

NOTICES & NEWS

Minister: Revd. John McNeill,
john.mcneill@methodist.org.uk 01452 855477
 Senior Steward: Lynne Cooke, lynnecooke65@aol.com, 07729774204
 Other enquiries: info@hucclecotemc.org.uk
 Notices: Items to be sent to notices@hucclecotemc.org.uk
 Website: www.hucclecotemc.org

Worship in Church and Online Preachers and readings for Sunday 23rd March

Isaiah 55: 1-9;
 Psalm 63; 1-8
 1 Corinthians 10: 1-13;
 Luke 13: 1-9

Worship in Church: 10.30am

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

Mar 23rd Russell Buley
 Mar 30th Rev John McNeil
 Apr 6th Patricia Turner
 Apr 13th Andrew Maxwell
 Apr 18th 7.30pm Good Friday Service
 Apr 20th Easter Sunday,
 (Holy Communion-Rev John McNeill)

Flowers in church this week have
 been kindly provided by
 Mrs M Roberts

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
 available in the church entrance every
 week.

Church & PFA Events 2024

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

Easter Services

Please join us at one of our services during the period of Lent and over the Easter period. Most of these services are listed in the left-hand column.

Maundy Thursday - 17th April 7.30pm

This service will be held at Churchdown Methodist Church.

Good Friday - 18th April 7.00pm

Rev John McNeill will lead us in a time of worship.

Easter Sunday - 20th April 10.30am

For those who wish, the service will be preceded by a light breakfast at 9am. All are welcome to join in our service and Holy Communion at 10.30am.

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

The best thing of all is God is with us.

John Wesley

Lent Prayers – 23rd March Week 3

The Lent Prayers for all 4 weeks can now be found on the church website under the “Worship” tab.

**‘The heavens are yours, and yours also the earth; you founded the world and all that is in it.’
Psalm 89:11**

As we continue during Lent to pray for overseas environment projects, this week we invite you to pray for the work of all the organisations protecting the Leuser Ecosystem on the Indonesian island of Sumatra, including the Leuser Conservation Forum (FKL), Sumatran Rhino Rescue and Global Conservation.

What are they protecting?

- 6 million acres of tropical rainforests with an exceptional diversity of plants (over 10 000 species) and animals, 22 of which are found nowhere else including the Sumatran elephant, tiger and rhino. This has led conservationists to call Leuser one of the “world’s most irreplaceable protected areas”.
- It provides clean drinking water and food for 4 million people.
- It slows down climate change by storing 1.5 billion tonnes of carbon.

Why does it need protecting?

- It is a ‘UNESCO World Heritage Site in Danger’: one fifth of the protected lowland forests have been destroyed in the past five years by illegal logging, mining, roadbuilding, and oil palm plantations.



- The wildlife is threatened by loss of habitat and poaching.
-

What are they doing to protect it?

- Clearing illegal oil palm plantations to allow the forest to naturally regenerate with the return of tigers, orangutans and sun bears (which happens in as little as three to four years).
 - 28 teams of FKL rangers patrol and use drones and satellite communication. Poaching has decreased by up to 90% in some areas.

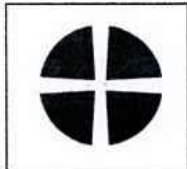


A breeding programme for the Sumatran rhino
Providing employment and education in alternatives to poaching and illegal logging.
Overall, illegal logging has decreased by 20% in recent years.

- Providing legal support, investigative journalism and lobbying to ensure continued government protection of the rainforest.

Church Finances - Very Important

The letter below was handed out to the congregation on Sunday and is duplicated below due to its 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

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