

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)

“The Word became flesh and made his dwelling
among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of
the one and only Son, who came from the
Father, full of grace and truth. - John 12:14 (NIV)

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| 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 |
|  | 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 astoned 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 previ-
ously 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
'astoned' - 'astounded' - 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?*

“I think there must be something wrong with
me, Linus. Christmas is coming, but I'm not
happy. I don't feel the way I'm supposed to
feel. - Charlie Brown in Peanuts cartoon
(Schultz)



Wesley Memorial
Church, Epworth

Notices for the week commencing

Sunday 21st December, 2025

Fourth in Advent



**Fourth Sunday
of Advent**

“Love came down at Christmas,
Love all lovely, Love Divine;
Love was born at Christmas;
Star and angels gave the sign.
Christina Rossetti