

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

26 November 2023

Sunday before Advent

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

What's On This Week....

Monday 27 November
9.30am - 12.30pm Office Open
1.00 - 3.00pm Craft Group
1.00 - 3.15pm Take a Break
5.00 - 8.00pm Dinky Divas

Tuesday 28 November
9.30am - 12.30pm Office Closed
9.30am - 12.30pm Art Group
4.45 - 6.45pm Dinky Divas
7.15 - 8.45pm Yoga

Wednesday 29 November
9.30am - 12.30pm Office Open
9.00am Zoom Prayer Group
9.15 - 11.15am WeightWatchers
7.00pm Zoom Worship & Discipleship Mtg

Thursday 30 November
9.30am - 3.30pm Office Open
7.00 - 9.15pm St John's Ambulance
7.00pm Zoom Advent Study (See Notices)

Friday 1 December
9.30am - 12.30pm Office Open
10.00 - 11.00am Move It or Lose It
10.30am - 12.30pm Blissful Dragon
Therapeutic Sound

Saturday 2 December
6.00 for 6.30pm Christmas Social

Collect for the Day

To ponder and pray

Eternal Father, whose Son Jesus Christ ascended to the throne of heaven that he might rule over all things as Lord: keep the Church in the unity of the Spirit and in the bond of peace, and bring the whole created order to worship at his feet; who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

**Come and join us on
Sunday, 3 December 2023**

Advent 1

**10.30am Gift & Nativity Service
led by Mr Trevor Starling**

**10.30am Morning Worship
led by Rev Peggy Heim**

Call to Worship

StF 88 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty the King of Creation!

Prayers

Young Peoples' Talk

StF 264 Make way, make way,

Readings:

Ephesians 1: 15 - 23 read by Sue Reed

Matthew 25: 31 - 46 read by Chris Reed

StF 501 Help us, O Lord, to learn

Sermon

StF 256 When I needed a neighbour,

Prayers

Offering & Dedication

StF 470 Lord, for the years

Blessing

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.

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

JMA CHRISTMAS POST 2023. We will be offering the Christmas Post service within Beckminster again this year. The post box will be available to post Christmas cards on 3, 10 & 17 December. Christmas cards can be collected after the morning service on 3, 10, 17 & 24 December.

1) Individual cards for church members. Please put full name and address on the envelopes for sorting the cards.

2) One card for the church members to be put on the board in church.

Donations for JMA will be initially collected by Beckminster and then passed onto JMA. Please can you use a Gift Aid Envelope provided and any cheques made payable to Beckminster Church. Please indicate on the envelope if Gift Aid can be received from your donation. Many thanks. Val Pollard, JMA Secretary.

WOMBOURNE & DISTRICT CHORAL SOCIETY presents "On Christmas Night" here at Beckminster on Saturday, 16 December 2023 at 7.30pm and also on Saturday, 9 December 2023 at 7.30pm at St Benedict Biscop Church, Wombourne. Tickets are £15.00 (under 16 free). See notice board for further details.

SPONSOR FORM FOR THE HAVEN. Anthony Draper (as part of a team of 35 people, including staff and members at Skills for Life) have chosen to raise money for The Haven this Christmas (for children up to and including 16 years). The monies will go towards buying new bedding, underwear and Christmas gifts as well. If anyone would like to sponsor Anthony, could you please see either Jean or Alan Draper. Your generosity and continued support for this charity especially this Christmas would be much appreciated.

Follow the Star Wolverhampton. A City Centre Nativity and Lantern Parade, Saturday, 16 December 2023. A family friendly Walk with alpacas, beginning at St John's in the Square Church at 3.00pm and ending at St Peter's Square about 4.30pm, stopping along the way to tell the story of Joseph and Mary and the birth of Jesus, and sing carols accompanied by The Band of the West Midlands Fire Service.

We are looking for people to be Stewards on the day from 2.30 - 5.30pm. The Stewards will walk with the participants, keeping everyone on the pavements and helping especially at road junctions.

And people who would like to take part in **reading the Christmas Story.** We are also looking for a couple of people who would be willing to serve drinks at the end in St Peter's Square. **Please contact Linda or Lesley if you can help or would like to know more.**

Deacon Linda Gilson
linda.gilson@methodist.org.uk
07941 354958

Lesley Cook
lesleyvcook@btinternet.com
07840 128510

EMMAUS. Our next meeting is on Tuesday, 28 November at 2.30pm at 3 Castlecroft Lane when we will be discussing the Lectionary readings for 3 December. All are welcome.

ADVENT GROUP 2023. You are invited to join the Advent Group! We will meet on zoom on Thursday evenings from 7.00 - 8.00pm. This year we will be accompanied in our Advent journey by different poets and mystics.

All life is here, in God's hands (Julian of Norwich) 30 November.

When you dance with death, you must dance well (Oscar Romero, Pedro Casaldáliga and Pablo Sosa) 7 December.

Mary, surrounded by stars (Lucille Clifton) 14 December.

Making welcome the Christ Child (Francis of Assisi) 21 December.

The sessions will be led by Rachel Starr and will include music, art, poetry and plenty of discussion.

Please let Sue Lorimer know if you would like to attend, so that you can be sent the zoom details. info@beckminsterchurch.co.uk

CELEBRATE ADVENT WITH METHODIST WOMEN IN BRITAIN. Invitation to join the Telford Circuit at Newport Methodist Church on Tuesday, 28 November at 2.00pm. Speaker, Mrs Barbara Murray.

Our own Circuit Advent Carol Service at East Park Methodist Church on Wednesday, 6 December at 2.30pm. There will be a "bring and buy" gift stall. Please bring a wrapped gift, value up to £3, and be prepared to buy one! All welcome, men and women.

NOTICE BOARD. Please look at the notice board in the Coffee Bar as there are lots of events happening in the Circuit in the coming weeks.

CUPPA, CAKE AND CHAT. Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, 13 December 2023 from 1.45 - 3.00pm in the Epworth Room. All are welcome.

ADVANCE NOTICE. Please put these dates in your diary.

Sunday, 10 December and Sunday, 17 December.

Are you a keen gardener? Looking for a present for a keen gardener? Looking for an opportunity to support **West Midlands Air Ambulance**? If so Sue Lloyd will be in the Coffee Bar after the morning service on Sunday, 10 December and Sunday, 17 December with packets of seeds collected from her garden and a small selection of house plants.

Sue has been collecting donations for her seeds and plants throughout this year and has raised £459.01 for West Midlands Air Ambulance so far. Speak to Sue or Graham Lloyd if you want more details.

Fair Trade Christmas Market. Many thanks to friends across the Circuit who supported the Fair Trade Christmas Market at Beckminster last Saturday, 18 November. We were thrilled by good sales and have sent £135 to Transform Trade for their development work.

**12.30pm Baptism Service
led by Rev Peggy Heim**

Gathering & Welcome

StF 100 All things bright and beautiful,

Reading: Psalm 139

Reflections

Baptism of Jaxson David Alexander Hopkins

The Lord's Prayer

StF 536 He's got the whole world in his hand.

Prayer

Blessing

**The Plants in Church
for November are in
Loving Memory of:**
Rob Harris;
David Griffiths;
Gillian Whilton;
Mr Bill Wilkes and
daughter-in-law
Susan Wilkes;
Son, David and
Granddaughter Evie,
Family of
Keith & Mavis Nunn

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.

BECKMINSTER GIFT SERVICE NEXT WEEK 3 DECEMBER. This is our annual service to which we bring gifts for others. This year the gifts brought to the service will go to City of Sanctuary which provides a weekly drop in centre for refugees and asylum seekers in our city centre. Here, people find a welcome, English classes, craft activities, friendships and much more. This year at Christmas the focus is on giving new toys to asylum seeking children living in hotels and in the community. **New toys, games, art/craft items would be welcome or money donations to help buy them. Unwrapped items please so parents can choose something to give their children.**

Last week's service here was led by members of City of Sanctuary and if you were unable to join us for that, it is still available on YouTube, accessed on the internet in the usual way by typing in Beckminster. If you would like to give but cannot be at the service please contact Sue Reed 01902 762310 or leave gifts with Sue Lorimer in the Beckminster Office. Thank you.

