



ST. MARK'S METHODIST CHURCH

Minister: Rev Rachel Leather

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Sunday 5 January 2024 10.30am Rev Dr Stan Brown

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

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

Collect for second Sunday of Christmas:

God of power and life, the glory of all who believe in you; fill the world with your splendour and show the nations the light of your truth; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

From the Methodist Prayer handbook:

Praying with Christians in West Africa and Britain.

Creator God, we rejoice in all that you do among us to sow seeds of hope through care-filled action prompted by your Spirit in our world. Your Holy Spirit of compassion continues to inspire us to truth-telling and to work with the most vulnerable members of society. Love Irresistible, draw us to your way of being, that people may see Jesus Christ incarnated in us – the Divine showing us how to be fully human.

Living Christ, you keep on rising from the depths of despair; your light of goodness and truth is never obscured by the darkness. Work in the lives of all people to heal, rescue and give hope to our world – to the glory of our One God. Amen

Novette Headley, District Chair, Birmingham District.

Notices

Monday 6 January 9.30am Bethesda Backpackers walk at Sherbourne. Led by Elaine. Please let her know if you would like to go no later than 6.30pm on Sunday.. ***Elaine Bailey 07974428125***

Monday 6 January 7.30pm Worship Consultation meeting by Zoom. Everyone welcome. This is the Zoom link:

<https://zoom.us/j/95645281590?pwd=VDkFnG2VO5wM6kNHY10Jfh8BCzsqxo.1>

Tuesday 7 January 10.00am-12noon Coffee morning. All welcome.

Tuesday 7 January 7.30pm Stewards' meeting at church.

Wednesday 8 January 9.00am Ecumenical Communion service at Bishop's Cleeve Methodist Church.

Wednesday 8 January 9.30am-11.30am Toddlers in the main hall

Saturday 11 January 4.00pm-6.00pm New Year Celebration. Everyone's invited!

This is something that everyone in our church can enjoy. All you need to do is sign up on the notice board and bring a small plate of food with you on the day. There will be lifts available too – just ask. If you want to know more ask Deb Goodman or Julie Porter.

Sunday 12 January 10.30am Rev Rachel Leather

Advance notices:

Monday 13 January 7.30pm Church Council meeting by Zoom.

Thursday 16 January 7.30pm District EDI Gathering Rev Rachel will hold a District EDI (Equality, Diversity, Inclusion) Gathering over [Zoom](#). More details in the [poster](#).

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. Unfortunately, Rachel is unable to attend this service as she's preaching elsewhere in the circuit, so it would be good to have some representation from St Mark's.

Jenny Wornham. Jenny Wornham, who many of you will know, died on 12 December after a long struggle with cancer. Her funeral will be on 15 January at 2.00pm at the Oak Chapel, Cheltenham Crematorium.

Order of service for Sunday 5 January 2025

Call to Worship:

Hymn StF407 Hear the Call of the Kingdom

Prayers

Introduction to Theme: Following the Star

Hymn StF223 A Special Star

1st Reading: Isaiah 60:1-6

Reflection: "God did not send..."

Hymn StF328 Jesus Shall Reign

Gospel Reading: Matthew 2:1-12

Sermon

Music: "How Hard was that Journey" © Paul Thompson

Hymn StF224 As With Gladness

Prayers of Intercession

Dedication of the Offering

Hymn StF231 The Silent Stars Shine Down on Us

Closing Prayer: