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CIRCUIT NEWS

OPEN HOUSE with MANSE PIES at 12 Haddrell Close Dursley GL11 5EU



The circuit has bought a house to replace the manse at Kingshill Road.

Please call in on Sat 2nd December between 10am and 12 noon to have a look around this newly acquired property.

Please note: the house is completely empty of furniture and we can only provide a limited amount of seating. Hopefully the heating will be working!

Contact Sally Hall
hallsally@me.com 07766 664 330 for more details



Barton Street Methodist Church

The congregation of Barton Street Methodist Church held their final service at 3pm on Sunday 26 November. Having come to the conclusion they should stop meeting for worship, the members have served the Barton Street and Tredworth area of Gloucester over many years. The final service gave thanks for God's faithfulness and all that had been achieved over the years and was led by Revd John Hellyer. The service was attended by past and present members of the church, all happy to share memories of their time there. Discussions on the future of the building are ongoing.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES AROUND THE CIRCUIT

3 December 6pm
Advent Carol Service
Cam

24 December 11.30pm
Holy Communion
Bethesda

24 December 10.30am
Christmas Eve service
St Mark's

24 December 11.30pm
Holy Communion
Stonehouse

25 December 10am
Tewkesbury

25 December 10.30
Quedgeley

25 December 10.30
Hucclecote

**25 December
8am & 10am**
CofE service
Amberley

25 December 10.30
Bailey Lane End

25 December 10am
Bethesda



25 December 10.30
Whaddon St Michael's

25 December 10.30
St Mark's

25 December 10.30
Bailey Lane End

25 December 10am
St John's Northgate

25 December 10.30
Churchdown

25 December 9am
Celebrate Christmas
Cam

25 December 10.30am
Aylburton

10 December 10.30am
Nativity Service
St Mark's

17 December 6.30pm
Carol Service
St Mark's

24 December 3pm
Sing your favourite
carols
Cam

25 December 10.15
Wotton under Edge

25 December 10am
Stroud

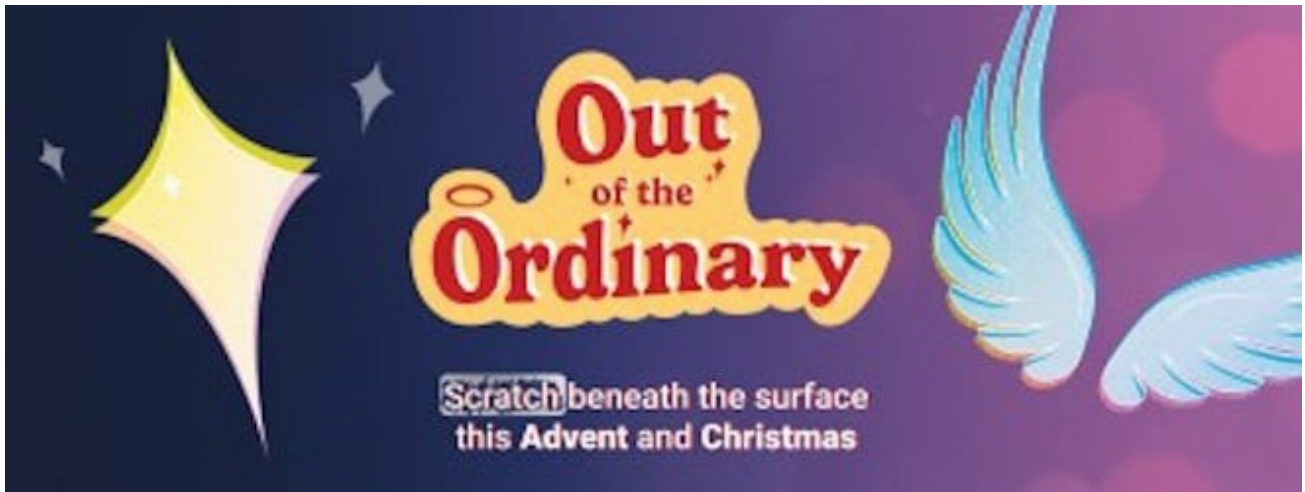
25 December 10.30
Cirencester Ashcroft

25 December 10.30
Lonsdale Road

25 December 10.30
Nailsworth

25 December 10am
'God in Us'
Stonehouse

25 December 10am
Abbeydale
Christchurch



The *Out of the Ordinary* Christmas film has been released and is available to view across social media platforms and on the Methodist Church website. This year's film focuses on a mother-to-be struggling with the cost of living crisis who stumbles upon a glowing manger in a Methodist Church. Watch the film and share it on social media, as we seek to connect with people who are open to a message of faith during Advent and Christmas.



We need your prayers!

The 2024/2025 Methodist Prayer Handbook title and theme is: Praise and Protest. Please contribute your prayers of no more than 120 words each, based on this theme: Your contributions to 'Praise and Protest' are required by 8 January 2024.

Go to www.methodist.org.uk/our-faith/prayer/methodist-prayer-handbook for submission details.

The Methodist Church voted to reach Net Zero Carbon Emissions by 2030 How do we do it?

