

Dear Friends

As we move into Advent and Christmas, the familiar words of the prophet Isaiah echo in our worship: *"The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light"* (Isaiah 9:2). These words are as true today as they were centuries ago. We know the shadows in our own lives, in our communities, and in our world. And yet, into those very shadows, the promise of God shines: light, life, and hope through Jesus Christ.

Hope is such a precious word. It is easy to feel that worldly hope is fading – we see the uncertainty of economies, the struggles of communities, and the anxieties that sit heavily on people's lives. But Christian hope is something different. It is not wishful thinking or vague optimism. It is the solid, stubborn assurance that God is with us. Advent reminds us that our hope is grounded in God's promises and fulfilled in Christ. At Christmas, we celebrate that those promises are not distant, but made flesh and dwelling among us.

As a section, we too live with both challenge and opportunity. We know the realities of change: churches discerning their way forward, resources being stretched, and questions about the future. Yet within these realities lies the invitation to deepen our trust in the God who is faithful. Christian hope allows us to face the future, not with fear, but with expectancy – confident that the Spirit of Christ is already ahead of us, preparing the way.

I am encouraged by the many signs of life across our churches in the section and the circuit – new forms of worship, acts of service, generous hospitality, and prayerful commitment. These are not small things; they are glimpses of God's kingdom breaking in. They remind us that, just as the Christ-child was born in the smallness of Bethlehem, so too God's purposes often begin in what seems fragile and overlooked.

This Advent and Christmas, I invite us all to be bearers of hope. To look for where the light of Christ is already shining. To notice the simple but profound ways God is at work in our churches and communities. And to hold out to

others the assurance that Emmanuel – God with us – is not only a story of the past, but the reality of the present.

May you know that hope, light, and joy afresh this season. And may our Circuit, even in times of change, continue to live as a community rooted in the unshakeable hope of Christ.

With every blessing for Advent and Christmas –

Revd Jayne Webb
Superintendent Minister

I heard the bells on Christmas day



I heard the bells on Christmas day
Their old familiar carols play,
And wild and sweet the words repeat
Of peace on earth, good will to men

And in despair I bowed my head:
'There is no peace on earth, ' I said
'For hate is strong, and mocks the song
Of peace on earth, good will to men.'

Then pealed the bells more loud and deep:
'God is not dead, nor doth He sleep;
The wrong shall fail, the right prevail,
With peace on earth, good will to men.'

Till, ringing, singing on its way,
The world revolved from night to day
A voice, a chime, a chant sublime,
Of peace on earth, good will to men.

By Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

Dear Friends

Welcome to our last issue of Crosspoint for 2025!

The weeks have flown by since our last edition and we have celebrated Harvest Festival and held our Remembrance Day services and we are now on the run-up to the festive season.

My thanks to all our contributors for this edition. Please keep your articles and news coming – this is your magazine and your ideas for future editions are invaluable. And for our next edition we shall be thinking about spring, which is very encouraging!

I wish you all a joyous and peaceful Christmas tide. We send particularly warm and festive greetings to those friends past and present who receive this magazine by post or email.

The message of Christmas is just as real for us today as it was 2000 years ago, and it still brings us hope and joy for our long-term future.

Emmanuel has come, the Prince of Peace, the Son of Righteousness. God IS with us. And HIS kingdom will have no end.

God bless –
Jean (Davies) Editor

PASTORAL CARE - Tewkesbury

Please remember to let me or Jan Hoskins know if you are aware of anyone who may be in need of some support – whether it be practical help or just a meet-up for a chat. Jan will always be pleased to hear from you. Her email is outreach.Tewkesbury@gloscircuit.co.uk and work telephone no is 07713 880853.

Jean Davies – Pastoral secretary

Church Family News from Tewkesbury



We remember and send our love to all the members of our church families and particularly those who live in Residential Homes. We remember particularly our friends Pat and Geoff.

We continue to remember all those who suffer with ill health and mobility issues and hold them in our prayers. And we also remember those who struggle silently with their own personal problems. Many of us have been there, and hope that it is some comfort and support to know you are cared for and held in our prayers.

