



CASTLE STREET METHODIST CHURCH

Where all are welcome – all the time

www.castlestreet.org.uk   castlestreetmethodist  castlestchurch

Sunday 15th March 2020

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 15th Mar

10.45 MORNING WORSHIP

Rev Colin Smith

Bible reading: John 4: 5-42 (page 90)

19.00 IONA SERVICE at St Luke’s

Prayer topic: for our housebound members

Mon 16th Mar

19.30 Finance and Property Committee

Wed 18th Mar

10.00 “Time to Be” prayer and fellowship

10.30-12.00 Coffee morning

12.00-13.00 Strength and balance exercise class

Thu 19th Mar

10.00-12.00 “First Friends” baby and toddler group

Sun 22nd Mar

10.00 Mothering Sunday Breakfast

10.45 ALL-AGE MORNING WORSHIP

Rev Alison Walker

18.30 EVENING WORSHIP

“A Community of Witness” (2) (see overleaf)

The **Methodist** Church



We are a
FAIRTRADE
church

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.

Service next Sunday evening

The service next Sunday evening will be the second of three Lent studies, using the East Anglia District's notes, "A Community of Witness", prepared with the aim of strengthening our Christian witness and shared common life in Christ. The sessions follow the Acts narrative, as Luke tells the story of the coming of the Holy Spirit and the birth of the church, and exploring the theme of being "a Community of Witness". This one will be led by Mike Sharpe, while John Boocock will lead the third and final session two weeks later, on 5th April. Do come along for something slightly different.

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### **"A Faith to Live By" this evening -- cancelled**

As a result of concerns among some of those attending regarding the potential spread of COVID-19, this evening's "Faith to Live By" at Haslingfield has been postponed. It is hoped to resume the series in the autumn, and also to reschedule this evening's planned service with Revd Julie Norris.

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April "Travel Talk" at St Luke's – postponed

With the local Diocese deciding that tea and coffee should not be served after services in Anglican churches, the Travel Talk and Supper at St Luke's scheduled for Saturday 4th April has been postponed to a later date.

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### **Thursday morning Circuit Lent Study Group at 35 Millington Road**

This week Bishop Alice will look at Psalm 122. It starts at 10.45am (with coffee from 10.15am), and will finish at around midday.

## **Coronavirus guidance from the Methodist Church – updated 10am on Friday**

The Methodist Church is monitoring the situation around COVID-19, and there is guidance on its website (see <https://tinyurl.com/MethChurch-Coronavirus>). This will be updated if advice from the government changes. One important message is, however, that of good hand hygiene – regularly washing hands with soap and water or using hand sanitiser gel. At Castle Street there are hand washing facilities in the toilet at the back of the church as well as those elsewhere in the building.

In a nutshell, we continue to love and care for each other, and in the spirit of that, we ask that if you are feeling unwell, please stay away from church gatherings until you are feeling better – but please let Alison or someone know! If you are feeling at all worried for your own health, then please take some time away from church as you need, irrespective of whether or not you currently feel unwell. You are under no obligation to turn up, to keep a rota commitment, or just because you think everyone else will expect you. But again, please let Alison know so that we can stay in touch.

In the guidance on the Methodist Church website there are links to follow the service streamed live from Wesley's Chapel at 11am each Sunday, plus a Sunday service sheet for use at home. Of course, there is also *Songs of Praise* on BBC1 each Sunday afternoon, the Sunday service at 8.10am on Radio 4, the *Daily Service* on Radio 4 (long wave) on weekdays at 9.45am (and available any time on the *BBC Sounds* website), and the Methodist Prayer Handbook. Our weekly notice sheet can, of course, be downloaded from the church website.

One other piece of advice is to try to avoid making physical contact with others, for example, by not shaking hands. As has already been mentioned by Alison, we can continue with services of Holy Communion because we use individual glasses and those preparing and distributing the elements have washed their hands. There may be some changes in the way we serve refreshments after services, and special care needs to be taken when handling biscuits or anything else to be eaten.

Please keep a loving eye on each other and on your neighbours – particularly those who may struggle. This is a time when our particular calling to love and serve others is important and can take practical as well as spiritual form.

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

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