

Lanesfield. Not open for worship. Folk are invited to join other acts of worship around the Circuit.

Rakegate. Not open for worship. Folk are invited to join other acts of worship around the Circuit.

St. Andrew's. 10.30am there is a simple weekly YouTube service that is recorded and lasts about 30 minutes. The YouTube channel is "ST ANDREWS CHURCH SEDGLEY" and is accessible during the week.

St. John's. Sunday service on Zoom at 11.00am. Zoom link available on request from Revd Steve Jackson.

Springdale. Sunday service on Zoom at 10.30am. Zoom link available from Revd Christopher Collins.

Stowlawn. The church is currently not open. Folk are invited to join in with other acts of worship around the Circuit.

Stratton Street. Sunday Service on Zoom at 11.00am with Revd Teddy Siwila
[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7261577315?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7261577315?pwd=UXZ0eGJPSmw5VERsNFZGNDdZbno3Zz09)

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Meeting ID: 726 157 7315

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Upper Ettingshall. Sunday service on Zoom at 11.00am. Zoom link available on request from Revd Steve Jackson.

Wombourne. Sunday Service on Zoom at 10.30am. Zoom link available on request from Revd Christopher Collins.

Worship... Service ... Witness ... in the name of Jesus

Beckminster Welcomes You

Check Out Our Website @ www.beckminsterchurch.co.uk

MINISTER: Rev. Dr. PAUL NZACAHAYO

Email: paulpetit7@hotmail.com

☎ (Office) 344910 or 07952206407

Administrator & Safeguarding Co-ordinator: SUE LORIMER

Email: info@beckminsterchurch.co.uk (Room Bookings)

☎ (Office) 344910 (Home) 761322

What's On This Week....

Monday 16 November
9.30am - 12.30pm Office Open
12.45pm Service of Thanksgiving for Mary Harris (See Notices)

Tuesday 17 November
9.30am - 12.30pm Office Closed

Wednesday 18 November
9.30am - 12.30pm Office Closed
9.00am Zoom Prayer Meeting (See Notices)

Thursday 19 November
9.30am - 3.30pm Office Closed

Friday 20 November
9.30am - 12.30pm Office Open

Saturday 21 November

Beckminster Methodist Church
Birches Barn Road,
Penn Fields,
Wolverhampton
WV3 7BQ
Tel. 01902 344910



Worship and Fellowship

15 November 2020

Thirty-Third in Ordinary

Collect for the Day

To ponder and pray
Eternal God, from whom all thoughts of truth and peace proceed: kindle, we pray, in every heart the true love of peace, and guide with your pure and peaceable wisdom those who take counsel for the nations of the earth; that in justice and peace your kingdom may go forward, till the earth is filled with the knowledge of your love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Come and join us next
Sunday, 22 November 2020
Sunday before Advent
10.30am Morning Worship
on Zoom
led by Rev. Glennys Bamford

**10.30am Morning Worship
led by Mr Gabriel Gidi**

Theme: **A new hope in a seemingly hopeless situation**

Call to worship

*"There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,
the holy habitation of the Most High.
God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be moved;
God will help it when the morning dawns." Psalm 46: 4 – 5*

Hymn StF 18 – Be Still and Know that I am God

Be still and know that I am God,
be still and know that I am God,
be still and know that I am God.

I am the Lord that healeth thee,
I am the Lord that healeth thee,
I am the Lord that healeth thee.

In thee, O Lord, I put my trust,
In thee, O Lord, I put my trust,
In thee, O Lord, I put my trust.

Anonymous

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H3xsVW7iNKQ>
by Richard M S Irwin

Opening Prayer

Holy, holy, holy you are Lord of hosts;
the whole earth is full of your glory.
We glorify you;
We praise and bless your name.
We pray for our service today;
We invite your presence to be with us.
Give us hope.
Teach us to live in hope
We thank you for the gift of life.
We thank you for what you have done; what you are doing and what
you will do.
Accept these our prayers Father, son and Holy Spirit. **Amen**

©Gabriel Gidi Adapted from various sources including the bible

Worship on Sunday 15 November 2020

Beckminster. Sunday Service on Zoom at 10.30am. Zoom link available on request from Sue Lorimer or Revd Paul Nzacahayo.

Bilston

A service is available via audio conferencing at 11.00am. Details available from Revd William Davis.

Bradley. Not open for worship. Folk are invited to join other acts of worship around the Circuit.

Brewood. Sunday Service on Zoom at 10.30am with Elizabeth Farley. Zoom link available on request from Helen Share.

