



ST. MARK'S METHODIST CHURCH

Minister: Rev Rachel Leather

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Sunday 29 September 2024 10.15am Harvest Celebration led by Dr Geoffrey Chorley

Three-Course worship

The first course of the morning will be a traditional harvest service followed by the chance to take part in several different workshops and have a brew! We will bring our ideas from the workshops together during the third course.

Collect for the twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Gracious God, you give the water of eternal life through Jesus Christ your Son. May we always turn to you, the spring of life and source of goodness; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

From day 29 of the Methodist Prayer Handbook

Praying with Christians in Europe and Britain.

Let us be one, O Lord, in our praise of you, one in our prayers to you, one in our love for you and one through Christ, in our coming to you.

Ignatius of Antioch (c. 35-c. 107)

Live stream link: <https://youtube.com/live/JmRA3wevLkY?feature=share>

Please get your refreshments in the hall and enjoy whilst the workshops are happening.

Notices

Saturday 28 September 10.00am Decorating church for harvest. Any garden greenery, flowers, fruit and veg which you may like to bring on Saturday morning will be gratefully received and used for the display. Thank you.

Monday 30 September Bethesda Backpackers walk at Waterlane. Details from Elaine 07974428125

Tuesday 1 October 10.00am-12noon Coffee morning in church. All welcome. We will be visited today by a lady who works for GARAS. She will tell us about their work with refugees and asylum seekers. Some of our harvest produce will be given to them.

Wednesday 2 October 9.00am Ecumenical communion service at Bishop's Cleeve Methodist Church.

Wednesday 2 October 9.30am-11.30am Toddlers in the main hall.

Thursday 3 October 2.30pm Funeral service of Keith McConnochie at the Willow Chapel, Cheltenham Crematorium. Live stream link will be sent out the day before.

Friday 4 October Young people to 3-Generate-have fun!

Friday 4 October 2.30pm Friday Club.

Friday 4 October 7.00pm-9.00pm St Andrew's URC. 'Words and Music, Poems and Songs' **Rowan Williams**, former Archbishop of Canterbury, writer, theologian and poet, in conversation and performance with **Pete Atkin**, one half of the critically acclaimed songwriting partnership with the poet **Clive James**. Visit: pipandjims.org.uk/concertsandevents to book tickets which are £12 each.

Sunday 6 October 10.30am Denise Baugh

Gifts gratefully received at our harvest celebration

Gifts of tinned and dried goods and also fresh fruit and vegetables will be gratefully received. These will be divided between our local foodbank and GARAS (Gloucestershire action for refugees and asylum seekers). Monetary donations for GARAS and the foodbank can also be received on that day. Thank you.



GARAS have asked, if possible, for **dried and tinned goods, in particular: rice, tinned tomatoes, tinned fruit, tuna, oil, tea and coffee**. These are the items that are the most popular and cross-cultural.



The Foodbank are extremely grateful for all donations and would like to thank you for your support and generosity.

Our food parcels include three days' worth of nutritionally balanced, non-perishable food.

The items we are in most need of are: **coffee / teabags, long life fruit juice / milk tinned ham or fish, instant mash, rice pudding / custard, baked beans, cereal, soup, pasta, bars of soap, shaving gel**

PLEASE NOTE WE CANNOT GIVE OUT: Opened items, Items past their best before date, alcohol, medicine.

We are currently well stocked in: baby food, sanitary products and non-dairy milk.

If you would like to give monetary donations in the form of a cheque these can be given to 'GARAS' or for the foodbank cheques can be made payable to 'Elim Christian Centre' with 'Cheltenham Foodbank' written on the back of the cheque.

Advance notices

Cheltenham Literature Festival 4-13 October The Methodist Evangelism Team will be hosting a venue at the Cheltenham Literature Festival called The Hush in Montpellier Gardens. This will offer a relaxing space on the theme of wellbeing and spirituality.

We are looking for volunteers who can:

- Volunteer for at least one shift - shifts will be organised into three slots throughout the day: a morning slot (9.30am-12.30pm) an afternoon slot (12.00pm-4.00pm) and an early evening slot (3.30pm-7.30pm) throughout the festival from the 4-13 October.

- Offer a warm welcome to people who visit the venue and engage with members of the public at the event, invite them to relax in the venue, and to take part in any activities that are happening.
- Be attentive to the space we're in, keeping it safe, tidy and clean.

There is more information and a sign up form here: <https://r1.dotdigital-pages.com/p/BV1-1GE6/volunteering-for-the-methodist-church-at-cheltenham-literature-festival>

It will be a really fantastic way for local folks to get involved with a mission project – without it being too scary! Holly Adams who heads up the Connexional Evangelism Team wants this to feel like this is a partnership with local folks, and not something ‘the Connexion’ is doing parachuting in. This has always been about engaging the local circuit, but of course we’re now running on a super tight timescale, with the festival less than a month away. Rachel

Sunday 20 October 6.30pm

Bethesda Methodist Church (Great Norwood Street, Cheltenham) will be hosting a screening of the film “**Six Inches of Soil**”.

Presented by David Morrissey, the film tells the story of remarkable farmers, communities, small businesses, chefs and entrepreneurs who are leading the way to transform how our food is produced and consumed.

Admission is free although donations welcome. It will be followed by refreshments and a discussion on the issues it raises for all of us.

A sparkling production of dance, theatre, song and poetry for all the family!

Bethesda Methodist Church, Cheltenham 6 December 7.30pm

Journey of the Magi

Springs Dance Company brings its festive, witty and poignant Advent performance *Journey of the Magi* to Bethesda.

Early bird discount available until 30 September with the Promo Code “MAGI10”

Journey of the Magi is a fast-paced, brilliantly witty performance inspired by T. S. Eliot’s poem of the same name. The show offers a contemporary comparison between the quest of the wise men 2000 years ago, and our own preparations in the run up to Christmas. Relatable characters help viewers to be inspired in their own “journey” to Christmas Day and can help them think about who Christ is for them.

Journey of the Magi is a family show: accessible for all, fun and thought-provoking, full of warmth, hilarity and insight. It offers a wonderful opportunity to laugh, reflect and refocus during advent.

To book tickets please visit: <http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/995071344177>

Please send any notices for Sunday to notices@stmarksmethodist.org.uk by Thursday lunchtime.