

Dear Friends

In these times of struggle and conflict it is sometimes difficult to find peace within our own soul. The news is beamed directly into our homes, pretty much as it happens, and we can get so drawn into the fear and distress that we can find it hard to move on from the images we are presented with. Of course we must pray and act, perhaps in our giving to alleviate suffering or in protesting in support of the innocent and the voiceless who are suffering, but to carry the fear and distress around with us as we go about our lives serves no one. Indeed, if anything it only adds, cumulatively, to the tension and unrest in the collective human psyche.



If we are to be effective in our prayer and activism, in the name of peace, then we must model the peace we so long for...as Gandhi once famously said, 'be the change you want to see in the world'.

In my recent writing and teaching I have been focusing on the work of the 16th Century Spanish nun and Christian mystic Teresa of Avila whose writing on prayer remains some of the most important work on this subject in the church.

Teresa was a prolific writer, a powerful leader, reformer, a musician and poet, an engaging conversationalist and was utterly captivating. She wrote a number of books, reformed a religious order of men with her great friend St John of the Cross, and some 400 years after her death was made a Doctor of the church; significant achievements indeed even by today's standards never mind those of a 16th century nun.

But she also knew much pain, loss, grief and suffering throughout her life. She made many mistakes and confessed to have failed at many

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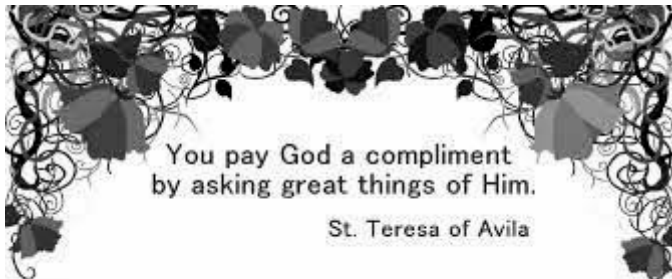
things yet she learnt to discover within her own soul the deep, blissful, eternal presence of God which she relied on fully. Through this reliance she achieved great things in her time and always taught her nuns to ground themselves in this same presence within in order to better serve God in times of peace and in times of turmoil.

Below is Teresa's great prayer and whilst this will surely not be of great comfort to those who are caught up in the lived experience of conflict and war, as I said, *our* fear will not help one bit... but our prayers and activism most certainly will when carried out from that place of *being the change we want to see in the world*. As we model peace so we contribute peace, rather than fear, into the collective psyche.

And so Teresa prays...

Let nothing disturb you.
Let nothing frighten you.
All things are passing away.
God never changes.
Patience obtains all things.
Whoever has God lacks nothing.
God alone suffices.

Blessed be,
Jayne



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November 2023

Dear Friends - welcome to our Autumn and Christmas edition of Crosspoint. This should be circulated by the beginning of December so not too soon to send seasonal greetings especially to our old friends who receive this by post. We remember you here at Tewkesbury with fond memories.

I am so pleased that John Beardsley is continuing his reflections on "It shouldn't happen to a Methodist Minister" and I for one, am grateful for John sharing his memories with us. This time we hear about his and Eileen's experiences of pastoral exchanges to the USA.

Always good to have news from our section churches – we do appreciate their contributions, and extend an invitation to all to visit us on Saturday 16th December for our Festive Coffee Morning complete with mince pies and a few carols. Please join us if you are able.

Your contributions and suggestions for the magazine are always welcome. Maybe a favourite poem or prayer that you would like to share?

In the meantime, very best wishes for a peaceful Advent and Christmastide –

"Prince of Peace, in a world filled with turmoil and strife, we seek Your divine peace this Christmas. May Your tranquility reign in our hearts, homes, and the entire world. Amen."