Codsall. Sunday Service on Zoom at 10.30am with Elizabeth Farley. Zoom link available on request from Helen Share.

Coven. Sunday Service on Zoom at 10.30am with Elizabeth Farley. Zoom link available on request from Helen Share.

Cranmer. Sunday Service on Zoom at 11.00am. Zoom link available from Revd Sam Hagerman

East Park. Sunday Service on Zoom at 11.00am with Revd Teddy Siwila.

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7261577315?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7261577315?pwd=UXZ0eGJPSmw5VERsNFZGNDdZbno3Zz09)
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Fallings Park. Sunday Service on Zoom at 11.00am. Zoom link available from Revd Sam Hagerman.

Fordhouses. Sunday Service on Zoom at 11.00am. Zoom link available from Revd Sam Hagerman.

Hurst Hill. Sunday Service on Zoom at 11.00am. Zoom link available on request from Revd Steve Jackson.

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+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)
+1 301 715 8592 US (Germantown)
+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)
+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)
+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)
Meeting ID: 891 1374 0799
Passcode: 340160
Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/kcNrpffNZr>

ADVENT CIRCUIT SERVICE. Begin the journey of Advent together as a Circuit by joining our Circuit Advent service:

29 November 2020, 6pm, on Zoom:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87408060766?pwd=b1U5bFZTRzVHYldlQjZMznZlWVZTd09>
By telephone: 0203 901 7895
Meeting ID: 874 0806 0766
Passcode: 425684

Opportunities for worship and prayer around the Circuit
If you need help accessing information for on-line worship, please contact Revd Christopher Collins: christopher.collins@methodist.org.uk

Midweek opportunities

Circuit Morning Prayer
Available on the Circuit Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/500469540084007>) at 10.00am each morning Monday - Saturday.

Brewood. Evening prayer on a Tuesday and Friday at 7.45pm, online or by phone. Details from Helen Share.

Codsall. Evening prayer on a Tuesday and Friday at 7.45pm, online or by phone. Details from Helen Share.

Coven. Evening prayer on a Tuesday and Friday at 7.45pm, online or by phone. Details from Helen Share.

Cranmer. Cranmer is open for private prayer on Tuesdays from 10am - 12noon.

We continue our worship as we sing with the National Methodist Choir:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oKJfs8C14yc>

StF Hymn 351 - In Christ Alone My Hope is Found

In Christ alone my hope is found,
He is my light, my strength, my song;
This Cornerstone, this solid Ground,
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace,
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease!
My Comforter, my All in All,
Here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone! – who took on flesh,
Fullness of God in helpless babe.
This gift of love and righteousness,
Scorned by the ones He came to save:
Till on that cross as Jesus died,
The wrath of God was satisfied –
For every sin on Him was laid;
Here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground His body lay,
Light of the world by darkness slain;
Then bursting forth in glorious day
Up from the grave He rose again!
And as He stands in victory
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me,
For I am His and He is mine –
Bought with the precious blood of Christ.

No guilt in life, no fear in death,
This is the power of Christ in me;
From life's first cry to final breath,
Jesus commands my destiny.
No power of hell, no scheme of man,
Can ever pluck me from His hand:
Till He returns or calls me home,
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand.

© Stuart Townend & Keith Getty

Reading: 1 Kings 19: 11 – 18 (New Revised Standard Version, Anglicised)

Elijah Meets God at Horeb

¹¹ He said, 'Go out and stand on the mountain before the Lord, for the Lord is about to pass by.' Now there was a great wind, so strong that it was splitting mountains and breaking rocks in pieces before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake; ¹² and after the earthquake a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire; and after the fire a sound of sheer silence. ¹³ When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. Then there came a voice to him that said, 'What are you doing here, Elijah?' ¹⁴ He answered, 'I have been very zealous for the Lord, the God of hosts; for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away.' ¹⁵ Then the Lord said to him, 'Go, return on your way to the wilderness of Damascus; when you arrive, you shall anoint Hazael as king over Aram. ¹⁶ Also you shall anoint Jehu son of Nimshi as king over Israel; and you shall anoint Elisha son of Shaphat of Abel-meholah as prophet in your place. ¹⁷ Whoever escapes from the sword of Hazael, Jehu shall kill; and whoever escapes from the sword of Jehu, Elisha shall kill. ¹⁸ Yet I will leave seven thousand in Israel, all the knees that have not bowed to Baal, and every mouth that has not kissed him.'

