

NOTICES & NEWS

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 Website: www.hucclecotemc.org

Worship in Church and Online Preachers and readings for Sunday 16th March

Genesis 15: 1-12, 17-18;

Psalms 27;

Philippians 3: 17 - 4: 1;

Luke 13: 31-35

Worship in Church: 10.30am

*(Junior Church sessions are on the 2nd &
 4th Sunday each month at 10.30am)*

Mar 16th David Bennett

Mar 23rd Russell Buley

Mar 30th Rev John McNeil

Apr 6th Patricia Turner

Flowers in church this week have
 been kindly provided by
 Mrs V Austin

Weekly Programme

Monday:

Badminton Club 9.30-
11.30am

Carers Coffee Morning 10.30-11.30am
(3rd Mon)

Friendship Club (2nd Mon) 2.30pm

BB&GA Anchors/Juniors 5.30-
8.15pm

(termtime)

Welcome Cafe (termtime) 5.30-8.15pm

Monday Makers 7.30-9.30pm

Tuesday:

JellyTotz 10-11.30am
Parents & Toddlers (termtime)

Men's Social (2nd Tue) 10-12noon

The Chosen Study Group 2-4pm
(in the lounge)

Step"n"Style (termtime) 4-8.30pm

Wednesday:

Welcome Cafe 10-12noon

Welcome Garden 10-12noon

Supastrikers(termtime) 1.30-2.15pm

Thursday:

Welcome Cafe 10 - 12noon

Craft Group 10 - 12noon

BB&GA Company 7-10.00pm
(termtime)

Friday:

Friday Lunch Club 2nd&4th
Fri

Saturday:

Welcome Cafe 10-12noon
(1st & 3rd of month)

Foodbank – The collection crate is

Church & PFA Events 2024

Apr 12th Church Jumble Sale
May 17th Saturday - Plant Sale

The Chosen Study Group – 3rd Season

Season 3 commencing Tuesday 6th May

Why not come and join us?

So far, with Seasons 1 and 2, we have been introduced to many familiar people such as Mary Magdalene and the disciples, as Jesus meets and asks them to join him. We have also seen the depiction of well known stories and miracles, such as, The Wedding at Cana, Simon with the big catch of fish, the healing of lepers, the woman at the well, the feeding of the 5 thousand, the healing of the paralysed man at Bethesda, and many more. The series gives us the historical context, how life looked at that time and an insight into aspects of life under the Romans which we have found enhances our understanding. While there is some dramatic licence, everything is done with respect for the scriptures.

If anyone is interested but can't make an afternoon meeting, I would be happy to arrange an evening group, to start with Season 1. Please speak to Diana if interested.

Final Chance

Ladies' Lunch - Monday 31 March

Please sign up as soon as possible with your menu choices.
 All are welcome and lifts are available.

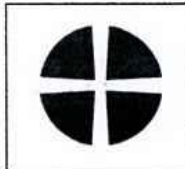
Annual Church Meeting

The Annual Church Meeting has been moved to Sunday 18th May. The morning service will be followed by a Bring & Share lunch with the Annual meeting immediately afterwards. This change has been made to enable those reluctant to turn out in the evenings to be present.

HMC Website Homepage: www.hucclecotemc.org.uk

Church Finances - Very Important

The letter below was handed out to the congregation on Sunday and is duplicated below due to it's importance. There was also an error in the first draft, which referred to the cost of employing our new Local Lay Pastor, when appointed. The cost of this position is not the responsibility of HMC but will be wholly borne by the Circuit and therefore the sentence in the original draft referring to this can be ignored.



Hucclecote Methodist Church

web: hucclecotemc.org.uk

email: info@hucclecote.org.uk

Minister: Revd Dr John McNeill, 76 Oldbury Orchard, Churchdown GL3 2NY Tel. (01452) 855477

March 5, 2025

Dear Friends,

On behalf of the Finance and Property Committee, we are writing to all Members and Friends of Hucclecote Methodist Church with some concern about the finances of our Church. The Church's income has not been sufficient over the past few years to cover all Church expenditure and so Church reserves are being used, albeit this fluctuates from year to year, this year to the tune of £9k.

