUEL – GOD IS WITH US". That is a reminder for every day – not just for Christmas and I treasure it.

Ron and I loved singing and one or other of us would suddenly have a hymn tune come to mind and we would sing it. A Christmas favourite was "Glory be to God on High" number 199 in Singing the Faith, and not sung as regularly as some – the words that Ron often marvelled at were "STAND AMAZED YE HEAVENS AT THIS, SEE THE LORD OF EARTH AND SKIES, HUMBLED IN THE DUST HE IS, AND IN A MANGER LIES".

As the weeks pass by I wonder what you will be doing as you prepare for Christmas...? There will be the buying of cards, gift and general Christmas goodies to get in – you may already have made your Christmas pudding and cake already!

But on a personal level, spiritually – how will you prepare yourself for this Holy Season? Church wise there will be many wonderful events and services you will celebrate together and like me, you will be looking forward to seeing family, especially the young folk who work and live away. Hearing from friends too, is a great joy.

My prayer to you all is "May the spirit of Christmas bring you peace, May the joy of Christmas bring you love, And may the New Year bring you God's abundant Blessings".

My family and I join me in sending greetings for a very HAPPY CHRISTMAS and a brighter and peaceful NEW YEAR, and thank you *Crosspoint December, January, February 2023*  to all who keep in touch - it gladdens my heart!

Much love and every blessing, Emmanuel.

Ann (Leathwood)

**WORSHIP FORUM** – we regularly meet to discuss how we can contribute and/or take part in locally arranged and special services. Everyone is welcome at these meetings – it is good to share ideas and suggestions as to how we can best get our message across in an interesting and meaningful way. Please check notices for the date of the next meeting.

## FAIRTRADE

Just a reminder that the sales are held in the church after service on the first Sunday and during the coffee morning on the third 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



#### CROSSPOINT MAGAZINE COSTS

We would appreciate your continued financial support for the production of Crosspoint, which costs about 80p a copy to prepare. There is a box in the church porch for donations. The suggested donation is 80p per copy or £3.20 for the year. Thank you for your support.

## GREEN PAGE ECO CHURCH

We are fortunate enough to have gained the Silver Award some years ago. However, we have been unable to maintain some of the requirements due to Covid, and we really need to revisit what we should be doing, and then hopefully work towards our Gold Award.

The 5 areas of church life that Eco Church assesses are:-

WORSHIP AND TEACHING MANAGEMENT OF CHURCH BUILDINGS MANAGEMENT OF CHURCH LAND COMMUNITY AND GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT LIFESTYLE

If you would like to be part of a team that focus on ways we can become more environmentally friendly in our everyday practice please speak to our minister Jayne, or any of the stewards and we can work together on achieving this.



#### FINANCE AND GIVING

You will be aware that we have asked our members if they would consider making their gifts to church by standing order to help cut down on bank charges. (A monthly donation is very acceptable rather than weekly). Many of you have now chosen to contribute your gifts in this way, and we are very grateful.

If you are still considering this and need to speak to someone about it, please contact Julie, Carol or Jean (Steward / Church Council Secretary (01684 772178))

Thank you for your continued support especially in these economically challenging times.



## **BREAKFAST CLUB**

Next Breakfast Club is Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> December at 9.15am – our Christmas edition!). Everyone is welcome at this informal gathering and sharing our breakfast cereals, toast and bacon baps together with some activities, is an enjoyable time of fellowship.

Please note there will not be a Breakfast Club in January.

## A Successful Life?

Throughout the ages, most people strive to achieve success in (at least) some areas of their lives.

It would seem to be a worthwhile aspiration to work towards. It can provide inner satisfaction, boost self confidence and achieve material rewards and comforts.

#### What do we mean by success?

Success can be generally defined as "the achievement of selected goals and objectives". In particular, for the individual, it usually means "achieving the goals that matter the most to you". An individual's aims and objectives in life will be shaped by their genetic makeup, their experiences from the moment of birth, and by the influences of "significant others".

How a person is affected by, processes and interprets these factors will determine their concept of "success", and how they plan to bring it about. In other words - the criteria they choose to use to decide what "success" means for them, and how they will evaluate their degree of success or failure.