This is an opportunity to learn how to track your progress towards Net Zero Carbon. Led by Adrian Frost - Technical and Development Manager for Climate Stewards. These webinars are hosted by the Southampton District and Learning Network.

Date: Monday 11 Dec - 7-9pm.

Go to www.eventbrite.co.uk/cc/southampton-eco-district-events to book or email ecodistrict@sdmc.org.uk for more information.



A course for Local Preachers and Worship Leaders to develop their digital skills and be more confident about their role in a digital world.

Go to www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/a-digital-local-preacher-or-worship-leader-tickets for more information

ARTSERVE AWARDS

Artserve provides certificates to recognise and express gratitude

for members of our congregations who add to our worship through the creative arts. This can be through music, flower arranging, banner making, worship focus preparation or anything else. Is there someone in your congregation you would like to say thank you to? Visit the Artserve website, www.artserve.org.uk or contact Maggie Johnson by email, awards@artserve.org.uk



Do you have any spare copies of the paperback large print Holy Communion services from the main service book? These are currently unavailable to buy and Cam Methodist Church are in need of some.

Please contact Ann Pearce on ann.1draycott@btinternet.com if you can help

Ecumenical Saturday sessions on Divine Wisdom and Practical Mysticism

As many of you are aware I run a series of monthly sessions on Divine Wisdom and Practical Mysticism at Prinknash Abbey with the next session on 9 December. All sessions are in the meeting room at Prinknash Abbey which is next to the Abbey Cafe, if you are struggling to find it just ask a member of staff in the Cafe. The sessions begin at 10.30am and will finish at 12.00 noon latest.

This session will be introductory where we will be getting to know the 'territory' such as how the sessions will be structured, the range of topics that will be covering, the tools we will be developing and suggested reading.

From January 2024 all sessions will be on the 1st Saturday of the month. We will follow the stream of Divine Wisdom through a variety of faiths and in particular explore our own encounter with the Wisdom Tradition from the perspective of Christian Mysticism. These are practical sessions where we will focus on the contemplative 'tools' that will help us to engage with this tradition.

This is an ecumenical venture, all are welcome.

Reverend Jayne E. Webb Obl. OSB, Methodist Minister

Jayne is a Minister in the Gloucestershire Circuit of the Methodist Church and an Oblate of Prinknash Abbey. She has a particular interest in the Christian Mysticism and has an MA in the contemplative practice of desert spirituality. She is a retreat leader and spiritual mentor

Mrs Lois Brown

Some of you may remember Lois Brown, widow of the late Revd Douglas Brown who was a supernumerary Minister in the Gloucester Circuit. We were saddened to hear that Lois passed away peacefully on 8 September, aged 95. Both Douglas and Lois supported the work of Cristian Aid throughout their lives and were members of Bethesda Methodist Church for many years in their retirement. Lois lived for the last ten years in the loving care of Chorleywood Manor Care Home.

