



ST. MARK'S METHODIST CHURCH

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Sunday 3rd December 2023

Collect for the First Sunday in Advent

Lord our God, keep us your servants alert and watchful as we await the return of Christ your son, so that when he comes and knocks at the door he may find us vigilant in prayer, with songs of praise on our lips. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

From the Methodist Prayer Handbook: Today we pray with Christians in West Africa & Britain. *We are yours, O God, for you have made us and loved us. We are yours, O God, for you have saved us and called us. Being yours, O God, let us eternally rejoice your presence (Teresa of Avila 1515-1582)*

Morning Worship 10.30am Gift Service with Denise Baugh

Readings: Isaiah 64 v1-9; Mark 13 v24-37

Live-stream link for morning service : <https://youtube.com/live/PqOk10g1zKk?feature=share>

Please join us for refreshments in the hall after the service.

Notices

Tuesday 5th December 10-12 Coffee morning in the church, all welcome.

Wednesday 6th December 9.00 Ecumenical Communion service Bishop's Cleeve Methodist Church.

Wednesday 6th December 9.30 -11.30 Toddler Group in the hall

Thursday 7th December 2.30 House Group at Brenda's, led by Russell.

Saturday 9th December 12.30 - 4pm Christmas Meal and Festive Quiz (see below)

Sunday 10th December 10.30 All Age Worship and Nativity with Rev Rachel Leather

Other Notices

COP28 Heads-up and Daily Prayer: The COP28 Summit is from 30 Nov to 12 Dec in Dubai with around 70,000 delegates hearing governments from around the world discuss how to tackle climate change with stakeholders. At 8am every morning during COP28, there will be 10 minutes of Green Christian prayer and reflection, focusing on the theme of the day on Zoom. For those who cannot make 8am, but wish to join with the prayers, the sessions are also being pre-recorded and put up on this webpage each day. As our church is a member of Green Christian we are all members - all are welcome! Sign up here: <https://greenchristian.org.uk/prayer-for-cop28-2/>

Also, the local Green Christian group will be holding a climate vigil on December 8th in the Information Pod outside Mark's and Spencer in the High Street, between 11 and 4. If you're in town, please do drop by and give your support.

Fellowship & Fundraiser 9th Dec- Please make sure that if you wish to come along to this event, your name is on the list or speak to Julie or Derek Porter. £10 per adult, £5 per child (5-12), under-5's free. Thank you to those who have already donated items for the food hamper raffle prize. If you are unable to join us on the 9th but wish to lend your support, then please do ask a church member who is attending to buy a raffle ticket for you (£1 a strip).

Church Decoration for Christmas

Saturday 9th December: We will be decorating the church for Christmas ready for the nativity service on Sunday morning. If you are able to help before going to the Christmas lunch on Saturday, it would be very much appreciated.

Saturday 16th December: Putting up the candles on high planks in church after the 11-12 slot of carol singing at Waitrose.

Carol Singing

Just a reminder that we need carol singers on Thursday 14th December at Honeybourne Gate (from 11 am) and later in aid of Christian Aid at John Lewis (7-9 pm).

Church Car Park

Please note that the car park will be inaccessible for cars from 20th November for the next 3 weeks. It should still be possible to access the bike shed. Spaces at the front will be priority for those less able. As soon as the car park becomes available again we will let you know. Apologies for the inconvenience during this work.