



CASTLE STREET METHODIST CHURCH

Where all are welcome – all the time

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Sunday 8th December 2019

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 usually served in the hall after Sunday services – do stay for a chat over a cuppa and a biscuit.

Sun 8th Dec 10.45 **MORNING WORSHIP WITH HOLY COMMUNION** **Rev Alison Walker**

*Bible readings: Isaiah 11: 1-10 (page 588)
Romans 15: 4-13 (page 154)
Matthew 3: 1-12 (page 2)*

18.30 **EVENING WORSHIP** **John Boocock**

Bible reading: John 1: 19-28 (page 88)

Prayer topic: for the persecuted Church

Wed 11th 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 12th Dec 10.00-12.00 “First Friends” baby and toddler group

19.00 Storey's Way Housegroup Christmas Celebration
(see overleaf)

Sun 15th Dec 10.45 **ALL-AGE NATIVITY SERVICE**

19.00 **IONA SERVICE at St Luke's**

Welcome to Castle Street Methodist Church!

If you are worshipping with us for the first time, please make yourself known to one of the stewards and pick up a welcome leaflet. All people of this church are part of the ministry, led by the Revd Alison Walker who may be contacted electronically via the church website or by telephone on (01223) 872 862.

Our church magazine **Castle View** contains more details of events taking place each month – please pick up a copy of the latest issue.

There is a **Prayer Request** book at the back of the church, which is used during services and at prayer meetings – but remember it is on display for anyone in the church to read, so please respect the privacy of those concerned and avoid including names and other personal details unless specifically requested.

Forthcoming Carol Services – and several appeals for help!

Next Sunday morning will be our annual All-age Nativity Service, with the young people of our church playing a major part. Some of the carols will be accompanied by instrumentalists rather than the organ. Tea, coffee and mince pies will be served afterwards – and the first appeal for help is to provide those mince pies (if there are too many, they will be used at subsequent services).

The morning service on Sunday 22nd December, led by Revd Colin Smith, will be a more-traditional Carol Service. Numbers permitting, it is hoped to have a small choir to sing two or three simple items – if you'd like to sing in the choir, please speak to Brian.

Then on the evening of Sunday 22nd December, starting at 6.30pm, there will be an International Church at Castle Community Carol Service at St Luke's. This will follow a similar format to last year's, and Castle Street and friends are providing a theatrical item which requires twenty-eight people – but it won't involve anyone needing to learn any lines, or hours of rehearsal time. If you can be involved in this, please speak to Alison as soon as possible.

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### **Christmas Tree Festivals finishing today**

The annual Christmas Tree Festival at St Giles' Church closes today, but the church is open until 4pm for visitors. Admission is free. Look out for "our" tree.

Similarly, the nineteenth Christmas Tree Festival at Orwell Methodist Church is open this afternoon from 2.30pm until 6pm. There will be carol singing and mince pies round the fire from 4pm.

### **Storey's Way Housegroup Christmas Celebration – Thursday evening**

The Storey's Way Housegroup Christmas Celebration is on Thursday evening (12th December – a day earlier than originally announced), starting at 7pm (half an hour earlier than advertised last week). If you have a short reading or piece of music or something to share, do bring it along. Simple contributions of festive food would also be welcome.

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“Science Meets Faith” at Wesley Methodist Church – tomorrow evening

“Brokenness, compassion and identity in rehabilitation after brain injury” with Dr Andrew Bateman, Reader at the School of Health and Social Care, University of Essex. Light refreshments will be served from 7.15pm, with the talk starting at 7.45pm. Admission is free, but there will be a retiring collection. For more information, including a biography of the speaker as well as details of future planned talks, visit www.wesleycam.org.uk/sciencemeetsfaith.htm.

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### **Eldon Thursday Christmas Special with Royston Roses – Thursday evening**

Carols, seasonal music and refreshments at Royston Methodist Church on Thursday evening (12th December). Free admission but a collection will be taken in support of Action For Children. It starts at 7.30pm.

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Election Day Prayer Special

All are welcome to come to Arbury Road Baptist Church on Thursday (12 December) to pray for our country at this critical time. There will be drop in for prayer between 7.00am and 7.30 pm, and this will be followed by a prayer meeting between 7.30pm and 10.00pm in the church rooms. Anyone who is able to come to pray, intercede and listen to the Lord for any period of time would be most welcome.

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### **Election hustings**

After the short-notice cancellation of last Saturday's “faith and values”-themed hustings to meet with the parliamentary candidates for the City of Cambridge, it has not been possible to arrange an alternative time. However, anyone who was planning to attend is invited to consider coming to the hustings at St Paul's Church in Hills Road this afternoon (Sunday) at 2.30pm. The theme will be Brexit and international relations, and will probably be the last public hustings before the election. Registration, via the Eventbrite website, is advised to ensure you get a seat.

### **Wanted: Part-time District Lay Employment Secretary**

The East Anglia District of the Methodist Church is looking for a part-time Lay Employment Secretary to take a lead on issues relating to lay employment and human resources in the district, and working from home. The position involves seven hours per week (28 hours per month), at a rate of £12 per hour, with additional hours by agreement.

Further details, including a job description and application form are available at <https://eangliamethodist.org.uk/events-news/job-vacancies>, or contact District Administrator Alison Travis (e-mail: office *at* eangliamethodist *dot* org *dot* uk, or by post to the District Office, Chapel Field Road Methodist Church, Chapel Field Road, Norwich, NR2 1SD. The closing date is 20th December, with interviews on Monday 3rd February.

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Appeal for takeaway boxes

If anyone has unused takeaway boxes for food, please bring them to church as we use them for the homeless project.

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### **Christmas Open Manse**

Alison and Robin invite you to their Christmas Open Manse on Saturday 21st December, from 3pm until 6pm. If you don't know where in Haslingfield they live, please ask a steward (or Alison herself).

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Wednesday exercise class Christmas break

This will take a three-week break over the festive period. The last class of 2019 will be on 18th December, and it will restart on 15th January 2020.

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### **Carol singing in Haslingfield**

All are invited to join members of the churches in Haslingfield in singing round the village on the evening of Friday 20th December. More details to follow...

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“A Faith to Live By” at Haslingfield – date for your 2020 diary

The next one will be on Sunday 19th January, and will be with Jane Dominey.

Items for next Sunday's notice sheet should be sent to **Brian Carter** by Friday evening.

Tel.: (01954) 782 762

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