

# NOTICES & NEWS

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

## Worship in Church and Online Preachers and readings for Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2026

Genesis 12: 1-4a;

Psalms 121;

Romans 4: 1-5, 13-17;

John 3: 1-17

**Worship in Church: 10.30am**

*(Sunday Fun sessions are on the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup>*

*Sunday each month at 10.30am)*

1<sup>st</sup> Mar Keith Linzner

8<sup>th</sup> Mar Rev John McNeill  
 (Holy Communion)

15<sup>th</sup> Mar Robert Carr

22<sup>nd</sup> Mar Rev John McNeill

22<sup>nd</sup> Mar Circuit Assembly in the  
 afternoon. 6pm evening Service

5<sup>th</sup> April Gary Hunter Easter Day

**Flowers in Church for this Sunday  
 are kindly provided by  
 Mrs M Partridge**

### Weekly Programme

#### *Monday:*

**Badminton Club** 9.30-11.30am

**Carers Coffee Morning** 10.30-11.30am  
 (3<sup>rd</sup> Mon)

**Friendship Club** (2<sup>nd</sup> Mon) 2.30pm

**BB&GA Anchors/Juniors** 5.30-8.00pm  
 (termtime)

**Welcome Cafe** (termtime) 5.30-8.00pm

**Monday Makers** 7.30-9.30pm

#### *Tuesday:*

**JellyTotz** 10-11.30am

Parents & Toddlers (termtime)

**Men's Social** (2<sup>nd</sup> Tue) 10-12noon

**The Chosen** (Study Group) 2-4pm

**Step'n'Style** (termtime) 4-8.30pm

#### *Wednesday:*

**Welcome Cafe** 10-12noon

**Welcome Garden** 10-12noon

**Tech Support** 10.30-12noon  
 (in Welcome 1<sup>st</sup>&3<sup>rd</sup>)

#### *Thursday:*

**Welcome Cafe** 10 - 12noon

**Craft Group** 10 - 12noon

**BB&GA Company** 7-10.00pm  
 (termtime)

#### *Friday:*

**Friday Lunch Club** 2<sup>nd</sup>&4<sup>th</sup> Fri

#### *Saturday:*

**Welcome Cafe** 10-12noon  
 (1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> of month)

**Foodbank** – The collection crate is  
 available in the church entrance.

## Church & PFA Events 2026

**April 25<sup>th</sup>**

**Jumble Sale (Church) – 2pm**

**May 16<sup>th</sup>**

**Plant Sale – 10.30am**

**May 30<sup>th</sup>**

**Jumble Sale (PFA) – 2pm**

**June 13<sup>th</sup>**

**Model Railway Show - 10am-5pm**

## Gary Hunter – Lay Pastor

You will have noticed Gary popping into various groups in the church (as well as Sunday Worship), predominantly to introduce himself and for you to put a face to the name.

Please feel free to approach Gary should you wish to discuss any matters, be they personal, spiritual or HMC in general.

The church Café is open on Monday evenings during term time which coincides with our BB meeting. It is Gary's intention to be available in the library on Monday evenings between 5pm and 7pm for anyone who wishes to speak with him.

## Irene Egles

Sadly, we have to report that Irene passed away earlier last week.

At the time of writing, we do not have any further information. Further announcements will be made in this publication and during Sunday worship.

Please hold Irene and her family in your thoughts and prayers.

# Lent

## Week 2:

Let go of **the form**,  
embrace **the spirit**

Faith can sometimes feel like a checklist: rules to follow, routines to keep, boxes to tick. We may cling to what feels safe and predictable. But Jesus reminds us that the Spirit moves freely, like the wind – unseen yet powerful, surprising and alive.



Lent invites us to **loosen our grip** on what feels fixed and **open ourselves** to mystery and transformation.

Abram left everything familiar to follow God's call. Nicodemus came to Jesus at night, searching for answers. Both discovered that life with God isn't about rigid forms – it's about trust, openness and the Spirit.

**What would it look like to let go of the need for certainty and allow God to surprise you this week?**

**Where might the Spirit be nudging you towards something new?**

## Try this spiritual practice

Set aside a few minutes each day to pause and pray:

***Spirit of life, move freely. Help me notice what matters.***

Then, as you go about your day, stay open to unexpected moments: a conversation, a glimpse of beauty, a word that speaks to your heart. Jot down what you notice or take photos.

## The Chosen Study Group – evening sessions

Some members expressed a wish for an evening meeting to study The Chosen, as they are not free on a Tuesday afternoon.

If there is sufficient interest, it is proposed to hold a group on either a Monday or Tuesday evening, 7-9pm. (This will be in addition to the afternoon group, which will continue as usual.)

The Keasleys have kindly offered to host this in their home. This would start from the beginning, Season 1, Episode 1, so it doesn't matter if you have never seen any of it before, or have missed some episodes.

We would watch an episode and then discuss it. It's not 'heavy' or demanding but gives an interesting insight to familiar Bible stories and the lives of Jesus and the disciples. If you would like to know more, speak to one of the members who attend the afternoon group.

We plan to start after Easter, towards the end of April, exact date to be confirmed. The day will depend on which one most people can attend.

If you would be interested, please speak to either Diana or Ron & Elaine.

## World Day of Prayer

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The World Day of Prayer is organised by a global ecumenical movement led by Christian women who welcome you to join in prayer for peace and justice on 6<sup>th</sup> March.

This year's service has been written by women of Nigeria. The theme – 'I will give you rest, come' – (Matthew 11: v28-30), includes the story of four Nigerian women and their experiences of how God provides rest in difficult times.

In Brockworth, local churches take turns in planning and organising the services in our area.