Heavenly Father
We pray for those who are battling loneliness this Christmas Season. Those with no one with whom to share a word, a laugh, a memory. Father, bless each and every one who suffers from such loneliness. If it be your will Lord, lighten their burden with a companion, a friend, someone who cares.
In Jesus' Holy Name we pray.
Amen

Life with Ebony and Ivory - One Year On

By Wendy Allen

I cannot believe it is a year since I wrote my first article “Wrecking crew/juvenile delinquents”. In the past year they have matured but have now become mini terrorists.

I have always loved nature in its right place – outside - not in my house. I have been presented with a variety of wildlife over the summer. I have had an untold amount of magpie feathers, (there must be a naked magpie flying around somewhere) butterflies, a dragonfly, birds, a frog, spiders of various shapes and sizes and MICE. All of them alive. Apart from the frog which I had to remove myself, nearly everything else managed to escape unscathed - except the mice. I do not like mice and have had to devise a cunning plan to catch them without doing myself or the mouse an injury.

I have managed to catch most of them but one or two have gone to ground I know not where. One poor shrew took refuge behind the toilet with a cat squashed either side of the toilet terrorising it. Every time it appeared one or other of them would give it a wack. Unfortunately, I had to go out, so I left them to it. On my return there was no sign of cats who must have got bored, or mouse but several days later I discovered where the mouse was judging by a very unpleasant odour coming from under the wardrobe. I was able to retrieve it and dispose of it appropriately. I never know what they are going to present me with next.

Roll on winter when any sensible creature will go into hibernation away from the mini terrorists.



Winter 2025/26

Green Tips

1/ As much as possible, only heat up the water you need in the kettle, you will save water, energy and money! And your water will taste better than if it has been boiled several times.

2/ It would be good if you tried to have a shower rather than a bath, and try to avoid pressure-showers which use much more water. If you have to have a bath, leave the water in the tub and use it to flush the loo the following day.

3/ Wash your vegetables into a bowl so you can water the plants with that water, instead of pouring it down the drain.

4/ If you can, work from home, you will save on transport energy and costs; and avoid being stuck in traffic jams.

5/ See if you can upgrade your computer or mobile phone rather than buying new ones. Buy refurbished equipment instead of new.

6/ Are you wasting water? If you have a meter fitted, you will see how much you are using and be able to monitor your consumption. You might even save water if you have a big house, i.e. expensive rates, but a small number of people in the house.

CHURCH FLOWERS

Wendy Allen continues to do flower arrangements in memory or celebration of loved ones for a small donation (suggested minimum £10). We will provide flowers and endeavour to meet your specific requests if possible. There is a clipboard in the vestibule for you to sign up for dates throughout 2026.

CROSSPOINT MAGAZINE

I do hope you enjoy receiving your copy of Crosspoint. It is our pleasure to send it out to those friends who have either moved away or are unable to attend church. We do appreciate your continued financial support towards the production of Crosspoint, which costs about 80p a copy to prepare. There is a box in the church porch for donations or you can pop an envelope in with your regular giving. The suggested donation is £1 per copy or £4 for the year.

If you would prefer to receive your copy online if you provide me with an email address I can do this. This will help us with distribution costs but I do appreciate that many prefer to have a paper copy to browse (me included!) Thank you for your support.

The next issue of Crosspoint will be produced early March – please send copy for the next edition to Jean Davies (Tel: 01684 772178) no later than Sunday 22nd February.

Articles including family news are welcomed. **(Please ensure you have the permission of those you write about before submitting)**. It helps if you are able to send via email. Send to Jean Davies: jed0606@yahoo.com

Please note that articles reflect the views of the writer and not necessarily those of Tewkesbury Methodist Church.



BREAKFAST CLUB - WILD GREEN CHURCH!

Wild Green Church happens the first Sunday of the month at 9.15am in the hall. Yummy Bacon baps, cereal, toast and juices are available to all. There are simple craft activities and some time reflecting on God's creation and our care of it.

NB – Please note there is no Breakfast Club in January, but do join us on 1st February 2026. Everyone is welcome!



NEWS FROM APPERLEY

From Peter Stych

So here we are now, closing curtains at 5 ‘o’clock in the afternoon and wondering how we ever had such a hot dry summer!

