



CASTLE STREET METHODIST CHURCH

"Where all are welcome – all the time"

www.castlestreet.org.uk

Sunday 2nd December 2018 – 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 2nd Dec **10.45 MORNING WORSHIP**
Prof. Morna Hooker-Stacey

18.30 EVENING WORSHIP
Jim Taylor

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

Wed 5th Dec **10.00 "Time to Be" prayer and fellowship**

10.30-12.00 Coffee morning

12.00-13.00 Strength and balance exercise class

Thu 6th Dec **10.00-12.00 "First Friends" baby and toddler group**

Sat 8th Dec **18.30 for 19.00 Cracking Christmas Quiz Night** *(see overleaf)*

Sun 9th Dec **10.00-10.30 Simple Prayer Time** *(see overleaf)*

10.45 MORNING WORSHIP WITH HOLY COMMUNION
Rev. Alison Walker

18.30 EVENING WORSHIP
Rev. Colin Smith

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

Bible readings for today's services

10.45am

Jeremiah 33: 14-16 (*page 675*)

1 Thessalonians 3: 9-13 (*page 194*)

Luke 21: 25-36 (*page 82*)

6.30pm

Isaiah 2: 1-5 (*page 580*)

Matthew 24: 36-44 (*page 24*)



Simple Prayer Time – starts next Sunday, before the morning service

Following discussions at the recent church council, it was decided to offer a simple prayer gathering once a month. It will take place before the morning service, for half an hour from 10am. In general, this will be the same Sunday as the morning Holy Communion service. The first one will be held next Sunday (9th December).

It will be a gentle space for praying for our church, members and community, and listening for God's guidance. The gathering will be in the hall, and you can quietly join or leave at any point – please don't feel you must arrive by 10am and cannot leave until 10.30am, especially if you have other preparations to make before morning worship begins. There will be printed guidance to help those unfamiliar with such prayer times, or unsure of the format. Alison will lead the first one, but volunteers are sought to lead in the future.

Please write in the Prayer Book at the back of the church anything you would like prayed for, during both the weekly "Time to Be" on Wednesday mornings and next Sunday. However, please only include personal identification and details if the person being prayed for has agreed – the Prayer Book is available for anyone to look at. God still hears our prayers even if we say "Alison's friend", or even just "a friend": the person's name isn't obligatory.



A Cracking Christmas Quiz Night – next Saturday evening

Join us at Castle Street next Saturday evening (8th December) for a festive feast of good food, good company, and head-scratching questions. With prizes to be won and the money raised going to good causes, it's bound to be a very merry quiz-mas! Please arrive from 6.30pm for a prompt 7pm start. Suggested donation: £5 per person.

Church at Castle Carol Singing at Eddington – Tuesday 11th December

Note that this is Tuesday 11th December, not Monday as stated on the Circuit Diary and in *Castle View*! Come and join others from Church at Castle for community carol singing around the Christmas tree in the main square in Eddington. Meet outside the Beefeater in Huntingdon Road at 6pm to walk round the corner to Eddington. If you can't get there for 6pm, join us when you can. Speak to Brian if you'd like more details.



Advent Open Day

Another item discussed at the recent Church Council was our response to the Re-Imagine survey (see the item in the December / January *Castle View*). We decided to hold more Open Church events, the first being during Advent. This will be on Saturday 15th December, and the church will be open with Advent prayer stations, children's activities, and seasonal refreshments.

We need volunteers to welcome visitors and serve refreshments, and we hope that as many people as possible can take a short time out of their busy Christmas preparations to help! We also need offers of mince pies. It is proposed to have the church open from 10am until 2pm, but if there are enough volunteers it would be great to be open for longer – to help demonstrate the true meaning of Christmas. Denise has a sign-up sheet and will be coming round asking for help...



Another appeal for help providing mince pies

Castle Street is participating in the International Community Carol Service at St. Luke's on Sunday 23rd December at 6pm (see item in the December / January *Castle View*). St Luke's has asked if we would help with the refreshments by providing mince pies for perhaps one hundred attendees.

If you are able to bake or buy some mince pies, then please would you let Joyce Sharpe know. If you are attending the carol service, then perhaps you could arrive with the mince pies a little early at say 5.45pm; otherwise you could leave them in the kitchen at Castle Street after morning worship and she will get them to St. Luke's. Although it's a busy time, any help would be greatly appreciated!

St. Giles' Christmas Tree Festival – this week

This has now started, and the church is open from 10.30am until 4pm on weekdays until next Saturday. There's an Advent Carol Service at 3pm this afternoon – a choral service with congregational carols and pieces performed by Cantores. Then on Thursday (6th December) you can enjoy "Tea among the trees" between 2pm and 4pm. The finale is a Christingle service on Saturday (8th December), starting at 2pm and followed by a children's Christmas party with a visit from Father Christmas.



Orwell Christmas Tree Festival, Saturday 8th and Sunday 9th December

Orwell Methodist Church will be open from 12 noon until 6pm next Saturday and from 2.30pm until 6pm next Sunday. On Sunday there will be carol singing and mince pies round the fire from 4pm. There will also be a cake and gift stall, and soup, rolls, toasted sandwiches and drinks.



Christmas Jazz Piano Concert at St. Augustine's, Sunday 9th December

Take a glass of mulled wine and a bite to eat, and listen to an hour of jazz piano arrangements of traditional Christmas carols played by Colin Hazel. It starts at 2pm.



Christmas Ceilidh, Friday 14th December, 8pm at Emmanuel URC

See last week's notice sheet or *Castle View* for details of this event, in aid of the Against Malaria Foundation.



"A Good Advent"

We're all thinking about Christmas, but what about Advent? Want to turn your smart phone into your spiritual Advent calendar? Use the free "A good Advent" app from SPCK for a daily picture, Bible text, reflection and action points. A free leaflet is also available. Visit <https://bit.ly/2r0.QXCU>.

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: notices@castlestreet.org.uk