



in this issue:

- Warm Spaces Grants
- Circuit Office closure
- Spring Preaching Plan
- Sylvia Munns
- Finding Nana
- What's On: Advent & Xmas
- The First Christmas
- Deep Waters
- 3Generate
- Youth Training
- Prayer Handbook
- Net Zero emissions
- Young Adults survey
- *Be Born* Christmas single
- Practical Christian Mysticism
- Digital lunchtime learning
- Training & Events
- Food Allergen Training
- Friends at Christmas
- Carols on Lucia Day
- Carers Hub
- Dates for your Diary

CIRCUIT NEWS

Warm Spaces

More and more of our churches have opened their doors to offer a *Warm Space*. All details can be found at www.gloucestershiremethodist.org.uk/about-us-1/warm-spaces.html

Grants

If you plan to open up a warm space in your church and you are concerned about meeting the costs of heating the building or providing warm food or other facilities you can apply for a grant of up to £500 from the circuit.

To apply simply send an email to Deacon Sue Peat and Louise Hebbron with a brief description of what you are planning and they will get the application processed as quickly as possible. Churches are requested to ensure all existing monies received for the Warm Spaces initiative are used before applying for future funding. As this initiative is aimed at providing a warm space and food to those in need, churches are requested to not charge or request a donation in payment.

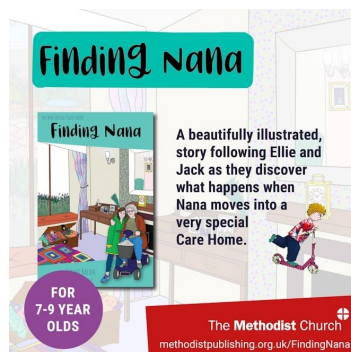
The Circuit Office will be closed from Thursday 21 December, returning Tuesday 2 January 2024. Both Louise & Michelle would like to thank everyone for their support & hard work this year and would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

Spring Quarter Preaching Plan

Preachers are asked to submit their availability for the Spring 2024 Preaching Plan (covering March, April & May 2024) by Monday 18 December. This can be entered into Chrestos, by telephoning or sent by email or post to Louise Hebbron in the Circuit Office. The plan will be open for Ministers to enter service details for their churches on Wednesday 20 December and will close on Monday 8 January. Church stewards are requested they send any service requests, arrangements and visiting preacher details (including DBS information) to their minister by 20 December for inclusion.

Sylvia Munns

Many of you will know Sylvia Munns, widow of the late Revd Keith Munns and former Circuit Methodist Women in Britain Secretary. Sylvia has recently moved to the Reading circuit to be with her family. Sylvia sends her thanks to everyone for their friendship and support over the years. If you would like to get in touch with Sylvia, please contact Louise Hebbron for her address.



New Book: Finding Nana

In partnership with MHA (Methodist Homes), the Methodist Church has published a children's book entitled *Finding Nana*. The book is a unique opportunity for The Methodist Church to have conversations around our retired/elderly community who find themselves moving to residential homes and how we explain this transition to our grandchildren and younger Methodist community. The book is available to purchase from Methodist Publishing.

