

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

Beckminster Welcomes You

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Worship and Fellowship

17 December 2023

Advent 3

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

What's On This Week....

Monday 18 December
9.30am - 12.30pm Office Open
12.45pm Funeral of Stephen Winfield

Tuesday 19 December
9.30am - 12.30pm Office Closed
9.30am - 12.30pm Art Group
6.30pm Carol Singing at Sainsbury's (See Notices)

Wednesday 20 December
9.30am - 12.30pm Office Open
9.00am Zoom Prayer Group
9.15 - 11.15am WeightWatchers
7.00pm Zoom Advent Study (See Notices)

Thursday 21 December
9.30am - 3.30pm Office Open
12.30pm Funeral of Raymond Smith
6.30pm Carol Singing at Tesco (See Notices)

Friday 22 December
9.30am - 12.30pm Office Open

Saturday 23 December

Collect for the Day

To ponder and pray
God for whom we wait and watch, you sent your servant John the Baptist to prepare your people for the coming of the Messiah. Inspire the ministers and stewards of your truth to turn our disobedient hearts to you; that, when Christ shall come again in glory to be our judge, we may stand with confidence before him, 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, 24 December 2023**

Advent 4

**10.30am Morning Worship
with Baptism/Membership
led by Rev Dr Paul Nzacahayo**

4.00pm Christingle Service

**9.00pm Communion Service
led by Rev Rachel Parkinson**

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



Candle 3

Our Advent candles flicker,
casting shadows spreading light,
giving witness in the everyday,
telling stories old and new.

Advent God,
shine from us today.

When we've encountered God,
we have a truth to tell.
When we have seen God's light,
we have a light to share.

Advent God,
shine from us today.

When our lives seem ordinary
and full of faltering steps,
God's light still shines
and bids us go and tell.

Advent God,
shine from us today.

We share our very ordinary,
our sorrows, joys and faith,
and trust that those we share with
will glimpse the light of God.

Advent God,
shine from us today.

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



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.

CHRIS FROST. Our thoughts and prayers are with Wendy & Colin and Charles & Lisa and the family following the death of Chris on Wednesday, 29 November 2023. The funeral will take place on Saturday, 23 December 2023 at Telford Crematorium at 10.30 am. The family would like to thank Beckminster members for the messages and cards the family have received which have been much appreciated.

WRITE FOR RIGHTS 2023. This year, 10 December, marked 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.

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.

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

Advent God, we may feel we are not worthy to share your extraordinary message.

We may feel we'll get it wrong; we don't know all the answers.

We may feel we do not have the words; not erudite enough.

Shine upon us, light our path that may speak and show and tell what you have done for us. Amen.

StF 174 Light a Candle in a darkened place, (Verses 1, 2, 3 & 4)

Welcome

StF 180 O come, O come, Immanuel,

Prayers of Adoration and Confession

StF 178 Long ago, prophets knew

Ministry of the Word:

O/T: Isaiah 61: 1 - 11 read by Alan Marriott

The Magnificat StF 793 to be said together
(*Responsively led by me*)

StF 186 Tell out, my soul,

Gospel: John 1: 6 - 8, 19 - 28 read by Maggie Marriott

Sermon

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

Offertory

Prayers of Intercession/Lord's Prayer

StF 177 Lo, he comes with clouds descending,

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.

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

CHURCH PREMISES will close on Friday, 22 December 2023 and will re-open on Tuesday, 2 January 2024.

CHURCH OFFICE will close on Friday, 22 December 2023 at 12.30pm and will re-open on Wednesday, 3 January 2024 at 9.30am.

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.

CHRISTMAS ACTIVITIES:

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.

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

COFFEE MATES. Meet Monday, 1 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.

CUPPA, CAKE AND CHAT. Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, 10 January 2024 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.

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, 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.

CHURCH ALIVE DONATIONS. As you are aware 50% of any profits made at a Church Alive event is donated to a charity agreed by the Church Alive Committee. I can confirm that £85.50 raised at the Harvest Supper has been donated to the Elias Mattu Foundation.

50% of the profit raised at the Christmas Social amounted to £117.50 so £58.75 will be given to the ABCD Bethlehem Project and £58.75 to Crisis at Christmas.

As ever thank you for the continued support for these events. Tim

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 17 December. Christmas cards can be collected after the morning service on 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.

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