Since the last issue we have all celebrated the Harvest – another 51kg of food delivered to Tewkesbury Foodbank to help those struggling to give their families decent meals. Really? In 2025 in the UK. Where are we going so wrong?

And we are appalled by the TV images of homes and buildings in the middle east and eastern Europe totally reduced to rubble by those seeking to control their parts of the World.

Then we here in Apperley took time to celebrate another anniversary of the Chapel - 121 years of continuous, worship, thanks and praise to our Lord Jesus in our small corner of rural Gloucestershire. It is good to be able to reflect on how we are blessed to be able to do this here but we must continue to pray that the wrongs referred to above will not continue. The rest of the World also needs to be able to celebrate living together in peace and harmony in all of their small corners. Lord for this we pray especially at this time when our Remembrance commemorations remind us how many have already died for this self-same cause. So, Lord, where are we going so wrong?

At the moment we have several of our Folks taking up the care of different NHS departments around the county. We wish them speedy recoveries so that they can return home to their families ready for the coming Christmas celebrations.

Our **Carols by Candlelight** will this year be held on **Wednesday December 17th starting at 7.00pm** and being followed by the usual Christmas refreshments. As always, the collection will be **in aid of Action for Children**. We offer a warm invitation to you all to join us on that evening and we wish everyone a peaceful and joyous Christmas.

WINCHCOMBE METHODIST CHURCH REFLECTIONS



It is widely known within the local congregation that I am one of several Methodist Members who volunteer on the nearby heritage Railway. Although often found working on Winchcombe's platforms, I did an extra duty up at Broadway Station a couple of weeks ago. Listening there, in the Station Master's Office, to a conversation between three fellow Volunteers, I learned something most interesting.

It transpired that between them; they had in total worked for the GWSR for over 100 years! I have notched up about five years of service myself … but this was dwarfed by the impressive long-term commitment and loyalty shown by these three dedicated Volunteers.

On a similar theme I recall that, when growing up in the Potteries, I sometimes went with friends to watch League football matches at Vale Park where Port Vale played their home fixtures. One of the heroes of their 1960s team was Roy Sproson who went on to play in a remarkable total of 837 matches for Port Vale. These days most professional footballers' choice of club is finance-driven, resulting in regular club transfers. So how refreshing to come across this talented player who was fully committed to his local club throughout a very distinguished career. What highly commendable loyalty!

Within the Winchcombe Methodist congregation, as in so many within our large Circuit, there are many long-standing members whose hard work, loyalty and commitment has been shown in a myriad of ways and over many years. From my own years as a full-time presbyter in

Cornwall, I'd certainly say that my job as a minister would have been at least ten times harder, had it not been for the dedication and support (both prayerful and practical) given by so many hard-working Church members. If asked to choose one word to describe such Christian qualities, it would be '**faithfulness**'. Although not heard about in society as much as it once was, I do believe that 'faithfulness' remains a key quality in successful relationships … at home, in the workplace and at church. For 'faithfulness' encapsulates a firm loyalty, trustworthiness and steadfastness in one's commitments which will remain strong even if difficulties arise or temptations come along.

There's a sad but widespread belief in society that it's the size of your salary, home, pension pot, car, holiday property … that impresses other people and defines your success. Yet as Mother Teresa pointed out, '*God does not require that we be successful - only that we be faithful*'.

The pages of the Old Testament record many examples of people noted for their faithfulness … such as Abraham, Noah, Moses, Ruth, David and Daniel, to name but a few. Jesus regularly taught that 'faithfulness' was a key quality for any would-be disciple of his, as the Parable of The Talents [Matt. 25: 14-30] clearly illustrates. Jesus is undoubtedly encouraging His followers to be faithful when He tells them: '*Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much*' [Luke 16: 10]. How interesting that for St. Paul, 'faithfulness' ranks alongside 'love' as one of the fruits of the Spirit, listed in Galatians 5: 22.