Sermon

Today's reading comes immediately after the showdown between Elijah and the Prophets of Baal on Mount Carmel. The showdown ends with Elijah killing the prophets of Baal after God had brought down fire to consume the offering. The drought that had affected the land for three year ends with the coming of the rains. After seeing all this, Elijah is on a high. *'But the hand of the Lord was on Elijah; he girded up his loins and ran in front of Ahab to the entrance of Jezreel.'* God gives Elijah the strength to run.

Elijah believes the battle has been won but the devil is never too far. Enter Jezebel - the spoiler.

'Then Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah, saying, 'So may the gods do to me, and more also, if I do not make your life like the life of one of them by this time tomorrow.' Then he was afraid; he got up and fled for his life, and came to Beersheba, which belongs to Judah; he left his servant there.' Verse 1 – 3.

ACTION FOR CHILDREN. Many thanks to all the people who, through their donations, support Action for Children throughout the year. I have now emptied the boxes of those who support the Charity through home collection boxes. Once again the generosity of donors has been wonderful and this year I have been able to forward £415.50 to Action for Children on your behalf. Many Thanks to all our generous supporters.

I'm grateful to George Tonks, the Church Treasurer, who, because there are no local branches of the appropriate Bank, paid in the money at the Newport Branch of the Bank.

I have recirculated the boxes and if you would like to be involved in supporting Action for Children at this strange and difficult time, please contact me via ivor20240@hotmail.co.uk and I'll get a box to you as soon as possible. June Sperring

METHODIST WOMEN IN BRITAIN. Our next gathering on zoom is on Thursday, 19 November at 10.30am when Anne Baldwin, until recently our Mission Partner in Sri Lanka, will be in conversation with our President, Pauline Beattie about her work and experiences while there. Having packed the boxes of her possessions to ship home, she subsequently had only 12 hours notice in which to say to Goodbye to people and pack her personal luggage for a flight back home in March. Anne was in the country at the time of the Easter bombings in 2019. We have a lot to talk about! Please join us, with your own cuppa! For zoom details please contact Sue Lorimer.

"SOUL SPACE" is a new Sunday evening gathering for quiet and reflective worship lasting about forty minutes. We will share simple prayers, readings, poetry, quietness and reflective music. We meet on Zoom at 6.30pm.

The Zoom link is:
Chris Collins is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Soul Space
Time: This is a recurring meeting Meet anytime

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89113740799?pwd=eHA5UFI0TGdsNnJQUWdXWCtzR1BOZz09>
Meeting ID: 891 1374 0799
Passcode: 340160
One tap mobile
+442030512874,,89113740799#,,,,,0#,,340160# United Kingdom
+442034815237,,89113740799#,,,,,0#,,340160# United Kingdom

MARY HARRIS. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family of Mary who sadly passed away peacefully at home on Wednesday, 28 October 2020. Mary's funeral will take place on Monday, 16 November 2020 at 10.45am at Bushbury Crematorium and because numbers are very limited the service will be live streamed. (The log in details for the service are in the email attached to this service sheet). There will also be a service of Thanksgiving at Beckminster at 12.45pm. Due to Covid restrictions this will be for invited family and friends only.

ZOOM PRAYER MEETINGS are still taking place on a Wednesday morning at 9.00am and all are welcome to join. For further details please contact Sue.

CHURCH OFFICE. Please check the calendar on the front of the service sheet each week to see when the Church Office is open. The days when I am not in I will be working from home so please contact me on my home number on those days. Sue

Exploring the Climate Crisis in the Prophets is an ongoing course. Please contact Revd. Chris for details.

BETTY CAUSER. Congratulations to Betty from all your friends at Beckminster on the occasion of your 90th birthday on Monday, 16 November 2020.

INK CARTRIDGES. Rev. Peggy has a set of HP 951/950XL colour ink cartridges to give away. Please contact Peggy if you can use them or know of anyone who can.

GRACE ARCHER. We have received the following message, together with a donation to Beckminster in memory of Grace Archer:
To the Beckminster family
Thank you for your support and prayers and love over many years.
Love The Archer family.

EASYFUNDRAISING. As Beckminster is a charity registered with Easyfundraising, we receive donations through them when items are bought online by anyone recognised as a supporter of Beckminster. These donations are made by the online retailer at no extra cost to you. If you are buying anything online please consider checking if the retailer is listed on Easyfundraising, accessing through that and being a supporter of Beckminster so that we receive additional funds for the church. If you want any more information on this please contact George Tonks.

