

Dear Friends

As we approach Christmas with all the services, mission and general festivities, as much as we love this time of the year, it is also one of our busiest. In many of our churches plans have been underway for exhibitions and Christmas fairs pretty much since the start of the connexional year in September. As I have travelled around the circuit, getting to know people and churches, such plans have been shared with me and it is really good to see how the anticipation of the season is already radiating hope.



It's not just planning for Christmas that has kept our churches busy though, I have been encouraged to hear of some wonderful projects taking place as our churches continue to share the good news across the county through new projects, service, mission and outreach. But it would be false to paint a wholly bright and hopeful picture, for alongside the positive planning, preparing and general work of the church community there is also a level of weariness, a degree of despondency when there are not enough people able to actively engage in mission, and a sense of fatigue at the level of secular and administrative work that threatens to overwhelm our good intentions to serve God.

This did make me wonder how often church communities take time out just to simply *be* rather than to feel the constant need to *do*. There is something to be said for the church away day, or even a weekend, when the people of God can share in a time of rest, reflection and restoration. Indeed it is often the case that in these times of simply being we are more inclined to hear the still small voice of God rather than in the often turbulent times of all the doing. It is out of such quiet, reflective times that we find the creative spirit emerging to inspire us in ways we may never have otherwise thought of.

A time of rest is important for all people, whether it is in the form of a sabbatical, annual leave, a day off each week or even a few hours each day. Indeed such an imperative is this that it is written into the very story of creation as God takes the 7th day as a day of rest, and later deems this to be a practice that all should follow. For the church, Sunday was deemed the day

set aside for God, when worldly work should be kept to a minimum. And it's not been so very long ago when this was part of the structure of society. Shops and other places of work didn't open on Sunday's. This was a special day of the week set aside for worship, for time with family and friends, and for rest; in other words sacred time.

Today no such boundaries exist as working life goes on 24/7. I am sure many of us leave the Sunday morning service and head off to the supermarket on the way home because it is convenient to do so. Yet the principle of the sabbath does not have to disappear as secular life takes over. Being intentional about carving out sacred time, perhaps for an hour a day, a day each week and a few weeks each year is vital for our spiritual well being as individuals and as church communities. God is very prescriptive about this!

So as the days and weeks unfold, and as the busyness of Christmas recedes. I wonder if our church would benefit from a time of retreat - even just for a day or an afternoon? Could you personally be more intentional about taking sabbath time out, no matter which day of the week you take it, to spend time with God in nature or in creative pursuits; the operative word here being 'intentional' no walk in nature is restful if we spend the entire time worrying about all that needs to be done when we get back! Why not buck the trend and forget about the protestant work ethic, for that was never ordained by God - Sabbath rest however was.

So here is a challenge for you all. Rather than focusing on all the great things you have or have not been able to do in recent times, challenge yourselves to simply take time to be still with God, to rest in the peace Christ came to share with us, for if we don't are we not rather missing the whole point of the coming season. As Wendell Berry puts it:

"Sabbath observance invites us to stop. It invites us to rest. It asks us to notice that while we rest, the world continues without our help."

Blessings,

Jayne

November 2024

Dear Friends

Welcome to our Winter edition of Crosspoint. The last three months have flown by and after a mild but grey start to November, the temperature is dropping, the Christmas lights are going up in the towns and shops and there is a definite feel that the season of winter has arrived.

We have a feature from St John's in Gloucester for the first time and welcome them to the Crosspoint family. Thank you to all the section churches for their contributions. (Please see invitation to you all to our Festive Coffee morning).

We have the ongoing article from Andrew Maxwell at Bishops Cleeve and a piece from Wendy Allen concerning pets – with the promise of a sequel. I'm sure we shall all miss John Beardsley's regular contributions, which were always informative and humorous. Thank you, John, for making us smile.

The message from the Methodist Church website this Advent and Christmas is "Hush the Noise".

"Christmas is loud isn't it? So much expectation. So many voices. Telling us how to celebrate. What to wear. What to eat and drink. What to watch and what to buy. Instead, this Christmas we're inviting everyone to hush the noise. To listen for the love song that the angels bring, this and every year. They sang it for the first time more than 2,000 years ago, on the midnight clear. They're just waiting for us to join in".

We send particularly warm and festive greetings to those friends past and present who receive this magazine by post or email.