It is at this point that a separation emerges - between those who are drawn towards worldly, material values, and those who recognise, either consciously or subconsciously, the inner spiritual values which (for many) lie beneath the surface. The highly competitive nature of the society in which we live, the fast pace of modern life, and the "information overload" to which we are increasingly subject, all militate towards many people feeling impelled towards dealing with the "here and now" i.e. instant answers - no time for inner soul searching, and looking for deeper meaning in their daily experiences and interactions.

Thus, outward signs of worldly "success" manifest themselves in the form of career promotions, wealth accumulation, being seen in the latest fashion clothes and fashionable places, possessing the latest upgraded mobile phone, having the latest model of car, living in an upmarket area etc. etc. - the list is endless.

This "constant striving for bigger and better" approach, in the end becomes self-defeating, because the participant is never finally satisfied - there is always the latest upgrade / new development waiting around the corner, which must be acquired to maintain their sense of well-being. I would suggest that the main "counter influence" to this pressure on mainstream secular society comes from the personal examples of friends, relatives and work colleagues, who are perhaps less controlled by these real, ever present pressures. They may demonstrate, in a meaningful way, the spiritual values of fairness, tolerance, helpfulness, respect etc. - they perhaps fill the vacuum in people's lives left by the perceived irrelevance of organised religion. This is unfortunate, because all faiths offer guidance on how to live a "Godly" life, whatever their interpretation of the form and nature of God.

As Christians, we believe and accept that Jesus provides the supreme model of how we should live our lives .By following his example and teaching, we can be clear about what constitutes the "success" that will allow us to achieve the only long term goal that really matters becoming the person that God intended us to be.

By refusing to let the fleeting demands and temptations of worldly matters drown out that inner voice which speaks to us - through prayerful meditation, the ministry of the Word, and our daily interactions with others - we can certainly progress along the path to achieving this true "success" which renders the many shifting values and expectations of this earthly life hollow and transitory.

## Why is it so difficult to "spread the word" nowadays, and provide convincing counter arguments to materialism?

For hundreds of years, churches have successfully communicated the essential Christian message to millions of people. Sadly, it seems that nowadays it has become very difficult to pass on the same spiritual truths.

The advance of science and technology has convinced many people that this new knowledge and understanding will explain and solve the problems arising in most areas of life. Religion is often seen as an outdated belief system based on ignorance and fear. Religious persecutions and intolerance by extremist regimes, scandals and cover-ups in the upper echelons of some sections of the Christian Church have served only to reinforce this belief. Also, in my opinion, the inept presentation of biblical content by some narrow minded, fundamentalist church leaders has done much to turn people away from regular church attendance. Perhaps one spiritual antidote to the prevailing secular ethos of modern society is to demonstrate an alternative approach to "success", in the way in which we conduct our lives and engage with our fellow travellers on life's journey.

<u>As Christians, therefore, what types of success should we aim for,</u> value, and make visible to others?

As mentioned previously, our ultimate goal is to become the person that God intended us to be. However, being human, we need to have some intermediate steps / markers to keep us on the right path.

Perhaps the following would serve as useful guidelines:-

(1) To develop increased inner, spiritual understanding - to recognise that all people of any race, religion or background have a spark of God within them and to show to them the same qualities that Jesus demonstrated in his earthly life.

(2) To maintain a balance in all aspects of living - avoiding excesses in lifestyle which impede our ability to be caring, compassionate and helpful to others.

(3) To pursue a career, occupation and lifestyle which is satisfying and worthwhile, and which enables us to provide adequately for ourselves and our families without becoming dependent on others, as far as possible.

(4) To recognise that the acquisition of money and wealth for its own sake is self defeating, and to develop the ability to know when "enough is enough".

(5) To be able to make the most of one's own God given abilities. I believe that we are all given specific strengths (and weaknesses) for a reason, and to be able to recognise the difference between them. The measure of success in this area is the extent to which we have made the most of our gifts to benefit others, rather than ourselves.

Much more can be said and written about the concept of success. I hope that my thoughts on this may shed a useful light on the subject, and provide a wider perspective for further discussion.

Mike King

### NEWS FROM APPERLEY

#### From Peter Stych

Such a change from the heatwaves of the summer to the wet, windy and short November days as this issue of the magazine takes shape!