All blessings
Jean (Davies)

A prayer for Advent –
Fearful and weary, we watch and wait...
Into the world's deep need,
Come Lord Jesus! Amen

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Church Family News from Tewkesbury

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



We remember all those who suffer with ill health and mobility issues and hold them in our prayers. We are pleased to hear that Audrey Edgar is now back home after her fall and stay in hospital and hoping she will be able to join us for worship and fellowship before too long. We also send love and wishes for a speedy recovery to Julie Stables who has also had a fall and is recuperating with family in Bristol.

I have heard from Andy Norman, Janet's son, who tells me his mum was due to transfer from hospital (having had several falls) to a nursing home. We have been thinking and praying for Janet since we heard of her stay in hospital and we continue to send our love to her.

We remember Lin and her family as Lin's mum remains in hospital quite poorly, and send our love and prayers.

It was very sad to hear the news of Ann Leathwood's death recently. Many of us remember Ron (our minister to 1999) and Ann – and following their move away Ann became a prolific letter writer keeping in touch with many of us, and always sending a Christmas letter for inclusion in Crosspoint which is poignantly missed this year.

We were all sad to say goodbye to Hilary Jebson recently as she prepared to move to Swindon to be nearer her daughter. Though we will miss her – as we do Mike, who died earlier this year – we understand her decision and send her our love and blessings for the future. Swindon is not so far away and some of us hope to visit her before too long and check out her new “pad”!!

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TEWKESBURY METHODIST CHURCH MEMBERS

Sadly, we have lost quite a number of our membership over the past few years, so it was a delight to be able to formally welcome Di Jones, Anna and Sam Thomas and Jean Potter as members of our church and also Robin Jones, who remains on our Adherents' List.

All have been worshipping with us for some time now and they have been so supportive of our church in so many ways – getting actively involved and volunteering for many of our events. We are truly thankful for their presence amongst us.

All were welcomed at our Commissioning Service on 5th November when Jayne thanked all church officers and indeed all of our congregation for their contribution within our church community. Even though we have been unable to grow our church our times of fellowship and camaraderie are uplifting and encouraging.

PASTORAL CARE

As pastoral secretary I must apologise to those who have not received the best of care from me especially in recent weeks. Unfortunately, there is sometimes a delay in getting to hear of any difficulties or illnesses some may be experiencing and we generally have to rely on the church grapevine – not always reliable!! It's often a case of one person knowing but assuming everyone else does! So please try and get word to me, your pastoral visitor or to Jayne if you are in need of support or just a telephone chat – if you have family they can also ring or email me. Please be assured that your pastoral team remember you and pray for you whatever your circumstances.

Jean Davies



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UPDATE FROM SAM VESTEY

You may recall that our March edition of Crosspoint contained an article from Pat Taylor, about her grandson Sam, launching a campaign to get the blue disabled badge changed to make it more inclusive.

He was calling for the disabled badge to include a standing figure together with one in a wheelchair, to represent unseen disabilities and he now has the backing of Tewkesbury Borough Council, Cheltenham BID, Cheltenham Chamber of Commerce, Visit Cheltenham and the Cheltenham Trust.

A thousand window stickers have been printed and those championing the cause will encourage businesses and organisations to display them.

Sam, who attends the National Star College at Ullenwood, says “Just because people do not see my disability they don’t understand how much pain I am in and how fatigued I get – that’s why I have a disabled badge. Only a small percentage of people with disabilities use a wheelchair which means the current logo isn’t relevant to 93% of those with disabilities”.

Cheltenham Conservative MP Alex Chalk has praised the campaign and says that Cheltenham is a welcoming and inclusive town and Sam’s stickers, exhibited around the town, will ensure that all people will feel welcome and supported in Cheltenham regardless of their disability.

Sam has worked so hard to get this campaign off the ground and his tireless determination has really paid off. Hopefully his new design will spread further afield and become recognised nationwide. Well done Sam! We are all proud of you for what you are achieving!



