



Lent Rise Matters – the info sheet for

Lent Rise Methodist Church

THIS WEEK

Sunday 10th December 10:30am we welcome Pastor Josh Wilson to our pulpit.

Readings:

There will be a Circuit Carol Service at St Marks Crescent at 6:00pm. Please speak to the Stewards if you will need, or be able to offer lifts.

Prayer Cards

If you would like to ask for prayer for a specific person or event, please complete a prayer card, to be found on the table at the entrance to the Church.

We have been asked to pray for Joanne Prior.

If you are new here today and would like to keep in touch please look out for one of our yellow Welcome Cards, enter your details and hand the card to a Steward.

Prayer of the week:

As we prepare, in our various ways to welcome the Christ child into our homes and lives, a few extra prayer points please:

- **Please pray for our Toddler group families, many of them celebrating Christmas away from families and friends in other countries.**
- **Preparations for the Toddler Christmas party and the chance to share the story of Jesus with some of the children for the first time.**
- **Preparations for our Christmas outreach: Cod and Carols and the Christingle Service on Christmas Eve.**

You might like to know that the current exhibition at the Stanley Spencer Gallery in Cookham, 'Everywhere is Heaven' will be featured in the Methodist Recorder of 22nd December. The exhibition is a collaboration between the Gallery and Roger Wagner, a modern contemporary artist who was inspired by Spencer. Both artists have produced visionary religious paintings, and the title of the exhibition, 'Everywhere is Heaven', is inspired by Stanley Spencer's painting, 'John Donne arriving in Heaven'.

The Gallery was the Methodist Church in Cookham Village until 1910, when the congregation moved to the larger and current church in Cookham Rise. Stanley Spencer's mother was a keen member of the congregation and took Stanley there as a boy. He drew a picture 'Ecstasy in a Wesleyan Chapel' which is owned by the Gallery, but he never turned this into a finished painting.

The Gallery is open in the winter from Thursday to Sunday from 10.30am until 4.30pm, entrance £7, (£3.50 for Advantage Card holders), and the exhibition runs until 24th March.

This week in Burnham Methodist Church:

Monday Club for Senior Citizen's from Burnham Community Association. For more information call Steve Tindall 07780 665910

Tuesday LentRisers Toddler Group – 9:15 – 11:15 weekly. A warm welcome awaits all visitors.

Wednesday The Meeting Place from The Well@Lent Rise from 9:30am – 12midday. A place for all ages to come and simply be, with coffee or tea, cake and a special warm welcome.

Thursday CAMEO lunch club for Senior Citizen's from 12:00midday. For more information or to book please speak to Jo Webb.

Bible Study, led by Revd Vicci. 10:00am – 12:00pm. Next meeting Friday 22nd December. Please join us on the final stage of our adventure with the Book of James.

Dates for your diary

Tuesday 12th December Toddles group Christmas Party.

Friday 22nd December Cod and Carols 6:00pm for 6:30pm. Book the date. Sign up sheets are in the Church this week – or respond to this email. It was a really good night last year – don't miss out 😊

Saturday 23rd December 10:30am Preparation of Christingle.

Sunday 24th December Christingle Service 10:30am. It would be nice to offer mince pies at the end of the service and we will need help on Saturday 23rd preparing the Christingles. Please speak to Pauline if you can offer help with either of these.

Sunday 25th December – Revd Vicci will lead our Christmas Day Service at 9:00am

Many of us are shopping online these days and the Church has signed up to a site through which some of our most loved retailers will give us a donation every time we shop.

Sign up and help us raise funds by:

1. Visit the link below
2. Search for Burnham Methodist Church
3. Your favourite brands will donate when you shop with them. This includes Booking.com; ebay; M&S; Curry's; TUI; BT and John Lewis

www.easyfundraising.org.uk/support-a-good-cause

Rev'd Vicci's Weekly thought

Friends

The well-driven path from St. Andrew's Methodist Church to the manse let me down this evening and I got all the way to The Crooked Billet roundabout on the way to Iver before I could correct myself. The road works that have been there for the last three years have suddenly gone. They had become a sub-conscious landmark, and without them, I took a wrong turning and ended up in an unfamiliar one way system and then on a fast dual carriageway and there I was committed to a path I did not wish to take and forced to continue until an appropriate stopping point when I could get my phone out of the boot, ask Google maps to tell me the way home and turn around.

The Jewish people were in a similar position when Jesus was born. They knew about God and they had their well-worn, well-known paths to him that involved following the law and making the appropriate sacrifices. But over the years they had taken a wrong pathway and now they were stuck in a dry, legalistic faith that was practised by the priests and the Pharisees and that was often inaccessible, particularly to the poor. It was not a way of following God that spoke of hope or love, and neither were their lives, lived under Roman occupation, safe or secure.

Into this situation came John the Baptist. And like my Google maps told me when I was lost, he told them to turn around, which is the true meaning of the word "repent". John was the one of whom it was foretold that he would "make straight in the desert a highway for our God" and the one who would proclaim the coming of Jesus.

This Advent, I wonder where we are on the road. It is easy to think that we are going in the right direction on the right path. We know the way, we have been walking in it for a long time. But have we accidentally gone charging off in the wrong direction – not exactly lost, but not turned towards Jesus? Are we struggling to find a safe place to stop on the road and just check the map? Advent offers us an opportunity to think about where we are on our discipleship journey, how aligned we are with God. When I got to the Crooked Billet roundabout, there was a petrol station. It was the work of minutes to stop safely, get out my phone, and ascertain the correct direction. Let's take time this Advent to pull out of the traffic and check in with ourselves and God, lest we too be driving in the wrong direction.

God bless, Vicci