Love and blessings to everyone for a happy and peaceful Christmas.

Jean

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.



Sadly I have to pass on the news that Revd John Beardsley, died recently. John has been a valued and active member of our church family since his retirement. We shall miss him greatly. Love and prayers are sent to Eileen and all the family.

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.

I have heard from Hilary Jebson, who has now been living at Swindon for a year now. She would like to send love and greetings to all the church family at Tewkesbury and wish everyone a very happy and peaceful Christmas.

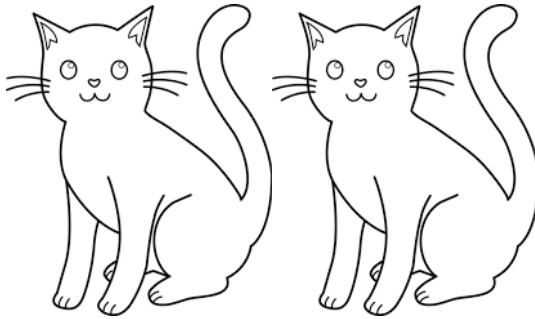
Pat Manning also sends love and greetings to all friends back in Tewkesbury.

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 through 2025.

ALL CREATURES GREAT AND FLUFFY!

Pet reflections from Wendy Allen



I have had some sort of pet all my life: two Fox Terriers both called Scamp, a Red Setter called Makapuna Cindy (Māori). I also had numerous cats, budgies, rabbits and Guinea pigs.

When I lived in New Zealand I had 2 dogs, "Julian" a rough haired collie and a golden cocker spaniel called "Crumpet". Because I lived on a smallholding I somehow acquired several cats. "Lonely" was a black stray, "Bananas" a ginger stray (completely bonkers), "Bonnie and Clyde" (thieves and thugs) and "Miracle" found abandoned at only a few weeks old so she was hand reared. It was a miracle that she survived hence the name. I also hand reared two lambs called "Sugar and Spice" - both thought they were dogs as they lived together. I also had a goat called "Esmerelda" who ate everything, even the washing from the clothes line, three white Muscovy ducks called "Mother duck", "Father duck" and "Puddle duck" and a handful of bantam chickens not named. Sadly I had to leave them all behind when I returned to England but I left them well cared for with my flatmates.

Once back in England It wasn't long before I started collecting little and large furry friends. The first to arrive was a Red Setter called Cindy, followed by a grey and white kitten called Willow, so named because I

worked in a boarding school and all the dormitories were named after trees. Also whilst I was there I acquired a couple of rabbits called Lynford (after Lynford Christie because he moved so fast) and Arfer (R for rabbit). Lastly came Holly my black labrador.

After she died I said no more pets until I noticed on my Facebook page a photo of 6 adorable kittens posted by the daughter of a neighbour, with the caption that said "These kittens need a new home WENDY." Well, what could I do? The problem was which one, I couldn't make up my mind between the black one and the grey and white one so I left it up to her to choose - she brought them both! Well, I couldn't take one and leave the other, could I ? - welcome to Ebony and Ivory or as I call them "the wrecking crew."

They made themselves at home immediately and that is when the fun started. They are not interested in the toys I have bought them. Instead they use me as a climbing frame, claws out and up they come, and my sitting room is used for circuit training. From the back of the armchair, up onto the windowsill, down onto the telephone table, up onto the mantelpiece, up onto the bookcase, down onto the T.V. table, onto the other armchair, a big leap onto the plant stand with a brief stop to play with the leaves then it's onto the back of the sofa down onto an occasional table and back to the armchair ready to start the circuit again.

I don't think there is a plant in the house that has not been under attack with the lower leaves torn to shreds. They love anything that is shiny or dangles, and love to scoop the soil out of the said plants and fling it far and wide. I had the bright Idea of buying some coloured pebbles to cover the soil and weigh it down as a deterrent but no, they are attracted to these colourful pebbles, so now pebbles and soil gets flung everywhere and my shoes no longer have laces. I never know what I am coming home to.

They are now nearly 4 months old and have 8 months before they are classed as adults an – an awful lot can happen in those 8 months but I would not be without them, so watch this space for updates.

