


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

Beckminster Welcomes You

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

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
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Worship and Fellowship

3 December 2023

Advent 1

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

What's On This Week....

Monday 4 December
9.30am - 12.30pm Office Open
10.45 - 12noon Coffee Mates (See Notices)
1.00 - 3.15pm Take a Break

Tuesday 5 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 6 December
8.30am - 2.30pm Office Open
9.00am Zoom Prayer Group
9.15 - 11.15am WeightWatchers

Thursday 7 December
9.00am - 12noon Office Open
10.00am Ministers Staff Meeting
7.00 - 9.15pm St John's Ambulance
7.00pm Zoom Advent Study (See Notices)

Friday 8 December
9.30am - 12.30pm Office Closed
10.00 - 11.00am Move It or Lose It
10.30am - 12.30pm Blissful Dragon
Therapeutic Sound
6.30 - 9.00pm Gateway

Saturday 9 December

Collect for the Day

To ponder and pray

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness and to put on the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which you Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility: that, on the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him 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, 10 December 2023**

Advent 2

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

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

Candle 1

Our Advent ring stands waiting,
for candle light to lead us on.
We'll open up traditions,
with challenge and with change.
Advent God,
challenge us today.



We reassess the treasures in this bulging cardboard box.
Let's sort the treasure from the trash
the needed from the not.
Advent God,
challenge us today.

Our living is refocused with preparations underway.
Our ordinary and everyday
will be challenged along the way.
Letting go of stuff to do God's will, is here to stay.
Advent God,
challenge us today.

In the mundane and ordinary,
stars will start to fall,
challenging and changing us
with holy goodness breaking through.
Advent God,
challenge us today.

**Advent God, as we light this, our first Advent candle, may we let
go of what swamps us and serves no purpose for us,
so that we can meet the challenges that lie ahead of us.
May our ordinary lives be enriched by your extraordinary love for
us. Amen.**

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

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) 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

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.

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.

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.

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

Sunday Club

StF 175 Light of the world, (on Guitar)

Young People's Blessing

Prayers - Lord's Prayer

Readings:

Isaiah 64: 1 - 9 read by Carolyne Hurley

Mark 13: 24 - 37 read by John Ashwood

StF 188 There's a light upon the mountains,

Sermon

StF 169 Come, thou long-expected Jesus,

Prayers of Intercession

Offertory and Response

StF 185 Sing we the king who is coming to reign;

Blessing

Prayer

Heavenly Father,

In this time of Advent, we thank you for the sacrifice of the nativity.

You gave of yourself completely,

putting aside your heavenly glory,

to become wholly human in Jesus.

To become human so that you could die for us.

That through your death we might leave behind the age of law

and live and experience the wonders of the age of grace. **Amen**

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.

BECKMINSTER GIFT SERVICE, 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. Our service here on 19 November 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.

GOOD SHEPHERD MINISTRY. You would be very welcome to attend the Good Shepherd Ministry's Christmas Service of Celebration and Thanksgiving tomorrow afternoon (4 December). It will be held in St Peter's Church and begins at 2.30pm. Light refreshments will be served afterwards.

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.

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