If you would like to make a donation to Christian Aid in Lois' memory, you can do so at www.lois-brown.muchloveed.com



GOD WELCOMES ALL

How faith informs
safeguarding



**An opportunity to explore
why and how safeguarding
matters for everyone.**

¶

This new study guide encourages all members of the Methodist Church to look at our Christian calling that offers a welcome to all, whilst ensuring that our worship and wider church life is safe for everyone. ¶

- → User-friendly study materials ¶
- → Accessible series of short films ¶
- → Versatile for use by individuals or groups ¶

God Welcomes All is a four-session study guide containing new short films ¶ with activities and questions for discussion and reflection. It is based on the Methodist Church's report on the Theology of Safeguarding 2021. ¶

¶

Free ¶

Available from methodistpublishing.org.uk ¶

The  Methodist Church

CHURCH NEWS

CAROL SINGING

Members from Stonehouse will be carol singing around the Park Estate on 7 & 14 December. Meeting at the church at 6pm they will be handing out mince pies as they go. Warm clothing is Recommended and everyone is welcome to take part



CRIB EXHIBITION BISHOP'S CLEEVE METHODIST CHURCH

Monday 4 December 2pm - 4.30pm Tuesday 5 December 2pm – 5pm
Wednesday 6 December 4pm – 6pm Thursday 7 December 4pm – 6pm
Friday 8 December 2pm – 6pm Saturday 9 December 10am -12 noon

An exhibition of cribs created by school children, members of the business community and other community groups. There will be a variety of cribs of different sizes, shapes, and in some cases, cultures. It will also comprise of paintings and other forms of art, from a cross section of the community from the young to the not so young. Members of the public are welcome to come and enjoy this creative ideas of others with refreshments being served in the Hall.



CAKE SALE & COFFEE MORNING

9 December 09.30 – 12.00
in the Walker Room.

There will also be a raffle to help raise money towards the transport of the shoeboxes.

SHOEBOXES

A total of 27 shoeboxes have been filled and collected by the church. These will be going to either Ukraine, Romania or Moldova.

DROP IN & FELLOWSHIP

'Drop-in' 10.30am on Tuesday 19 December.
Drop-in will resume on Tuesday 9 January 2024.

Thursdays at 2.30pm Fellowship – a short 'devotional' time followed by a friendly chat and refreshments around 3pm. The last session for this year will be Thursday 14 December & will resume on Thursday 11 January 2024



Churches Together in Cam, Dursley and District



FRIENDS AT CHRISTMAS 2023

YOU DON'T NEED TO BE ALONE THIS CHRISTMAS

Join us for Christmas dinner and all the trimmings together with fun and festivities including entertainment, singing and a seasonal quiz.

DURSLEY METHODIST CHURCH
CHRISTMAS DAY
11.30 am - 3.00 pm

Transport to and from the church is available – this must be booked in advance

If you would prefer not to be in a crowd or you can't get out of the house you don't have to miss out - we can deliver a meal to your doorstep



There is no charge



If you know somebody who will be lonely on Christmas Day or if you would like to help as a volunteer please contact

Nicky Yudin
Email: harrowyudins@aol.com
07999 755138



AN AFTERNOON WITH

ELVIS



SUPPORTED BY
MEZZO-SOPRANO
LISA BAYLISS
ACCOMPANIED BY
PIANIST RACHEL
ENMERSON

PLUS
RAFFLE

.....
SATURDAY 2ND DECEMBER

2:30PM • ASHCROFT CHURCH, ASHCROFT ROAD
.....

TICKETS £7.50 INCLUDING TEA & CAKE
Proceeds to Ashcroft Community Centre

To book call 01285 860291 or pay on the door



DRYBROOK METHODIST CHURCH

You are warmly invited to our

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

on

Saturday 2nd December 2023

from 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.



