Saturday 20th December, 2025

10.0 a.m. - Churches together singing carols with instrumental accompaniment in the Market Place. A witness to our unity in Christ Come and join in this short, happy time singing and playing the old songs.

Sunday 21st December, 2025

Fourth in Advent

10.30 a.m. - Mrs Val Hackney

6.0 p.m. - Candlelight Carols -

Rev. Deborah Caulk

Monday 22nd December, 2025

9.30 - 11.30 a.m. - CHATTERBOX

Coffee, good conversation and a friendly ear

Monday 22nd December, 2025

7.0 p.m. - Pantomime rehearsal

Wednesday 24th December, 2025

7.45 a.m. - Prayer meeting by Zoom

—-----

Wednesday 24th December, 2025

Christmas Eve

4.0 p.m. Rev. Debbie Caulk - Crib service

6.0 p.m. Carol singing in Market Place

7.0 p.m. Rev. Debbie Caulk Communion

Thursday 25th December, 2025

10.0 a.m. - Rev. Stuart Gunson -

All-age worship for Christmas Day

Sunday 28th December, 2025

10.30 a.m. - Rev. Debbie Caulk

communion

No afternoon service

Christmas Card Tree - Write a Christmas card to the whole Church family and hang it on the tree. If you would also like to make a donation to December's chosen charity, which this year is NICEF Envelopes are available. Many thanks and God bless you all.

Saturday 3rd January 2026 - 3.0 p.m. Nativity Pantomime

Adults £5 - Accompanied Children under 16 free - Tickets available from the church on Mondays 9.30-11.0 a.m. or telephone Dave on 0784 6245358



Thank You

We have received a letter from Action for Children thanking us for having raised the surprising sum of £23,000 over many years of fundraising. Our local representative is passing these thanks on to all who have assisted or donated over the years. The charity is doing an important - indeed a vital - work in caring for the individual needs of countless young people, and deserves our support. Thanks to everyone who has helped in any way. You are appreciated.

Thanksgiving Celebration of the life of **Rev. David Leese**

At All Saints Church, Brailsford DE6 3AA
Saturday 31 January 2026 at 1.0 p.m.
STRICTLY NO BLACK - Family flowers only
Donations for Brailsford Methodist Church
and Englesea Brook Museum of Primitive Methodism
Enquiries to W Jones and Son, Funeral directors
01335 360319

If it seems that there is a need for transport, please speak to John Lambert so it can be arranged.



Every gift which is given, even though it be small, is in reality great, if it is given with affection.— *Pindar*

Winter

I have long been seeking inspiration for the notices, having churned out a bit of a column in this space for years. I have resorted to my usual solution to a blank page and have looked out of the window. Sure enough, it has turned up trumps; I notice a quick flutter, and there under a brown, dormant little shrub, is a long-tailed tit. I suppose they're around all year, but it seems they only really make their big stage entrance at this time of year.

Why does this little fellow need such a long tail? Is it for balance? Is he just showing off? One would think it would be an encumbrance. It surely isn't meant to keep him warm, because it would be impossible to wrap himself in it. He certainly gives me a warm feeling as I see him hanging below a seed-feeder hung outside, and tucking into a good meal.

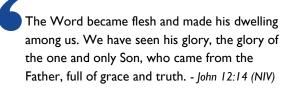
"If winter comes, can spring be far behind?" P.B. Shelley - Ode to the West Wind. I suppose we shouldn't be looking to pass away our time too quickly. We are mostly regulated by the passing seasons. It is in Winter that we witness those hidden parts of nature, where there is an abundance of growth and vigour.

And of course the Christmas season brings out of the good old songs and music, and this year we have the pantomime. Oh dear me! The thought of me trying to be jolly is rather like the prospect of a hearty, jolly Ebenezer Scrooge! Even he managed to find a brighter side, so brace up, and get your pantomime tickets before the rush!

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.

Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.

Isaiah ch. 7 v. 14 (NIV)



Minister	Rev. Deborah Caulk - 07821 284084 deborah.caulk@methodist.org.uk
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
Prayer Chain	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 6490275 in the first instance.

The Holy Night

We sate among the stalls at Bethlehem;
The dumb kine from their fodder turning them,
Softened their horned faces
To almost human gazes
Toward the newly Born:

The simple shepherds from the star-lit brooks Brought visionary looks, As yet in their astonied hearing rung The strange sweet angel-tongue:

The magi of the East, in sandals worn,
Knelt reverent, sweeping round,
With long pale beards, their gifts upon the
ground,

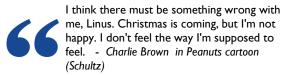
The incense, myrrh, and gold These baby hands were impotent to hold:

So let all earthlies and celestials wait Upon thy royal state. Sleep, sleep, my kingly One!

Elizabeth Barrett Browning

When I seek a poem to include in these notices each week I occasionally encounter a poem I hadn't previously met. Here Elizabeth Browning visualizes the stable scene with the magi's gifts offered; strange gifts for a baby incapable of holding them. The shepherds were 'astonied' - 'astonished' - at having heard the angels' song, and now they were even more surprised, and wore 'visionary looks' on their faces.

Do we share this wonder at the miraculous coming of the Lord into our human world?





Wesley Memorial Church, Epworth

Notices for the week commencing

Sunday 21st December, 2025

Fourth in Advent



Fourth Sunday of Advent

