

**Beckminster Methodist Church
Christmas Services and Carol Singing**

Sunday, 18 December
9.00am Holy Communion
10.30am Nativity and Carol Service

Saturday, 24 December - **Christmas Eve**
4.00pm Christingle Service
9.00pm Christmas Communion Service

Sunday, 25 December - **Christmas Day**
10.00am All Age Worship

*There will be no service on
Sunday, 1 January 2023*

Carol Singing will take place at Tesco (old Waitrose)
on Thursday, 22 December 2022
from 6.30 - 7.30pm
raising funds for Action for Children.

All are welcome to join us at any
of these services and events.

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

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

Beckminster Welcomes You

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

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Worship and Fellowship

18 December 2022

Advent 4

What's On This Week....

Monday 19 December
9.30am - 12.30pm Office Open
9.30am - 12.30pm Art Group
7.00pm Advent Course

Tuesday 20 December
Office Closed

Wednesday 21 December
9.30am - 12.30pm Office Open
9.00am Zoom Prayer Group (See Notices)
9.15 - 11.15am WeightWatchers
2.00 - 4.00pm Beck Together (See Notices)

Thursday 22 December
9.30am - 3.30pm Office Open
6.30 - 7.30pm Carol Singing at Tesco
(See Notices)

Friday 23 December
9.30am - 12.30pm Office Open

Saturday 24 December
9.00am Christingle Making
4.00pm Christingle Service
9.00pm Christmas Communion Service

Collect for the Day

To ponder and pray
God our Redeemer, you chose the Virgin Mary, to be the mother of our Lord and Saviour. Fill us with your grace that in all things we may embrace your holy will and with her rejoice in your salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

**Come and join us on
Sunday, 25 December 2022**

**Advent 5
in Church and Live-Streamed**

**10.00am All Age Worship
led by Rev Dr Paul Nzacahayo**

**10.30am Nativity & Carol Service
led by Mr Gabriel Gidi**

Welcome and Introduction

Advent Candle Lighting Liturgy 2022 by Derek Weber



Fourth Sunday of Advent

GIVE YOU A SIGN

Isaiah 7:10-16, Matthew 1:18-25

Reader One: Isaiah said that the Lord spoke to the king and said, "Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven" (Isaiah 7:11 NRSV). But when the king refused, God would not be stopped. "Therefore, the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son and shall name him Immanuel" (Isaiah 7:14 NRSV).

Reader Two: God wants us to know, even when we aren't sure ourselves. God wants us to experience God's presence, even when we think we can handle life on our own. God sends us signs of God's presence with us; all we need to do is keep our eyes open and look.

WARM SPACE at BECKMINSTER. Due to the vagaries of the heating system we presently have, when heating the parts of our building where the upstairs offices are, The Epworth Room is also heated. A suggestion was made at a recent Church Alive Meeting, and has since been discussed and fully supported by the Beck Leadership Team, that during these times the room is made available to Beck members as a warm space during the winter months.

Therefore, starting from week-beginning 5 December, on **MONDAYS** from 9.00am to 2.00pm and **THURSDAYS** from 9.00am to 4.00pm you are welcome to utilise this space as an alternative to providing heating in your own home. You can come on your own (though you may wish to arrange to come with another person for company), you can bring your spouse (though you may wish to escape from them for an hour or two!), or bring other members of your family or close friends. You are welcome to bring reading matter, puzzle books, small games, knitting etc or just come for a chat. Flasks of hot water and drink making items will be provided, while you are welcome to bring packed lunch type food items if spending lunch-time in the room.

If you plan to take up this offer please let Pete Prescott know, either by speaking to him on Sunday mornings or ringing him on 01902 746316, so that we have an idea as to the number of drinks resources to provide. Pete Prescott on behalf of the Beck Leadership Team.

JMA CHRISTMAS POST. We will be running the Christmas Post until Sunday, 18 December 2022. Cards can be sent in the following ways:
1. One card to be sent to our church family to be put up on the notice board in the vestibule.

2. Christmas cards for individual church members, please post in the box with full name and address.

Christmas post donations for JMA put in a sealed envelope with your name or use the gift aid envelopes provided. Val Pollard, JMA Secretary.

EATING OR HEATING. There is now a supply of small 'cosywrap' blankets at Beckminster for anyone you may know who is in need of some extra warmth this winter. Thanks to all who have helped to produce these much needed items. Ann Holt.

CHRISTINGLE. Volunteers are needed to make Christingles on Christmas Eve at 9.00a.m. Please contact Tricia Prescott if you are able to help.

Eco - Beck. As part of our commitment to Eco - Church status, we are trying to encourage the recycling of small household items. Many people do this at home already but we are offering the opportunity to recycle batteries, crisp packets, stamps and blister packs at Beckminster. We will place containers marked for these purposes in the vestibule and hope you will find them helpful as we try to live more sustainably. Thank you for your ongoing support for our Eco - Church initiative.