NOTICE FROM SOPHIE FRANKIN AT TEWKESBURY

Now is an exciting moment for the Climate and Nature Bill, the only plan for a new UK law that addresses the full extent of the climate and nature crisis in line with the most up-to-date science. Thanks to Dr Roz Savage MP, the Bill is now going through Parliament but it needs our help. We need at least 102 MPs to attend the second reading and support the bill on Friday 24 January to take it to the Committee stage. Should you like to help, please write to your MP asking them to attend before their diaries fill up. [The Zero Hour website](#) makes it really easy to write a personalised e.mail

DONATIONS FOR UKRAINE

Thank you for your continued support to the local charity which sends items to war zones in Ukraine. There continues to be a need for the following: toiletries, Paracetamol, Ibruprofen, medical equipment and in-date medication. There's still time to send small items as Christmas gifts for the children - notepads and crayons and craft items. I'll keep you informed if needs change. Thank you again.

Jean Davies

PASTORAL CARE

It is sometimes difficult to keep regular contact with all our church family and if you are in need of some support or just need a chat please do get in touch with me or contact Revd Jayne. We all remain very busy with church affairs but pastoral care is paramount and our care and our prayers for those in need is always a priority. Please continue to pass on news of anyone who is unwell or struggling. And of course we continue to support all our members and friends through prayer.

Jean Davies (Pastoral Secretary)

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 80p per copy or £3.20 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.



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. Please join us! All are welcome. (Please note we will not be having Breakfast Club in January).

Revd Jayne Webb

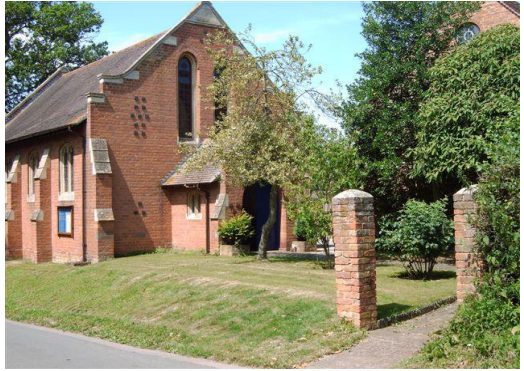
The next issue of Crosspoint will be produced in March – please send copy for the next edition to Jean Davies (Tel: 01684 772178) by Friday 7th March. Articles including family news are welcomed. **(Please ensure you have the permission of those you write about before submitting)**. It helps if you are 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.

NEWS FROM APPERLEY

From Peter Stych

Autumn has quickly come upon us and as we sit amongst lovely golden leaves in the trees above, and around our feet on the ground below, we can reflect on God's goodness over recent months. Since the wonderful wedding day held here in the summer, and reported in the last issue of our magazine, in September we celebrated the 120th anniversary of this Chapel here in the glorious Gloucestershire countryside followed by the Harvest Festival in October. On that day we expressed thanks for all the gifts of tinned and packeted foods which went via Tewkesbury Food Bank to help to provide meals for those less fortunate than ourselves. That gave us opportunity to bring back memories of Harvest Festivals of bygone years when the Chapel was filled with produce grown all around us and the smells alone set us amongst the abundance of God's gifts.



As I write this article we prepare to share, with our Anglican friends in the village, the Remembrance Sunday Ceremony and also a rededication of the renovated Memorial Clock in the Church tower which commemorates nine local men killed in World War 2.

Then we shall be heading towards Christmas. Our **Carols by Candlelight** service will take place at **7.00 pm on Wednesday December 18th** and will be followed by the traditional coffee and mince pies. As has become our custom we shall hold a collection on that night especially **for Action for Children**. We invite everyone to share with us on this special occasion

We wish you all joy and peace this Christmastime.

WINCHCOMBE METHODIST CHURCH REFLECTIONS

Many of us can perhaps recall attending Harvest Services in our younger days; maybe even taking a box of fruit and vegetables to add to the front-of-church collection on view. Huge home-grown marrows seemed to be a particular favourite for some people to bring along, I remember!

Showing our appreciation to God for His Provision for our physical needs has its roots in the Old Testament of course [eg. Exodus 23:16] and is still entirely appropriate for us to do as 21st Century congregations.