This year it will be at:

**St Patrick's RC Church, Brockworth, GL3 4HL**

**Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March at 10am in the church hall**

All are very welcome to the service, both men and women, and it will be followed by refreshments. It is a wonderful opportunity to join with local Christians and people across the world to pray for peace and justice and to celebrate the difference God makes in our lives.

If you would like to attend and require a lift please see Loraine Shaw, 07707 640916

## Announcement from the Circuit

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**Statement to be read out in church, by the duty steward, this coming Sunday - 15.02.2026 regarding stationing decisions pertaining to Rev'd John McNeill**

Some of you will already have heard that the Rev'd John McNeill has been appointed by Conference to serve as a Superintendent in another part of the District from 2026. This means he will be moving a year earlier than we had expected, rather than going through the usual process of re-invitation or stationing next year.

This has not been John's choice. It is part of a wider movement across the Connexion as the Stationing Committee responds to the current shortage of ministers, and especially Superintendents. From time to time, the Church needs to make these changes for the good of the wider mission, and there is provision within our Standing Orders for this when circumstances require it.

Of course, we feel this news deeply. John has given so much to this Circuit, to his churches, and to his colleagues, and he will be greatly missed. I think we would all have loved another year together. John himself feels very torn, but like all Methodist ministers he lives out the call to itinerancy, and he has responded with generosity and faithfulness.

The District has reassured us that arrangements will be made to ensure continued pastoral leadership here. I know some have wondered whether this might mean a gap for a time, but I want to be clear that this will not be the case. Conversations are already underway with the District and the Stationing Committee to make sure the Circuit is well supported. We don't yet know exactly what this will look like, but we will share more as soon as we can. In the meantime, John remains with us until the end of July.

If you have any questions, please do speak with me or with the Rev'd Dr Marcus Torchon. While discussions are still ongoing we may not have every detail just yet, but we will always be as open as we can.

Above all, I know you will want to hold John in your prayers, and to thank him for all he has given among us, as he prepares to follow this next step in God's call.

Rev'd Jayne Webb

Superintendent - Gloucestershire Circuit

## Lent Services etc - from Rev John

Following the Ash Wednesday service on the 18<sup>th</sup> February at Churchdown Methodist at 10am, I will run two Lent series.

- Showing of 'The Chosen' season five (Holy Week events) at the manse from Friday February 20<sup>th</sup> to April 3<sup>rd</sup> 7-8.30pm with refreshments.
- Lent talks 'All shall be well' based on Mother Julian of Norwich's Revelations of Divine Love at Lonsdale Methodist starting Tuesday February 24<sup>th</sup> from 12-1pm.
- Maundy Thursday service at Hucclecote 7pm 2<sup>nd</sup> April
- Good Friday service at Lonsdale at 10.30, as well as the Walk of Witness in Churchdown.

## Lonsdale Road Closure

### **SOME SAY IT'S JUST A BUILDING – BRICKS AND MORTAR**

Not to me it isn't – it's a "church," a dedicated place of worship. Lonsdale is a second home, a place where I feel wanted (even needed), a place where I meet my second family, my friends. A place where I want to praise my God.

You get told nowadays to visit your pharmacy. It is not the same as going to the surgery and seeing your doctor. You can go skiing on pretend snow but I expect it is much better on a real snowy mountain. You can get your groceries delivered but to me I would rather have a good mooch around the actual supermarket. You obviously eat at home but isn't it good to go to a restaurant. You can even go in a flight simulator, but wouldn't you rather be going somewhere in an aeroplane.

BUT . . . My "church" (I have been going to Lonsdale non-stop for nearly 66 years) is closing and I quite understand the reasons why we have to close and I cannot go there anymore. I've thought about where else I could go, other 'churches.' I know other Lonsdale members have too thought long and hard over their decision. Some are taking the opportunity to find somewhere quiet, some more lively, some where they have close friends worshipping.

In the end I cannot give up my 'Lonsdale Family' so I am moving to St Oswald's to 'give it a go.' I can at least try it. You never know I may thoroughly enjoy praising my God in "just a building!"

Sue Stone



**Lonsdale Church at St Oswalds.** This is the new name with effect from 19<sup>th</sup> April.

Services will be held at St Oswalds Village, with the first service on 19<sup>th</sup> April commencing at 11am. Further details will be made available nearer the date. The final service at Lonsdale Road will be held on 12<sup>th</sup> April commencing at 10.30am. This will be followed by a buffet lunch.

**Celebration Service April 12th**

The stewards are starting to plan for the Celebration Service to mark the life, people and events that have made Lonsdale Rd Methodist church such a lovely welcoming community. With that in mind I am hoping to put together a powerpoint presentation that will, with your help, feature photos of people and events to celebrate and reflect life at Lonsdale over the years.

If you have photos that I could borrow to scan and include, or even better send them to me electronically by email then I will do my best to include them. I may not be able to include them all but I will try and include a wide range of events and people. Please include your name and the event either on the back or with the photos so I can return them safely to you.

Thank you in advance, Julie  
[juliegillard58@gmail.com](mailto:juliegillard58@gmail.com)

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## Safeguarding

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The Gloucestershire Circuit has arranged two zoom Creating Safer Space Foundation level safeguarding training evenings for Church Volunteers on the following dates:

- Wednesday 19 March 2026 at 6:30pm to 9pm
- Thursday 25 June 2026 at 6:30pm to 9pm

All Church Volunteers who have never attended a Methodist Church Safeguarding Training Course or who have not attended any Safeguarding Training within the last five years, are invited to attend the Foundation Training Course.

To book a space, please email [safeguarding@glosccircuit.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@glosccircuit.org.uk) and the Zoom meeting invitation will be sent to you nearer the time. Debbie Long will also arrange for the latest Creating Safer Space training handbook to be provided.