Our income comes mainly from the weekly collection, fund-raising events, donations from Church groups, and from letting out the Church premises. Our expenditure is mainly for the upkeep of the Church premises and for our contribution towards the Gloucestershire Circuit Assessment. To give some idea of figures, total expenditure for September 2023 to August 2024 was £87,000, of which £57,000 was paid as Circuit Assessment; that works out at around £1,700 per week

We ask if you therefore would seriously and prayerfully consider increasing your voluntary giving to the Church. Everyone's circumstances are different, of course, but, if we can get an extra £2 per person each week, we should be in much better financial shape.

If you would like to set up a new Standing Order, or change an existing one, the HMC bank details are as follows (we've a new account):

Account name:	Hucclecote Methodist Church
Sort Code: 08-92-99	Account Number: 67346464

If you are a tax payer and would like the Church to reclaim the Gift Aid on your donation then please contact Ron Keasley who will provide you with a Gift Aid form.

Thank you for reading this letter and considering carefully how you might help the Church further in its mission, to be "An active community of people seeking to follow Jesus and trying to live as God intends." Please remember too in your prayers the lay pastoral worker position about to be re-advertised.

With every blessing,

John McNeill

John McNeill
Minister

Mark Dickens

Mark Dickens
Finance & Property Committee

John Rainbow

John Rainbow
Church Treasurer

Lent Prayers

You will find the Lent Prayers at the end of this Newsletter so please continue to scroll down for the Prayers for weeks commencing 9th and 16th.

They can also be found on the HMC website in the Worship section.

Click here <https://www.hucclecotemc.org.uk/worship/lent-prayers.html>

An Update on our Pastoral Worker Post

You will be pleased to know that our Pastoral Worker post is now being advertised on the Circuit and Church websites, at local churches and on social media.

The closing date is noon on March 31st and interviews are planned for Tuesday April 8th at Hucclecote.

If you know anyone who may be interested please share the details with them. If you know where the post could be advertised, please let Lynne Cooke, Nick Butler or Peter Shaw know and we can send you a copy of the poster.

Please pray that God will bring us the right applicant to develop his mission through us in Hucclecote. Please remember everyone involved in the selection process in your prayers too.

(see the full advertisement under "Notices" on HMC website)

Gloucester & District Christian Choir Concert 5th April



Raising funds for
CHILDREN WITH CANCER UK

Gloucester
 and District
 Christian Choir

CONCERT AT HUCCLECOTE METHODIST CHURCH, GLOUCESTER GL3 3QP
7.00pm Saturday 5th April 2025
Refreshments and Raffle

Tickets £6.00 (Children 16 and under - free)
 Tickets available from Andrea 07939 521970

Plant & Garden Sale – 17th May

The Annual Plant Sale is one of HMC's major fund raising events. No doubt you are aware that it has been moved from it's Bank Holiday slot and will now take place on

Saturday 17th May.

There will be a number of appeals over the next couple of months, not just for physical help, but also for items to sell – plants, tools etc. Here is the first one:

Please will you put the event above in your diaries as this is a change from the usual Bank Holiday Monday Plant Sale to Saturday instead. We hope that plants will have grown a little more by May 17th and the bigger the plant- the more money we raise for our church.

We always do very well from the sale of preloved garden tools, lawn mowers and garden equipment. They usually need some attention before we offer these tools and equipment for sale and that is why we are appealing for similar items NOW in advance of the sale.

Please will you check your garden shed for any unwanted tools that may be suitable for our fundraising event. Please ask your friends or neighbours if they are spring cleaning their sheds or garages, we would appreciate any donations.

Contact Sue and Andy on 01452 615143 or email glosearch@hotmail.com for more information. Thank you from the Fundraising team.



Gloucester Foodbank
Together with Trussell

Give in Lent Collection Point

Help support our food bank this Lent

Who provide emergency food and practical support to people in Gloucester & surrounding areas in their hardest moments.

Please donate items from this list & Easter Eggs to help stock their 3 day emergency food parcels this Easter.

