



TEWKESBURY & APPERLEY METHODIST CHURCH NOTICES

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Tewkesbury Methodist Church: Registered Charity no. 1179000

Holy God, you are our greatest treasure, may we search you out in the darkness of our pain and in our light-filled joy, and in the everyday ordinariness of our lives.

When we do not, or cannot, or do so without enthusiasm, touch us again with the flame of your love and enliven us.

You made us to be like you, to bear your love and to be your faithful witnesses, may all that we are, and do and long to be, give you glory and praise. Amen.

Helen Cameron, District Chair, Northampton District

Sunday 28th April –

Tewkesbury

10.30am – Easter Offering Service “Let Justice Roll” – local arrangement.

Apperley

No service

Sunday 5th May –

9.15am – Wild Green Breakfast Club

10.30am – Service with Holy Communion – Revd Jayne Webb

Sunday 12th May –

Tewkesbury

10.30am – Dave Bennett

Apperley

11am – Revd Jayne Webb

THIS WEEK

Thursday 2nd May –

10am – Arts and Crafts in the Guildroom

11am – Prayers for the church and community. Please write any special requests for prayer in the book in the Vestibule but please have the recipient's permission to do so.

2.30pm – Choir practice

7.00pm – Methodist Players rehearsal

Saturday 27th – Coffee morning

DONATIONS FOR UKRAINE – The organiser tells me that no more clothes or household items are needed at the moment but gifts of knitted hats, socks (for the soldiers), new duvets, and in date prescription medication and toiletries would be appreciated. In addition children's toys and clothing, small packets of sweets, arts and crafts materials, packs of cards, packet soups and packet food would be appreciated. STOP PRESS – apparently there is a shortage of cat food so donations of these would be really appreciated.

CHURCH COFFEE MORNINGS – new dates up for coffee mornings on Saturday and Sunday in the summer, so please sign up whilst you are available!

WELCOME SPACE – MOVING FORWARD

Over the next few weeks, the seating area in the church will be repositioned as part of a test to see how much space may be required for a proposed new scheme within the church.

With thanks -

Your Welcome Space Team

We are working hard to raise some much needed funds to keep our church afloat so we really appreciate your support with the following events.

QUIZ SHEETS – *Please buy a quiz sheet for £2 to assist our church funds - if you are able to take half a dozen to sell on to family and friends please see a steward. (Available from all stewards or contact Jean Davies). Answers back by 2nd June please.*

QUIZ NIGHT – in an effort to keep all brains functioning, in addition to quiz sheets we have a Quiz evening on **Saturday 8th June** including a Ploughman's Supper. £5 per head – get your teams together! (No more than 4 to a team). Tickets will be available shortly.

TEWKESBURY PLAYERS' CONCERT - Tickets for the Players' next concert "Let's Dance", on Saturday 18th May, are now available to buy, priced £3.00 from Gill Shelley.

Other events coming up include -

Saturday 22nd June – Afternoon tea at Wendy's house in Bredon. All proceeds for church funds.

Saturday 29th June – 7.30pm Camerata Concert – the music of Rogers and Hammerstein.

Saturday 13th July – Med Fest weekend. Church Summer Fete 10am.

Saturday 10th August – Afternoon tea for our section churches.

KEYHOLDERS – a reminder that those on the premises for church business should always lock the doors (unless open for a letting). Our cleaners always do this and will challenge others on the premises that are not known to them. Please don't be offended – they have been asked to do this.

GREEN TIP – Buy locally grown flowers. 90% of cut flowers are imported. Check out [Home - Flowers from the Farm](#) for information about your nearest farm or florist who provide UK grown flowers.

NOTICES FOR MAY will be prepared by Adrian Shelley – Email adandgillshelley@gmail.com or 01684 297411. The deadline is 4.30pm on Thursdays.

9th May - Ascension Day, 40 Days with the Risen Christ

40 days after Easter comes Ascension Day. These are the 40 days during which the Risen Christ appeared again and again to His disciples, following His death and resurrection. (Matthew 28; Mark 16; Luke 24; and John 20.)

The Gospels give us little of Christ's teachings and deeds during those 40 days. Jesus was seen by numerous of His disciples: on the road to Emmaus, by the Sea of Galilee, in houses, etc. He strengthened and encouraged His disciples, and at last opened their eyes to all that the Scriptures had promised about the Messiah. Jesus also told them that as the Father had sent Him, He was now going to send them - to all corners of the earth, as His witnesses.

Surely the most tender, moving 'farewell' in history took place on Ascension Day. Luke records the story with great poignancy: 'When Jesus had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, He lifted up His hands - and blessed them.'

As Christmas began the story of Jesus' life on earth, so Ascension Day completes it, with His return to His Father in heaven. Jesus' last act on earth was to bless His disciples. He and they had a bond as close as could be: they had just lived through three tumultuous years of public ministry and miracles – persecution and death and resurrection! Just as we part from our nearest and dearest by still looking at them with love and memories in our eyes, so exactly did Jesus: 'While He was blessing them, He left them and was taken up into heaven.' (Luke 24:50-1) He was not forsaking them, but merely going on ahead to a kingdom which would also be theirs one day: 'I am ascending to my Father and to your Father, to my God and your God...' (John 20:17)

The disciples were surely the most favoured folk in history. Imagine being one of the last few people on earth to be face to face with Jesus, and to have Him look on you with love. No wonder then that Luke goes on: 'they worshipped Him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. And they stayed continually at the temple, praising God.' (Luke 24:52,53)

No wonder they praised God! They knew they would see Jesus again one day! 'I am going to prepare a place for you... I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.' (John 14:2,3) In the meantime, Jesus had work for them to do: to take the Gospel to every nation on earth.