ABCD. Action around Bethlehem Children with Disability works to improve the lives of children with disabilities across Palestine, regardless of faith, race or gender. It has 37 years of experience, and is guided by principles of humanity, neutrality, independence and impartiality. It supports local health centres to deliver high-quality, child-centred care. I came across this organisation several years ago when we received an ABCD Christmas card from the Shuttleworths. I made a few enquiries and discovered that it is a relatively small charity working in 4 UN Refugee Camp Rehabilitation Centres. Having renovated and equipped these centres, ABCD supports the professional development of the therapists. Alongside basic holistic rehabilitation, the teams give educational and psychological support, speech and language therapy, and provide technical advice and home adaptations.

It all started when a British paediatric physiotherapist, Val Jourdan, volunteered at the Bethlehem Arab Society for Rehabilitation (BASR). Following her stint there, and with the help of friends, the charity was set up. Now over 80, she is still the beating heart of this wonderful charity. I am delighted that we have become friends.

Sadly, in recent weeks the Nour Shams Refugee Camp has suffered some infrastructure damage from IDF action and settler violence, but an appeal has already been made to help fund repairs.

I hope you will feel able to support ABCD by attending Beckminster's Coffee Morning on Saturday, 16 December. John Ashwood.

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

CHURCH OFFICE will close on Thursday, 7 December 2023 at 12noon and will re-open on Friday, 15 December 2023 at 9.30am. Please send any notices in the usual way. Sue.

COFFEE MATES. Meet Monday, 4 December 2023 at The Inn at Shipley from 10.45am - 12noon. Everybody welcome. June Sutton, tel. 07790272865.

REV. DONALD WILKES. We are sorry to inform that Rev. Donald Wilkes former Minister of Beckminster Methodist Church between 1990 - 1996 died on Friday, 3 November 2023 surrounded by his family. Please remember Elizabeth, Ian, Stephanie and Martin and the rest of the family in your prayers. The funeral will take place on Thursday, 30 November 2023 at 2.00pm at Trinity Methodist Church, Loughborough. The Thanksgiving Service will be live streamed and will start about 10 minutes prior to the service. You can see it live or come back to it a little later. The live streaming details are <https://www.facebook.com/TrinityMethodistChurchCentre> This is an open page, so a facebook account is not required to see it.

DIARY DATES. Please note updated information for the following events that will be taking place in the run up to Christmas.

Friday, 15 December 2023 - Beckminster's Carol Service at 7.30pm. This will be held in conjunction with Gateway, Blissful Dragon Therapeutic Sound and Others. Mince Pies and refreshments will be provided by Gateway after the service.

Carol Singing with Churches Together in Graiseley & Penn Fields at Tesco, Penn Road on **Tuesday, 19 December 2023** from 6.30 - 7.30pm raising funds for Action for Children and at Sainsbury's, St Marks, Wolverhampton on **Thursday, 21 December 2023** from 6.30 - 7.30pm raising funds for The Good Shepherd Ministry. All are welcome.

JIGSAW LIBRARY. We are very grateful for all your generous donations for the jigsaw library and have now got as many as we need for the immediate future - Thank you all. We are still hoping that the number of "borrowers" might increase as we move into winter and the puzzles will continue to be available in the Coffee Bar each Sunday. All donations are for Christian Aid. Wendy and Trish.

ADVANCE NOTICE. We are planning to hold our 10.30am Sunday morning services in the Church Hall during January and February 2024. Many members have commented favourable on the atmosphere created in the smaller space in the past. We can also be confident now that the space will be warmer than in church.