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TEWKESBURY METHODIST PLAYERS

You will see a poster later in this magazine advertising the latest concert put together by Julia and Graham. We have been rehearsing for a few months now and hoping we haven't peaked too soon! Please come along if you enjoy a fun evening of songs and sketches in a nice warm church! Those of us who participate are really grateful for Julia and Graham's dedication and patience in putting these concerts together so we can experience the joy of singing together.

CHURCH FLOWERS



A reminder that for a small donation (suggested minimum £10) we will provide flowers for the church in memory of someone or in celebration of an event. There is a clipboard in the vestry for you to sign up for a specific date and dates are now available for 2024.

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WAR IN UKRAINE – we have recently donated our surplus toys and children’s equipment to a local charity that organise lorry loads of aid to send to Ukraine. These lorries bring timber etc over and would otherwise be returning empty. I have received this email from Tim Wright who is one of the organisers which I would like to share with you.....



Dear Jean - Last week Avril Bowler, delivered to me a plethora of excellent toys from your church’s Children’s room. We are so very grateful and the timing is excellent. I can report that they are all now on their way to Kiev for distribution. The smaller items are in gift-shoe boxes to be opened on the run up to Christmas and the larger ones are going to the underground play centres and SEN venues.

The needs of the Ukrainian peoples are legion and we have been delivering very large generators for schools and hospitals and even ambulances for the front line. Each lorry is stacked with comfort items for those who have been on the front line for over 18 months now. Clothing before last winter was also in demand.

*Please accept our sincere thanks for the huge contribution you have made. I have attached a rather moving short clip of one girl receiving gifts in September. **(Note – we hope to share this at a future service).***

*My best wishes
Tim Wright
Humanitarian coordinator*

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"It shouldn't happen to a .. (No, not Vet..) but British Minister in the United States of America "

or

Some of the funny, sad or strange experiences during my two Pastorate Exchanges

For many years there existed a scheme whereby Methodist ministers in Britain and in the USA could change places for a period of 5 or 6 weeks, and it has been my privilege to take advantage of that on two occasions. In 1984 we went as a family to a newish area about 30 miles north of Atlanta, Georgia, in the "Deep South", and in 1998 Eileen and I travelled to Allen Park, about 20 miles from Detroit, Michigan ("Motown"), in the north of the USA.

The 1984 exchange didn't begin at all well! We had arranged to spend a night in London before flying from Gatwick, and to meet our exchange partner and family, who were also staying in London, under the clock at one of the London termini. Alas, our train broke down and we arrived in the capital hours after the time we had arranged to meet - and of course they weren't there! Some 'phoning established that they were staying at a house in Hammersmith, so we made our way there, to be greeted with the words "There's something I've got to tell you folk!" The "something" was that he and his wife had separated that week, and that she wasn't with him, though their children were. Moreover, the folk at his church must not know that they had separated and that she wasn't with him, or he might not have a job to go to back to!! We would have to find ways of answering questions about them that concealed the truth without actually lying!

During the flight I began to wonder what we had let ourselves in for as I read in the Atlanta local newspaper that someone had been fined for having an insecurely fastened muffler - surely you couldn't end up in court for not wearing your scarf properly? But of course, as Winston Churchill put it, *the British and Americans are cousins separated from each other by a common language*. A "muffler" was a car silencer! In

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the same paper I read that a pastor had died after being bitten by a snake whilst in his pulpit - nobody had told us this exchange was going to be so dangerous.

However, further reading revealed that the said pastor had been trying to prove the truth of those words attributed to Jesus in the very last verses of Mark's Gospel (almost universally regarded as a later addition) - *If believers handle snakes or drink any deadly poison, they will come to no harm.*

Upon arrival in Georgia, it soon became apparent that though British and American Methodists had a common faith they operated in rather different ways. No circuits; no Stewards to open up the premises, but an office and full-time Secretary; pastors with just one church rather than several; and a very different pattern of Sunday activities. A service at 9 was followed by Sunday School at 10 (for adults as well as children), and then at 11 the main worship, which was a repeat of the 9 o'clock service. No evening service, but perhaps a church picnic. Each week I was asked for the title of the sermon so that it could be displayed outside the church. So, in the week before I was going to preach on the call of God I was amused to see this poster on the front of the church: "GOD CALLS SUNDAY 9am & 11am".