In Winchcombe we had our Harvest Service near the end of September with all non-perishable gifts subsequently being taken to Cheltenham's Open Door charity which supports local vulnerable, disadvantaged and homeless people. Following the conclusion of a most meaningful Harvest Thanksgiving Service, tables were set up and the chairs moved around in readiness for the congregation to share together in a Harvest Lunch. It was fascinating to later hear several people saying how much they had valued having the opportunity to have more in-depth conversations with others seated at the same table, than was ever usually possible on a Sunday morning.

It's interesting to reflect on how many meaningful mealtime conversations Jesus must have had when sharing food with others, with Luke's Gospel alone recording ten such incidents. As those who have attended an Alpha Course may have discovered, the combination of food, friendship and faith matters can be very enriching ... and it is similarly good when as a congregation, we can sometimes eat and share fellowship together around some tables.

As I write this article, our Town Remembrance Service is only a few days away. It's an important annual gathering in which local people are invited to give thanks to God for those who gave their lives in past conflicts for the cause of freedom and to pray for peace in today's very troubled world. That representatives from all of our Town's churches will be taking part, is in itself an important statement. Over the centuries, Christian people have preferred different styles of worship and I see nothing wrong in having different worship centres in a community. Yet I equally believe that there should be regular occasions when Christians should set aside minor theological differences and worship style preferences in order to give a united Christian witness to our communities where so much division and disillusionment often lie just below the surface. 'We have a gospel to proclaim, Good news for all throughout the earth' [Singing The Faith: No. 418]

Happy Christmas and God's Blessing in the New Year

God Bless –
Martyn Smith

**BISHOPS
CLEEVE
METHODIST
CHURCH**

Greetings and
Blessings
from Bishops
Cleeve –



We had an amazing Coffee Morning on Saturday 9th November (see photo) which was supported by many people from the community of Bishops Cleeve. The fellowship was so warm and friendly and those of us who were involved were so uplifted by it.

Jayne led our Remembrance Day Service and we held our usual two minutes silence at 11.00am in the hall afterwards so that Jayne and other members of the congregation could attend the gathering at the War Memorial in the village.

We are busy preparing for our Angel Exhibition which will take place from November 30th until Friday 6th December and which will be open to anyone who wants to come along to see it at the following times.

Between 2p.m -5pm on Saturday 30th November, Monday 2nd, Tuesday 3rd and Friday 5th December and 10a.m -1p.m on Friday 6th December. Closed on Wednesday 4th December.

Some of our congregation prepared shoe boxes for T4U which Andrew Maxwell and I delivered to St Marks Methodist Church for collection where we also enjoyed some good fellowship and refreshments at their regular Coffee Morning. What a joy it is to visit other Churches in the Circuit from time to time, it is to be recommended!

We send you our best wishes for your Advent and Christmas events and Services and wish you God's Peace and Blessings on all you do to spread the good news of the birth of Jesus to all those you come in contact with over the next few weeks.

Ruth Whiting





News from St John's, Northgate

It's been a few years since we last wrote for Crosspoint and then it was on behalf of Tibberton. With the chapel at Tibberton closed, the few members are now a 'class' of St John's in Gloucester, although our work in Tibberton continues in the school and with our monthly Together @ 3 (informal reflection and conversation with tea and cake) which is always well attended. On 15th December we look forward to welcoming Rev Marcus

Torchon, Chair of the District, to Together @ 3 for carols and mince pies! Friends from around the circuit are very welcome to join us.

St John's is very different from the rural setting of Tibberton. Sited in the city centre it is a former Anglican Church, a Grade II* listed building with parts dating back to 1450 although the main body of the church was rebuilt 1732-4. This brings its own challenges; at present the tower and spire require a lot of work at considerable expense and various other projects are necessary. But its location also brings unique opportunity for mission. Deacon Sue Peat is making an impact as Retail Chaplain and is already well-known in the shops and businesses of Gloucester.

A recent independent feasibility study identified other possible areas for development, and since the summer Islay Roberts has been appointed as Mission Enabler for the church, looking at ways of extending our outreach into the city.

There will be a Christmas tree festival from Tuesday 10th December to Saturday 14th December and each day the church will be open from 10.30am – 5.30pm. If you have never seen the inside of St John's we invite you to come and have a look around and enjoy the festive setting.

