# *Newsletter*

# *Christmas/Winter 2026*

Epworth, Scunthorpe & Gainsborough
Methodist Circuit




Dear Friends,

Many of you will recall the Connexional theme for the year of '*Sorrow & Joy*'. As a Circuit we have some joyful news to share as Mr Moses Chinta begins his ministry as Lay Pastoral Worker appointed for the year 2026-2027. Some of you will already have met Moses as a local preacher in your pulpit and he has written an introductory letter which we include in this edition of the Circuit newsletter. We look forward to sharing in ministry with Moses in the months ahead.

The Christmas narratives in Gospels are threaded through with strands of joy and wonder, so it is natural in this season to focus on activities which accentuate joy. Remember these verses from **Luke Chapter 2 v 10-11:**

'I am bringing you good news of great joy for all people: to you is born this day in the city of David, a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord.'

This is the reason for ESG Circuit trying an '*Advent Buddies*' project in 2026. It is like a Christian '*Secret Santa*.' The idea is that each chapel will be linked with another chapel to share something that aims to share a little seasonal joy during the season of Advent – it could be a Christmas poem, a tree decoration, a card indicating a donation to a charity, flowers, a box of chocolates etc. Chapels will be linked in a chain, so this does *not* mean a direct swap between 2 chapels. I am sure that folk will want to pray for those they are linked with too! All being well, local church contacts have already received communications from the circuit office outlining the chapel that their chapel is linked with. We hope that '*Advent Buddies*' will be a reminder that we are not isolated chapels cut off from one another

but part of a wider fellowship of Methodist disciples across the Circuit.

May you know peace and hope as you celebrate Christ's birth.

Every Blessing,

*Rev Vicki*

'Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare him room
And heaven and nature sing! (STF 330, Isaac Watts 1674-1748)




~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~

# Ministers day off




| | |
|---|---|
| ***Revd. Vicki Atkinson*** | ***Saturday*** |
| ***Revd. Debbie Caulk*** | ***Friday*** |
| ***Revd. Jan Atkin-Snow*** | ***Friday*** |



# A message from our new Lay Pastoral Worker

My name is *Moses Chinta*, and I am delighted to be joining the Epworth, Scunthorpe & Gainsborough Methodist Circuit as a Lay Pastoral Worker.

My Christian faith has been an important part of my life since childhood, and I have a deep passion for serving God and supporting others in their faith journey. I have previously served as a pastoral visitor in Methodist churches, where I enjoyed building relationships, offering a listening ear, providing encouragement and supporting people through different stages of life.

I am passionate about pastoral care, community engagement and helping people feel valued, supported and connected within the church community. I am also undertaking training as a Local Preacher, which continues to deepen my understanding of faith and ministry.

Outside of church, I enjoy walking, photography, spending time in nature and volunteering. I look forward to getting to know the people and communities across the Circuit, sharing in their joys and challenges, and serving together in God's love.

I feel truly blessed to be part of this Circuit and look forward to this new chapter of ministry.

***Moses***





Methodist Women in Britain

for women, for justice, for Christ

It has been a rewarding year of MWiB district days, with interesting topics and engaging speakers.

We met in March at Middle Rasen, in June at Lea, and then on October 1st over 25 ladies from across the district, with a very good contingent from ES&G met for the Autumn Day at Navenby Methodist Church.

Deacon Helen Gardner led the day, speaking of her 2026 steps of prayer, her journey to becoming a deacon and we were introduced to "Neurographic Art" which was challenging but very therapeutic; it linked well with her theme.

It is always good to get together with Methodist ladies from across the district; to share in worship, fellowship and fun and at the October meeting, we were even treated to a practice show from the Red Arrows, based close by at RAF Waddington, as ladies sat outside, in the sunshine, to eat their lunch.

Dates for your diaries: **3rd March 2027** ……The MWiB Spring Day will be in our circuit, at Misterton Methodist Church, led by Hazel Jackson, a lent reflection "The Untethered Soul" our inner voice; making sense of the noise…and the lovely ladies at Misterton are providing a light lunch on the day too. So, no excuses for not coming along to join in the fellowship. More info will follow early in the New Year.

The annual MWiB conference will be held again at **Swanwick on 9th-11th April 2027.** The theme is Wellness, considering together spiritual, physical and emotional wellbeing through fellowship, worship, Bible study and a wide selection of workshops. It is a wonderful weekend, with lots to do, lots to eat and lots of chatter! The keynote speaker is Deacon Karen McBride, now serving in the Leicester area. Cost for full board Friday evening to Sunday lunchtime, £210 per person. **Booking opens Friday 6th November on the website www.mwib.org.uk**

**25 April 2027:** The Easter Offering Service will be held at Messingham Methodist Church at 4pm with refreshments served after the service. Information regarding the World Mission Fund collection will be sent to all churches as soon as I have it.

We are truly blessed to have several MWiB groups in the circuit meeting regularly, in faith, friendship and love, with speakers, activities and fundraising events.

If you want more information about MWiB, or you are interested in setting up a ladies' group, or joining an MWiB group, then please contact me **hazel.ann.jackson@outlook.com**

*May I take this opportunity to wish you all the very best of blessings for Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year.*

***Hazel Jackson, North Lincolnshire MWiB Ambassador***



# A Prayerful Poem for All Saints & All Souls, adapted for Methodist chapels by Revd Debbie Caulk, based on a sonnet, 'A Last Beatitude', by Malcolm Guite

Blessed are the ones we overlook --
the faithful servers on the tea and coffee rota;
the ones who hold no candle, plate, or book,
but they keep the meeting notes, take the room bookings, and tally up the quota;
the gentle souls who come to polish the brass, varnish the floor, vacuum the carpet;
the quiet ones who organise the Saturday events;
the cake bakers, sandwich makers, and garden tenders.
They give up their weekday hours,
dusting windowsills, washing and reshelving cups and plates --
They are the doorkeepers who may open Heaven's gate to someone's heart.
God knows the depths that often go unspoken
amongst the shy, the quiet and the kind,
or the slow healing of a heart long broken,
now changing lightbulbs and placing each flower just so, for a year's mind.
Invisible on earth, without a voice,
but in Heaven their angels glory and rejoice.
Thanks be to God.

***The above poem was shared by Rev Debbie at Yaddlethorpe on 1st November for "All Saints Day".***

# North Lincolnshire Sanctuary Group

Following on from my article in the last magazine, here are some more examples of people we have helped in our area.

Thank you again for all your prayers, support and donations.

## Afghan

A number of years ago I left Afghanistan to enhance my career as a doctor in England. When the Taliban took over Afghanistan I was trapped in England, unable to return. When my visa expired, I was forced to become an asylum seeker, living in hostels in Liverpool and Manchester.

Lincolnshire Refugee Doctor's Project" supported me in my studies. When I was given "leave to remain" and completed my studies I moved to Scunthorpe to work at the hospital. I was allocated an unfurnished flat. My personal belongings were lost in the move and turned up in Belfast 3 weeks later. I didn't know anyone and came to Scunthorpe without anything; unable to get any money until I had completed a month's work. The Sanctuary Group befriended me and helped furnish my flat and provided food and other essentials to live.

Whilst working at Scunthorpe General the Taliban came to my parent's street in Afghanistan. Their neighbour refused them entry to his house so was shot. My father allowed them access, they forced him to hand over his phone and they phoned me, threatening that they would kill my father unless I handed over money to them.

When my contract finished at Scunthorpe General, I worked at another Lincolnshire hospital. Then onto Coventry training as a GP.

## Turkish

I was a cardiologist in Turkey. Those in charge in Turkey fear those who are intellectual giving them a rough time, regularly torturing them and imprisoning them in inhumane conditions. I managed to claim asylum in England. With the support of Lincolnshire Refugee doctor's Project and others I qualified as a doctor, then continued studying to become a cardiologist. I now work as a cardiologist in a local hospital.

## Syrian

I'm from Syria. I escaped with my family when our livelihood – farm, livestock and home were bombed. There was no time, we fled for our lives.

***Shared by Kirsty Barker***

# Christmas




Whatever else be lost among the years,
Let us keep Christmas still a shinning thing;
Whatever doubts assail us, or what fears,
Let us hold close one day, remembering
Its poignant meaning for the hearts of men;
Let us get back our childlike faith again. ***Grace Noll Crowell***

"Christmas is most truly Christmas when we celebrate it by giving the light of love to those who need it most." ***Ruth Carter Stapleton***

***From "A Bundle of Laughs", J. John and Mark Stibbe, Monarch Books***

# YADDLETHORPE
# ST CECILIA'S DAY 22ND NOVEMBER

We Methodists don't take much notice of saints, but when we noticed that a Worship Leaders' service fell on St Cecilia's day, who is the patron saint of music, we thought this would be an appropriate day to hold a Songs of Praise about music.

The hymns were easy to choose; the main problem was which to leave out! We opened with 'With gladness we worship, rejoice as we sing', and what could we end with but 'Blessed Assurance' with its refrain 'This is my story, this is my song'. As this was Christ the King week we also sang 'Sing we the King who is coming to reign.' We included 'Sweet is thy work, my God and King, sung to the tune of 'Deep Harmony', as this had an interesting story about the history of the tune and composer. We also sang 'O for a thousand songs', 'Angel voices ever singing' and 'I sing the almighty power of God.' As treasurer, I was glad that the insurance on the roof and windows was up-to-date!




The bible readings took some thought. We made good use of the psalms, using Ps 33 vv2,3 as our call to worship, '*Give thanks to the Lord with harps, sing to him with stringed instruments, sing a new song to him, play the harp with skill and shout for joy.'* During the course of the service we shared Psalm 149, and read Psalm 150 together after the closing hymn. We struggled to find an appropriate Gospel reading but eventually Google told us that the usual reading for a saint's day is The Beatitudes, which we read from St Matthew's gospel, using the NIV version.

Our prayers were partly music-themed, thanks to Nick Fawcett, whose prayers we find a big help in planning our services.

In our other readings we heard something of the life of St Cecilia and read some appropriate stories and poems.

We thoroughly enjoyed planning this slightly different service and felt that our congregation too enjoyed taking part.

***Virginia Isitt***

## News From Laughton




Our Harvest Songs of Praise in September was well attended and was followed by a lovely supper provided by our friends from Yaddlethorpe Methodist Church. Many thanks to Philip, Mavis and Anne for working so hard attending to the food and drink. Part two of the Harvest celebration was taken by Rev Debbie, who treated us all to a great service. All the Harvest produce was taken to The Forge, where it was well received and put to good use.

With Christmas rapidly approaching, we are looking forward to the Candle-lit Carol Service on Thursday December 17th at 6pm, again taken by Rev Debbie. There will be mince pies to follow and everyone is invited. There will then be a Christmas Day service at 10am taken by Hazel Jackson and again, everyone is invited.

The planning for the renovation of the former schoolroom which was begun in early 2024 has now been completed. All the paperwork, permissions and finance are now in order. We are just waiting for the builders to come and do the building renovation. The project has been plagued by problems ever since the start. We nearly gave up midway through but persevered and now we are almost there. The latest problem, which we have only just found out about, is that the builder has to have an operation soon and will not be able to do the job himself. It looked like we were going to have to find someone else to do the work, but thankfully the builder's son will do the job overseen by his father. His son has been the mainstay of the firm for some time and is very competent, so we do not have any concerns.




The whole project has only taken nearly three years; I wonder how long it takes to build something bigger?
Let's hope the builders do a superb job which the residents of the village can be proud and that everyone will come and approve of the renovation.

***Kevin Wilbur***





## ***CHRISTMAS MESSAGE***

'GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST' written in large letters outside a High Street church was spoilt when vandals knocked out the 'E'.
When considering replacement, one person said:
"Why not leave it as it is?" 'GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGH ST'.

**M.D.M (Christian Crackers – compiled by Phil Mason)**

# December at Winteringham

## *Christmas shoe boxes*

We have been busy giving out paperwork and knockdown boxes. As we report, we hope for at least 15 boxes to be filled. Over the last three years we decided to purchase the specialist cardboard boxes as this makes it easier for everyone as the sizes are consistent with a bright exterior.

The boxes go to countries mainly at war, where children have very minimal chance of receiving anything at all for Christmas. Each box brings lots of joy and love as well as lovely smiles.

## *Box in a barrow*




We are rolling out our "Barrow" in December around our village again. People offer to have the barrow in their driveways to collect food for **The Forge**. It engages the whole village and has been proven to be a very successful mean of making people aware of what **The Forge** is all about.

The circuit has kindly offered their support by printing handouts for distribution around the village.

Let's hope and pray for another successful collection. We are very grateful that people have been very supportive and generous in the past.

## ***Christmas Eve All Age Carols and drama followed by a buffet***

This is our biggest event ever undertaken at Christmas. Hazel Jackson will oversee the evening and will also be taking part in the drama along with fifteen all age actors. Our script "***Mr Skinflint meets Jesus***" was put together by one of our members. It portrays Christmas differently from your usual carol service. Christmas is a very special time, and our ***Mr Skinflint*** certainly highlights this.




We have tried where possible to include members from Burton and Winterton Methodist Churches within the Drama as we feel this is essential at this point in time when we are trying to work together as partnerships thinking to everyone's future.

It commences at 4.00pm. Please come early as it was standing room only last year.

We rely on donations as there is no entry fee and we look forward to a heartwarming time with everyone.

At this point we send our greetings out to everyone and hope everyone will have a happy, blessed Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

***From everyone at Winteringham Methodist Church***

# Greetings from Gainsborough



## *Hi All*

On behalf of all my friends at Gainsborough may we wish you, in advance, a very contented Advent, a blessed Christmas then a peaceful, happy and fruitful 2027.

I feel that I have had a while away from my GMC nest. My travel nest in their new rucksack has proved really commodious. We've visited foreign climes, including several Lincolnshire Churches.

Memorably, our four Church musicians have joined five others from a couple of adjoining circuits to lead several lively PRAISE services. It is a mixture of old and new songs along with a themed commentary. My ears ring for ages after each gig. They have whispered that they hope other chapels would invite them but not getting overwhelmed. The line-up includes four local preachers who are already busy.

Back to my nest. Next door is a box of Christmas decorations. It's a great place to nestle down from time to time, but I sense eviction is near. Let's hope they leave a garland or two to prettify my pad.

I shall be spending Christmas with my cousin whose name is shortened to "ON" and don't know how it going to go. It is a usually a constant cacophony of squeeks. That name is really appropriate… going Onanon, Onanon, Onanon.

That reminds me of Jesus' teaching in Matthew's Gospel, telling us beware of street corner preachers with their incessant prayers… adding "Keep it simple!"

I was listening to a conversation how prayers could be likened to a firework party. There are the constant sparks and flames of the

bonfire, punctuated by magnificent rockets and fireworks. And God responds to every prayer. I shall try and listen to ON this Christmas…. There may be some surprises.

So have a good one, stay safe.
Let's share every Blessing

**Anon-e-mouse** 

## God for all update from Trey Hall

**November's story of hope**

A rural chapel has seen growth through inviting local families to take part in an ancient pilgrimage. Marie, Lay Worker for Crewe by Farndon Methodist Church, invited the families that attended the children's groups to walk a section of the North Wales Pilgrim's Way. But they didn't stop there: the families became hooked on the 'pilgrimage bug', and so between April 2024 and August 2026 the group averaged one walk per month of 8 to 14 miles during the walking season of April to August. The 135-mile route starts in Holywell and works its way through the North Wales countryside, stopping by ancient chapels and Celtic crosses, ending at Bardsey Island on the west coast. Most of the children were six to nine years old, so covering such long distances has been a huge achievement.

Since running these walks, the chapel congregation has grown in number as fresh conversations around faith, community and belief have happened along the way. The annual trip to Min-y-don Christian Residential Centre was their biggest ever, with over 40 attendees. The spirit of pilgrimage has been so transformational at Crewe by Farndon that they have recently decided to change their name to

"Celtic Chapel", reflecting their commitment to pilgrimage and journeying with people.

"It has opened up opportunity for faith conversations as we journeyed alongside our pilgrims over the three years of pilgrimage," says Marie. "It is true that words really do flow so much easier when we walk! As well as marvelling at the wonders of nature, visiting ancient chapels along the way, we got to know each other on a deeper level. We also realised each one of us has strengths and weaknesses when walking such a challenging pilgrimage, and that collectively we each had something to bring to the table for the group as a whole. We became a team! And that is church – a team, walking 'the way' together. We are now far more likely to reach out to one another for not only practical help in our everyday lives, but with prayer requests too." The group are now asking, "Where next?"

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# Christmas Traditions and Customs

## Christmas Candles



Candles have been used to celebrate Christmas for hundreds of years. Advent Candles and Advent Crowns are used leading up to Christmas. Before electric lights, people put real candles on Christmas Trees. Today, Advent candles count down the days to Christmas and special Carols by Candlelight services light up churches everywhere!

There are many different reasons why candles are associated with Christmas, although no one knows when they first became connected!
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Candles were used during ancient winter solstice celebrations as a way of remembering that spring would soon come.