The parsonage stood alone (apart from the wildlife!) in a wood a few hundred yards from the church. Alas, we hadn't realised how disastrous it would be if the pastor's cat that we were feeding got into the house, with the result that we had to move out for a day whilst the parsonage was fumigated to get rid of the fleas. The car that had been left for us at the parsonage was an 18ft. long 1967 Chrysler "New Yorker" that was so powerful that I found myself doing 90mph on a road with the usual 50mph restriction without realising it. Its performance was not matched by its reliability - it broke down on numerous occasions - so we were very glad to accept when somebody offered us the use of their spare car.

Our 1998 exchange in Allen Park was rather less eventful, but it had its moments. One was during a service attended by the Mayor and Mayoress and civic officials. In the sermon I was painting a word picture of someone who was very pleased that his wife was a *dumb blonde*, because that made him seem all the more intelligent - when I glanced at the Mayoress - yes, as blonde as they come! Fortunately, everybody laughed, including the Mayoress, and after the service I was presented with the key to Allen Park (nobody would tell me what it opened!).

Our time in Allen Park made us appreciate the speed with which power cuts are dealt with in this country. A violent thunderstorm meant that the area was without power for 5 days. As no church activities were possible the silver lining was that we were able to take a trip to Mackinaw Island in the north of Michigan.

Just one final word: on returning from Georgia in 1984 I told friends how astonished I was to find that I actually had to pay to park when I visited people in hospital! That couldn't happen here, could it!

John Beardsley

COBALT CHARITY

Wendy Allen has now taken over the Cobalt charity collection and since taking over £17:79 has been banked. There is a new collection of greeting cards which are now at the back of the church. Thank you to everyone for collecting all their 1p and 2p's, please continue as "Every penny counts".

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.

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NEWS FROM APPERLEY



From Peter Stych

Following a fairly quiet period during the summer here at Apperley September burst into a wonderfully active month.

On the 1st it started with the lovely wedding of Glynn and Graham conducted by Revd. Jayne Webb. Both the ceremony and the weather were warm and comforting. We wish Glynn and Graham every happiness as they go forward in their lives together.

The following week on 10th September we celebrated the 119th Chapel Anniversary which gave us all opportunity to reflect on the changes in Methodism and lifestyles over that time.

And as we moved into October, and autumn beckoned, we held our Harvest Festival on October 8th. Once again a rewarding gifting opportunity for which the Tewkesbury Food Bank were very grateful for more than 71kg of foodstuffs.

So now we move on into this fairly late autumn and plan for our Christmas celebrations. We hope the weather will this year allow us to hold our **Carols by Candlelight on Wednesday Evening December 20th at 7.00pm.** Revd Carrie Seaton will lead that service and we offer a warm invitation to all who would like to join us. Proceeds will, as usual, go to Action for Children.

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 3rd 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

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WINCHCOMBE METHODIST **CHURCH NEWS**

From Geoff Onions
Senior steward

Winchcombe has little to report to our fellow churches!

We cannot keep talking about the move from the High Street to the edge of a thriving estate: however it is good to report an increase in the church family: rather than losing a large group, a number of people have found their way to us.



The circuit have always shown support for the venture and apparently Winchcombe has become the envy of other congregations as they, too, grapple with falling membership and buildings that are far too large and expensive to maintain.

The paperwork has taken a long while to complete whilst the solicitors jostle and adjust the small print, minus computers what would it have been like in the quill and ink days – possibly quicker – who knows!

Manchester has now agreed everything and we await the final hurdle to be overcome via the Tewkesbury and Gloucester respective

councils.

