Minister: Rev Rachel Leather Tel: 01242 262657

[**minister@stmarksmethodist.org.uk**](about:blank)

**Morning Service 10.30am Local Arrangement**

Collect for the for the First Sunday in Advent

Almighty God,  
give us grace that we may cast away the works of darkness,   
and put on us the armour of light,   
now in the time of this mortal life,   
in which your Son Jesus Christ   
came to visit us in great humility;   
that on the last day,   
when he shall come again in his glorious Majesty,   
to judge both the quick and the dead,   
we may rise to the life immortal;   
through him 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:

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Morning Worship 10:30am – The Gift Service, led by Rev Rachel Leather.

Live-stream link for morning service: <https://youtube.com/live/qb1NqHJYwA0?feature=share>

**Order of Service**

Call to Worship

Stormy sea sound effect

Advent candle liturgy

LWT: 71 These are the days of Elijah

Opening prayers

Gift Sunday

All Age Talk

Methodist Church Christmas video

(kids leave)

Reading: Jeremiah 33: 14-16

Reading: Luke 21: 25-36

StF: 457 Author of faith, eternal word

Sermon

StF: 405 Great is the darkness

Offertory prayer

Intercessions

Lord’s Prayer

StF: 188 There’s a light upon the mountains

Blessing

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

**NOTICES**

**Tuesday 3rd December, 10.00am** – **12noon Tuesday Coffee Morning** in the Church.  
All Welcome.

**Wednesday 4th December, 9:00am – 10:00am Ecumenical Communion Service** at Bishop's Cleeve Methodist Church

**Wednesday 4th December, 9:30am – 11:30am Toddlers Group**

**Wednesday 4th December, 7:30pm Advent Study Group at Bethesda**

**Friday 6th December, 2:30pm – 4:00pm Friday Club**

**Sunday 8th December, 10.30am Holy Communion** with the Rev Carrie Seaton.

**ADVANCE NOTICES**

**Tuesday 10th December, 10.00am** – **12noon Tuesday Coffee Morning** in the Church.  
All Welcome.

**Tuesday 10th December, 2.00pm** – **4:00-pm Open Fellowship** in the Small Hall

**Wednesday 11th December, 9:00am – 10:00am Ecumenical Communion Service** at Bishop's Cleeve Methodist Church

**Wednesday 11th December, 9:30am – 11:30am Toddlers Group**

**Thursday 12th December, 10:00am – 11:00am Messy Church Planning**

**Friday 13th December, 11.00am** – **12noon**  Carol singing at Honeybourne Gate with Salem. Mince pies and drinks...

**Saturday 14th December, 11.00am** – **12noon**  Carol singing at Waitrose with Salem.

**Christmas Eve Midnight Mass:**

Rev Rachel is leading a midnight communion service at St Mark's starting at 11.30pm. It would be very helpful if at least one person offered to help steward for this service. It doesn't have to be a member at St Mark's - just someone to welcome people in and keep an eye on the door for any latecomers. Rachel doesn't need help with communion, but she would appreciate an extra pair of hands, especially as we usually get visitors to this service. We understand that for most people this service is just too late at night though, so please only offer if you were planning to come to this Christmas Eve reflective worship.

**Last Service of the Year**

*Sunday 29 December 10.30am*

*This will be a locally arranged service. If you would like to choose a favourite Christmas hymn from Singing the Faith, Hymns and Psalms or Let's Worship together please email your choice to:*[*stewards@stmarksmethodist.org.uk*](mailto:stewards@stmarksmethodist.org.uk)*or pop your choice in one of the boxes by our entrances at church. Please do this by****15 December.****Thank you.*

**Carol Singing at Honeybourne Gate**

*We are invited to sing Christmas carols at Honeybourne Gate, Gloucester Road (almost opposite Tesco) on 13 December. We have a pianist and we now need voices. If you can join us, meet at Honeybourne Gate just before 11.00am. If you are coming by car there is a large car park at Tesco. Coffee and mince pies will be served.*

*Ask Judith or Rachel if you want to know more.*

**Doing December Differently:**

the second of our four-week Advent study group is this Wednesday (4th) meeting in The Well at Bethesda at 7.30pm. Each session stands alone, so you don't need to commit to all four of them

**Methodist Prayer Handbook:**

Russell Buley will again be placing the order in August from St. Mark's for the Methodist Prayer Handbook. The 2024/2025 edition is entitled "Praise & Protest" and will cost £4.15. If you would like a copy please let him know when you see him or by 01242 244036 or by russell.buley@btinternet.com.



Needs at present:

Many thanks to all who are contributing regularly to our boxes by the two entrances to our building. Below is a list of Foodbank present needs:

Soup - cans or packets

Instant mash, instant noodles and instant rice

Savoury snacks

Toilet paper, washing up liquid, washing powder

(Powder or capsules please. Not Liquid)

Tinned hot and cold meats, fish

Biscuits, chocolates/sweets

Desserts - hot or cold, packets, cans, rice

Tins - fruit, vegetables, tomatoes, baked beans

Drinks - long life milk, long life Juices, squash, tea and coffee

Baby Items - Nappies (sizes 6 and 7), baby wipes, baby food - jars, packets

Toiletries - shower Gel, shampoo, toothpaste, toothbrushes, soap

Our boxes for donations to the foodbank are at our two entrances. Thank you for all your continuing help.

A blue and white card with snowman and snowflakes

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A prayer diary with a list of events

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