One of the earliest records of candles being used at Christmas is from the Middle Ages, where a large candle was used to represent the star of Bethlehem. Jesus is sometimes called 'the Light of the World' by Christians. This might have started the custom of the Advent Crown and Advent Candles.

Candles are also used during Hanukkah, the Jewish Festival of light which is also celebrated during winter. During the eight nights of Hanukkah, a candle is lit in a special menorah (candelabra) called a 'hanukkiyah'.

Candles are also used in the modern winter festival Kwanzaa, where a special candle holder called a kinara, that holds seven candles, is used.

Perhaps the most famous use of candles at Christmas are Carols by Candlelight Services. These are services when the church is only lit by candles.

Candles were also originally used to decorate Christmas Trees, until safer electric lights were invented!

In some parts of Ireland, it was traditional to have a Yule candle instead of a Yule Log.

In Southern India, Christians often put small oil burning clay lamps on the flat roofs of their homes to celebrate Christmas. Christians in China use paper lanterns to decorate their Christmas trees. Candles are also used as part of the St. Lucia's or St. Lucy's day celebrations in Sweden.

# YADDLETHORPE METHODIST CHURCH

# CAROLS

AND

# MINCE PIES




FRIDAY 11TH DECEMBER
2.00 to 3.30pm

IN THE CHURCH HALL

**ALL WELCOME**

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**Old Brumby United Church**

Ashby Road, Scunthorpe



## CHRISTINGLE SERVICE

on

Saturday December 5th

at 3.30pm



amongst the trees
of the
2026 Rotary Club
Christmas Tree Festival

Led by Rev Debbie Caulk & Mr Lawrie Holtby

All are warmly invited

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## The 2026 Festival includes performances by:

**Sat. 5th Dec.**
10.30:Togetherness Choir
11.30:Alkborough Choir
12.30:Messingham Handbell Ringers
1.30:Bosom Belles
2.30: Brigg Singers

**Sun. 6thDec.**
1.00: Fourum
2.00:Wolds Singers
3.00:Phoenix Chamber Choir

**Sat. 12th Dec.**
10.30:Scunthorpe & District Choral Soc.
11.30:Lydian Choir
12.30:Tatterfoals Morris
1.30:Saints Singers
2.30:Scunthorpe Cooperative Junior Choir
3.30: North Lincs Ukulele Group

**Sun. 13th Dec.**
1.00: Isle Community Choir
2.00:St. Cecilia Singers
3.00:Reflections Choir

Church Services each Sunday 10.30am
Special Christingle Service: Sat 5th Dec 3.30pm

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## Scunthorpe Festival of Christmas Trees 2026

Rotary Club of Scunthorpe Charity No. 103500

With financial assistance from VENDING ENTERPRISES

Over 70 individually decorated trees

Refreshments

Live musical entertainment




**Free Entry!**

Old Brumby United Church
Ashby Rd, Scunthorpe
5th, 6th, 11th,12th, & 13th Dec
Saturdays 10.30am to 5.00pm
Friday 10.00am to 12.30pm
Sundays 12 noon to 4.00pm

*Donations invited. They will be shared equally between:*

MACMILLAN CANCER SUPPORT

&

WHISKEY LODGE

Methodist Women in Britain
for women, for justice, for Christ

Methodist Women in Britain Lincolnshire

**District Spring Day**

*3rd March 2027*

Misterton Methodist Church

High Street; DN10 4BU

**Lent reflection "The Untethered Soul" our inner voice; making sense of the noise, led by Hazel Jackson**

Tea & coffee served from 10.30am for 11am start, 3pm close

Refreshments and a light lunch will be provided...

*Look forward to seeing you there!*

Methodist Women in Britain

**Residential Conference 9th - 11th April 2027**

**The Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick, Derbyshire DE55 1AT**

# Wellness

Considering together our spiritual, physical and emotional wellbeing through fellowship, worship, Bible study, a wide selection of workshops and with our keynote speaker Deacon Karen McBride, serving in the Leicester area.

We Arise and Shine as women of faith in our communities.

