



CASTLE STREET METHODIST CHURCH

Where all are welcome – all the time

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Sunday 15th December 2019

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 usually served in the hall after Sunday services – do stay for a chat over a cuppa and a biscuit.

Sun 15th Dec **10.45 ALL-AGE NATIVITY SERVICE**
Bible reading: John 1: 1-5, 14, 15-16 (page 87)

19.00 IONA SERVICE at St Luke's

Prayer topic: for the joy of Advent

Wed 18th 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 19th Dec 10.15-11.45 "I wonder" holiday club

Sun 22nd Dec **10.45 MORNING WORSHIP: TRADITIONAL CAROL SERVICE**
Rev Colin Smith

18.30 EVENING WORSHIP: "CAROLS FOR EVERYONE"
at St Luke's (see also overleaf)

Looking ahead:

Wed 25th Dec **11.00 CHRISTMAS DAY CELEBRATION**
Rev Alison Walker: "Show and share the joy"

Sun 29th Dec **10.30 UNITED CHURCH AT CASTLE MORNING WORSHIP**
at St Luke's

The **Methodist** Church 



We are a
FAIRTRADE
church

Welcome to Castle Street Methodist Church!

If you are worshipping with us for the first time, please make yourself known to one of the stewards and pick up a welcome leaflet. All people of this church are part of the ministry, led by the Revd Alison Walker who may be contacted electronically via the church website or by telephone on (01223) 872 862.

Our church magazine **Castle View** contains more details of events taking place each month – please pick up a copy of the latest issue.

There is a **Prayer Request** book at the back of the church, which is used during services and at prayer meetings – but remember it is on display for anyone in the church to read, so please respect the privacy of those concerned and avoid including names and other personal details unless specifically requested.

Carol services next Sunday

Worship next Sunday morning will be led by Revd Colin Smith, and will be a traditional-style carol service. Unfortunately, however, it looks (at present) like we do not have enough people to form a viable choir – but if you'd like to sing in a choir for that service and have not offered to be involved, please speak to Brian this morning: it might not be too late...

In the evening is the second Church at Castle united international carol service (following on from last year's successful event) – Christmas carols, music and drama for everyone, followed by seasonal refreshments. As last year, it will take place at St Luke's Church, and starts at 6.30pm. Most of the churches in the area will be taking an active part in some way, and Castle Street's contribution is to be a theatrical item... but Alison is still looking for people to be involved with that: it will be either reading out or miming, and there will be no lines to learn. If you can help in any way, please speak to Alison as soon as possible.

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### **Christmas Open Manse – Saturday (21st December)**

Alison and Robin invite you to their Christmas Open Manse next Saturday, from 3pm until 6pm. If you don't know where in Haslingfield they live, please ask a steward (or Alison herself).

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Wednesday exercise class – Christmas break

The exercise class will take a three-week break over the festive period. The last class of 2019 is this week (18th December); it will restart on 15th January 2020.

Parish carol singing in Eddington – Wednesday evening (18th December)

If you'd like to go carol singing in Eddington with other people from Church at Castle on Wednesday evening, the advertised plan (at present) is to meet at 6pm by the arch at Darwin Green; the group will cross Huntingdon Road and go on to the Storey's Field Centre in Eddington for a short period of carol singing (last year's finished before 7pm – and anyone arriving significantly late would have missed much of it). If you are planning to go, however, it is probably worth confirming the meeting time and place with one of the parish clergy.

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### **Carol singing in Haslingfield – Friday evening (20th December)**

There's the opportunity for some traditional outdoor carol singing in Haslingfield on Friday evening – walking round the village, stopping in various streets and singing to the residents (while collecting for charity at the same time), and then ending up with more carol singing (with keyboard accompaniment) in the village pub. It's not a particularly strenuous event (it doesn't cover the whole village – different streets are covered each year), but it's quite good fun – and extra voices would be especially welcome. If you're interested in taking part, speak to Alison or Brian to confirm the meeting time and location.

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Carols by Candlelight – Wednesday evening (18th December) at St Giles'

A beautiful service of carols and readings by candlelight, with Cambridge Vocal Consort, directed by Colin Fludgate. This celebration of Christmas will include music by J S Bach, Vaughan Williams, Darke and more sung by Cambridge Vocal Consort, congregational carols, readings and poetry. Seasonal refreshments will follow. There will be a collection for church funds. It starts at 7.15pm.

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### **Christmas in Albion – Saturday afternoon (21st December) at Michaelhouse**

Seasonal music from across the British Isles, featuring the St Augustine's Singers, conducted by Philip Mead, with Rosie Cooper (soprano) and Mo Wah Chan (keyboard). The programme will include works by Vaughan Williams, Britten, Byrd, Phillips, Matthias, Gardner, Mead and Poston. Free entry, but there will be a retiring collection in aid of the Michaelhouse Singers. It starts at 1pm.

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Appeal for takeaway boxes

If anyone has unused takeaway boxes for food, please bring them to church as we use them for the homeless project.

Appeal for used postage stamps and their envelopes

Our friends at Haslingfield are collecting used postage stamps for the charity CamSight, and have asked if we can help as well. While many have probably saved used postage stamps for charity at various points over the years, the stamps and their franking together are worth more – so we are asked to collect complete envelopes. A box for them will appear at the back of the church.

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### **Preacher for the evening service on Sunday 12th January**

This service is shown as “Local arrangement” on the circuit plan and in *Castle View*; we’re pleased that Margaret Cooper has agreed to lead worship for us.

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Wanted: Part-time District Lay Employment Secretary

The East Anglia District of the Methodist Church is looking for a part-time Lay Employment Secretary to take a lead on issues relating to lay employment and human resources in the district, and working from home. The position involves seven hours per week (28 hours per month), at a rate of £12 per hour, with additional hours by agreement.

Further details, including a job description and application form are available at <https://eangliamethodist.org.uk/events-news/job-vacancies>, or contact District Administrator Alison Travis (e-mail: office *at* eangliamethodist *dot* org *dot* uk, or by post to the District Office, Chapel Field Road Methodist Church, Chapel Field Road, Norwich, NR2 1SD. The closing date is this Friday (20th December), with interviews on Monday 3rd February.

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### **“A Faith to Live By” at Haslingfield – date for your 2020 diary**

The next “Faith to Live By” service will be at 6pm on Sunday 19th January, and will be with Jane Dominey (a member here at Castle Street).

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Next week’s notice sheet...

...will be a double issue (so the one after will be on 5th January), but the deadline for it is earlier than usual (due to a busy few days leading up to Sunday) – if possible, please let Brian have items by 9pm on Wednesday.

Items for next Sunday’s notice sheet should be sent to **Brian Carter** by 9pm on Wednesday.

Tel.: (01954) 782 762

E-mail: notices *at* castlestreet *dot* org *dot* uk