Christine and Peter Gardner

Revd Dr Marcus Torchon

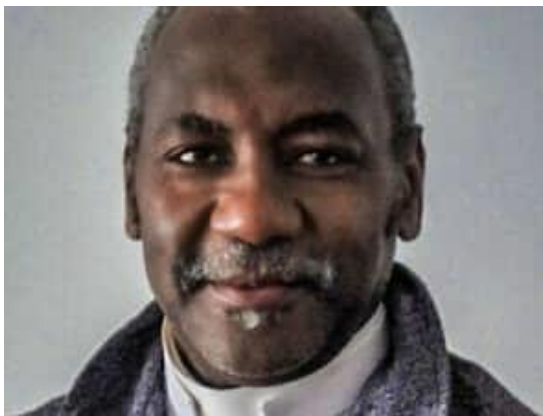
We are delighted to welcome Marcus who is the new Chair of the Bristol District. Marcus was formally welcomed at a service on 31st August at St Mary Redcliffe Church in Bristol.

Marcus was formerly the Superintendent of the Telford Methodist Circuit. He is passionate about the church's prayer life and evangelism. He believes that evangelism begins and ends with prayer.

He is married to Sylvia, and they have one son. Previously he has served as a minister in Coventry and Nuneaton and on The Wirral. Marcus is originally from Haiti, and following the January 2010 earthquake there, he was active in the relief efforts of the Methodist Church in the UK.

As an inclusive church here in Tewkesbury Marcus's words resonate –

“The approach of the Church to accommodate diversity and equality as Christ's transforming work emboldens an underlying desire to see everyone in the Church, regardless of their race, ethnicity, and gender, flourish”.



A CHAT WITH - Roger Tolman

Roger holds the honour of being our longest serving member at Tewkesbury Methodist Church, having started worshipping here in 1963. I met up with him to chat about his life.....

Roger was born in Yardley, Birmingham, on the 5th June 1933, the youngest of 3, and from an early age, attended Sunday School at the local Methodist Chapel.

At the age of 8 he was diagnosed with a “gammy” leg which turned out to be Perthes’ disease, a rare childhood hip disorder. As a result of this, Roger spent the next three years in hospital undergoing treatment. He received schooling whilst there and eventually returned to main stream school when he was 12. He did well academically considering the upheaval in his life at an early age, and became Head Boy. He developed an interest in table tennis, but interestingly, because of his “gammy” leg, he was never able to swim or balance on a bicycle!

Roger was always a hands-on person (and definitely still is!) and wanted to work with wood. Unfortunately his first job involved too little activity for his liking, and he had a spell working in the jewellery trade in Birmingham. Again, he didn’t find the work stimulating enough and when a job came up in the Cycle Hardware Store he took it. Roger couldn’t ride a 2-wheel bike but a trike was another matter and he bought his first trike (a Selbach) in the early 50’s for £20 – quite a sum in those days! Although Roger acquired other trikes over the next few years, he kept this first trike for 50 years and then sold it for £50! Roger moved from this first cycle hardware shop to an actual Cycle Shop, where he became increasingly interested in tricycle racing and took part in many competitions including 12 hour time trials!

It was through the church that Roger met his future wife, Irene. They married in 1959 and bought a house in Yardley. Karen was born there in 1960.

By now Roger was working for a company called DMC, where he started as a sales clerk and progressed to Area Representative for Gloucestershire, Worcestershire and Herefordshire. This post necessitated a house move and so Roger and Irene moved to Cedar Bank, Queenhill. Austin was born in 1962, and later Irene worked part-time as a school secretary in Malvern, and also driving the local egg farmer's delivery truck on occasion (a business where the 12-year-old Karen would help with some egg-grading!) During this time Irene was found to have been living with a broken hip – unbeknown to her – so underwent surgery for that.

Roger's company was bought-out, by a not very ethical employer, so he changed direction and worked for a lending company (ie building society). However, he had been doing youth work for quite some time, including part-time at Northway Youth Club and decided that this was the career he wanted, so during the 70's he went back to college to gain qualifications to enable him to work as a full-time Youth Worker for Gloucester City Council at Longford and several years at Northway Youth Centre. He subsequently moved on to become a Training Officer for youth workers. After 9 years or so he took on a supervisory role and ultimately became the National Training Officer for the United Reformed Church for the whole country. Sadly during this time, Irene died in 1988.

In 1990, Roger married Phyllis – who certainly many of us older ones will remember! – a lady he had known for several years through their church. Both Roger and Phyllis remained very active members of Tewkesbury Methodist Church, until Phyllis died in 2000. This was the year that Roger retired, at least from paid employment, as he continued to work tirelessly for the church in many roles.