Upward and onward – we rejoice in what we have and what we are and pass on our good wishes to all our friends in our 'cluster'.

Take good care - Love from your family and friends in the Cotswolds and have a peaceful Christmas.

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BISHOPS CLEEVE METHODIST CHURCH



As we
prepare for
the coming

of Jesus at Christmas we are looking forward to the special events we celebrate at this time of the year. We have already held our Christmas coffee morning which raised £437. Our annual gift service with the Salvation Army takes place on 3 December when we will be reminded again of the great work the army does with those families for whom Christmas is a time of worry and stress. We are looking forward to our Crib Exhibition which will be held the following week.

Our carol service is fixed for 17 December as a Local Arrangement and no doubt more of the congregation's hidden talents will emerge under the guidance of Jenny Hartley. Jayne leads our worship on Christmas Eve and on Christmas Day we have been invited to join our Anglican friends at St Michael's. We reciprocate the invitation the following Sunday when Jayne conducts the covenant service.

We send you all our best wishes for a blessed and peaceful Christmas and New Year.

David Aldred

News from Bishop's Cleeve from Andrew Maxwell (Lay Worker)

Here at Bishop's Cleeve we have a Friendship Club (now renamed "Meet up Mondays") and a Film Club. We meet every Monday afternoon from 2 - 4 for a cup of tea/coffee and cake/biscuits, to offer Friendship to the community. We have a mixture of church members

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and "friends" who are not church members and the aim is quite simple...." to make friends, meet friends and be friends".

The group was part of our "Warm Spaces" initiative last year and will be again this year. We have varying numbers and I would like the group to grow into something more, by engaging in other activities, such as crafts etc.

On the first Thursday of each month we run a Film Group, which is described as a Community Film Club. We invite people from the church and the Community to come and watch a film and we follow this with a cup of tea/coffee and some cake. We cannot advertise the film outside the church for Licensing reasons, nor can we charge, but we do invite donations.

This is becoming increasingly popular, although I have had some 'challenges' with the technology, which I hope will not be repeated!

Bishops Cleeve Wednesday Fellowship

We meet every other Wednesday to enjoy fellowship and to hear a variety of speakers who entertain and educate us. We have 24 members with an average attendance of eighteen and six casual visitors. We have musical moments, craft afternoons and the occasional quiz. Recently we have had speakers from Winston's Wish and Stroud Women's Refuge. Such local, and even worldwide, good causes all leave with a donation from our very generous members. We have enjoyed a musical afternoon with the Winchcombe Handbell Ringers and from time to time we hold an informal Members' Own meeting. We finished last year's programme with a summer visit to Taurus Crafts near Lydney, part of the Camphill Village Trust which supports adults with learning disabilities, autism and mental health challenges. We have also organised two coffee mornings which raised £1,600 for the Motor Neurone Disease Association.

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We are always pleased to welcome our visitors. The details of our meetings are on the church's website.

Beryl Couling



The popular Coffee morning at Bishops Cleeve Methodist Church

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Carols by Candlelight



Followed by Coffee & Mince pies

At Apperley Methodist Church

Wednesday 20th Dec.'23

@ 7.00 pm

In aid of Action for Children

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

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BREAKFAST CLUB

There will be no Breakfast Club on Sunday 7th January so the next one will be Sunday 4th February at 9.15am. We have some activities aimed at children and families, but do be aware that this gathering is for everyone and we have several “grown-ups” who come regularly to this informal gathering and to share breakfast cereals, toast and bacon baps together with some activities and an enjoyable time of fellowship. Please try us out – you will have a great time!

OPEN THE BOOK

This has been mentioned before but the Open the Book team is still somewhat understaffed and would appreciate additional helpers. Please speak to Gill Shelley for more information – there are several ways you could help, narrating, acting in the sketches (RADA training not required!) or with costumes and props. Thank you.

