



## ST. MARK'S METHODIST CHURCH

Minister: Rev Rachel Leather

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**Sunday 19 January 2024 10.30am Rev Rachel Leather. Holy Communion and commissioning of children and youth workers**

Live stream link: [https://youtube.com/live/X8770xwT\\_zo?feature=share](https://youtube.com/live/X8770xwT_zo?feature=share)

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

**Sunday 19 January 5.00pm** An ecumenical service will be held at St Thomas More for the week of Prayer for Christian Unity. All are welcome.

### **Collect for the second Sunday in Ordinary time:**

Almighty God, by whose grace alone we are accepted and called to your service, strengthen us by your Spirit, and make us worthy of our calling; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

### **From the Methodist Prayer handbook:**

#### **Praying with Christians in Asia and Britain**

Jesus, like a mother you gather your people to you. In the depth of your mercy, heal us. In the tenderness of your love, remake us. In the compassion of your grace, forgive us. For the beauty of heaven, prepare us. Amen (Anselm c. 1033-1109)

### **Notices**

**Tuesday 21 January 10.00am-12noon** Coffee morning. All welcome.

**Wednesday 22 January 9.00am** Ecumenical Communion service at Bishop's Cleeve Methodist Church.

**Wednesday 22 January 9.30am-11.30am** Toddlers in the main hall

**Thursday 23 January** Bethesda Backpackers walk in Pittville Park led by Brian & Anne Robertson 352419/07452357427. Please let them know by 6.30pm on Wednesday if you would like to go.

**Thursday 23 January 5.00pm-6.00pm** Meet the Manager at Crofton Springs care home on Gloucester Road. Enjoy delicious homemade refreshments and get to know our caring team.

**Friday 24 January 7.00pm** Music practice in the church

**Sunday 26 January 10.30am** Rev Dr John McNeill

### **Advance notices**

**Monday 27 January 2025 6.30pm** Cheltenham's Act of Remembrance for Holocaust Memorial Day (HMD) in the Council Chamber at the Municipal Offices, Promenade, Cheltenham, GL50 9SA

Members of Cheltenham Hebrew Congregation, Three Counties Liberal Jewish Community, and Cheltenham Borough Council invite you to join them for the evening, which will include guest speakers on the national theme 'For a better future'; music; prayers and readings

This [Holocaust Memorial Day](#) marks the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau and the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the genocide in Srebrenica, Bosnia. We remember the millions of people murdered during the Holocaust, under Nazi Persecution, and in the genocides which followed. We hope that Holocaust Memorial Day 2025 can be an opportunity for people to come together, learn from the past, and take actions to make a better future for all.

The Act of Remembrance will be followed by an exhibition and tea, coffee and cake.

Everyone is welcome to attend. Please [register on Ticketsource](#)

For further information about the event please email [communityservices@cheltenham.gov.uk](mailto:communityservices@cheltenham.gov.uk)

**Thursday 30 January 11.00am** Rachel will be taking a service at Honeybourne Gate. If anyone from St Mark's would like to join, they would be most welcome. She hopes this will become a regular event again and expects to share in worship every couple of months.

### **Order of service for Sunday 19 January 2025 Holy Communion**

*To include: Annual Commissioning of Workers with Children and Young People*

Call to worship

StF: 83 Praise my soul the King of heaven

Opening prayers

Affirmation of faith

StF: 14 Sing to him in whom creation

Reading: Isaiah 62:1-5

Reading: John 2: 1-11

Sermon

StF: 481 The Lord's my shepherd

Offertory prayer

Intercessions

StF: 53 The trumpets sound (*kids return*)

All age talk

Commissioning of workers with children and young people

Holy Communion

StF: 633 My soul finds rest in God alone

Blessing

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is an international ecumenical celebration observed from 18 to 25 January.

Almighty God,  
accept our praise and thanksgiving for what already unites Christians  
in the confession of and witness to Jesus, the Lord.  
Strengthen our hearts in expectation and hope as we work for unity  
and together seek the harmony of all creation.  
Hasten the hour when all churches will recognise each other  
in the one communion you willed,  
and for which your Son prayed in the power of the Holy Spirit.  
Hear us, you who live and reign now and forever.  
Amen.

Gaza ceasefire

As we await final agreement on a ceasefire, we share this prayer.

God of Love,

We are thankful for the work that has been done to secure a ceasefire between Israel and Hamas and pray that it may be implemented and lead to a lasting peace in the region.

With grateful hearts we celebrate the promised release of all those held against their will and pray for their recovery and recuperation as they are reunited with family and friends.

We pray that we never see such death and destruction in this region again.

May justice reign, justice that establishes peace, promotes hope, frees people from fear, encourages neighbours to love one another and brings an end to the seemingly endless cycle of injustice, violence and death in the region.

This we ask in the power of your Spirit,

Amen.



**Thank you for all your continued support for the foodbank. St Mark's collecting boxes are situated near our entrances.**

**Here is a list of their current needs:**

- Tinned Cold Meat (or fish)
- Pasta Sauce
- Washing up liquid, washing powder (powder or capsules please, not liquid)
- Soup - packets or tins
- Desserts - hot or cold, packets or cans
- Deodorants – Ladies' and Men's