Roger took over the choir from the previous choir master in the early 1990's and has worked hard to keep the choir going over the years. The break for the Covid pandemic was challenging but gradually Roger built it up again back to full strength.

Roger worked closely with Walter Horner on various musical performances eg “Crucifixion”, “Oliver to Calgary”, plus some of Roger Jones musical works including “From Pharaoh to Freedom”. Both he and Irene took part in many of the concerts and events that took place in the church. (Irene worked in the Junior Church with Harold Harris).

Roger has always been a keen D-I-Y-er both at home and at church where lots of maintenance jobs have been magically sorted! He is also a keen gardener and still stocks and continues to run a plant stall for our church fetes.

Finally, I asked Roger for a favourite bible, quote, poem or hymn and his immediate choice was “My Song is Love Unknown” – written by Samuel Crossman in 1662 – as he says the words resonate with him. (Note: Interestingly a track by Coldplay called “A Message” on their 2005 album is lyrically and musically derived from this hymn – who’d have thought it?!)

Our recipe this time is from Viv Hallett. This is a quick and easy tea-time or supper dish using a ready made savoury flan case.

CARROT AND LEEK FLAN

INGREDIENTS

6oz (170gr) carrots

2 leeks

Small carton single cream

2ozs (60gr) grated cheese

3 eggs

Seasoning

1 8” or 9” cooked savoury flan case

METHOD

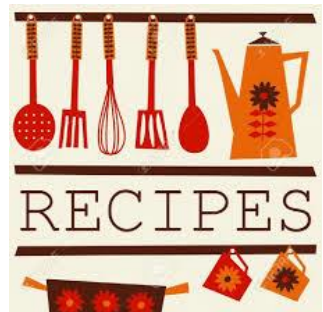
Grate the carrots.

Slice leeks finely and mix with carrots.

Place in flan case.

Beat eggs and cream together and add the cheese.

Pour into flan case and cook for 20 minutes at 200c or gas mark 6.





Light looked down and beheld Darkness.

Thither will I go, said Light

Peace looked down and beheld War,

Thither will I go, said Peace

Love looked down and beheld Hatred,

Thither will I go, said Love

So Light came and shone,

So Peace came and gave rest,

So came Love and brought life.

And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us.

(Laurence Housman)

Andrew is the Lay Community Outreach Worker at Bishops Cleeve and here he continues his diary to share his thoughts, joys and trials and tribulations of his vocation.

The diary of a Geriatric Lay Worker

Chapter 4

During the first year of my time in Bishop's Cleeve, one of the first things my mind wandered towards was the Care Homes. After all, one of my main reasons for my appointment was to work with the retired community in Bishop's Cleeve. We had potentially 3 homes to approach, two were already officially open, and the third was built and starting to receive residents.

I tried all 3 to start with. One Home persistently failed to return my calls or respond to my emails. Another Home seemed content to promise a response without delivering, and the third offered some encouragement. I went to the official opening of the third and was there introduced to Deaconess Jennifer Wood, a local resident with a heart for the elderly.

Becoming elderly myself, I thought she would make allowances for me and be prepared to work with me. Together, Jennifer and I were able to get an invitation into the third Homes and eventually the first Home.. The second Home were later to indicate they were soon to close. I was comforted with the news that the second home was enjoying some spiritual input through our friends at St. Michaels, for which I was grateful.

We also had to contend with the legacy of Covid, which cast a dark shadow over every Care Home. Visiting my own mother in

her Care Home had presented a number of challenges and I had sometimes been denied entry to see her in her Care Home, despite the fact I had journeyed hundreds of miles to Liverpool, to do so.

I had to be cunning with the first Home, however. Knowing a Christian lady, whose mother was a resident within the Home, I asked if she could put in a word for us, and this seemed to have the desired effect.

What evolved over those early visits was so precious. Being invited into the room of a dying resident by their family, to pray for their loved one, is something so sacred and special that it elevates the occasion into a "Divine privilege."

Being invited to take the funeral of a deceased resident, for me was very special, or receiving an invitation to a special birthday party, or just an invitation to join the residents for a special occasion within their Care Home, made our visits so enriching.

