



CASTLE STREET METHODIST CHURCH

"Where all are welcome – all the time"

www.castlestreet.org.uk

Sunday 9th December 2018

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 9th Dec** 10.00-10.30 Simple Prayer Time
- 10.45 **MORNING WORSHIP WITH HOLY COMMUNION**
Rev. Alison Walker
- 18.30 **EVENING WORSHIP**
Rev. Colin Smith
- We pray... for the Cambridge Churches Homelessness Project*
- Wed 12th Dec 10.00 "Time to Be" prayer and fellowship
- 10.30-12.00 Coffee morning
- 12.00-13.00 Strength and balance exercise class
- Thu 13th Dec 10.00-12.00 "First Friends" baby and toddler group
- Fri 14th Dec 19.30 Storey's Way Housegroup
- Sat 15th Dec 10.00-14.00 Open Church (*see overleaf*)
- 10.30 Extraordinary short Church Council meeting
- Sun 16th Dec** 10.45 **ALL-AGE MORNING WORSHIP**
Rev. Alison Walker – Carol Service
- 19.00 **CHRISTMAS IONA SERVICE** *at St. Luke's*

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

Bible readings for today's services

10.45am

Malachi 3: 1-4 (*page 815*)

Luke 3: 1-6 (*page 57*)

6.30pm

Romans 16: 25-27 (*page 156*)

Luke 1: 26-38 (*page 54*)



Church at Castle Carol Singing at Eddington – Tuesday evening, 6.30pm

The arrangements have changed slightly for the carol singing around the Christmas tree in the main square at Eddington this coming Tuesday evening (11th December – not Monday as shown in some other places). We're now meeting outside the Sainsbury's superstore in Eddington, and at the slightly later time of 6.30pm. This is a Church at Castle event, and it would be great if there was good representation from Castle Street (especially as this was one of the top three "Re-Imagine" ideas). If you can't get there for 6.30pm, please don't worry about joining a little late.



Advent Open Day – next Saturday

As agreed at the Church Council a month or so ago, and in response to the "Re-Imagine" survey (see the item in the December / January *Castle View*), the church will be open next Saturday (15th December) from 10am until 2pm – or for longer if there are enough volunteers to help. There will be Advent prayer stations, children's activities, and seasonal refreshments, while for part of the time the children will be rehearsing for Sunday morning's carol service.

We need volunteers to welcome visitors and serve refreshments, and we hope that as many people as possible can take a short time out of their busy Christmas preparations to help show passers-by the true meaning of Christmas. Denise has a sign-up sheet and will be coming round during coffee to ask for help...



Christmas Jazz Piano Concert – 2pm this afternoon

Take a glass of mulled wine and a bite to eat, and listen to an hour of jazz piano arrangements of traditional Christmas carols played by Colin Hazel. It's at St. Augustine's in Richmond Road.

“Science Meets Faith” at Wesley Church tomorrow evening

Tomorrow evening (Monday 10th December) Dr. Roger Bretherton will speak on “The Science of Christian Character Development”, at Wesley Methodist Church. It starts at 7.45pm, with refreshments from 7.15pm.

Dr. Bretherton is Principal Lecturer for Enterprise in the School of Psychology, at the University of Lincoln. He is a Chartered Clinical Psychologist and Senior Fellow of the Higher Education Academy, and was the 2016 recipient of the Vice Chancellor’s Award for Teaching Excellence. His teaching, research and consultancy centre on Character Strengths and Virtues – the positive qualities of character related to psychological wellbeing. He works extensively in psychological consultancy. Recent projects include an investigation of the benefits of humility in academic leaders, a pilot project training volunteer mental health workers in solution-focused interventions, and a collaboration with Zest theatre company to teach psychological skills to young people through an innovative production, *Thrive* (funded by Arts Council England). In 2017 he received a generous grant from the John Templeton Foundation to develop, pilot and evaluate a character strengths course to be delivered through church small groups.

In recent years, empirical evidence has indicated that psychological interventions targeting character strengths (CSs) can produce significant improvements in psychological wellbeing. Many of these interventions are relevant to religious and spiritual communities, and have been welcomed as such. Nevertheless, while some empirical work has been completed, CSs have not received wide dissemination and evaluation in Christian churches. This presentation outlines the initial research and development of a multi-strength intervention with the working title “The Character Course for Churches” (CCC), a three year project to adapt, disseminate and evaluate CS interventions with church-based small groups across the UK. The course covers key CSs chosen based on empirical literature: learning, hope, love, gratitude, forgiveness, humour, persistence and curiosity. The rationale, structure and content of the course will be outlined, alongside the various conceptual and methodological dilemmas raised by the interplay between psychological, philosophical and theological sources.

Another appeal for help providing mince pies

Castle Street is participating in the International Community Carol Service at St. Luke's on Sunday 23rd December at 6pm (see item in the December / January *Castle View*). We have been asked to help with the refreshments by providing mince pies for perhaps one hundred attendees.

If you are able to bake or buy some mince pies, then please would you let Joyce Sharpe know. If you are attending the carol service, then perhaps you could arrive with the mince pies a little early at say 5.45pm; otherwise you could leave them in the kitchen at Castle Street after morning worship and she will get them to St. Luke's. Although it's a busy time, any help would be greatly appreciated!



Orwell Christmas Tree Festival this weekend

Orwell Methodist Church will be open from 2.30pm until 6pm this afternoon for the second day of their eighteenth annual Christmas Tree Festival, with carol singing and mince pies around the fire from 4pm.



Christmas Ceilidh, Friday 14th December, 8pm at Emmanuel URC

See the notice sheet from two weeks ago or *Castle View* for details of this event, in aid of the Against Malaria Foundation.



Next Sunday morning...

...is our All-age Carol Service, and includes a dramatic retelling of the Christmas story by our Junior Church. Do come along.



Notice sheet for Sunday 23rd December

Advance notice that the notice sheet in two weeks' time will be a double issue, and that the deadline for items will be Wednesday 19th December.

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

Tel: (01954) 782 762

E-mail: notices at castlestreet dot org dot uk