



ST. MARK'S METHODIST CHURCH

Minister: Rev Rachel Leather

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Sunday 23rd March 2025

Collect for the for the Third Sunday in Lent

Almighty God, whose most dear Son went not up to joy but first suffered pain, and entered not into glory before he was crucified: mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the cross, may find it none other than the way of life and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

From the Methodist Prayer Handbook: Praying with Christians in the Pacific and Britain.

*Be strength to our hearts, O Love most powerful. Be goodness to our taste, O Love most sweet. Be life to our souls, O Love most dear. Be comfort and support to us, O Love most faithful. Be endurance and hope to us, O Love most victorious. **Amen***
(Gertrude of Helfta 1256-1302)

Morning Worship 10.30am Denise Baugh

Live-stream link for morning service:

<https://youtube.com/live/S6anJGJRIDw?feature=share>

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

Order of Service

Soul Food Lent Liturgy

Some words of scripture

Hymn StF 248 I heard the voice of
Jesus say

All age talk

Hymn StF 92 Think of a world

Prayers

The Lord's Prayer

OT Reading Psalm 63 v1-8

Gospel Reading Luke 13 v1-9

Hymn StF 441 As water to the thirsty

Talk

Hymn StF 636 O love that wilt not let
me go

Prayers

Offering prayer

Hymn StF 465 Guide me O thou great
Jehovah

Blessing



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Notices

- Friday 21st March** 19:00 – 20:00 Lamplighters Practise
- Monday 24th March** Relaunch of Churches Together in Cheltenham (see below)
- Tuesday 25th March** 10:00 – 12:00 Tuesday Coffee Morning All are welcome.
- Wednesday 26th March** 09:00 – 10:00 Ecumenical Communion Service at Bishop's Cleeve Methodist Church
09:30 – 11:30 Toddler Group
19:30 – 21:00 Lent Study Group at Bethesda
- Sunday 1st April** 10:30 – 11:30 Morning Worship – Robert Carr
- Friday 4th April** 14:30 – 16:00 Friday Club

Other Notices

Roots (Saturday, 5th April 3pm-4pm), our brand-new service! Something new is growing, and we'd love for you to be part of it here at St Marks Methodist Church, Cheltenham. Join us for a relaxed, informal, and interactive space where we'll explore what it means to grow deep roots as a church family. Expect real-life testimonies, worship, and plenty of space to reflect and connect in whatever way feels right for you. Whether you're new or have been with us for years, this is a place to grow together, strengthen our faith, and build something lasting. Come as you are, bring a friend, and let's take this journey together! Please support this new venture in prayer. We ask you to pray:

**We pray for all called to lead worship in your church,
especially for those leading 'Roots'.
Fill them with your Holy Spirit.
Let their lives reflect the examples of
the saints who have gone before.
Let their gifts shine through in their ministry.
Give them strength as they face the challenges.
Encourage them in their doubts.
Give them joy as they recognise your hand in their work.
Lord God, remind them, that their call is from you,
and you walk alongside them - always.
Amen**

SAVE THE DATE! We are planning a joint church away day with Bethesda on Saturday 7th June at Evesham Methodist Church. More details nearer the time.



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Lent Study Group: Rev Rachel is running a six-week course, meeting in the Willow at Bethesda and starting on Wednesday, 12th March at 7:30pm. All are welcome. We will be following Jo Swinney's book, *The Whole Easter Story: Why the cross is good news for all creation*. You don't need to have a copy of the book to take part.

Green Christian Cheltenham Group

A litter pick on the Honeybourne Line takes place on 22nd March: meet on the line below the Malvern Rd Bridge GL50 2NX near Ben's Bench at 11am. Soup lunch provided afterwards at St Mark's Methodist Church. Contact Jenny Lockwood (illumine.jl@gmail.com) for more details.

Churches Together: You are invited to an event to relaunch Churches Together on Monday 24th March at 7pm. During the evening we will hear from invited speakers representing groups which are made up of ecumenical partners, showcasing how ecumenism allows them to live out their discipleship. We will then have a time of networking and refreshments, followed by some feedback, and to try and answer the What Next question. This event is for anyone interested in ecumenical relationships, for church leaders, clergy, and laity. Everyone is welcome. We may differ in our styles of worship and disagree on points of theology, but we can all be united in our desire to spread God's love throughout our town.

Bethesda Backpackers – March walks

Wednesday 26th Waterlane (GL6 7NZ) Elaine 4.5
Walk Leaders: Elaine Bailey 07974428125, Peter Boait 07740644211, Brian & Anne Robertson 352419/07452357427. For further details contact the leader

Matthew Cotton London Marathon

Matthew will be running the London Marathon on 27th April this year. He is about a third of the way through his fundraising goal, and needs as much support as possible. If you are able to help Matt, please donate via the QR code which will take you straight to his fundraising page [Justgiving.com/page/runtorecovery](https://www.justgiving.com/page/runtorecovery)





ST. MARK'S METHODIST CHURCH



Our current shopping list

- 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

Thank you for all your donations for the Foodbank. You can leave items in the boxes near our entrances at church. These are collected once a fortnight by volunteers from the Foodbank at Elim.