

Friday 9th January, 2026

Wesley Knitters

Saturday 10th January 2026

10.0 a.m. Coffee morning

11.15 a.m. Monthly recital

Words and music with

Caroline Clemmow and Susan Hollingworth

Sunday 11th January, 2026

10.30 a.m. - Rev. Debbie Caulk

Covenant Service

4.0 p.m. - Mrs Marilyn Hall

Café service

Monday 12th January, 2026

9.30 - 11.30 a.m. - CHATTERBOX

Coffee, good conversation and a friendly ear

Wednesday 14th January, 2026

7.45 a.m. - Prayer meeting by Zoom

7.0 p.m. - House group Bible study

at the home of Sue Hollingworth - 4 Harvester Close DN9 1QZ

Topic: Genesis - Jacob and Joseph.

Leader Andrew Bamford

Friday 16th January, 2026

6.0 p.m. for 6.30 p.m. - Church dinner

Sausage and mash followed by sponge and custard.

£9 per person. - Please book with Glenise.

Sunday 18th January, 2026

9.30 a.m. - at St. Andrew's

4.0 p.m. - Rev. Stuart Gunson -

Methodist Way of Life

Early notice - - - - -

Sunday 25th January, 2026

2.30 p.m. - at St. Andrew's

Ecumenical service to mark the start of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

There will be no afternoon service at Wesley

Saturday Morning Recital

10th January 2025 - 11.15 a.m. to 12.15 p.m.

Susan Hollingworth and Caroline Clemmow

Perform a mélange of words and music

including items from

Carnival of the Animals

No charge; donations for the Church Fabric Fund are invited.

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

David Leese's Thanksgiving. Coach hire will be £660. With 17 committed to travel the cost would be £39 per person. John needs to know if this is acceptable to all or would you prefer car travel if drivers are found.

All travel is of course weather dependent.

Strange to see how a good dinner and feasting
reconciles everybody. - *Samuel Pepys*

“ ”

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.

“ ”

Write it on your heart that every day is the best day in the year. - *Ralph Waldo Emerson*

It's not fair!

Does this sound like you? When my brother, sister and I were young it was a phrase sometimes heard in the house. Not too often, though, because our mother always had a short answer for us, and I suppose we all knew in any case that we were evenly treated.

You may not know the Scottish jute-workers' song about the 'shifters' - the labourer whose job it was to scurry back and forth trying to keep up with the mill's relentless churning out of the reels and spools. In it the singer says

*"Oh dear me, the mill's going fast!
The poor wee shifter cannot get a rest.
We must be contented, dark days or fine,
But there's not much pleasure living
Off of one and nine."*

The work was relentless, the pay pitifully small and the conditions dangerous and unhealthy, with accidents frequent and life-threatening.

The big question, however, is how far have we ourselves behaved fairly - justly? Our lectionary reading speaks of God bringing justice to the nations through his servants. That puts a big responsibility on us.

Elsewhere in these notices I have quoted Shylock in *The Merchant of Venice*. Even as I studied the play in what we now call Year 9, I was struck by the raw deal Shylock had had. All that society at the time allowed him to do was to lend money or to trade, and in return would call him insulting names and spit on him for being a jew. When Antonio seeks a loan, Shylock replies

*You call me misbeliever, cut-throat dog,
And spit upon my Jewish gaberdine,
And all for use of that which is mine own.*

.....
*'Fair sir, you spit on me on Wednesday last;
You spurn'd me such a day; another time
You call'd me dog; and for these courtesies
I'll lend you thus much moneys'*

Of course, in the play Shylock tried to get deadly revenge on Antonio, and so forfeited the right to our sympathy. The shifters' song quoted above, has the line: "Oh dear me, the world's ill-divided! Them that works the hardest are the least provided."

“He will bring justice to the nations.”

Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen one in whom I delight; I will put my Spirit on him, and he will bring justice to the nations.

Isaiah ch. 42 v. 1 (NIV)

“

Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. - Martin Luther King

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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 quality of Mercy

The quality of mercy is not strained;
It droppeth as the gentle rain from heaven
Upon the place beneath. It is twice blest;
It blesseth him that gives and him that takes:
'T is mightiest in the mightiest; it becomes
The throned monarch better than his crown:
His sceptre shows the force of temporal
power,

The attribute to awe and majesty,
Wherein doth sit the dread and fear of kings;
But mercy is above this sceptred sway;
It is enthroned in the hearts of kings,
It is an attribute to God himself;
And earthly power doth then show likest
God's

When mercy seasons justice.

From **The Merchant of Venice** - William Shakespeare

The play is largely concerned with justice and mercy, and it poses challenges. Shylock fails to see that by his insisting on his legal rights, regardless of any demands of simple humanity, he has opposed the fairness required by God.

Portia, speaking here in the Venetian court, pleads for justice with mercy, which is what we most need. We would probably be in a bad fix if we all received the treatment we deserve. Shakespeare says mercy is paramount. However powerful anyone may be, he or she should temper justice with mercy.



Wesley Memorial
Church, Epworth

Notices for the week commencing

Sunday 11th January, 2026



Justice to the nations

“ Hope smiles from the threshold of the year to come, whispering, 'It will be happier.'
Alfred Lord Tennyson