



# CASTLE STREET METHODIST CHURCH

*"Where all are welcome – all the time"*

www.castlestreet.org.uk

## Sunday 29th November 2015 – Advent Sunday

*Welcome to worship with us – whether this is the first time you have entered our church, or if you are a long-standing member of our congregation. We seek to offer friendship and opportunities for learning more of God's will in this place and in this generation.*

*Refreshments are served in the hall following most Sunday services – please do stay for a chat over a cuppa and a biscuit.*

- Sun 29th Nov**            **10.45 MORNING WORSHIP**  
                                 **Rev. Alan Ashton**
- 18.30 EVENING WORSHIP**  
                                 **Advent Carol Service – "Looking for the Light"**
- We pray... for the joy and promise of Advent*
- Wed 2nd Dec**            10.00 "Time to Be" prayer and fellowship
- 10.30-12.00 Coffee morning
- 12.00-13.00 "Forever Active" exercise class
- Thu 3rd Dec**            10.00-12.00 "First Friends" baby and toddler group
- 19.00 "Table Talk" – attending circuit consultation at Histon (*see overleaf*)
- Sun 6th Dec**            **10.45 MORNING WORSHIP**  
                                 **John Boocock and Elliot Harris**
- 18.30 EVENING WORSHIP**  
                                 **Rev. Colin Smith**

*Please take a copy of Castle View for fuller details of what's on each month.*

## **Bible readings for this morning's service**

Jeremiah 33: 14-16 (*page 675*)

1 Thessalonians 3: 9-13 (*page 194*)

Luke 21: 25-36 (*page 82*)



## **This evening's service**

We're sorry to report that Alison slipped at home early last week and badly hurt her ankle. She has been told to rest it, and is therefore immobile at present, although it's not yet known whether this will be for a few days or a few weeks – we wish her a speedy recovery.

As a result, Alison is unable to be present at this evening's service. However, a group of Castle Street folk will be leading the service which Alison had prepared. It will consist of hymns, prayers, readings, meditations and reflections on the topic of "Looking for the Light". Most of the hymns did not appear in *Hymns and Psalms*; many will already be familiar, and some were previewed at the recent "Singing our Faith" afternoon. If you come to the service a little earlier than normal, you may get the opportunity to hear the tunes in advance of the service...



## **Living with Differences: Marriage and Relationships – this Thursday**

Christians have always had to live with differences unless severe repression has been in place. In the twentieth century, British Christians took very different views on pacifism and warfare or on divorce. Today they have conflicting views on same sex relationships. With the sudden introduction of legal same-sex marriage, how does the church cope with different views on such a major subject. How does it affect our view of marriage?

As part of a national consultation by the Methodist Church, the Cambridge Circuit is holding two discussion evenings on this topic, the first being this Thursday (3rd December) at Histon Methodist Church at 7.30pm. Revd. Colin Smith (circuit superintendent minister) and Revd. Carole Irwin (Wesley House) will speak and lead the discussion. The second is at Haslingfield on Monday 1st February.

There will be time to introduce the themes and encourage conversation to provide useful feedback to input into the national consultation process.

### **“Table Talk” on Thursday evening**

This week Table Talk will join with the circuit discussion evening at Histon Methodist Church at 7.30pm – but meet at Castle Street at 7pm if you would like transport to Histon. After this week Table Talk will take a break until the new term starts in January.



### **All We Can and the “Big Give Christmas Challenge”**

This year’s All We Can (formerly known as MRDF) “Big Give Christmas Challenge” is aiming to raise £30,000 towards READ’s work helping women in Odisha’s tribal communities, who are among India’s most disadvantaged groups, to find solutions to poverty and marginalisation. Through self-help groups and training, it will support women to contribute more to family income generation and to speak out for their rights.

There is an opportunity for donations made on-line to be matched and therefore doubled in value. However, All We Can is competing with other charities for this match funding, which is allocated on a first-come-first-served basis and runs out very quickly. The match funds are released at noon on both Friday 4th and Saturday 5th December (that’s this week), so please make your donations at or just after noon on either of these two days: to donate, visit the website [www.thebiggive.org.uk](http://www.thebiggive.org.uk). For more information, please contact Rebecca at All We Can (tel.: 020 7467 5132 or e-mail: [r\\_dot\\_branch@allwecan.org.uk](mailto:r_dot_branch@allwecan.org.uk)). Thank you.



### **Calling all carol singers**

Would you like to join a small band of Castle Street Carol Singers for an afternoon? We plan to call on some of our members who are unable to get to church these days to sing some carols to them, deliver Christmas cards and perhaps some mince pies or similar. Daylight hours will be best, and may involve two or more separate sessions to get round everyone. Further details depend on the availability of those interested in joining in. Please get in touch with Anne Littlefair (e-mail: [anne\\_dot\\_littlefair@ntlworld.com](mailto:anne_dot_littlefair@ntlworld.com)) with your ideas / preferences, so we can firm up dates and arrangements. Also let Anne know of whom we might visit. Anne is improving, and hopes to be back at church soon (maybe today).

## **Bereavement Group**

Our popular Bereavement Group wants to meet before Christmas – a very difficult time for those bereaved during the year – but Anne Littlefair who leads it is in poor health again. She can advise and assist someone else to take a lead – if there are any volunteers for this, please get in touch with Anne (see overleaf). This can be either a one-off or the start of a rota.



## **Christmas Tree Festival at St. Giles' Church**

This annual event has now begun, and continues until next Saturday (5th December) with the church open from 10am until 4pm every day for visitors. Homemade, seasonal refreshments and light lunches will be available. Visit [www.churchatcastle.org/node/2097](http://www.churchatcastle.org/node/2097) for more information.



## **Other Advent events at St. Giles' (*see [www.churchatcastle.org/events](http://www.churchatcastle.org/events)*)**

- "Wake, O wake" Advent Carol Service – Sun 29th Nov, 3pm.
- St. Nicholas Celebration – Sat 5th Dec, 3pm: family activities and Romanian carols, led by the congregation of the Romanian Orthodox Parish of St. John the Evangelist, who share St. Giles' Church.
- Christingle Service and Christmas Music Concert by Tube Brass – Sun 6th Dec, 4pm (come at 3.30pm to make a Christingle).



## ***Amahl and the Night Visitors* at St. Augustine's, Fri 4th Dec at 6pm**

A Christmas Opera for children by Gian Carlo Menotti performed by members of Cambridge Youth Opera. All welcome, admission free (retiring collection), complimentary glass of wine or fruit juice and nibbles.



## **Royston Methodist Church JMA Coffee Morning and Bazaar**

Saturday 5th December, 9.30am to midday. Coffee and mince pies, stationery, books, toiletries, jigsaws, games, cakes, toys, Christmas gifts, bric-a-brac. Free entry.

Please contact **Brian Carter** if you have any items for inclusion on next Sunday's notice sheet, ideally by Friday evening.

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