Come along and browse through books, bottles, gifts, toys, toiletries, chocolate, groceries and cakes. Have a chat and enjoy refreshments, tea/coffee and mince pies.



All are welcome

YOU ARE INVITED TO



Carols at Trinity Rooms

ON LUCIA DAY

Come and celebrate Lucia Day, a festival of light. Join us for our short procession ending at Trinity Rooms for soup and other festival treats. We will continue the evening with carols and community 'hygge'.

EVERYONE
WELCOME
PAY WHAT
YOU CAN IF
YOU CAN



13 DECEMBER, 2023



PROCESSION STARTS AT 5PM OUTSIDE
HOLY TRINITY CHURCH
CAROLS START AT 6PM AT TRINITY ROOMS

Gloucestershire Carers Hub offer free information, advice, training, social opportunities and support to unpaid carers over 18 years of age across Gloucestershire. If you support someone due to their having additional health or support needs or due to frailty, no matter for how many hours, then you are a carer. Being a carer can be isolating and demanding and our friendly local team are here to offer support or a listening ear. You can reach them by calling 0300 111 9000 or by visiting our website and selecting referral from the top right hand corner.

Information and support is tailored to the individual and all service free to access.

Stephen Moore, Community Facilitator for Gloucestershire Carers Hub is happy to come and visit, to talk about what they offer and see where they can help. You can contact Stephen on stephen.moore@peopleplus.co.uk or by calling **0300 111 9000**



**Are you a family member or a friend supporting someone?
Even if it is short term
Gloucestershire Carers Hub are here for you.**

Telephone: **0300 111 9000**

Website: www.gloucestershirecarershub.co.uk



Scan me



Gloucestershire Carers Hub is a commissioned service by Gloucestershire County Council and NHS Gloucestershire Clinical Commissioning Group.



Breaking down barriers for church disability inclusion



The last recorded survey suggests only 5-10% of disabled people hear the gospel in their lifetime (Lausanne Committee for World Evangelisation).

In the UK there are 16 million disabled people who need to know churches are places to experience God's love and be valued as you. (Family Resources Survey, 2021-22)

Through the Roof is working with churches so everyone's presence and gifts are valued.

One example is Laurie, who uses a wheelchair and an assistive device to communicate. Laurie's church welcomed and encouraged him to take an active role. He says, "I am writing magazines, helping out with a special needs group, emailing prayers and talks of services and helping with social media."

Everyone has unique God-given gifts to share – that's the theme of this year's Disability Awareness Sunday service pack, available from Through the Roof.

Who are 'Through the Roof'?

At Through the Roof we are passionate about disability inclusion in Christian life. Our mission is to transform lives through Jesus with disabled people. For 25 years, we've been:

- Enabling **Faith**: Equipping churches and Roofbreakers (local disability champions) to empower disabled people to participate and belong in Christian life.
- Bringing **Freedom**: 'Wheels for the World' provides wheelchairs and Bibles for disabled people in developing nations where 90% of those needing a wheelchair don't have one.
- Sharing **Fellowship**: Christian-focused accessible holidays, retreats and groups bring fun and friendships for everyone.

Through the Roof provides free resources, training and support to local churches to fulfil the great commission to – and through – disabled people. The Roofbreaker project equips volunteers in local churches and ministries to act as disability champions – listening and responding to the challenges disabled people face, enabling them to use their gifts and talents to serve as equal members of Christ's body: the church.

Are churches fully including disabled people? Are we disability aware?

In the UK, over 20% of the population are disabled people (Family Resources Survey, 2021-22).

Not all disabilities are visible, but disabled people are still underrepresented in UK churches – especially in positions of responsibility.

Fiona MacMillan, disability advisor in the Church of England and herself a disabled person, says: "We are more likely to be known by our needs than celebrated for our gifts".

