



# ST. MARK'S METHODIST CHURCH

Minister: Rev Rachel Leather

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**Sunday 30 March 2025 10.30am Robert Carr**

Live stream link: <https://youtube.com/live/wkWvmlog4Ds?feature=share>

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

### **Collect for the fourth Sunday in Lent:**

Lord God, whose blessed Son our Saviour gave his back to those who struck him and did not hide his face from shame: give us grace to endure the sufferings of this present time with sure confidence in the glory that shall be revealed; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

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

Praying with Christians in the worldwide United Methodist Church and Britain.

Dear God, we pray that each one of us feels your presence now and every day, whatever the circumstances, time or place. May we all reflect you, in our own particular words, thoughts and deeds, in such a way that others too can come to feel and know your presence throughout the whole world. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Croft House Theology Study Group, Fair Isle, Shetland.

### **Notices**

**Monday 31 March 7.30pm** Worship Consultation meeting at church. All welcome.

**Tuesday 1 April 10.00am-12noon** Coffee morning in the church. All welcome.

**Wednesday 2 April 9.00am** Ecumenical Communion service at Bishop's Cleeve Methodist Church.

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

**Wednesday 2 April 7.30pm** Lent study group led by Rev Rachel Leather at Bethesda Methodist Church.

**Friday 4 April 2.30pm** Friday Club in the main hall.

**Friday 4 April 7.00pm** Music practice in church.

**Saturday 5 April 3.00pm-4.00pm** Roots service in church (see next page)

**Sunday 6 April 10.30am** Rev Rachel Leather. Holy Communion.

**Tuesday 8 April 7.30pm** Stewards' meeting at church

**Sunday 13 April** Palm Sunday Pilgrimage (see page 3)

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

## Order of service for Sunday 30 March 2025

Soul Food Lent Liturgy

Call to Worship

Theme: Inheritance, Love and Relationships

**Hymn:** Come Home to you (Fischy Music)

All Age Talk and prayer

After a short pause following the prayer and without introduction the second hymn will commence as the children leave.

**Hymn:** Amazing grace – how sweet the sound (StF 440)

Prayers

Reading : Joshua 5:9-12

Reading : Luke 15:1-3,11b-32

**Hymn :** Love divine, all loves excelling (StF 503)

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Talk

**Hymn :** There's a wideness in God's mercy (StF 416)

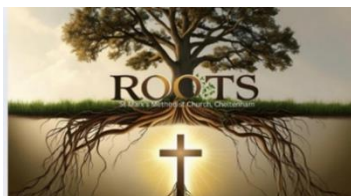
Dedication of the Offertory

Prayer of Intercession



Lords Prayer – traditional version

**Hymn :** Take my life, and let it be (StF 566)

Blessing



**Saturday 5 April 3.00pm-4.00pm**

You're Invited!   Something new is growing, and we'd love you to be part of it here at St Mark's Methodist Church, Cheltenham.

Join us for our brand-new service — 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!

Becci

A prayer for those who lead worship.

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

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From Love Cheltenham Christians:

The Artless Theatre Company are bringing their immersive retelling of the Easter story **Centurion** to Cheltenham on 16 and 17 April 7.30pm-9.30pm on both days.

Hosted at Trinity Church, this production is told from the perspective of Pontius Pilate and the Roman officer who would witness the crucifixion. **Centurion** is an exploration of guilt and forgiveness, betrayal and redemption, all set against the earthshaking backdrop of Jesus' death and resurrection.

For more information and to book tickets [click here](#).

<https://lovecheltenham.org/>

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Bethesda Backpackers walks.

Backpackers meet on Monday, 31st March, starting at 10:00am for a 3½ mile walk on road and field around Winchcombe, with no stiles and only two short inclines. Please let Anne Robertson know (07542 357427) if you intend to join us.

<u>April</u>		<u>Leader</u>	<u>miles</u>
Tuesday 8 <sup>th</sup>	The Leigh	Peter	4
Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup>	Sharpness canal	Elaine	4.4
Thursday 24 <sup>th</sup>	Nottingham Hill	A&B	3.25

Please let the leader know by 6.30pm the previous evening if you would like to join them.

Walk Leaders: Elaine Bailey 07974428125

Peter Boait 07740644211

Brian & Anne Robertson 352419/07452357427

## Palm Sunday Pilgrimage 13 April



The West Cheltenham group of churches are hoping to have a walk calling at all of the churches in that area on Palm Sunday during their morning services.

If you would like to take part in the walk it will begin at St Mark C of E church at 10.20am and proceed to St Mark's Methodist Church and then onward to all the other churches.

At each church there will be a short Bible reading read by one of the pilgrims and a hymn or song. The pilgrims hope to reach Hester's Way Baptist Church around about 12noon. From there the pilgrims, and anyone else who can join them at that point, will process down Princess Elizabeth Way. The hope is to finish at St Aidan's garden where there will be the opportunity to have a picnic together. Bring your own lunch or enjoy sandwiches provided.

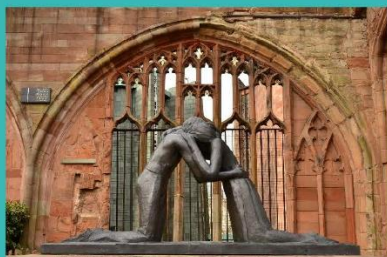
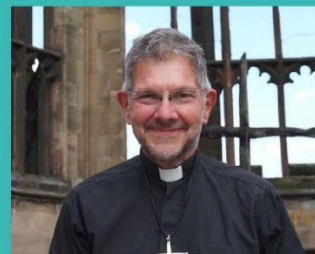
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## THE MICHAEL PERHAM UNIVERSITY AND CATHEDRAL LECTURE 2025

### Is reconciliation possible in our divided world?

by John Witcombe, Dean of Coventry

After its destruction in WW2, Coventry Cathedral created an international ministry in the area of reconciliation. John has built relationships with churches and communities in Germany and around the world. He will be sharing stories of reconciliation which speak to our divided world.



'Reconciliation' – a sculpture in the ruins of the old Coventry Cathedral.

**Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> May 7pm in  
Gloucester Cathedral**

Book your free tickets  
on Eventbrite here:



Please book your free ticket via Eventbrite [here](#).

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