



Congresbury Methodist Church News Week beginning 12th December 2021

Minister: Rev. Meg Slings, Tel: 01934 852314
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Please Note we
have a Facebook Page
@ CONGRESBURY
METHODIST CHURCH



Church Events for Week Beginning 12th December 2021

Sunday 12th 11.00am

Gift Service and Holy

Communion led by Rev. Robert Channon

Tuesday 14th 9.30am-12noon Coffee Morning'
Drop In' for the 0 to 90's plus in the Methodist
Hall.

Sunday 19th 11.00am Morning Worship led by
Ken Hill 4.00pm Carol Service led by Rev. Meg
Slings followed by **refreshments in our hall**

Tuesday 21st 9.30am-12noon Coffee
Morning' Drop In' for the 0 to 90's plus in the
Methodist Hall. (There will be a time for singing
carols!)

Saturday 25th 10.00am Christmas Day service
led by the Worship Leaders

Sunday 26th There is **NO** service in our
church



*The calling of the
Methodist Church is to respond
to the Gospel of God's love in
Christ and to live its disciple-
ship in worship and Mission*

Yatton Men's Society The Yatton Men's Society meet in
the Methodist Church, High Street, Yatton every
fortnight on Monday Mornings 10.30 to 12.00
DATES FOR DECEMBER

Mon. 13th Dec. Advent Hope **Jill Flowers**

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**CATCH UP AND PRAYER AND ALSO BIBLE
STUDY VIA ZOOM** Friends, I am asking in
January and February 2022 would anyone
like to have reinstated Catch up and Prayer
on Monday afternoons and also Bible Study
on Tuesdays? This may have to move to
Tuesday afternoons. Both of these would
be on zoom. Please email me. God bless.
Meg

COVID UPDATE We are sorry but we have
been asked that from this week we return to
wearing masks during our time of worship
because of the escalating infection rates. We
do have spare masks available if one
forgets. **ALSO** that social distancing be
adhered to. If you are not sure where to sit,
please ask a Steward on duty. Thank you.

Gift Service Our Gift Service is being held this
Sunday (12th) at 11.00am. Gifts required are any
Christmas foods i.e. biscuits, chocolates or
sweeties etc. They will be taken to the Food
Bank the following week. Please leave the gifts in
the Porch. Thank you.

Ladies Friendly Circle

22nd Dec. Christmas Party organised by the
Committee !! **Everyone Welcome**



PRAYER Father God, as once again we prepare for
Christmas, help us to find time in our busy lives for
quiet and thought and prayer, that we may reflect
upon the wonder of your love and allow the story of
the Saviours birth to penetrate our hearts and
minds. So may our joy be deep, our worship more
real, and our lives worthy of all that you have done
for us through the coming of your Son, Jesus
Christ our Lord. Amen

Lectionary Readings Isaiah 61: 1-4, 8-11. Psalm 126. 1. Thessalonians 5: 16-24. John 1: 6-8, 19-28.



Each week either our minister, Meg, Pastoral Worker, Mike Bewick, or a Local Preacher, Worship Leader, Steward from our church writes a few words of personal reflections for our Notices . This week it is John



My Thoughts.....

“Looking for a Sign and looking Ahead”

A month or so into the first COVID Lockdown I made up my mind - (or was it God prompting me!) to read the whole of the Bible through from start to finish. It is something I have attempted many times before but alas I have never got very far and rarely got past the book of Leviticus! Although I have read a very big portion of the Bible through Study Groups and a lifetime of Sunday worship much of it is centred around Genesis, Psalms, Isaiah, the gospels, the life of St Paul and Revelations. Of course I was taught a lot from the days of Sunday School from stories like David and Goliath, Jonah and the Whale and so on.

I am not one for reading many books of any kind as I am easily distracted so to challenge myself to read the whole Bible is no small thing for me. 18 months later (and many pages of notes-especially from Isaiah!) much what I have read has become more clear.

In Isaiah 7:10 we read ‘Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz: 11 "Ask a sign of the LORD your God;.....” but he would not.’ Then in verse 14 ‘ Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel. In Matthew 1: 23 again we read "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel" (which means, God with us). Almost identical verses from OT and NT!

I am finishing the Old Testament and this weekend shall begin the New in readiness for the Christmas Story (which we all have heard so many times before.) a true story full of signs and promises resulting in the baby Jesus born in humble surroundings and Gods gift to us -as Kathleen mentioned last week.

So looking ahead in these difficult days in which we live, we can centre our minds as we wait in expectancy.

When I was farming many were the times I would be in the fields tending our cattle at night, maybe a poorly cow but more often it would be a cow giving birth. Maybe I would see the occasional ‘shooting star’ for a split second chase across the sky on a clear night. Maybe I would see the full moon suddenly appear from under a dark stormy cloud. It makes me imagine what it was like for the shepherds so many years ago. But what if an angel appeared suddenly, would I be afraid? You can bet I would! And then the angel appears and says, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people- and then suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!" What an experience!

Then I would imagine, not a shooting star but the Star at Bethlehem. I would be walking or running across the fields -not very far in comparison-back to the farm buildings (not riding a camel!). And then the Star stopped - and then there is Mary with baby Jesus in one of our OLD sheds - not a new one! What would my thoughts be?

There is a lovely hymn written many years ago by a Methodist Minister -James T East. 1. Wise men seeking Jesus travelled from afar guided on their journey by a beauteous star, but if we desire him, He is close at hand, for our native country is our Holy Land. 2. Prayerful souls may find him by our quiet lakes, Meet him on our hillsides when the morning breaks. In our fertile cornfields while the sheaves are bound. In our busy markets Jesus may be found. 3. Every peaceful village in our land might be made by Jesus' presence like sweet Bethany. He is more than near us if we love him well. For he seeks forever in our hearts to dwell.

As we travel on life’s journey, and as we look ahead,- perhaps more so now because of restrictions imposed upon us - and we are finding life is so difficult, may we turn again to the Christmas Story, a true story, a story that never changes and never fades, a Story of Jesus born the King of the Jews who is Christ the Lord, a Saviour born, who died and rose again for us because his love is so great that all may be made free for evermore to those who believe in him. It is a story of Hope for the World, our nation and ourselves.

This is the Story we can share this Christmas. Hallelujah Christ is born. Joy to the World. Peace on earth to all people.

May you all have a happy and peaceful Christmas. **John (WL)**



PS I recommend reading the whole of the Bible. God can reveal so much of Jesus through His Holy Spirit!

Thought For The Week

**HARK THE GLAD SOUND
THE SAVIOUR COMES**



'DROP IN' coffee mornings-0 to 90 plus

Come and join us for refreshments and a chat:-

Tuesdays every fortnight

9.30am to 12 noon **In the Methodist Hall**

Everyone of all ages are most welcome

December dates are:-**14th & 21st ***

January 2022 dates are:- **11th & 25th**

***(There will be carol singing on 21st Dec)**