The call for Christians to be faithful in words, actions and thoughts is an enormous challenge for us all! Yet is not this the least we can aim for, given all the evidence of God's faithfulness shown to us in so many different ways? The last Verse of Thomas Chisholm's (1923) hymn, 'Great is Thy Faithfulness' (a title inspired by Lamentations 3: 22-23), sets out some highlights of God's awesome Faithfulness to humanity: *Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth, Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide; Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow, Blessings all mine and ten thousand beside.*

With the Lord's Help, may we continue to be faithful in our service to God, as shown in our homes, churches, communities and work-places … looking forward to the prospect of one day hearing these words from our Lord: *'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful …'* [Matt. 25: 21-23].

God Bless - Martyn Smith

HOLLAND HOUSE SECTION AWAY-DAY
Wednesday 22nd July -10am to 4.30pm

We at Tewkesbury have enjoyed away-days at Holland House in Cropthorne for a couple of years now, and it was suggested for 2026 we invite our section churches. The venue is a little further for you but well worth the effort. The House is beautiful and is a run as a retreat/conference venue – do have a look at their website. They have lots of interesting events taking place throughout the year. https://hollandhouse.org/



The date is Wednesday 22nd July and the cost for the day is £42 to include coffee, lunch and tea and cake. (Special diets can be accommodated). I have to pay a deposit of £10 per person which is non-refundable.

Please do speak to Jayne for further information but I would be grateful for an indication of numbers early in the new year please.

Jean Davies

BISHOPS CLEEVE METHODIST CHURCH



Greetings from Bishops Cleeve – (see photos in centrefold)

On entering most shops or garden centres in every town at this time of year we are greeted by the sights sounds and smells of the Christmas Season aren't we? This commercial greeting seems to begin earlier and earlier each year!

As I wrote this in early November, at The Methodist Church in Bishops Cleeve we still had one of our Harvest Festival displays on the foyer windowsill, it was done by the girls from the uniformed organisations and I for one was still enjoying it!

This year our Christmas Exhibition will feature Christmas Trees and it will begin at the start of Advent and the church will be open as follows;- Saturday 29th November as part of the village celebrations which take part on the Green opposite Bishops Close and also Monday 1st, Tuesday 2nd and Friday 5th December from 2-5 on those days. Do come and see it and us if you can!

On Sunday November 9th we will be having an La Service which will include the 2 minute silence at 11.00am This is a first for us, as we usually have our Remembrance Service at an earlier time and the Act of Remembrance in the hall afterwards. It is good to have the courage to take on the challenge to change the paths of our old traditions in the Church sometimes.

We will be having an LA Service on Christmas Day this year too !

con/ We wish you all a Happy Advent Season and joy in your various activities followed by a Peaceful Christmas, both as individuals and in your churches, and we think especially of any of you who will be missing or are unable to be with your loved ones at this time of year.

God Bless
Ruth Whiting (Bishops Cleeve)

News from St John's, Northgate



We are constantly encouraged by our newer members and here we share thoughts from some of those who have been making a valuable contribution to the music at St John's. Firstly from Eugene & Bernice:

"I was born in a Methodist mission house in a town called Kokofu in the Ashanti Region of Ghana where my Grandfather was the Superintendent Minister of the Methodist Circuit. I already found myself as a member of the Methodist Church, Ghana. I have been chorister not only for the Methodist Church but also the St. Augustine's College Boy Choir in Cape Coast where I became the choir president in the academic 2005/2006. I was a leading Tenor Soloist for the University Choir for 4 years throughout my tertiary Education at Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology and have performed in Oratorio such as Crucifixion by John Stainer, Creation by Joseph Hayden and Israel in Egypt by G. F Handel.

My last performance was in 2019 where I acted as the character Samson from the Oratorio Samson by G. F Handel performed by The Wesleyan Symphonic Choir Ghana. Myself and Bernice started our singing ministry from the junior choir in our various churches before we met in a city called Sekondi Takoradi where I was transferred from Accra to work as graduate Credit Risk Analyst for CDH Financial Holdings Ltd. Bernice had also started working as a midwife for the Ghana Health Service in the same Region.

I was able to form a choir called the Symphonic Choir Ghana, one of the best choral groups in Ghana. I was a member of the Sekondi Diocesan choir and Bernice was also a member of the Selondi Circuit Choir. I came to the United

Kingdom to pursue a Master Degree in Investments and Financial Risk Management at Kingston University, London in 2019.

