

REFLECTION..... on waiting

Christmas is a time of waiting, waiting for this most important day, coming at the end of the year. Many long for Christmas to come, only to regret when it has finished, so that our decorated homes have a tattered glory which has passed its time of splendour.

The prophets of Israel were waiting, saying that the time will come when the Messiah appears. He will triumph over those who worship other gods. Then there will be no more waiting. God will have been revealed in all his grace and glory, when the time is fulfilled.

When Jesus came the time of waiting was over. Sadly, no one recognised him for whom he was. Mary and Joseph were an ordinary couple going to Bethlehem at the behest of the Roman Emperor. A baby boy was born. Who would have thought that he was the long-awaited Messiah.

But that is God's way. He is content to wait until men and women recognise that Jesus is the Lord, for whom the whole world is waiting.

Tony Hearle

Items for the church notices for December 22nd 2024 to
cdgtorridon@aol.com or 01694 328319

The Methodist Church

Church Stretton

IN THE SHROPSHIRE & MARCHES CIRCUIT



MINISTER

REV'D GEORGE HEINZ

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Church Website

[www.churchstretton-
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A WARM WELCOME TO YOU ALL IN THE NAME OF JESUS CHRIST OUR LORD.
IF YOU ARE VISITORS WE TRUST THAT YOUR HOLIDAY WILL BRING YOU JOY AND
REFRESHMENT OF SPIRIT. PLEASE JOIN US FOR COFFEE & FELLOWSHIP IN THE HALL
FOLLOWING THIS SERVICE.

SUNDAY SERVICES

SUNDAY 15th DECEMBER 2024

(TO BE HELD IN CHURCH HALL)

10.30 am Claire Harmer

"CAROL CONCERT" SUNDAY 22nd DECEMBER 2024

10.30 am Rev George Heinz

TUESDAY 17th DECEMBER 2024

2.00 pm Advent Study Group – at 1 Bridleways, Church Stretton

WEDNESDAY 18th DECEMBER 2024

10.00 am to 12.00 Baby & Toddler Group - in the church hall
2.30 pm – 4.00 pm Cuppa & Chat" – in the church hall - all welcome

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING HYMN

This year we are singing a new (to us) hymn as our Advent Candles are lit. The words are on a separate sheet of paper.

PLEASE do not take them home but **HAND THEM IN WITH YOUR HYMN BOOK** at the end of the service. If you come on Christmas Day you can take them home then if you wish!

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

We are decorating the Church for Christmas on Saturday, 21st December, 10 – 12. This year we are having only white flowers and there will be flowers only at the front of the Church. The rest of the Church will be decorated with foliage, red berries, cones, candles and tiny red bows. We are planning to light night lights either side of the windows during services. The nativity is going up in the porch a week earlier in time for the More Singers concert on 14th December.

Christine Richardson

CHURCH LUNCH.....DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

Our Church Lunch will take place on Sunday, 12 January 2025 at 12:30. The caterers will again be Oak Apple from Frodesley; a two-course meal, main and dessert plus tea/coffee will be £21.00. I will put the menu choices on the noticeboard in the hall; let me know what sets your tastebuds tingling as soon as you can. ***NB: all the dishes can be adapted for a gluten free diet.***

Carole Coles

SERVICE ON DECEMBER 29th 2024

We have an own arrangement service on Dec 29th which is, of course, still in the Christmas season. If you have a favourite carol, hymn, reading (religious or secular), prayer or particular personal story that you could contribute please send it to Ann or speak to her about it. If you don't want to take part on the day or if you will be away it doesn't matter.

Ann Cooke

“ACTION FOR CHILDREN”CHRISTMAS CARD

Our Church Christmas card in aid of Action for Children is now at the back of the hall . Please add a seasonal message or prayer for a situation to the card and pop a donation in the Action for Children (NCH) donation box.

Many thanks go to David and Christine Hedges for providing our card as they have done for many, many years, it is always much appreciated and admired.

Thank you to all of you who support this Methodist charity , it is such a worthwhile cause especially in this time of increased need to support children.

Chris Faulkner (Action for Children Secretary)

“ACTION FOR CHILDREN”HOME COLLECTION BOXES

It's that time of year when we open the Action for Children home collecting boxes. Please could you give your box either to me or to any of the stewards ASAP.

Thank you again for supporting this cause , this year more than ever the need seems to be greater especially in the areas where Action for Children are supporting families in the communities. Thank you all again .

Chris Faulkner (Action for Children Secretary)

