

Monthly Notices - December 2024

Our Minister - Rev Bethany Willers

To contact us please email: caldicotmc@gmail.com and your query will be directed to the relevant person. Or if you need to contact our minister, Rev. Bethany Willers, email revbwillers@gmail.com (preferred) or call 01291 625015.

Pastoral Letter

Dear Friends,

This year, the Methodist Church theme for Advent is “Hush the Noise.” I don’t know about you, but I tend to love the “noise” and chaos of Christmas. I love the shiny lights and decorations that get put up everywhere. I love the abundance of Christmas music in the shops. I love the smiles and sparkles and shouts of “Merry Christmas!” or even “Happy Holidays!” It seems most people are just a little bit nicer and happier this time of year.

But I know that it can also be a stressful time of year. Some people find the pressure of fulfilling holiday expectations overwhelming - with so much food to shop for, presents to buy, things to do and see and make and places to be - all of that noise can start to crowd out the reason for the season. It can also be a sad time for year - for those who are facing a holiday season without a loved one, or finding their precious traditions disrupted for other reasons, or simply for those who find the darkness of this time of year oppressive.

That is why I love this “Hush the Noise” theme for this year. The idea is to hush all of those outside trappings and expectations, at least for a bit, and quiet ourselves - emotionally, spiritually - so we can hear the voice of God in the midst of everything. As a minister, I need this reminder as much as anyone, as I can get caught up in all of the church events to attend and worship services to prepare and sometimes I get to Christmas Day just exhausted and ready to sleep until the New Year. I’m hoping this year to make some time for peace and quiet and communing with God, to remember why we do all of this.

Please join us for worship throughout this season:

1 December 10:00 - Advent 1

8 December 10:00 - Advent 2 + Christingle

12 December 7:30PM - Light in Our Darkness - a service for anyone struggling this season

15 December 10:00 - Advent 3

22 December 10:00 - Advent 4 + Carol Service

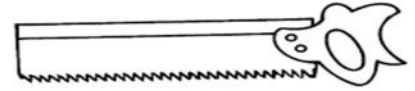
24 December 11:15PM - Christmas Eve with Carols, Candlelight and Communion

25 December 10:00 - Christmas Day

Blessings, Bethany



If you would like to donate any unwanted DIY tools to the TFSR cause, please see Margaret during Tuesday or Friday Coffee Mornings.



Coffee Morning

COFFEE MORNINGS

Every Tuesday & Friday 9.30am



CALDICOT METHODIST CHURCH

“LIGHT IN OUR DARKNESS”

A service to raise up and celebrate the lives of our loved ones who have sadly passed away



THURSDAY 12th

DECEMBER at 7.30pm

Opportunity to light a candle of remembrance

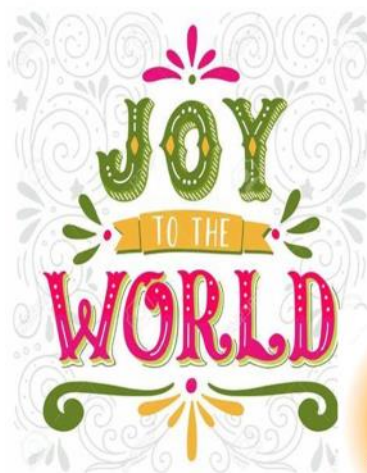
ALL VERY WELCOME



CALDICOT METHODIST CHURCH

DECEMBER 24th @ 11.15pm

Come and join us for Christmas Candle-Lit Mid-Night Communion, Plus words of encouragement for the future by our Minister The Rev. Bethany Willers, plus some of your favourite Carols.



UNTIL US A Child IS Born

We welcome all who worship with us

MORNING WORSHIP IN OUR CHURCH BUILDING

Every Sunday at 10.00am

Preachers for December

1st Rev B. Willers (Holy Communion) ++ 8th Rev B. Willers (All Age Worship)
15th Worship Leader ++
22nd Rev B. Willers ++ 29th Mrs A. Smith

Zoom Service - Every Sun day at 10.00am

United with the service in the church

To join the service or for further details or to request the Zoom link be emailed to you please contact Jack Healey or Gareth Edwards (caldicotmc@gmail.com)

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Sunday 8 December, it will be a Christingle service.– Café Church

Sunday 22 December, it will be a Carol service.

Christmas Eve, 24 December, we will have an 11:15PM service with
candlelight and carols.

Christmas Day, 25 December, we will have a 10:00 morning service.

12th January 2025 Covenant Service including Christening
- changed from 5th Jan.

SAMARITAN'S PURSE

A big thank you to everyone who filled a shoebox or donated to the Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child. I put together 11 boxes using the items and money that were donated and we sent off 30 all together. These boxes will bring a lot of joy to children who may receive nothing else this Christmas.

Thanks Carrie



FRIENDS AND NEIBOURS

On December 5th at 2.00 Friends and Neighbours have Invited The Melody Makers for an afternoon of Carols. .Everyone is Invited. A Charge of two pounds is requested which will go to a charity of our choice. Please come along and join us..
PAM REYNOLDS

RECHARGE - CAFÉ CHURCH

We are meeting at the Portskewett Church hall on

Thursday 12th December. 7pm

Paul Burke

Editor: The Ven John Barton considers the Christmas story ...

No Room? On the Contrary

All over the world, doors are being slammed shut this Christmas. As the wars in the Middle East, in Ukraine and in Sudan rage on, millions are losing their homes and places of safety. Elsewhere, hundreds of thousands of asylum seekers and would-be immigrants are on the road, seeking refuge anywhere they can find it.

Meanwhile, in recent years vast numbers of Christians have been forced to flee from their ancient homelands in Syria and Iraq. They mirror the Holy Family's escape into Egypt. Every time yet another infant dies violently, it is a reminder of the first century massacre of babies in the Bethlehem region.

So perhaps this year, one carol will be sung with particular poignancy. It retells the message of angels, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom His favour rests" and continues:

*Yet with the woes of sin and strife,
The world has suffered long;
Beneath the angel strain have rolled,
Two thousand years of wrong;
And man, at war with man, hears not
The love song which they bring:
O hush the noise, you men of strife,
And hear the angels sing.*



The angels' goodwill message will persist despite our clamour, for it proclaims God's all-embracing and eternal welcome. Whatever is happening on earth, Heaven's doors are ever open: it is home for everyone. The final biblical vision is of an all-encompassing city: "On no day will its gates ever be shut... the glory and honour of the nations will be brought into it."

Jesus, for whom there had been no room at the inn, taught that God's kingdom is home for every race: "I say to you that many will come from the East and the West, and will take their places at the feast with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven." He reassured those anxious about the future: "Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. My Father's house has many rooms..."

No room in heaven? Don't you believe it!

NEXT MONTHLY NOTICES

If you have an item, please contact Roger Simms by Saturday **28th December**