WHAT'S ON OVER ADVENT & CHRISTMAS

17 December 10.30am

Nativity
Bethesda

17 December 10.30am

Carol Service & Nativity
Churchdown

17 December 10.30am

Carol Service
Cinderford

17 December 10.30am

Carol Service
Cirencester Ashcroft

17 December 10.30am

Carol Service
Coalway

17 December 10.30am

Carol Service
Fairford

17 December 10.30am

Carol Service
Hucclecote

17 December 10.30am

Carol Service
Lonsdale Road

17 December 10.30am

Carol Service
Quedgeley

17 December 10.30am

Carol Service
St John's Northgate

17 December 11am

Carol Service
Drybrook

17 December 4pm

Carol Service
Bailey Lane End

17 December 4pm

Carol Service
Tibberton

17 December 4pm

Carol Service
Lonsdale Road

17 December 5pm

Carol Service
Dursley

17 December 6pm

Carol Service
Aylburton

17 December 6pm

Carol Service
Bethesda

17 December 6pm

Carol Service
Clements End

17 December 5pm

Christingle
Pillowell

17 December 6pm

Carol Service
Tetbury

17 December 6pm

Carol Service
Wotton under Edge

17 December 6.30pm

Carol Service
Bishop's Cleeve

17 December 6.30pm

Carol Service
Churchdown

17 December 6.30pm

Carol Service
St Mark's

17 December 6.30pm

Carol Service
Stroud St Alban's

24 December 10am

Carol Service
Abbeydale

24 December 11.30pm

Holy Communion
Bethesda

24 December 3pm

Sing your favourite carols
Cam

24 December 10.30am

Christmas Eve service
St Mark's

24 December 11.30pm

Holy Communion
Stonehouse

WHAT'S ON OVER ADVENT & CHRISTMAS

25 December 8am
CofE service
Amberley

25 December 10am
Abbeylea Christchurch

25 December 10am
Bethesda

25 December 10am
'God in Us'
Stonehouse

25 December 10am
Tewkesbury

25 December 10.30am
Aylburton

25 December 10.30
Cirencester Ashcroft

25 December 10.30
Nailsworth

25 December 10.30
Newent St Mary's

25 December 10.30
St Mark's



25 December 9am
Celebrate Christmas
Cam

25 December 10am
CofE service
Amberley

25 December 10am
St John's Northgate

25 December 10am
Stroud

25 December 10.15
Wotton under Edge

25 December 10.30
Bailey Lane End

25 December 10.30
Churchdown

25 December 10.30
Hucclecote

25 December 10.30
Lonsdale Road

25 December 10.30
Quedgeley

25 December 10.30
Whaddon St Michael's

Advent once again reminds us
of promises made long ago
and revealed by many prophets
bestowed with the wisdom to know.
Somehow, somewhere in the darkness
an eternal light would shine forth
bringing with it the love, joy and peace
that an ailing world had long sought.

Take time out, then, to remember
amidst our busy, modern lives,
why we prepare and watch and wait
for that which is drawing nigh.
It's a story we all know so well
forever old, yet forever new,
it's message is everlasting
here and now as it was then, too.

The First Christmas

Long ago in days gone by
when life was very new,
in a dark and draughty stable
with a manger for a cradle
a child's first breath he drew.

Ox and ass looked on in wonder
at the child before them lay,
within the hay snugly holding
the tiny form for warmth enfolding,
that very first Christmas Day.

First shepherds came rejoicing
to see the newborn babe,
humbly praising they knelt in wonder
for the chains of evil would be rent asunder
by the child who came to save.

Three Wise Men from distance far
brought gifts Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh,
they worshipped him and gazed in peace
at one whose love will never cease
nor pain, nor death deter.

May the faith that led the shepherds
the star that led the three,
guide you, keep you and defend you
direct your steps on the path of truth
along the winding road to eternity.

Adele Garner
December 2023



DEEP WATERS

An 8-week
online study group
starting 7pm
Monday 5th February 2024

For more information, or to register,
contact:
revrachel.leather@methodist.org.uk

**Do you
experience
climate anxiety?**

*Deep Waters aims to help
people navigate their grief and
anger through a Christian lens
of love, wisdom, and justice,
and to lead people into a place
of active hope*




3GENERATE

Methodist Children & Youth Assembly

LOOKING BACK AT 3GENERATE 2023...

What a fantastic time we had at this year's children and youth assembly! We're always so grateful to all our volunteers and team. We really couldn't deliver the biggest event in British Methodism without you! Thank you too to the amazing leaders, who really do everything they can to ensure their groups have the best weekend possible. We're due to release our follow-up video soon but, in the meantime, if you want to know what we got up to, you can find an article on the [Methodist Church website](#)



The **Methodist Church**
Children, Youth and Family

**ALL-ROUND TRAINING
FOR EVERY VOLUNTEER
YOUTH LEADER**

"The Youthscape Essentials course is a helpful resource for those working with teenagers in our churches. No matter how long you have been working with young people there's always something useful to pick up from taking part in this training."

Simon, Lancashire

FREE ONLINE COURSE, STARTING IN JANUARY!

If you're wanting to grow your confidence and skills working with young people in churches & community projects then this programme is just what you're looking for!

Youthscape Essentials offers the opportunity to spend time in community with other workers and volunteers, exploring together insights into the lives of young people, relevant skills and character development. It's a perfect course for anyone involved in or interested in developing ministry with young people (aged 11-18). The material has been developed and piloted in a Methodist Circuit in partnership with Youthscape.