**Cost for full board Friday evening to Sunday lunchtime**

**£210 per person**

**Booking opens Friday 6th November on our website**

www.mwib.org.uk

A deposit of £100 now secures your place, balance due in February

**Some support available in the form of Bursaries**

Further information & Bursary form: swanwick.mwib26@gmail.com



**Journeying**
2d ·

"... let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven."
(Matthew 5:16 NIVUK)

Beulah Bible Christian Chapel was built in 1861 to serve the west Somerset mineral mining community of Brendon Hill village, which housed more than 250 mine workers and their families – many coming from Cornwall and Wales. The mines closed some 20 years later, the people departed and by 1900 the chapel was derelict. It re-opened in 1910 under Methodist auspices and continues to "shine its light" today but, as this isolated historic building has no electricity, the light is provided by gas lamps.

Photo: Gas light in Beulah Chapel.



www.journeying.co.uk

**Circuit Prayer 2026-27**

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Holy God, who inspires us, equips us, and journeys with us. Thank you for the times you challenge us; to treasure your word, to love you and our neighbour, to use our gifts and skills to be good disciples and follow you

Thank you for the times you change us; you call us and send us, renewed through the power of the spirit to pray, to worship, to praise and to witness

Thank you for the connectivity you bring us; for our Methodist heritage which joins us together as members of the Epworth, Scunthorpe and Gainsborough Circuit, to value differences, to listen, and to encourage each other in faith, through your guidance and wisdom

Your brilliant light leads us, like sunflowers to follow you; as we gravitate to and bathe in the warmth of your love and your grace, it transforms us, enables and ignites us. We will not be overcome by darkness, fear or worry as we move into another connexional year marked with change and challenge, yet full of promise, hope, opportunities and expected goodness

Discipleship is an adventure, we still have lots to learn, to experience, and to discover through the plans you have for us. As we reflect on times past, the time that is now, and the time yet to come, and we travel together from the old into the new, we pray, keep us travelling along with you.

Amen~~~
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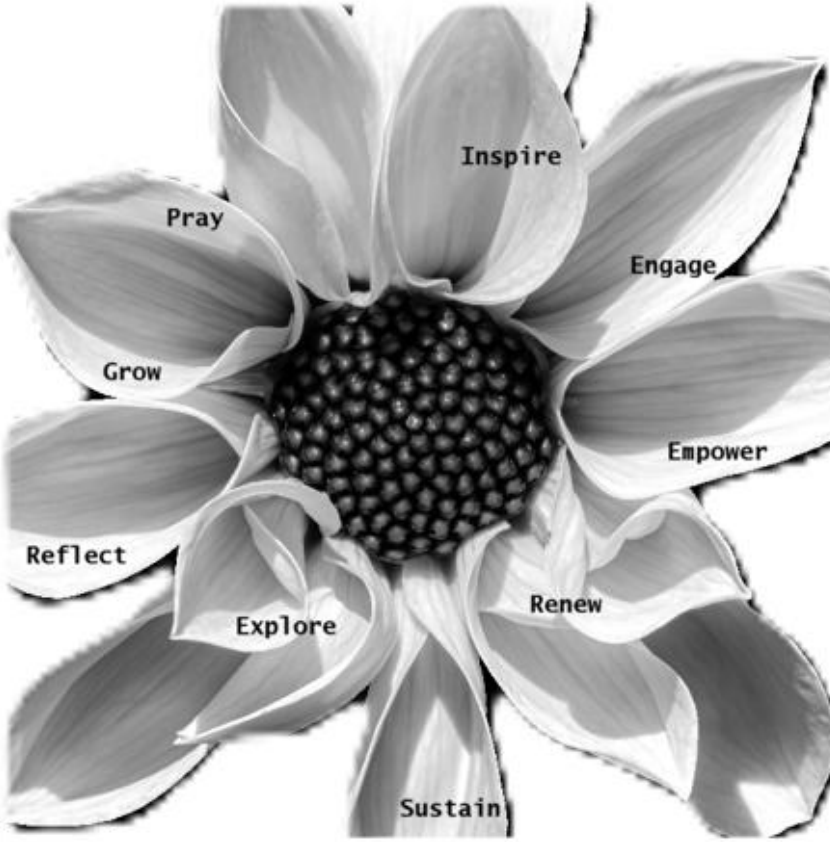


*"All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it"*

*John 1 v3-5*

# A **Methodist** Way of Life

**A Methodist Way of Life encourages us to grow together. Make time to discuss these questions regularly with others.**

## Worship

- What is the pattern of your prayer life?
- How easy or hard do you find it to pray?
- What has spoken to you recently in worship or in the Bible?
- When, lately, have you felt close to God or distant from God?