Before submitting my industrial placement report, we got married at the Wesley Methodist Cathedral Sekondi Takoradi, Ghana. Bernice had a job as a registered Midwife at the Gloucestershire Royal Hospital in 2022 right after my graduation and I had to move to join her to live together in Gloucester. We visited about 3 Methodist Churches and non Methodist Churches in Gloucester.

We decided to settle on becoming members of the Gloucestershire Circuit because the members we met at the time were very welcoming and we felt very happy. Because we were in the singing ministry from Ghana, we decided to continue with the Ministry by ministering during church services and whenever we are called to perform. We have been able to touch others to also join us in forming the St. John Methodist Church Choir that has been inactive after the COVID 19 Pandemic. Currently the choir has ministered in 4 services and it is our greatest prayer that God sustain the choir and also touch souls to join the church".

And from Leo: "For those who don't know me, my name is Leo. In the blink of an eye, I have spent 3 years in the UK since 2022. When I was a kid, I always had the inspiration to study and live abroad. Still I cannot believe I managed to finish a nursing degree in a country that I never set foot in before.
I was born into a Christian family.

Church life has been a norm to me, especially since my mother is a chaplain working in hospitals. Things however started to change when I became a teenager. Unsurprisingly, teens love to be different (or difficult sometimes). I thought I needed a change in my life so that I can grow in Christ. So I went from an Evangelical church to the Methodist church that founded my secondary school in Hong Kong.

As I made another drastic 5000 mile move again in 2022, it was both promising and scary. It was a magical moment where I have to manage my own life, but that of course is scary. Thankfully I managed to find St John's in a relatively short time, and that gave me a bit of stability in the first few months moving to the UK. In 2024, as we needed to look for a new organist to help with Sunday services at St John's, I volunteered myself to serve the

church. Despite the fact that I had only played piano in 22 years of life, I devoted myself to organ music and practice. In my ministry of playing the organ for the congregation, although practising on a completely new instrument is intense and difficult, I hope to serve the church as a response to the love and grace Jesus has shown in my life.

Now being a sometime organist and a member of the 20s/30s group at St John's I feel more connected to the church than ever. I wish the community grows stronger and wider so that we are all connected in Christ."

We look forward to hearing more from Leo, Eugene and Bernice and the choir, especially over Christmas - with our carol service on 21st December. We send our best wishes to everyone for the Advent season, Christmas and the New Year.

Christine and Peter Gardner

With New Year's Resolutions in mind, here is John Wesley's rule of conduct:

Do all the good you can
By all the means you can
In all the ways you can
In all the places you can
At all the times you can
To all the people you can
As long as ever you can.

CHRISTMAS EVENTS - Tewkesbury

Advent services – We have a series of themed services for Advent. Do join us if you are able.

Angel hosts! – Our angel display will be "live" on Saturday 6th December and will remain in church until the New Year.

Christmas Fair – This will be open between 10am and 2pm on Saturday 6th December for coffee and light lunches. There will be several local crafters there, with lots of ideas for Christmas presents together with tombola stall, raffle, jewellery, handmade crafts, gifts, books and jigsaws, cakes etc. Please come and support us and enjoy our welcoming and warm church!

Carols by Candlelight – This service will take place at 4pm on Sunday 21st December preceded by hot fruit punch and mince pies at 3.15pm. Everyone is welcome!

Christmas Day family service – This will be held at the earlier time of 10am.

Festive lunch – We shall be enjoying our usual Christmas lunch on Sunday 18th January at approximately 12.30pm following morning worship. Please add your name to the list in the vestibule or see one of the stewards. Once again – ALL ARE WELCOME! More details will be in weekly notices.



Flying Lessons – by Nigel Beeton

The angels that the shepherds saw
Whose singing led them to adore
The new-born Jesus in a stall
At one time could not fly at all!

To hover, singing, o'er a hill
While playing harps – well, that takes skill!
And blowing trumpets as you fly
Without falling from the sky?

So novice angels all must go
And learn the facts that they must know.
Aerodynamics, and such things
Before they even get their wings!

Then they practice flying well
For crashing just might break the spell
The shepherds won't be 'sore afraid'
As laughter drowns the carols played!

It's sad, but some are never meant
For soaring through the firmament.
But they can spend eternal days
Writing hymns of angel-praise!

