



# CASTLE STREET METHODIST CHURCH

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

www.castlestreet.org.uk

## Sundays 17th, 24th and 31st December 2017

*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 17th Dec            10.45 MORNING WORSHIP: ALL-AGE CAROL SERVICE**  
**Rev. Alison Walker**

**18.30 EVENING WORSHIP: CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT**  
**Led by the stewards and worship leaders**

*We pray... for light in the darkness*

Wed 20th Dec            10.00 "Time to Be" prayer and fellowship

10.30-12.00 "I Wonder" Christmas story and craft session

10.30-12.00 Coffee morning

12.00-13.00 "Forever Active" exercise class

**Sun 24th Dec            10.45 MORNING WORSHIP WITH HOLY COMMUNION**  
**(Christmas Eve)            Rev. Barbara Garwood**

*We pray... for the joy of Christmas*

**Mon 25th Dec            11.00 ALL-AGE WORSHIP FOR CHRISTMAS DAY**  
**(Christmas Day)            Rev. Alison Walker**

*[continued overleaf*

**Sun 31st Dec            10.45   UNITED CHURCH AT CASTLE MORNING  
WORSHIP: COVENANT SERVICE  
Rev. Alison Walker and Marie Lucchetta**

*We pray... for a new start in our Covenant with God*

**Sun 7th Jan            10.45   MORNING WORSHIP  
Maggie Richardson**

**18.30   EVENING WORSHIP  
John Boocock**

Note that there are no evening services on 24th and 31st December.

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



**Revd. Alan Ashton, RIP**

It is with sadness that we announce the unexpected death of Revd. Alan Ashton on Tuesday, on his way to London for his weekly duties at Church House. He had celebrated his seventy-fifth birthday just three weeks ago, when his family organised a surprise party here at Castle Street. Alan came out of retirement temporarily to be minister here when our then minister, Hilary, was ill, and stayed until our present minister, Alison, arrived. He was due to lead our carol service tonight; this evening's service, while still a candlelit carol service, will therefore be partly in his memory. Please remember all his family and friends in your prayers.



**All-age Christingle service at Chesterton Methodist Church**

This is taking place this afternoon (17th December) at 4pm.



**"I Wonder" Christmas story and craft session**

Children aged 3 to 10 will explore the Christmas story of the Holy Family through "Godly Play". It's this Wednesday morning (20th December) from 10.30am until midday (registration from 10.15am). If you've not booked a place, please contact Alison. There's a charge of £2 per child.

## **“With Angels and Shepherds”: a Christmas service for families**

This service for young children with their families is taking place at St. Luke’s Church, Victoria Road, on Friday 22nd December at 6pm. Come and share the adventures of angels and shepherds. Let them lead you to the stable to welcome the baby, and take home an angel to help you share the joy of Christmas.



## **Other Christmas Eve services**

In addition to our own Communion Service on Christmas Eve, at 10.45am and led by Revd. Barbara Garwood, the following are scheduled to take place at other local churches later in the day:

- St. Giles’ at 6pm: Carols and Crib Service
- Wesley at 11.15pm: Christmas Eve Communion Service
- St. Luke’s at 11.30pm: Midnight Communion Service
- All Saints, Haslingfield at 11.30pm: Midnight Communion Service
- Toft Methodist at 11.30pm: Midnight Communion Service



## **Christmas Day at Castle Street**

Our service on Christmas Morning will be led by Revd. Alison Walker and starts at 11am. Alison would like to encourage people to bring along one of the Christmas gifts they have received to show to the rest of the congregation and share the Christmas joy.

It is our tradition that the offering on Christmas Day is not retained for our own use; this year the amount will be doubled from general church funds and then sent to the charity “All We Can” (the Methodist Relief and Development Fund). Anonymous cash donations of up to £20 qualify for Gift Aid (under the Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme), and the amount claimed on Gift Aid will be anticipated and sent on straight away. If anyone is away on Christmas Day and would like to make a contribution (which will also be doubled by the church), then please put it in a labelled envelope and either hand it to a steward or place it in the offering plate on or before Sunday 14th January. Special Gift Aid envelopes are available on request. Thank you in advance.

## Church at Castle United Service on Sunday 31st December

It has become our tradition to hold united morning worship with the congregations of St. Giles', St. Luke's and St. Augustine's Churches three times each year. The next one, on 31st December, will be at Castle Street and will take the form of the annual Covenant Service (including Holy Communion). Alison will lead the service, and Marie Lucchetta (from the parish) will be the preacher. We hope you will come along.



## Viennese Coffee House at St. Augustine's – New Year's Day

The New Year Coffee House at St. Augustine's, Richmond Road, returns again and is open from 10am until midday on Monday 1st January. There will be drinks, cakes and live music reminiscent of Vienna in the early twentieth century. Relax after the Christmas break, with good company and beguiling music played by Chihiro Ono (violin), and vocal contributions from the St. Augustine's Singers.



## Coming up in early January...

More details can be found in the December / January *Castle View*.

- "Science Meets Faith" at Wesley on Monday 8th January with Dr. Simon Milton, Life Fellow at St. Edmund's College
- Saturday Suppers and Travel Talks at St. Luke's – the first one is on 13th January, when Paul and Sylvia Custerson will take us on a journey through Central America. There will be a Costa Rican meal. Tickets cost £10, and are (or will be) available from Heather Taplin.



## Rotas for Sunday mornings

A reminder please to sign up on the various rotas, including two people to be door stewards (the "Welcome Team"), a reader, someone to organise coffee, and someone to organise the flowers. Thank you to those who have done so already.

Please contact **Brian Carter** if you have any items for inclusion on the notice sheet for Sunday 7th January, ideally by Friday evening (5th).

Tel: (01954) 782 762

E-mail: notices *at* castlestreet *dot* org *dot* uk