## Learning and Caring

- How have you practised generosity since we last met?
- How have you shown hospitality to others recently?
- How are you caring for yourself?
- How and what are you learning now?

## Service

- How are you seeking to serve others in your communities and beyond? What has helped or hindered you in your service of others?
- How are you caring for God's creation?
- How are you using God's gifts (including your financial resources)?
- What issues of injustice are you currently concerned about? What are you doing in response?

## Evangelism

- When was the last time you were able to talk about God?
- What opportunities to share your faith have there been since we last met?
- How have you responded to opportunities to share your faith?
- Is there anyone you might invite to consider Christian faith?

**How can we support each other in our Way of Life commitments?**

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MC-MWOL4-20-LRG

# A **Methodist** Way of Life

**The calling of the Methodist Church is to respond to the gospel of God's love in Christ and to live out its discipleship in worship and mission.**

As far as we are able, with God's help:

### Worship

- We will pray daily.
- We will worship with others regularly.
- We will look and listen for God in Scripture, and the world.

### Learning and Caring

- We will care for ourselves and those around us.
- We will learn more about our faith.
- We will practise hospitality and generosity.

### Service

- We will help people in our communities and beyond.
- We will care for creation and all God's gifts.
- We will challenge injustice.

### Evangelism

- We will speak of the love of God.
- We will live in a way that draws others to Jesus.
- We will share our faith with others.

**May we be a blessing within and beyond God's Church, for the transformation of the world.**

The **Methodist** Church

# Bible crosswords
## Advent crossword

**Across**

**1** What did Elizabeth's baby do in her womb, when she heard Elizabeth's greeting? (L1) (6)

**3** The home of who did Mary enter to see Elizabeth? (L1) (9)

**6** What did Joseph want to do quietly to Mary? (M1) (7)

**7** What was one of the treasures the Magi presented to the child? (M2) (4)

**9** What did the shepherds spread after they had seen Mary, Joseph and baby Jesus? (L2) (3,4)

**11** Jesus was here for his people to save them from their what? (M1) (5,4)

**12** When the angles left where did they go into? (L2) (6)

**14** What will no word from God will ever do? (L1) (4)

**18** When in Elizabeth's pregnancy did God send the angel? (L1) (5,5)

**19** What did Joseph not want to expose Mary to? (M1) (6,8)

**22** In what country did Mary hurry to a town in the hills? (L1) (5)

**23** Who came from the east to Jerusalem? (M2) (4)

**24** What did Mary say she was to the Lord? (L1) (7)

**25** What was not available to Joseph and Mary? (L2) (5,4)

**26** According to the angel,

***cont. from previous page***

Jesus will reign over Jacob's what for ever? (L1) (11)

