

Sunday 23rd November, 2025

Sunday before Advent

10.30 a.m. - Contemporary Worship -

Mrs Val Hackney and Worship Band

Christmas Journey will be set up after the service and coffee. The team would be grateful for help from anyone who feels they can assist.

4.0 p.m. - Rev. Debbie Caulk

Monday 24th November 2025 to

Monday 1st December, 2025

Christmas Journey for pupils from local schools. Please pray for the team and for young people involved as we share in the awe and miracle of the true Christmas message

Monday 24th November, 2025

9.30 - 11.30 a.m. - **CHATTERBOX**

A cup of coffee, good conversation and a friendly ear

Wednesday 26th November, 2025

7.45 a.m. - Prayer meeting by Zoom

Wednesday 26th November, 2025

Jack in a Box will not meet because of Christmas Journey, but Jack will be back next week, 3rd December

Saturday 29th November, 2025

2.30 p.m. - **Celebration Concert with local performers to mark the donation of a new Yamaha Grand Piano £8 including refreshments**

Sunday 30th November, 2025

First in Advent

10.30 a.m. - Rev. Debbie Caulk - **communion**

4.0 p.m. - Rev. Vicki Atkinson

Monday 8th December, 2025

1.0 - 1.45 p.m.

Community Christmas Carol Service followed by seasonal treats - St Andrew's - See leaflet in church.



You can't celebrate gifts without celebrating the giver of all gifts, so I want to celebrate Jesus. - *Lecrae*

Scunthorpe and District Choral Society

Gospel Mass by Robert Ray + spirituals

Conductor - Susan Hollingworth

Professional soloists and musicians

Saturday 22nd November 2025

7.30 - 9.30 p.m.

St Paul's Church, Ashby

£15 adults, children & students £5



It is not enough to be delivered from sin; it is enough to be delivered to righteousness. - *Edwin Louis Cole*

Church locking rota We are grateful to those who open a lock up church each day. It is good that we are open for visitors and for those wanting a place for quiet reflection. John is preparing next year's rota of volunteers. If you would like to take part please let him know.

We unlock about 10.0 a.m. and lock up about 4.0 p.m. summer, and earlier in winter months.

Cancellation of Owston Ferry events

The Christmas Tree Festival, previously set for Sat 29th - Sun 30th is now **cancelled**. This includes the 3.0 p.m. service Sunday service. The **Sunday** service will now be a regular **10.30 a.m.** service led by Bronwen Braisdell.



The more you praise and celebrate your life, the more there is in life to celebrate. *Oprah Winfrey*

Nativity Pantomime

Plans are afoot to present a Nativity Pantomime at Wesley on Saturday 3rd January. If you would like to take part or can support with costume making, props or scenery please see Dave or Margaret Chennells or sign up on the board in the schoolroom as soon as possible. Please pass on to anyone in the community you think might be interested.

Fast or Feast?

I've been looking up Advent, and I see that it was long held as a time of fasting as one waited for the coming of our Lord. As early as the Council of Tours in A.D. 547 monks were required to fast every day in the month of December. It is easy to see how Christmas, clearly a day of celebration, quickly acquired the feasting element, since it would have been the ending of a long fast.

In our day few would mark the time of preparation by fasting. The exception for most of us would be when we are out on a long shopping expedition in readiness for Christmas and find ourselves without time to stop and take a bite. I suppose we could call that an involuntary fast

The travelers portrayed in our Christmas Journey would have been hard pressed to travel without stopping to eat hurried meals, though probably not festive ones. Shepherds and any workers on night shift duties would have to content themselves with a snatched meal. In today's terms it would be a sandwich and mug of tea taken in a brief break from work or travel.

What of the magi? I imagine them to be ascetic and self-denying, probably too closely wrapped up in their studies to have enough time to consider eating.

How do you see them? Will you be embarking on a period of fasting as part of your Advent preparation? Not only that, but are you preparing for a feast as Christmas nears? We need to keep in mind the reason God sent his Son to our sinful world - to be our Redeemer. It is a time of rejoicing, but also a time for us to remember the priceless gift offered to us all. The very best and costliest Christmas present anyone has ever received is that of our redemption through Christ, and something for us to celebrate. Let us keep that in mind and be thankful.



There is a lot to celebrate about that little Babe who was laid in a manger. Christians celebrate Christmas because they are thankful for the promise of salvation, which was delivered in human flesh and named Jesus. - *Monica Johnson*

For he has rescued us from
the kingdom of darkness and
brought us into the kingdom of
the Son he loves.

Colossians ch. 1 v. 12 (NIV)



If you have not chosen the Kingdom of God first, it
will in the end make no difference what you have
chosen instead. - William Law

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Contact Steward	Dr John Lambert 6 Rectory Street , Epworth DN91HB Tel. 01427 872466
Face book	www.facebook.com/ WesleyMemorialMethodistChurchEpworth
Baptism admin.	Mrs Louise Howard—07460 657278
Circuit web site	www.esgmethodist.org.uk
Notices	Keith Topham - grange.top35@gmail.com
Room bookings	epworth_roombookings@esgmethodist.org.uk
Safeguarding Officer	Andrew Bamford - 07549123574 epworthwesleysafeguarding@gmail.com
	Our Church Prayer chain is now using WhatsApp, which is totally encrypted, adding to our security and privacy policy. If you have a prayer request (with permission from the recipient) or wish to know more about becoming part of the Prayer Group, please contact Pauline - 01427 875478 or Pat - 0777 649027 in the first instance.

The Kingdom

It's a long way off but inside it
There are quite different things going on:
Festivals at which the poor man is king
And the consumptive is
Healed; mirrors in which the blind look
At themselves and love looks at them
Back; and industry is for mending
The bent bones and the minds fractured
By life. It's a long way off, but to get
There takes no time and admission
Is free, if you purge yourself
Of desire, and present yourself with
Your need only and the simple offering
Of your faith, green as a leaf.

R.S. Thomas

*The kingdom referred to in Thomas' poem is, of
course, the kingdom of God. He tells us it is a long
way off. In this kingdom we see a world very differ-
ent from what this world holds.*

*I shan't insult you by explaining all it says. The im-
portant point is that admission to this kingdom is
easy; the only cost is that you offer your 'simple
offering', fresh and green.*



Wesley Memorial
Church, Epworth

Notices for the week commencing

Sunday 23rd November, 2025