Through the Roof can help your church or ministry to welcome and value disabled people more fully. We offer:

- a FREE 2 hour Zoom Disability Awareness workshop for churches who appoint a disability champion or 'Roofbreaker'
 - access to a free downloadable 'Church Toolkit' and 'Removing Barriers' church accessibility audit, available to all Roofbreaker disability champions
 - a 50% discount on Through the Roof resources to all church Roofbreaker champions
 - advice and support from one of three Regional Roofbreaker Co-ordinators covering the whole of the UK, to encourage disability inclusion in all churches
 - support through monthly emails, events, Facebook and Roofbreaker Networks

For more information, visit www.throughtheroof.org or [@TTRChangesLives](https://www.instagram.com/TTRChangesLives) on social media

St Alban's LEP, Stroud

On Sunday 30 July, I and two friends from Stonehouse Methodist Church attended an afternoon Songs of Praise Service at St Albans, Stroud. The weather outside was miserable but the atmosphere inside St Albans was full of hope and joy bringing together a most memorable service.

We started with afternoon tea at 4.00pm then made our way into the church for the Songs of Praise service. Rev'd Rachel Hope introduced the service with a lovely welcome prayer which was followed by members from St Albans and other churches, including Camm, Dursley and Ashton choosing a hymn and saying a few words about what that hymn meant to them. The hymns were fabulous choices accompanied by heartfelt testimonies.

Sue Clarke, the regional MWiB Treasurer and Ambassador spoke to us explaining her role as Ambassador and The Marie Curie Cancer Services which is their chosen charity for 2023. Sue is hoping to visit as many churches as she can and impressed upon us that she would be very willing to come and talk to individual churches. Sue can be contacted by email on: ellen.clarke.catkins@gmail.com

All in all, a lovely service I would challenge anyone not to have been moved by the wonderful singing and testimonies.

Thank You St Albans for organising a truly wonderful service and will look forward to next year. There was also a cake stall to buy goodies. The recipe below is one of the cakes I bought – very appropriate!!

Sue Burnham
Member of Stonehouse Methodist Church

A traditional Love Feast cake recipe

Adapted from the Middlesmoor Lovefeast Bread used in the Yorkshire Dales at the time of John Wesley

1lb (400g) plain flour
1oz (25g) baking powder
5oz (125g) butter
8oz (200g) sugar
2oz (50g) mixed peel
4oz (100g) sultanas
2 eggs
About half a pint (280ml) of milk

Mix the flour and baking powder together, rub in the butter, then add the sugar, sultanas and peel.

Beat the eggs together with a little milk and add to the dry ingredients.

Add the rest of the milk to make a soft consistency.

Pour the mixture into two loaf tins or a large cake tin.

Cook at 180°C (350°F) or gas mark 4 for at least 45 minutes for the loaf tins, or 1 hour for the large cake tin.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

30 November	7.30pm	Finance Support Group
4 December		Preaching availability opens for the Spring 2024 preaching plan
5 December	7.30pm	Local Preachers' & Worship Leaders' Meeting - Zoom
7 December	7.30pm	Local Preachers' & Worship Leaders' Meeting - Zoom
18 December		Preaching availability closes for the Spring preaching plan
20 December		Section Planning opens for the Spring preaching plan
21 December - 01 January		Circuit Office closed over the Christmas/New Year period
2024		
8 January		Section Planning closes for the Spring preaching plan
10 January	7.30pm	Finance Support Group
Week beginning 22 Jan		Spring Quarter Preaching plan published
15 February	9.30am	Circuit Executive
15 February	TBC	Circuit Treasurers Meeting - Venue To Be Confirmed
4 March		Preaching availability opens for the Summer preaching plan
7 March	7.30pm	Local Preachers' & Worship Leaders' Meeting at Bishop's Cleeve
17 March	3pm	Circuit Assembly at St Mark's & Zoom
18 March		Preaching availability closes for the Summer preaching plan
20 March		Section Planning opens for the Summer preaching plan
27 March		Section Planning closes for the Summer preaching plan
Week beginning 8 April		Summer Quarter Preaching plan published
23 April	9.30am	Circuit Executive
19 May	3pm	Circuit Assembly - Venue to be arranged & Zoom