We have been delighted to welcome Friends from Hartpury



that I referred to last time. Our Chapel Anniversary in September was the first service they attended and due to the unfortunate sudden sickness of Sue, our organist, Janet was hijacked into playing for the service. Many thanks Janet. In early October Harvest Festival was further uplifted by the expanded church family. Extra help with flowers and setting out the Chapel was a joy and on the day we were blessed with the return of Revd Jayne from her sabbatical. We heard some references to her time away but await more in-depth talks in due course.

Other services have continued as planned and we have enjoyed welcoming preachers for their first visit as well as faces well known to most of us.

After the long closure since Covid lockdown we are now actively planning to restart the ladies' Bizzy Fingers weekday group. The original format of knitting goodies for the Gloucester Royal prem baby unit and other charities may be expanded to invite non-knitters and those simply wanting a coffee and a chat. Details will be discussed at the autumn Church Council this week and advertised once confirmed.

So now we are planning for Christmas services.

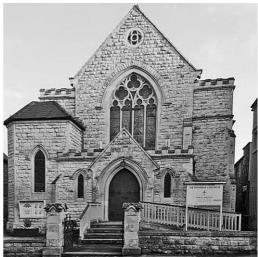
Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> December 11.00 am -Christmas Service of Carols and Holy Communion.

Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> December 7.00 pm – Carols by Candlelight. And Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> January 11.00 am - Covenant Service.

Finally we wish you all a joyful Christmas and invite you to join us at any of our services.

## WINCHCOMBE METHODIST CHURCH New Life of Methodism in Winchcombe Part 2!

The family Winchcombe has moved! A couple of years ago the idea was floated about moving premises, after a great deal of soul searching, prayer, discussion and debate the decision was made to leave the 137-year Cotswold stone building and moved to rented rooms that would enable fixed costs to be firmly established: **BUT** not to break up the family!



The cost, in terms of getting used to the idea and 'head around it' has been great and cannot be underestimated!

The Church Council determined that there would be a positive weekend starting Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> October at 3pm, when a gathering of almost 60 had an afternoon of fun thinking about the Methodist year, illustrated with short readings, and the inevitable lusty hymn singing, followed by chatting and really splendid tea!

Sunday was a more formal occasion with a meeting of around 150, consisting of town folk, churches together members, ministers; lay preachers, friends from around the circuit and the church family.

No less than six ministers took part and rather than having a shopping list of chronological dates and memorable occasions spoken about, Mr and Mrs Tablet narrated the story.

What does that mean? Well, there are two memorial tablets sunk into the walls and three actors 'bounced' the dates with fascinating anecdotes from raising money in 1884 right up until today a sort of.... 'of everyday story of countryfolk!'

BeSocial is the new home and on 23<sup>rd</sup> October a spirited service took place and we knew that God had not deserted the family, there was a tangible feeling of togetherness, just as we have been told so often— GOD does not live in a building ! BOLD, yes of course but GOD IS WITH US! Geoff Onions

### WISE WORDS

I was born and raised on a landed estate (which we did not own!) called Dartington Hall in South Devon. The owners considered themselves merely custodians of the land....a "national park" in effect, long before any official one existed, and I delighted in a 2,500 acre "playground".

In those far off days, the farm supported 10 full time labourers and the work was just that...hard slog! Today there are very few if any full-time labourers. My social time was split between walking along the banks of the river Dart, or passing time with the men on the farm.

That's where the "wise words" come in, courtesy of a farmhand called Fred. Fred was at least 70 years old and brought up on the parish, in a children's home. Very few people earned a wage that attracted a local rate tax bill and those that did watched every penny that was spent. It was perfectly normal for all education to cease at 12 years old at that time, with pupils having learnt basic English grammar and arithmetic. On leaving school, males would take up full-time farm work...nothing else was available in the area.

However, Fred was able to rise above such barriers because of his innate wisdom. When he offered any comments or suggestions, he never used multiple words where one would do. If we fluffed an exam, spent money unwisely or had an accident that was our fault, for example, one of his favourite sayings was "Never mind...what can't be cured must be endured". On another occasion I was building my first ever hay rick and asked "Got any tips, Fred? Fred answered "Yes, boy, look after the sides, the middle will look after itself".

Experience has taught me that wisdom is not confined to the intellectuals amongst us.

