



# Coventry & Nuneaton

## METHODIST CIRCUIT

### Dear Circuit Contact

### Weekly Circuit News Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2023, No. 055

If you have anything you would like to be included, please send to the Circuit Office before midday on Thursday for it to be included in that week's news.

### Earlsdon Christmas Tree Festival

This will be taking from **Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> December through to Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December.**

Thursday & Friday 2pm – 4pm and 6pm – 8pm

Saturday 9am – 12pm

Sunday 1pm – 4pm including crafts for children

### St Mary & All Saints Church, Fillongley – Christmas Tree Festival 2023

#### **SATURDAY 9th December**

11am – 5pm. Christmas Tree Festival viewing, including Turkey batches & punch, tea & coffee, cakes & biscuits.

#### **SUNDAY 10th December**

12 noon – 5pm. Christmas Tree Festival viewing with refreshments

### Coventry Central Hall

**On Sunday (10<sup>th</sup>) at 3pm** the annual **Carol Service with the City of Culture Orchestra** will be taking place at **Coventry Central Hall**: All are welcome to this service which is always a joyful celebration as Christmas approaches. Come early if you want to hear the jazz band (upstairs) or choir singing Christmas songs (downstairs). More details: [Coventry City of Culture Orchestra - 10/12/2023 3:00pm - Christmas Carol Service at Coventry Central Hall \(coventryorchestra.co.uk\)](https://coventryorchestra.co.uk)

### Information received from the District Office

Dear Friends

Please see below an invitation extended from the Connexional – Methodist Liaison Officer for Jerusalem, Revd David Hardman, to stand with Palestinian Christians over this Advent & Christmas Season.

### **An Invitation to Stand with Palestinian Christians this Advent and Christmas**

Our Christian colleagues in Bethlehem tell us that this Advent and Christmas in Bethlehem the lights that normally adorn the birthplace of Jesus will remain unlit in memory of those who have been killed in the current conflict. The Patriarchs and Heads of Churches in Jerusalem have noted that the traditional festive services in the Holy Land will be somber in nature due to the ongoing war.

The second candle on the Advent Ring represents peace, and in some traditions is known as the 'Bethlehem candle'. This Advent, we invite Methodist churches across the United Kingdom to do something 'out of the ordinary' and not to light the Advent Candle on the second Sunday in Advent (10 December) and on subsequent Sundays.

The Old Testament lectionary reading for 10 December starts with the words "Comfort, comfort my people says your God" (Isaiah 40:1). As such, it seems appropriate that we take this opportunity to think about Bethlehem and those who have been killed and those who are seeking comfort as they mourn. This unlit candle will serve as a constant reminder that we stand in solidarity with all who are suffering in the Holy Land. The usual Advent liturgies can still be read, but we suggest including a short addition, given below, to underline why this 'peace' candle will remain unlit.

On Christmas Day we invite you to take a photo of your Advent Ring with the second candle unlit and send to [office@mlojerusalem.org](mailto:office@mlojerusalem.org). The staff at the Methodist Liaison Office will forward your pictures to local church communities in the Holy Land so our sisters and brothers in Christ can see that we stand in solidarity with them over the festive season.

For further information, contact Revd David Hardman, Methodist Liaison Officer, Jerusalem on [hardmand@methodistchurch.org.uk](mailto:hardmand@methodistchurch.org.uk)

### **Additional Advent Liturgy for the Second Sunday in Advent**

As we prepare ourselves to welcome the birth of the Prince of Peace, we hear the festive lights that normally shine bright in Bethlehem will not be lit this year in memory of those killed in the recent violence. To stand alongside our sisters and brothers in Christ, and all who mourn this Christmas, we will leave our second Advent candle unlit during Advent and Christmas.

### **Possible additional Advent Liturgy for remaining Advent services**

We remind ourselves that this year one candle remains unlit, as the Christmas lights in Bethlehem remain unlit, in memory of those killed in the current conflict in the Holy Land.

Praying for peace with justice,

Novette

### **Coventry & Nuneaton Circuit Advent Prayer Meeting**

We invite you to a Prayer Meeting at Horeston Grange on **Wednesday 13th December 2023, 7.00 pm - 9.00pm** come and go as you can.

We invite you to come together with others from the circuit to enjoy some time for prayer and to hear the still small voice of God, during the bustle of Advent.

### **Bedworth Methodist Church Carol Singing at Tesco**

Once again we will be joining together to sing carols at Tesco, Bedworth as part of our church mission to take the Christmas message out to the shoppers. Please come along and wear something Christmassy.

We will be singing on 2 dates:-

Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December 6.30pm – 8pm and Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December 1.30pm – 3pm

### **Collycroft Methodist Church**

Please come along and join the children of Collycroft Sunday Scene as they present their Wise Owl Nativity on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2023 at 10.30am.

The nativity will be followed by Collycroft Methodist Church Christmas Celebration Fundraiser at 12pm please see the attached poster with more information.

### **CIRCUIT CHURCHES CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICES 2023**

Arley	No Service
Atherstone	10am Rosemary Clemo
Balsall Common	10am Rev'd Jane Braund
Bedworth	10.30am joining at Collycroft
Central Hall	10.30am Rev'd Stephen Willey
Collycroft	10.30am John Prickett – Bedworth joining
Earlsdon	10.30am Rev'd Graham Gee
Fillongley	10.00am Joining with Corley
Horeston Grange	10am Eddie Reubens
Meriden	10am Rev'd Ian Coates
Nuneaton	10am Rev'd Jill Marsh
Radford	10am Penny McAinsh
Ridge Lane	No Service
Ryton	No Service
Woodside	10.00am Rev'd Doreen Koffie-Williams

## Woodside Avenue Methodist Church - Beat Those January Blues!

All are welcome to woodsides games and craft afternoons on Wednesdays in January.

Please prayerfully consider neighbours or anyone that might need transport or warmth or company at this cold and often difficult time of year.

If anyone has spare wool, card making materials or games or would like further information, offer to help, or book a place please contact-

Paula McClenaghan

Parish Nurse

[nurse@covnunmethodist.org.uk](mailto:nurse@covnunmethodist.org.uk)

tel/text 07869715659

## Hidden Hardship Exhibition at Coventry Cathedral

'[Hidden Hardship: Everyday experience, coping strategies, and barriers to wellbeing in rural Britain](#)' is a participatory research project funded by the British Academy that has examined people's experiences of hardship in the rural North Cotswolds.

The exhibition will launch in the Chapel of Unity at Coventry Cathedral on Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> January 2024 from 3pm – 4.30pm.



## Hidden Hardship Exhibition Launch

You are invited to the launch of the Hidden Hardship Exhibition in Coventry Cathedral

30th January 2024, 3pm-4.30pm

Chapel of Unity, Coventry Cathedral

Hear a short presentation by Stephanie on the research findings and recommendations, hear from the Dean of Coventry Cathedral, and be one of the first to view this exciting new exhibition which will hosted across the UK in 2024.

Based on the British Academy funded research by Dr Stephanie Denning, this exhibition gives an insight into people's experiences of hidden hardship in the rural North Cotswolds, their coping strategies, and barriers to better wellbeing.

The exhibition features illustrations by artist Beth Waters of the Hidden Hardship research participants' stories of their experiences of hardship.