Who can add to Christmas?

The perfect motive is that God so loved the world.

The perfect gift is that he gave His only Son.

The only requirement is to believe in Him.

The reward of faith is that you shall have everlasting life.

Corrie Ten Boom

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**When the song of the angel is still,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with the flocks,
Then the work of Christmas begins:
To find the lost,
To heal those broken in spirit,
To feed the hungry,
To release the oppressed,
To rebuild the nations,
To bring peace among all peoples,
To make a little music with the heart.
And to radiate the Light of Christ,
Every day,
In every way,
In all that we do and in all that we say.
Then the work of Christmas begins.**

Howard Thurman

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Tewkesbury Methodist Players

present



Tewkesbury Methodist Church

Saturday 2nd December 2023 at 7.00pm

Light Refreshments

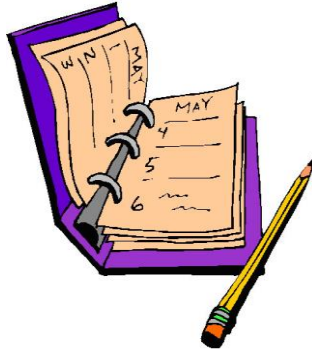
All proceeds to Charity

Tickets £3 Available on the door



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

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



DECEMBER

Sunday 3rd – Breakfast Club 9.15, service at 10.30 with Holy Communion, and church meeting at 11.45am

Tuesday 5th – Wives 2.30pm

Saturday 9th – 10.15am Coffee morning

Sunday 10th – 10.30am service

Tuesday 12th – 12.00 Dinner Ladies at Browns

Saturday 16th – 10.15am Festive Coffee Morning – mince pies and carols

Sunday 17th – 10.30am service

- 6pm Carols by Candlelight preceded by punch and mince pies at 5.15pm in the Hall

Saturday 23rd – 10.15am Coffee morning

Sunday 24th – 10.30am Service

Christmas Day – **10.15am** Service

Sunday 31st – 10.30am Service – Local Arrangement

JANUARY

Saturday 6th – 10.15am Coffee morning - Epiphany

Sunday 7th – 10.30am Covenant Service (NO Breakfast Club)

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Tuesday 9th – Wives meal out
Saturday 13th – 10.15am Coffee morning
Sunday 14th – 10.30am Service followed by Festive Lunch at 12.30pm
Saturday 20th – 10.15am Coffee morning
Sunday 21st – 10.30am Service
Saturday 27th – 10.15am Coffee morning
Sunday 28th Service – 10.30am Service

FEBRUARY

Saturday 3rd – 10.15am Coffee morning
Sunday 4th – 9.15am Breakfast Club open to all
10.30am – Service with Holy Communion
Tuesday 6th February – 2.30pm – Wives meeting
Saturday 10th February – 10.15am Coffee morning
Sunday 11th February – 10.30am Service
Saturday 17th February – 10.15am Coffee morning
Sunday 18th February – 10.30am Service for Leprosy Mission – Local Arrangement
Saturday 24th February – 10.15am Coffee morning
Sunday 25th February – 10.30am Service

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.

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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**

A German Shepherd, Doberman and a cat have died. All three are faced with God who wants to know what they believe in. The German Shepherd says: “I believe in discipline, training and loyalty to my master”.

“Good”, says God. “Then sit on my right side”.

“Doberman, what do you believe in?” asks God. The Doberman answers: “I believe in the love, care and protection of my master”.

“Aha”, said God, “You may sit to my left”.

Then he looks at the cat, and asks “And what do you believe in, Cat?”

The cat then answers: “I believe you’re sitting in my seat”.

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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 and Bishop's Cleeve 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 with links to our sister churches, Winchcombe and Bishop's Cleeve
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, Andrew May 01684 291457 or email ajrm34@btinternet.com (or contact Jean Davies 01684 772178 jed0606@yahoo.com)



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