

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



Friday, 15 December  
7.30pm Community Carol Service  
with Gateway, Wulfrun Warblers and others.  
This will be followed by mince pies  
& refreshments.

Sunday, 24 December - **Christmas Eve**  
10.30am Morning Worship with Baptism  
4.00pm Christingle Service  
9.00pm Christmas Communion Service

Monday, 25 December - **Christmas Day**  
10.30pm Joint Service to be held at  
Cranmer Methodist Church

**Carol Singing with Churches Together  
in Graiseley & Penn Fields**  
will take place 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 to join us at any  
of these services and events.


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

## Beckminster Welcomes You

Check Out Our Website @ [www.beckminsterchurch.co.uk](http://www.beckminsterchurch.co.uk)

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## Worship and Fellowship

**10 December 2023**

### What's On This Week....

### Advent 2

**Monday 11 December**  
9.30am - 12.30pm Office Closed  
9.30 - 11.30am District Meeting  
1.00 - 3.00pm Craft Group  
1.00 - 3.15pm Take a Break  
5.00 - 8.00pm Dinky Divas

**Tuesday 12 December**  
9.30am - 12.30pm Office Closed  
9.30am - 12.30pm Art Group  
4.45 - 6.45pm Dinky Divas  
7.15 - 8.45pm Yoga

**Wednesday 13 December**  
9.30am - 12.30pm Office Closed  
9.00am Zoom Prayer Group  
9.15 - 11.15am WeightWatchers  
1.45 - 3.00pm Tea & Chat  
7.00 - 9.00pm Horticultural Society

**Thursday 14 December**  
9.30am - 3.30pm Office Closed  
7.00 - 9.15pm St John's Ambulance  
7.00pm Zoom Advent Study (See Notices)

**Friday 15 December**  
9.30am - 12.30pm Office Open  
10.00 - 11.00am Move It or Lose It  
6.30 - 9.00pm Gateway  
7.00 for 7.30pm Community Carol Service

**Saturday 16 December**  
10.30 - 12noon Coffee Morning (See  
Notices)  
7.30pm Wombourne Choral Concert

Collect for the Day  
**To ponder and pray .....**  
God of all holiness, your promises  
stand unshaken through all  
generations and you lift up all who  
are burdened and brought low:  
renew our hope in you as we wait  
for the coming in glory of Jesus  
Christ, our Judge and our Saviour,  
who is alive and reigns with you, in  
the unity of the Holy Spirit, one  
God, world without end. **Amen.**

**Come and join us on  
Sunday, 17 December 2023**

### Advent 3

**9.00am Holy Communion  
led by Rev Glennys Bamford**

**10.30am Morning Worship  
led by Mr Richard French**

**10.30am Morning Worship  
led by Mr Naison Bangure**

Welcome

Candle 2

Our Advent journey calls us on  
in preparation for what's to come.  
Our dusting off and getting ready  
tweaking, changing what we do.  
Advent God,  
**dust us off today.**

Because we've always done it  
doesn't mean we always must,  
as our journey makes us think again  
and change the way we live.  
Advent God,  
**dust us off today.**

The challenge is to learn  
what old ways should be no more,  
to encounter and experience  
and be brave in stepping out.  
Advent God,  
**dust us off today.**

The more we learn, the more we change.  
The more we think, the more we grow.  
The more we dust our old ways off,  
the more our faith shines out.  
Advent God,  
**dust us off today.**



**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 10 & 17 December. Christmas cards can be collected after the morning service on 10, 17 & 24 December.

1) Individual cards for church members. Please put full name 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.

**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.

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

**Making welcome the Christ Child** (Francis of Assisi) 20 December.

(Please note that the last session has been changed to Wednesday, 20 December 2023 at 7.00pm).

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](mailto:info@beckminsterchurch.co.uk)

**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.** 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.

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

**WRITE FOR RIGHTS 2023.** This year, 10 December, marks the 75th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. You can celebrate by sending messages of support and comfort for those in prison or who are doing the often dangerous work of taking action for human rights.

On the notice board in the Coffee Bar, you will find details of 10 cases which Amnesty International are focussing on this year. Please choose as many as you wish and stand alongside those ones paying the price for their courageous actions in their darkest time. Your cards really do make a difference. Thank you. Phil Shuttleworth.

**THANK YOU.** A big 'thank you' to all church friends, and others, who were so generous in sponsoring Anthony to raise £150 towards the Haven Project. Anthony's input included his usual weekly swimming lessons, gym, ten-pin bowling, discos, and playing tennis. From the beginning of January to mid-November 2023, the Skills for Life team chose to boost their own fitness and came up with the idea of The Haven Project. On a daily basis the Skills for Life group (including Anthony) took part in a walk around a nearby children's park, and cycled 'miles and miles' indoors on their borrowed exercise bikes to achieve a Team target of 12,430 miles. Our sincere thanks to all. Anthony, Alan and Jean Draper.

**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

**Advent God, as we light this second candle, may we accept the challenges and changes to our living and our loving that your extraordinary gift leads us all to make.**

**May we be prepared to dust off old ways, learn new ways and become more Christlike. Amen.**

**StF 174 Light a Candle in a darkened place, (Verses 1, 2 & 3)**

Call to Worship

Opening Prayers and the Lord's Prayer

**StF 666 Master speak! Thy servant heareth,**

Readings:

Isaiah 40: 1 - 11 read by Janette Clough

Mark 1: 1 - 8 read by Ann Holt

**StF 55 Immortal, invisible, God only wise,**

Sermon

**StF 479 The King of love my shepherd is,**

Offertory and Prayer

Prayers of Intercession

**StF 182 On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry**

*(This hymn reflects on the ministry of John the Baptist and the anticipation of the coming Messiah. It speaks of the River Jordan as a symbol of baptism and preparation for the arrival of Jesus).*

Blessing

**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.

**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.

**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.

**CITY OF SANCTUARY GIFTS.** A big thank you for all the toys, crafts and financial gifts brought to the recent gift service. There was a wonderful response to the appeal. Your generosity will enable each child of Refugee and Asylum Seeker families who attend the Wednesday drop in sessions in the City centre, to have a gift at Christmas. Our support has been very much appreciated. Sue Reed

**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.

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

**CHURCH OFFICE** is closed and will re-open on Friday, 15 December 2023 at 9.30am. Please send any notices in the usual way. Sue.

**CHRISTMAS ACTIVITIES:**

Can I please remind you of the events coming up soon:

**Community Carol Service, 15 December at 7.00 for 7.30pm**

It would be lovely to see as many of you as possible at this event to support two of our Community Groups that meet at Beckminster, Gateway and Wulfrun Warblers. There will be a number of your favourite carols for the congregation to sing as well.

In addition we are all invited to join Gateway afterwards for mince pies and refreshments. If you have not attended this before you will not be disappointed.

**Carol Singing at Tesco and Sainsbury's**

These events have always been well supported by Beckminster so I hope it will be the same again

Tuesday 19th - Tesco 6.30 - 7.30pm meet at the front of the store.

Thursday 21st - Sainsburys 6.30 - 7.30pm meet at the top of the escalator.

Thank you for your support. Tim.

**COFFEE MATES.** Meet Monday, 2 January 2024 at Albrighton Garden Centre (British Garden Centre Grp), Newport Road, Cosford WV7 3EE from 10.45am - 12noon. Everybody welcome. June Sutton, tel. 07790272865.

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.

**The Plants in Church for December are in Loving Memory of:**  
Mr Donald Rushton  
Mr David Griffiths  
Mr Alwin Ordidge  
Mr John Felton