



CASTLE STREET METHODIST CHURCH

"Where all are welcome – all the time"

www.castlestreet.org.uk

Sundays 20th and 27th December 2015

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 20th Dec 10.45 ALL-AGE MORNING WORSHIP
Carol Service – Rev. Alison Walker

18.00 CAROL SERVICE at St Luke's

We pray... for light in the darkness

Thu 24th Dec 18.00 CAROLS AND CRIB SERVICE at St. Giles'
(Christmas Eve)

23.15 CHRISTMAS EVE COMMUNION
at All Saints Parish Church, Haslingfield
Preacher: Rev. Alison Walker

23.15 CHRISTMAS EVE COMMUNION at Wesley

23.30 MIDNIGHT COMMUNION at St. Augustine's

Fri 25th Dec 11.00 CHRISTMAS DAY FAMILY WORSHIP
(Christmas Day) **Rev. Alison Walker**

Sun 27th Dec 10.30 UNITED MORNING WORSHIP WITH
HOLY COMMUNION at St Luke's

We pray... for God's church everywhere

Sun 3rd Jan 10.45 MORNING WORSHIP Rev. Alison Walker

18.30 EVENING WORSHIP Lynn Taylor

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

Forthcoming services

Just a reminder that there is no service at Castle Street this evening, nor is there an Iona service at St. Luke's. Instead, we are all invited to join the congregation at St. Luke's for their community carol service at 6pm.

Castle Street does not hold its own Christmas Eve Communion service, but other Christmas Eve services in the circuit and Church at Castle are listed in the "diary" section overleaf. Note that Alison is preaching at the united service at Haslingfield, which is being held in the parish church. All are invited to Christmas Day Family Worship at Castle Street at 11am.

Next Sunday morning (27th December) we shall join with the other Church at Castle congregations for a united service at St. Luke's, where it is the tradition to serve both non-alcoholic and alcoholic communion wine. Note that the service begins at 10.30am. There is no evening service at Castle Street. Our normal pattern of services resumes on 3rd January.



The Nativity Story at St. Giles' – Monday and Tuesday this week

All are welcome to come and enjoy a nativity play with carols, celebrating the wonder and true meaning of Christmas. It takes place on Monday and Tuesday evenings (21st and 22nd December) at St. Giles' Church, starting at 7.30pm. Entry is free.



Weekday activities over the holiday period

Our Wednesday morning activities and First Friends on Thursdays are now taking a break for the holidays, and will resume in the first week of January.



A WiFi Internet Service comes to Castle Street

In response to a need from the two charities to whom we give free use of our premises and to a small but growing number of requests from potential hirers, we now have WiFi internet access throughout the premises. If this might be of value to you, our lovely worshippers, then the network reference is PLUSNET-9FMJHG and the password is 3b3c4feefb.

Cumbria Floods Appeal

As many will be aware, Storm Desmond has caused immense disruption in Cumbria, with schools, hospital services and travel all being affected in addition to the thousands of homes that have been damaged and hundreds evacuated.

Many communities are gathering together to provide relief and assistance to the areas worst hit by the flooding, including Sandylands Methodist Church who have worked in conjunction with volunteers and local organisations to offer support.

For those who cannot give practical support, however, there is still much we can do. Revd. Richard Teal, Cumbria District Chair, reminds us of the wonderful response that the Methodist people made in 2009 and says that "the devastation this time is worse than before". The Cumbria Community Foundation, which played a significant role last time, has set up a Cumbria 2015 Flood Appeal to raise funds to support the individuals and communities devastated by the flooding. Richard suggests that this would be the best conduit for donations.

More information, including full details of how to give, can be found at <http://methodist.org.uk/news-and-events/news-releases/cumbria-flooding>.

Richard has asked that we join him in prayer for those affected by the flooding:

Creator God, we remember at this time all those whose homes and communities have been damaged by flooding in Cumbria.

In the name of Jesus we give thanks for the courage and dedication of the emergency services who have come to the help and rescue of all in need.

We celebrate the kindness of neighbours in caring for the most vulnerable.

Lastly, we ask in the power of your healing Spirit to rebuild not just the physical communities which are coping with many problems today but also to give us a sense of trust in your goodness through the kindnesses of one another, in Your Holy Name.

Amen

Syrian refugees in Cambridge

The first Syrian refugee families have arrived in Cambridge. The Cambridge Refugee Resettlement Campaign is helping the local government co-ordinate and provide for their needs. There are some specific items that are needed (listed below); if you can donate any of these things please e-mail info *at* cambridgerefugees *dot* org.

Furthermore, you can volunteer or make a pledge by visiting the website www.cambridgerefugees.org and you can donate directly via Cambridge Ethic Community Forum. If you are, or know, a private landlord you can also enter into a rental agreement with the council. Seven more three-bedroom houses are needed to accommodate the fifty refugees that the council have undertaken to house so far.

Items needed are:

- Pyjamas – 5-8 year old, boys and girls
- Car seats – weight group: 0-13kg (0-29lb) and 9-18kg (20-40lb), and booster seats
- Single and Double buggies
- Clothes line; clothes airer; pegs
- Bedding – boys / girls and adults
- High chair
- Chairs for the dinner table
- Large cooking pots
- Cups, bowls and plates
- Mirrors
- Dictionaries
- Cambridge tourist guides in Arabic
- Winter coats for men, women and children
- Toys for ages 0-5, 6-9 and 10-14
- Pens, paper and crayons for both adults and children
- Children's books in English or Arabic

Please contact **Brian Carter** if you have any items for inclusion on the next Sunday notice sheet (3rd January), ideally by the Friday evening.

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