[Find out more & register here.](#)

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.



Are you a minister, chaplain, youth worker, young adult worker, volunteer?

We would like to capture your thoughts about Young Adult ministry at this time. We would be grateful if you could take the time to **fill in this short survey**. Your views will be helpful as we continue to plan and develop ministry with young adults in the Methodist Church.



Have a listen...

Ben Lawrence, who wrote and helped produce the Christmas single *Be Born*, talks to **Mel Osborne from BBC Radio Cornwall** about the process of creating it and finding the right singer to bring the song to life.

From 1hr 21mins available on the BBC website

Practical Christian Mysticism

Revd Jayne Webb runs a series of monthly sessions on Divine Wisdom and Practical Mysticism at Prinknash Abbey in the conference room at Prinknash Abbey (next to the Abbey Café). The sessions begin at 10.30am and will finish at 12.00 noon latest.

All sessions are on the 1st Saturday of every 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.

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

Exploring Digital Lunchtime Learning



On Tuesday 20 February 2024 we enter into the world of online church and online community. What can we learn about being an inclusive church from these experiences? Can we create authentic relationships online? Join Laura Neale, founder of **YouBelong** an online community catering for those who are chronically ill and disabled and

Tori Allen, Digital and Communications Officer for the Manchester and Stockport District.

Bring your lunch and join us at 12noon for an hour of insight and conversation and an opportunity to learn new skills, ask questions in a safe space, and leave with a digital toolkit of resources and ideas for mission and ministry.

This event is free and hosted online by Methodist Digital Training. You can book a place via Eventbrite.

Training & Events

Thursday 11 Jan to Thursday 14 Nov - online - Youthscape Essentials training

Happening monthly with a break for August. Invest some time in you and your ministry. **Find out more and book here.**

Friday 12 to Sunday 14 Jan - Yarnfield Park Training & Conference Centre - Whole Hearted: Evangelism & Growth Conference

The Evangelism and Growth team have felt for a while that we need to gather people across the Methodist Church who have a sense of the hopeful future that the Holy Spirit is leading us to. We have created this event which aims to open us to the bigger picture of God's mission in the world today. Places on the conference, including all accommodation and food are fully funded, but a deposit will be required at the time of booking. This deposit will be returned after the weekend to all who attend. As well as residential bookings for the whole weekend, there are also day tickets for Saturday 13 January. **Register for a place here.**

Tuesday 16 Jan - online - Confidence and self-esteem - ways to help your youth group

Hosted by Hope UK. Ideas and tools youth workers can use to help young people develop self confidence. Participants will learn a variety of activities and will receive resources following the event. **Register here.**

Friday 2 to Sunday 4 Feb - Eastbourne - Refresh - Hand in Hand conference

Annual children's ministry conference with a mix of keynote sessions, seminars and a lively exhibition. Be inspired, challenged and encouraged as you meet with other children's leaders and hear from leading practitioners. **Find out more and book.**

Wednesday 7 Feb - online - Now and Beyond

A mental health festival for education settings. Parents/carers, teachers and students alike will be able to participate in a number of ways including access to free online workshops, lesson plans and live streamed celebrity content. **Find out more and sign-up.**

Every Thursday 22 February to 16 May - online - Evangelism for leaders

This course is for all leaders in the Methodist Church (lay and ordained, paid and unpaid) who really want to reach new people but also understand that evangelism is a word with baggage. It's for leaders who want to discover their inner evangelists - and it's for those who'd rather they remained undiscovered! It's for leaders who are wondering how to help others grow in confidence in their faith and share it. This course aims to equip leaders in their contexts to: confidently model what it means to follow our shared calling to evangelism; to intentionally prioritise and promote evangelism and to cultivate a culture of confident, authentic faith sharing. **Find out more and register.**

Tuesday 27 Feb - online - Let's End Poverty

You will be hearing from builders and church members who are leading the way and reflect on how you can help to build momentum for change. The Methodist Church is passionate about understanding these causes and how we can help in order to solve it and then you, too, can be part of the movement. **Find out more and register.**

Friday 24 to Tuesday 28 May - Cliff College, Derbyshire - Cliff Festival: Rerouted

Cliff Festival is a worship and teaching event where people gather to pray, learn and encounter the Spirit of the living God. Cliff Festival is full of opportunities for people of all ages, including children and young people, to engage in worship and learning individually and together. The Festival is offering a **special deal for youth groups**, which includes the opportunity to hire pre-set-up tents and get free tickets for group leaders.