Shopping list

- Tinned meat & fish
- Easter chocolate treats
- Tinned ready meals
- Tinned fruit & custard
- Milk (UHT or powdered)
- Instant packet mash
- Tin vegetables/tomatoes
- Jars of Cooking Sauce
- Long life fruit juice/squash
- Crisps & snack bars
- Deodorant & toiletries
- Pet food (cat & dog)

Isiah 58:6-8 NIV
"7. Is it not to share your food with the hungry and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter when you see the naked, to clothe them, and not to turn away from your own flesh and blood?"



Scan QR code to find out more about our work and to make a financial donation

01452 309683
gloucester.foodbank.org.uk
Registered Charity in England & Wales 1113515

 /GloucesterFoodbank

 /GloucesterFbank

 /gloucesterfoodbank/

We cannot accept

- Any fresh/frozen food
- Any products containing alcohol
- Any out of date food or food without its packaging

(Week beginning 9th March)

Lent prayers

‘The Earth is the Lord’s and everything in it, the world and all who live in it.’ Psalm 24:1

As we did last year during Lent, we are inviting you to pray for projects overseas that are helping people to improve the environment, help wildlife or to avoid the effects of climate change. Each week we will tell you a bit about the projects and ask that you pray for their success.

This week we invite you to pray for the work of the Leprosy Mission charity as well as all the other medical and charity organisations working to treat people with diseases that are increasing in prevalence because of the climate emergency

You might have heard of the climate crisis affecting diseases such as malaria. However, you may be surprised to hear that the spread of leprosy can also be increased with weather changes caused by climate change

Chief Executive of the Leprosy Mission Peter Waddup explains that, "While climate change has a negative impact on all our lives, for those living in the world's poorest communities it is a matter of life or death. Each year my colleagues in Asia and Africa have to halt their planned leprosy work. There is always an urgent need to respond with emergency aid to a climate-exacerbated disaster. It is a real injustice as the lives most impacted by these climatic disasters are those with the smallest carbon footprints."

Peter said he is hearing from project staff how climate change is directly fuelling the spread of leprosy. "Just last month my colleague returned from visiting one of our projects in Northern Sri Lanka," he said. "He was visiting a community on the island of Vellanai where the fishermen are now struggling to make a living. This is due to the monsoon winds weakening because of climate



change. As a result, there is less plankton offshore and, therefore, less fish. This has caused real hardship for the fishermen and their families. As a result, eight of the women from the community travelled to the capital Colombo to work in a garment factory.

Now it appears these women contracted leprosy during their time in Colombo and brought it back to the island. The government previously said that leprosy had been eliminated on Vellanai. Yet when my colleague visited last month, 13 women had been diagnosed with leprosy in the very small community.

This example hit home to me just how vulnerable the people we serve are to climate change. There is a clear link between economic migration due to climate change and the spread of disease. “

(Week beginning 16th March)

Lent prayers

‘He makes grass grow for the cattle, and plants for people to cultivate-bringing forth food from the earth.’ Psalm 104:14

This Lent we are inviting you to pray for projects overseas that are helping people to improve the environment, help wildlife or to avoid the effects of climate change. Each week we will tell you a bit about the projects and ask that you pray for their success.

21st March is the United Nations International Day of Forests, so this week we invite you to pray for the work of all the charities, including Farm Africa, who are working to protect forests and the people who rely on them.



The theme for this year is ‘Forests and Food’. Forests are essential for food security, nutrition, sustainable livelihoods, and a thriving planet. They provide everything from fruits, nuts, seeds, tubers, mushrooms, honey and insects to fuelwood for cooking and boiling water. At the same time, they provide habitat for insects that pollinate crops, clean water and make fertile soil. In times of crisis, forests are a lifeline, preventing malnutrition and famine when farmed crops fail. Maintaining the health of forests is one of the most effective ways to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

However, in many regions forests are under threat due to habitat destruction, land use change, pollution, overexploitation, climate change, and growth of

populations and cities.

Farm Africa is one charity working to promote agroforestry whereby trees are grown alongside food crops.

Here we see Benjamin, a village-based advisor in Farm Africa's regenerative agriculture project, his wife Rose, inspecting their in Kenya.



and
farm

can

Sustainable forest management ensure food security while supporting Indigenous communities and preserving forests for the benefits of people and wildlife.