**Down**

**2** Who was Joseph a descendant of? (L1) (5)

**4** Who did the angel say to Mary would come to her? (L1) (4,6)

**5** What was Joseph faithful to? (M1) (3,3)

**8** Who was born that the Magi seeking? (M2) (4,2,3,4)

**10** What will the Most High do to you? (L1) (10)

**13** Who ordered a census of the entire Roman world? (L2) (6,8)

**14** What highly did the angel say to Mary? (L1) (8)

**15** Who went to Bethlehem to register? (L2) (6,3,4)

**16** What did Joseph not do to their marriage? (M1) (10)

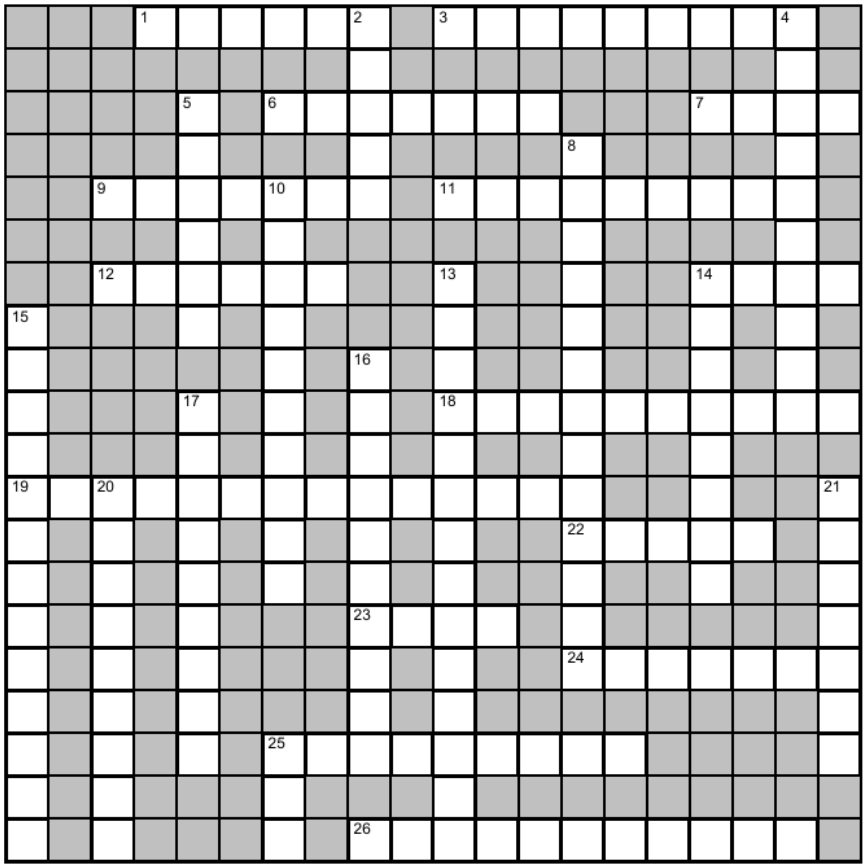
**17** Who is going to have a child in her old age? (L1) (9)

**20** Where did the priests and teachers say the Messiah was to be born? (M2) (9)

**21** What stopped over the house where the child was? (M2) (3,4)

**25** Who had Mary found favour with? (L1) (3)

## Advent - (Luke 1 26-45); (Matthew 1:18-25); (Luke 2:1-20) & (Matthew 2:1-12)



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## Christian crackers

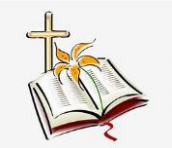
### The things children say

A little girl, saying her prayers one night, was heard to finish with the remark, "Please God take care of yourself, because if owt happens to you we're sunk".

A young child attending church service for the first time was told he must be on good behaviour because it was God's house. When the vicar stood in the pulpit to deliver the sermon the boy asked: "Is that God up there"?

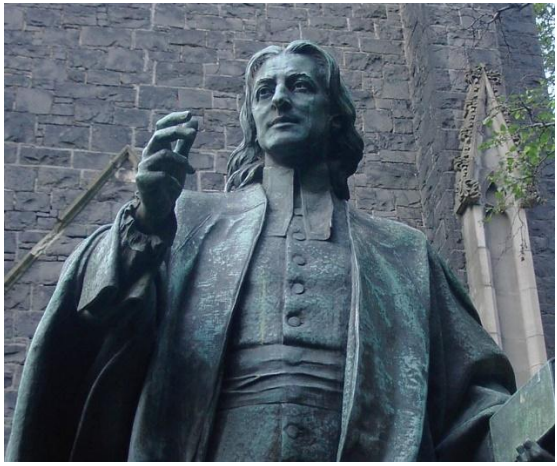
**J.C.**

**Compiled by Phil Mason**



# Lectionary readings for December 2026 to February 2027

| | |
|---|---|
| 6th Dec<br>***Second Sunday of Advent*** | Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13<br>Mark 1:1-8 |
| 13th Dec | Psalm 126<br>John 1:6-8, 19-28 |
| 20th Dec | Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26<br>Luke 1:26-38 |
| 27th Dec | Psalm 148<br>Luke 2:22-40 |
| 3rd Jan<br>***Covenant Sunday*** | Psalm 147:12-20<br>John 1:(1-9) 10-18 |
| 10th Jan | Psalm 29<br>Mark 1:4-11 |
| 17th Jan | Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18<br>John 1:43-51 |
| 24th Jan | Psalm 62:5-12<br>Mark 1:14-20 |
| 31st Jan | Psalm 111<br>Mark 1:21-28 |
| 7th Feb | Psalm 147:1-11, 20c<br>Mark 1:29-39 |
| 14th Feb<br>***Racial Justice Sunday*** | Psalm 30<br>Mark 1:40-45 |
| 21st Feb | Psalm 41<br>Mark 2:1-12 |
| 28th Feb | Psalm 103:1-13, 22<br>Mark 2:13-22 |



**John Wesley quote about singing**

***Singing is as much the language of holy joy as praying is of holy desire.***



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