Food Allergy or Intolerance?

If you have a food allergy, intolerance, or coeliac disease – please speak to the staff about the ingredients in your food and drink before you order.

Thank you.

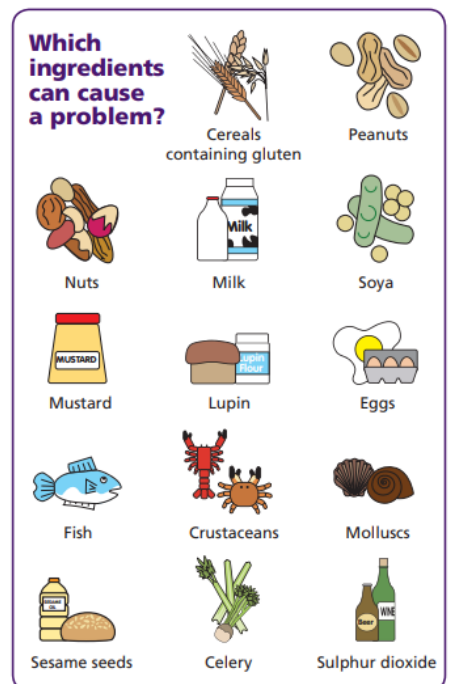
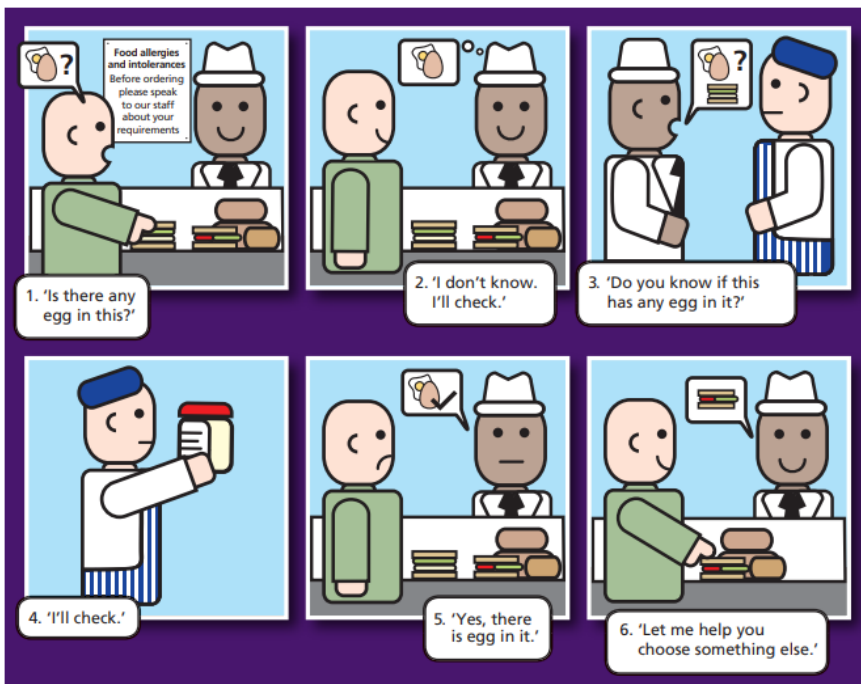


FOOD ALLERGY AND INTOLERANCE TRAINING

Suz Jones, Community Outreach Worker at Lonsdale Road Methodist Church and Social and Climate Justice Portfolio Holder, also undertakes Food Allergen training via the Food Standards Agency. You need to create a login then it's a free, short online course with a certificate at the end. You can access the website here: www.allergytraining.food.gov.uk/login/index.php

Think Allergy

When someone asks you if a food contains a particular ingredient – always check. From 13 December 2014, food businesses will need to provide information about allergenic ingredients in the food they serve.



For more information and advice about allergy, visit: food.gov.uk/allergy
A booklet **Allergen information for loose foods** is also available to download.

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



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.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

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
31 January		Deadline for entry of Statistics for Mission information
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
4 March	7.30pm	Local Preachers' & Worship Leaders' Meeting - Zoom
7 March	7.30pm	Local Preachers' & Worship Leaders' Meeting - Zoom
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