Feeling crafty? Fancy an afternoon out? or just a cuppa and a chat. If so you are welcome to Join us twice a month on **Monday afternoons 1.00 - 3.00pm** in the Coffee Bar at Beckminster along with tea, cakes and lots of chat. We will be providing a craft activity for you to participate in if you wish to do so, which will be accessible to both the seasoned crafters and newbs. Alternatively if you have a project that you are working on already you are welcome to bring that along to do. The cost of each session will be £2.50 to help cover the cost. **9th & 23rd Jan, 13th & 27th Feb.**

Reader One: "Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, 'God is with us.'" When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus (Matthew 1:23-25 NRSV).

Reader Two: We light these candles, the candle of joyous hope, of proclaimed peace, of deep everlasting joy, and today of presence that speaks of love, as a sign that no matter our circumstance, we know we are not alone.

Light all four candles of the Advent wreath.

StF 166 'Christmas is coming!'

***'Christmas is coming!'
The Church is glad to sing,
and let the advent candles
brightly burn in a ring.***

1. The first is for God's promise
to put the wrong things right,
and bring to earth's darkness
the hope of love and light.
2. The second for the prophets,
Who said that Christ would come
With good news for many
And angry words for some.
3. The third is for the Baptist,
who cried, 'Prepare the way.
Be ready for Jesus,
today and every day.'
4. The fourth is for the Virgin,
who mothered God's own son
and sang how God's justice
was meant for everyone.

John L. Bell (b. 1949)

StF 214 Once in royal David's city

Call to Worship

Prayers of Adoration and Confession

StF 180 O come, O come, Immanuel,

Reading: Luke 1: Angel Gabriel visits Mary

StF 187 The Angel Gabriel

Reading: Luke 2: 1 - 7 Journey to Bethlehem

StF 191 Away in a manger,

Children and Amelia sing "How far is it to Bethlehem"

Reading: Luke 2: 8 - 9 Visit of Shepherds

StF 216 See Him lying on a bed of straw;

Solo - Born in the night (StF 193)

Reading: Matthew 2: Visit of Kings

StF 204 In the bleak midwinter

Homily

Prayers of Intercession

Offering and Prayer for the Gifts

StF 202 Hark! The herald-angels sing

Blessing and Dismissal

**The Plants in Church
for December
are in Loving Memory of:**

**Donald Rushton
David Griffiths
Alwin Ordidge
John Felton**

We Welcome You to Worship Today

If you are here for the first time, please make yourself known to those around you, or to one of the Stewards or Minister. You may like to sign the visitors book in the foyer.

Our fellowship will continue after morning worship with tea and coffee served in the Coffee Bar.

SUNDAY MORNING SERVICE. The service this morning will be live streamed. The camera focuses only on those taking part but the back of your head might be seen. If you wish to remain out of sight of the camera, please sit at the back of the church.

ZOOM PRAYER MEETING on a Wednesday at 9.00am. All are welcome and for further details please contact Sue.

REV STUART DAVIS. Our thoughts and prayers are with Christine, Ben, Sam and family following the death of Stuart on Wednesday, 14 December 2022, who passed away peacefully at home with his family around him. Stuart was the Minister here at Beckminster from 1996 - 2006.

THANK YOU to all who have sent me messages of encouragement and support following my knee operation. Wishing all friends at Beckminster and their families a peaceful Christmas. Best wishes David Jones.

BECK TOGETHER. You are warmly invited to join us on Wednesday, 21 December for our pre-Christmas afternoon of fellowship, mince pies and a cuppa from 2.00 - 4.00pm. Marilyn Bose has kindly agreed to come with her accompanists to enhance our get-together with some musical entertainment and everyone will be most welcome. Bring your friends!

CHRISTIAN AID. If you wish to help, an extra Christmas gift to support the ongoing work of Christian Aid would be very welcome. Envelopes will be available at the rear of the Church. Wendy Bate.

CAROL SINGING. Following a successful first performance at Sainsburys on Thursday, we will be visiting Tesco (old Waitrose) on Thursday, 22 December 2022 collecting for Action for Children. We will be singing from 6.30 - 7.30pm so please come and join us. Tim.

THANK YOU for those who attended the recent Fish and Chip supper, I hope you enjoyed it. We raised £144.55 which will be split 50:50 between Beckminster and the charity chosen by Jacantas which is Target Ovarian Cancer. Tim.

COFFEE MATES. Meet Monday, 2 January 2023 at Albrighton Garden Centre (British Garden Centre Grp), Newport Road, Cosford, WV7 3EE from 10.45am - 12noon. Everybody welcome. June Sutton, tel. 07790272865.