Mike Mills



Crosspoint December, January, February 2023

## If You Look for Me at Christmas...

Author Unknown

If you look for me at Christmas, you won't need a special star; I'm no longer just in Bethlehem, I'm right there where you are.

You may not be aware of Me amid the celebrations. You'll have to look beyond the stores and all the decorations.

But if you take a moment from your list of things to do, and listen to your heart, you'll find I'm waiting there for you.

You're the one I want to be with, you're the reason that I came, and you'll find Me in the stillness, as I'm whispering your name.

Love, Jesus



The next issue of Crosspoint will be produced in March – please send copy for the next edition to Jean Davies (Tel: 01684 772178) by Sunday 26<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

## CHRISTMAS MORNING MARKET SATURDAY 26<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER

Please come and support our coffee morning from 10am..... coffee and cake available, plus a selection of stalls selling books, crafts and gifts, cakes, raffle for a Christmas hamper, and Annie Bea's wonderful stall with lots of ideas for gifts all bee-related!

Do spread the word – we'd love to see lots of people!



## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Please see the weekly notices or our website for any alterations to dates/times and more detailed information about events



Christmas Table-top market

Tewkesbury Lights Switch-on

**Tewkesbury Players Concert** 

Festive coffee morning 10am

Church decorated for Christmas

Tewkesbury Chamber Choir Concert

Harmony Praise at Christmas (Tewkesbury) 4pm

Dinner Ladies Christmas lunch at Browns 12.00

Carols by Candlelight 6pm preceded by fruit

10.30am Holy Communion

Church Away-Day at Holland House

## <u>November</u>

Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> -Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> -Monday 28<sup>th</sup> -

## **December**

Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> -Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> -Monday 5<sup>th</sup> -Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> -Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> -Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> -Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> -Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup>-Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> -

Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> -Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> -

#### punch and mince pies at 5.30pm. Apperley Carol Service 7pm Christmas Day service 10am (Local arrangement)

Town Carol Service 6.30pm

## **JANUARY 2023**

Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> -

Covenant Service (Tewkesbury)

## 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 Club.

## CHURCH GROUPS AND MEETINGS

Please see weekly notices for dates of meetings as they are arranged

Church Council Worship Forum Welcome Space and Finance meeting Finance/Property Stewards Tewkesbury Churches Together Pastoral Publicity Green Group Wives and Friends Book Club



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## 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

<u>Apperley Senior Steward</u> – Peter Stych Tel: 01452 780508 <u>Tewkesbury Senior Steward</u> - 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.

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

If you are arranging <u>any</u> event on the church premises of Tewkesbury Methodist Church, the room and time <u>must</u> 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)

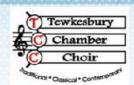
# The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; Upon those who lived in a land of gloom a light has shone. Isaiah 9:1

A holy day has dawned. A glorious light shines in our world. It is Christmas! What we have prepared for and longed for has finally arrived. The packages have been wrapped and unwrapped, the delicacies baked and enjoyed. The world comes to a wonderful pause as we stop to savour this height of the holiday season. The manger no longer sits empty. The baby Jesus lies on the straw and in our hearts, replacing our longings with hope. We feel a gentleness about the world and in ourselves.

As quickly as Christmas comes, for many it is over. Wrappings go in the bin, crumbs are swept away and the decorations come down. It is back to work, back to bills to be paid and life as normal. It is no wonder that January heralds the blues of winter. But Christmas is not over, it has just begun!

The incarnation of Jesus is a grace we get to experience over and over. Here is the hope that we need to be able to overcome the many challenges life throws at us. That hope is ours through Christ. Jesus comes into our world with every prayer we breathe. The celebrations do end, and the decorations get put away, but the life of the party remains.

May the light of Jesus shine within us and illumine the lives of those around us. May we experience the goodness of God's grace reborn in every kind word and every helping hand, not just today, but every day. May the light, the hope, the joy of Christmas remain with us always.



# Christmas Concert

Saturday 10th December

7pm

Tewkesbury Methodist Church

£6

Proceeds to the church

**Tewkesbury Methodist Players** 

No.

present

## **Bring Me Sunshine**

An Evening of Songs and Sketches

At

## **Tewkesbury Methodist Church**

Saturday 3rd December 2022 at 7.00pm

**Light Refreshments** 

All proceeds to Charity

Tickets £3 available on the door



Crosspoint December, January, February 2023