When things seem to be working and moving forward that is when setbacks come – the metaphorical Jezebels. We are scared. We fear for our lives. We fear for the church. We are not sure it will survive this pandemic. We wonder whether the church will survive the dwindling numbers and the aggressive secularism. Like Elijah we are faced with Jezebels in our lives. Elijah is ready to give up; ready to die. 'He asked that he might die: 'It is enough; now, O Lord, take away my life...' *Yet we have a new hope in a seemingly hopeless situation.*

In this situation of hopelessness springs hope. '*Suddenly an angel touched him and said to him, 'Get up and eat.'* He looked, and there at his head was a cake baked on hot stones, and a jar of water. He ate and drank, and lay down again.' This happens twice. **Lesson number 1: God provides for us because he is Jehovah Jireh.** In his hopeless situation, God provides for Elijah's needs – He feeds him. The food gives him strength for the next part of the mission.

In our time of hopelessness God feeds us; equips us for the mission ahead. Once Elijah's strength is restored, God confronts him asking: 'What are you doing here, Elijah?' He answers, '*I have been very zealous for the Lord, the God of hosts; for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away.*' Look at how Elijah focuses on himself. The pronoun 'I' suggests he thinks he is alone; his words suggest he is alone. In his despair, he has forgotten the mighty things God did at Mount Carmel and after Mount Carmel. We all have our Mount Carmel experiences but when challenges come, we forget that there is a God in our midst. But God is not done with Elijah. As he wallows in self-pity, God is already planning the next daring mission for Elijah. *There is a new hope in a seemingly hopeless situation.* **Lesson 2: Remember you are a child of God.**

The next part of this story is what I want us to focus on:

God reveals himself to Elijah. In this instance God comes in a 'sound of sheer silence'. In times of adversity, we may need to sit in silence; wait for God to speak. The same God who appears to Moses as fire and to Paul in a flash of lightning is the same God who appears in the 'sound of sheer silence'. **Lesson 3: Do not stereotype God.** Look at how Elijah tries to give the same excuses, but God is not interested. After this encounter with God, Elijah is given a new mission:

Then the Lord said to him, 'Go, return on your way to the wilderness of Damascus; when you arrive, you shall anoint Hazael as king over Aram. Also you shall anoint Jehu son of Nimshi as king over Israel; and you shall anoint Elisha son of Shaphat of Abel-meholah as prophet in your place. Whoever escapes from the sword of Hazael, Jehu shall kill; and whoever escapes from the sword of Jehu, Elisha shall kill. Yet I will leave seven thousand in Israel, all the knees that have not bowed to Baal, and every mouth that has not kissed him.'

Look at how God develops a succession plan. God doesn't leave things to chance. We are not here by chance. He is a God of continuity.

God has a new mission for you even when you are ready to give up. No excuses.

God has a new mission for his church even as numbers dwindle and secularism is growing. No excuses.

God has a new mission for the world even as we face a deadly pandemic, climate change. No excuses.

When it looked like it is all over, God resurrects Elijah's ministry. God equips Elijah's ministry for continuity. Elijah becomes the conduit through which God continues his mission. When it looks like we are in a dark tunnel in our lives as individuals, as churches, as countries God is putting together a plan to revive us. We just need to listen to Him. God will make a way. **There is a new hope in a seemingly hopeless situation.** Accept this hope. Live in this hope. Trust in this hope. **Indeed, there is a new hope in our seemingly hopeless situation.** Amen.

Final Song:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UglO7SGUWk>

You make me brave – Amanda Cook

I stand before You now
The greatness of your renown
I have heard of the majesty and wonder of you
King of Heaven, in humility, I bow
As Your love, in wave after wave
Crashes over me, crashes over me
For You are for us
You are not against us
Champion of Heaven
You made a way for all to enter in

I have heard You calling my name
I have heard the song of love that You sing
So, I will let You draw me out beyond the shore
Into Your grace
Your grace

As Your love, in wave after wave
Crashes over me, crashes over me
For You are for us
You are not against us
Champion of Heaven
You made a way for all to enter into

You make me brave
You make me brave
You call me out beyond the shore into the waves
You make me brave
You make me brave
No fear can hinder now the promises you made

Prayers for Others and Ourselves

God of love and hope teach us teach to have hope in Christ Jesus. Help us to trust in your promises; to wait in hope and to overcome despair. Spirit of God. Breathe on Your church. Pour out Your presence. Speak through Your word. We pray for the universal church that it may positively respond to your call of hope even in seemingly hopeless situations. We pray for governments of all nations that they may rule with compassion and justice. We pray for all who are in trouble or distress. We pray for members of this congregation who are going through trying times; those who are unwell or in despair. Strengthen us. Protect us. Sustain us. **Amen.**

Blessing

Go in peace to serve and love the Lord in hope; trusting in his goodness. Amen