



CASTLE STREET METHODIST CHURCH

"Where all are welcome – all the time"

www.castlestreet.org.uk

Sunday 1st December 2013 – Advent Sunday

Welcome to worship with us – whether this is the first time you have entered our church, or if you are a long-standing member of our congregation. We seek to offer friendship and opportunities for learning more of God's will in this place and in this generation.

Refreshments are served in the hall following most Sunday services – please do stay for a chat over a cuppa and a biscuit.

Sun 1st Dec **10.45 ALL-AGE MORNING WORSHIP**
Prof. Judith Lieu
Bible reading: Matthew 24: 29-44 (page 26)
12.30 Advent Austerity Lunch (*see overleaf*)
18.30 UNITED EVENING WORSHIP at C.E.M.
Dr. Janet Bottoms

We pray... for the joy and promise of Advent

Wed 4th Dec 10.00 "Time To Be" prayer and fellowship
10.30-12.00 Coffee morning
12.00-13.00 "Forever Active" exercise class
19.30 "Journey to Christmas" (*see overleaf*)

Thu 5th Dec 10.00-12.00 Castle Street Tots

Sat 7th Dec 14.00-1600 Carol Singing at the gates of St. Giles'

Sun 8th Dec **10.45 MORNING WORSHIP WITH HOLY COMMUNION**
Rev. Dr. Janet Bunker & Rev. Geoff Dumbreck
18.30 UNITED EVENING WORSHIP
Marie Lucchetta

Please take a copy of Castle View for fuller details of what's on each month.

Advent Austerity Lunch – today

After this morning's service the Mission and Social Responsibility Committee is holding its usual Austerity Lunch (or semi-austerity really, as the variety of soups plus bread and cheese is often substantial). Geoff and Joy Levine are our in-house guests and will give an after lunch account of some recent Indian experience, possibly entitled "The Rag-pickers' Village". We do hope you can stay.



Journey to Christmas – prepare, journey, prayer, reflect and share

All are invited to two Advent evenings with Dan Woodhouse and Revd. Alison Walker, on the next two Wednesday evenings (4th and 11th December), starting at 7.30pm. Although linked (by the theme of journeying), you can attend either or both. Alison says it would be helpful to know who is coming along.



Carol singing opportunities – help needed

There are two Church at Castle carol singing occasions coming up, and full details of both can be found in the December / January *Castle View* (available today). First, and coinciding with the second weekend of the Christmas Tree Festival (see opposite), there is to be carol singing at the gates of St. Giles' Church between 2pm and 4pm next Saturday (7th December), with mince pies being handed out to passers-by, as well as flyers about Christmas services. Then, the following Saturday (14th), a group is to go carol singing around the new housing in the parish – meet at St. Giles' at 2pm; the carol singing will finish by 4pm.



Rotas – request for volunteers to be door stewards and to organise coffee

This item appeared on last week's notice sheet, and is also in *Castle View*, but Audrey Seaton would still like to receive volunteers of help.



Cambridge Churches Homeless Project (formerly Night Haven)

The December / January *Castle View* contains an update on the plans for Castle Street's involvement in this project. A reminder, however, that the second of two training sessions for volunteers takes place this coming Tuesday evening (2nd December), at 7.30pm at Emmanuel URC.

The Typhoon Disaster in the Philippines

The following article appeared in the electronic version of the December / January Castle View, but was accidentally omitted from the printed version.

MRDF launched an emergency appeal in response to the devastating impact of Typhoon Haiyan in The Philippines. Over ten thousand people are feared dead and early reports suggest millions more have lost homes and livelihoods in the storm. We have all seen the television images of the catastrophic levels of devastation caused by the typhoon, which struck central regions of the Philippines still recovering from an earthquake that struck last month. Over twelve million people were in the path of the storm, including areas of the Philippines experiencing high levels of poverty, making affected populations more vulnerable to its impact.

MRDF is working with its emergency partner agencies in the ACT seeking to bring much needed relief to those many people who have lost everything in the disaster. Castle Street pledged £300 from Church funds and this was augmented by £91.52 collected at the morning service on 17th November. Thank you for your generosity.



Christmas Tree Festival at St. Giles' Church

St. Giles' fifth annual Christmas Tree Festival is now underway:

- Sunday 1st December at 3pm: Advent Carols followed by St. Giles' tea.
- Monday 2nd to Friday 6th December: church open from 10am to 4pm, with lunchtime music, readings and reflections, and hot refreshments.
- Saturday 7th December: church open from 10am to 4pm, with a Christmas Topiary Tree Workshop from 2.30 to 4.30pm (must be booked), carol singing at the gates from 2 to 4pm, and charity stalls.
- Sunday 8th December at 4pm: combined concert by CSD Brass and Christingle service, followed by a cupcake tea.



What our minister's husband gets up to...

Many will have met Robin Walker, Alison's husband, although he is often elsewhere on Sundays. A video taken at the historic church in Florence where he worked can be found at <http://youtu.be/r7c9FU6-fUA>, but he also has a CD for sale which might make a great Christmas present – see www.theorganist.co.uk/discography.htm.

Some Advent events from the Circuit Diary (*see notice board for more*)

- Sunday 1st December, 6.30pm at Oakington Methodist Church: Advent and Christmas Praise.
- Saturday 7th December, 9.30am to noon at Royston Methodist Church: Coffee Morning and Bazaar (coffee and mince pies, games, books, stocking fillers) – admission free.
- Thursday 12th December, 10am to 4pm at Histon Methodist Church: “Come and make a Christmas Wreath” – cost £25 (including coffee, light lunch and all materials), contact Judy Wynn on (01353) 669 216 to book (places limited).



Alternative Christmas gifts from MRDF

This item appeared on last week’s notice sheet, but has also been reproduced in *Castle View*. A reminder, however, that the Big Give Christmas Challenge is also taking place, and donations made at 10am on 5th, 6th or 7th December – that’s this coming Thursday, Friday and Saturday – will be matched pound for pound by the Reed Foundation. For more information, visit www.mrdf.org.uk/biggive.



Romsey Mill Twelve Days of Christmas Match-Fund Appeal

This is taking place between 1st and 12th December, and the first £12,000 of donations made during this time will be matched by pledges from various local businesses, led by the Coulson Building Group and Ridgeons. The target is to raise £24,000 to support one hundred young people facing tough times at school, at home or in the local community. To donate, visit www.romseymill.org, text “MILL12” to 70070, visit justgiving.com/Romsey-Mill-12-Days-of-Christmas, or send a cheque (payable to Romsey Mill) to Romsey Mill, Hemingford Road, Cambridge, CB1 3BZ. Romsey Mill works with some of the most disadvantaged families and young people in Cambridge, and is finding that demand for its services keeps on growing. Help them to help those in most need.

Please contact **Brian Carter** if you have any items for inclusion on next Sunday’s notice sheet, ideally by Friday evening.

Tel: (01954) 782 762

E-mail: briancarter@o2email.co.uk