But some soon grasp the things they're taught
Becoming singing aeronauts!
Formation flying? Piece of cake!
And what an awesome sight they make!

And, like the angels in the sky
God teaches us both how and why
That we should learn, this Christmastime
To praise His name in song and rhyme!

Winter 2025/26

6th December – St Nicholas, patron saint of children

Father Christmas seems to be as old as Europe. Once he was Woden, lashing his reindeer through the darkness of northern midwinter. Then he encountered the Church, and She transformed him into a saint, the much-loved Nicholas, Bishop of Myra (in south-west Turkey) in the fourth century. St Nicholas became the patron saint of children and was given 6th December as his day.

Since the 6th century St Nicholas has been venerated in both East and West, though virtually nothing is known of his life. Some believe he may have been one of the fathers at the Council of Nicea (325), imprisoned during the Emperor Diocletian's persecution.

According to legend, Nicholas was an extremely generous man. He revived three schoolboys murdered by an innkeeper in a tub of pickles. He rescued three young women from prostitution by giving their poverty-stricken father three bags of gold. (Hence the use of three gold balls as the pawnbroker's signs.)

Over the centuries many people 'on the fringe', including children, sailors, unmarried girls, pawnbrokers, and moneylenders have claimed him as their patron.

Perhaps it was on account of St. Nicholas' generosity that in recent centuries children began to write little notes sometime before 6th December, to tell him about the toys they specially wanted. These notes were then left on the windowsill at night – or else on a ledge in the chimney.

But St Nicholas Day chanced to lie in the magnetic field of a much more potent festival…. and after a time his activities were moved towards Christmas. Then in Bavaria the children still left their notes on the windowsill, but they addressed them to *Liebes Christkind – Krishkinkle* as they knew him – and the saint's part in the matter was simply to deliver the letters in heaven.

The most popular result of the cult of St Nicholas has been the institution of Santa Claus. He is based on Nicholas' patronage of children and the custom

in the Low Countries of giving presents on his feast. Santa Claus has reached his zenith in America, where the Dutch Protestants of New Amsterdam (New York) united to it Nordic folklore legends of a magician who both punished naughty children and rewarded good ones with presents.

One account of how Father Christmas began tells of a man named Nicholas who was born in the third centre in the Greek village of Patara, on what is today the southern coast of Turkey. His family were both devout and wealthy, and when his parents died in an epidemic, Nicholas decided to use his inheritance to help people. He gave to the needy, the sick, the suffering. He dedicated his whole life to God's service, and was made Bishop of Myra while still a young man. As a bishop in later life, he joined other bishops and priests in prison under the emperor Diocletian's fierce persecution of Christians across the Roman Empire.

Finally released, Nicholas was all the more determined to shed abroad the news of God's love. He did so by giving. One story of his generosity explains why we hang Christmas stockings over our mantelpieces today. There was a poor family with three daughters who needed dowries if they were to marry, and not be sold into slavery. Nicholas heard of their plight, and tossed three bags of gold into their home through an open window – thus saving the girls from a life of misery.

The bags of gold landed in stockings or shoes left before the fire to dry. Hence the custom of children hanging out stockings – in the hope of attracting presents of their own from St Nicholas – on Christmas Eve. That is why three gold balls, sometimes represented as oranges, are one of the symbols of St Nicholas.

The example of St Nicholas has never been forgotten – in bygone years boys in Germany and Poland would dress up as bishops on 6th December, and beg alms for the poor. In the Netherlands and Belgium 'St Nicholas' would arrive on a steamship from Spain to ride a white horse on his gift-giving rounds. To this day, 6th December is still the main day for gift-giving and merry-making in much of Europe. Many feel that simple gift-giving in early Advent helps preserve a Christmas Day focus on the Christ Child.

GIFT AID - Tewkesbury

I have recently completed the Gift Aid return for 2024/25 and wanted to thank the members of our church for their generous donations. It makes a significant difference to the gifts from taxpayers if they are prepared to complete a Gift Aid form which enables us to claim an additional 25% of their donations.