Having said that, our visits also brought moments of frustration, like in one Home having our services interrupted by staff bringing in the afternoon tea trolley, or staff wanting to take meal orders, whilst I was trying to pray. This Home sadly closed some time ago, and our contact with some very special people came to an abrupt end.

There have been times of some amusement also, like the time a Catholic lady, on hearing that "the clergy were visiting," asked staff if I would visit her in her room. "Come in, Father," she

greeted me, confusing me for a Catholic priest. I was apologetic in my explanation that I was neither a Catholic nor a member of the ordained clergy. We still prayed together on that occasion.

Our main concern, when visiting the Homes, of which there is now only one, is to take acts of worship and, when invited to do so, offer prayer and ministry on an individual basis. Recently, our visits have been mostly to take services.

We go every Wednesday morning to the third Care Home. On the first Wednesday, we hold a standard service. On the second, we meet the residents and talk with them over a coffee in their reception area. On the third Wednesday, we take a Communion Service, and on the fourth, we do a 'Songs of Praise' service. We also do services for Remembrance, Harvest, Easter, and Christmas.

Every visit we make is so special. Jennifer and I start each service with the same words "This is the highlight of our week". I think sometimes they smile and go along with us, but although those words are said in a jovial way, they do little to hide the truth, that for us, this really is the best part of our week.

Some residents thank us every time for coming to see them. Every visit, it is Jennifer and I, who feel gratitude for the opportunity of going and spending time with our new friends in a local Care home. I often say how blessed I feel in doing the job I do. A big part of that is the privilege of leading worship and being "the church" to our new friends in the Care Homes, many of whom have become a part of our lives and special friends.

With every blessing – Andrew

Carols by Candlelight

At Apperley Methodist Church



Wednesday 18th Dec.2024 @ 7.00pm

followed by coffee and mince pies

In aid of Action for Children

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



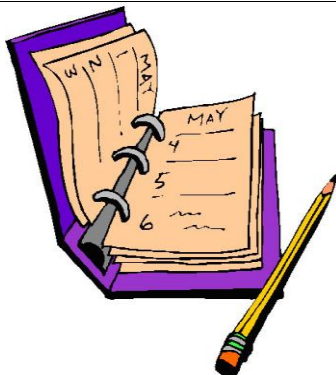
Who are you little baby? Who are you little Christ child, lying so quietly in manger straw? Who are you that angels should herald your presence and stars announce your birth? That wise men and shepherds — the high and the low — should bow before you? Who are you, child of Bethlehem, son of David? What is your future? What is your promise?

Seven centuries before your birth the ancient Scriptures speak of you.

For to us a child is born,
To us a son is given,
And the government will be on his shoulders,
And his name will be called
Wonderful Counselor,
Mighty God
Everlasting Father,
Prince of Peace.
Of the increase of his government and of peace
There will be no end.*

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 30th – Tewkesbury Methodist Players concert

DECEMBER

Sunday 1st – Wild Green Breakfast Club

Monday 2nd – decorating of church for Christmas

Tuesday 3rd – Wives and Friends

Wednesday 4th – 10.30am – Holy Communion

Saturday 7th – Festive Coffee Morning

Sunday 8th – 3pm – Harmony Praise Christmas Special

Wednesday 18th – 10.30am – Holy Communion

Wednesday 18th – 7pm Carols by Candlelight at Apperley

Sunday 22nd – Carols by Candlelight 4pm preceded by tea/coffee and mince pies at 3.15pm.

Christmas Day – 10.00am – Family Service

JANUARY

Sunday 5th – NO Breakfast Club

Tuesday 7th – Wives and Friends Festive Lunch

Wednesday 15th – Holy Communion

Sunday 19th – Festive lunch 12.30pm

Saturday 25th – Camerata Concert 7.30pm

FEBRUARY

Sunday 2nd – Wild Green Breakfast Club

Tuesday 4th – Wives and Friends

Wednesday 5th – Holy Communion

Tuesday 18th – Property and Finance meeting

Wednesday 19th – Holy Communion



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.*

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

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**

Peace
JOY *Hope*
Love

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
Tewkesbury Senior Steward

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 email tmcroombookings@btinternet.com (or contact Jean Davies 01684 772178 jed0606@yahoo.com)



CROSSPOINT is planned by the Tewkesbury Methodist Church Publicity and Editorial Group. 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)