If you are a taxpayer and have not completed a form and would like to do so, please see me. It doesn't matter whether you put a cash gift in the plate each week (though it would need to go in an envelope with your name on which I can provide) or donate via a direct debit, we can still claim the additional 25% and there is no obligation whatsoever to give the same amount each week or give regularly.

If you only donate occasionally – which is absolutely fine of course – please consider using the printed Gift Aid envelopes in the vestibule. This applies to coffee and cake donations as well if you regularly give, say £5 at a time.

I do appreciate that times are hard and I must emphasise that we don't wish to put pressure on you – any donation however modest or irregular – is much appreciated. Thank you! Jean Davies (Gift aid secretary)

Struggling to keep up with it all this winter? – you are in royal company

Getting ready for Christmas may be harder for those of us who have reached a 'certain age'. The sheer physical energy needed for endless shopping in crowds, lifting Christmas decorations out of the loft, setting up the tree, writing cards, driving hither and thither to see all the relatives, attending and giving parties…

If this year you are struggling to simply keep going, you have sympathy from a probably unexpected quarter: the King of England. In a recent visit to open the new Midland Metropolitan University Hospital, the king chatted with a fellow cancer patient and then joked about ageing: "This is the terrible thing, as I'm discovering already, bits don't work so well, do they, once you get past 70."

LAKE DISTRICT HOLIDAY?

Andy Norman (Janet's son) has let me know that they have acquired a Lodge in the Lake District and wondered if anyone from the church would like to benefit from a break or holiday in the Lake District? It is set alongside Bassenthwaite Lake and sleeps up to 6 people. If anyone is interested perhaps they could contact me on 07983 516863 or andy.j.norman1@gmail.com. The link to Lakeland Retreats is https://www.lakelandretreats.com/accommodation/troutbeck-lodge

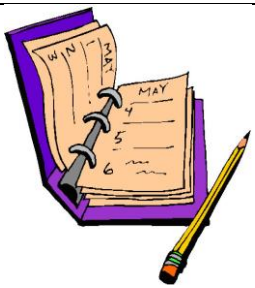
It is in a beautiful location on a park of 50 lodges. One open plan lounge, kitchen and dining area with two bathrooms and three bedrooms. Decking outside and view of the lake.





DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

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



Coffee mornings every Saturday between 10.30am and 12.30pm

NOVEMBER

Saturday 29th – 10am – Book Club
Saturday 29th - Today is the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People, established by the UN in 1977. Amongst so much uncertainty, war and talk of genocide facing Palestinians today, let us pray for them and stand in solidarity in whatever ways we can.
Sunday 30th – First Sunday of Advent

DECEMBER

Saturday 6th – 10am-2pm Angel Festival and Christmas Fair
Sunday 7th – 9.15am – Wild Green Christmas Breakfast Club

Sunday
Sunday 21st – 4pm – Carols by Candlelight preceded by coffee and mince pies at 3.15pm.
Christmas Day service at 10am.

JANUARY

Sunday 4th - 10.30am Covenant service
Sunday 11th – 10.30am – Commissioning service – Revd Jayne Webb
Sunday 18th – Festive Lunch 12.30pm following worship

CHURCH SERVICES – Tewkesbury

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. We also hold a short service of Holy Communion on the first and third Wednesday of each month at 10.30am followed by coffee.*
Wild Green Church with breakfast 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 Wild Green Church Breakfast Club.

CHURCH GROUPS AND MEETINGS (TEWKESBURY)

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

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

SMILE LINES……

A ten-year-old, under the tutelage of her grandmother, was becoming quite knowledgeable about the Bible. Then one day she floored her grandmother by asking, “Which virgin was the mother of Jesus? The virgin Mary or the King James Virgin?”

At Sunday school, the younger children were drawing pictures to illustrate a biblical story. The teacher was startled to see one little boy was drawing an airplane. “This is the Flight into Egypt,” the little boy explained. “See, here is Mary, Joseph and baby Jesus. And this,” he said, pointing to the figure in the front of the plane, “is Pontius. He’s the Pilot.”

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
Tewkesbury Senior Steward - Linda Sallis
Registered Charity No: 1179000

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 and St John’s, Northgate
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 email tmcroombookings@btinternet.com (or contact Jean Davies 01684 772178 jed0606@yahoo.com)



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