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## CIRCUIT NEWS

### Warm Spaces

More and more of our churches have opened their doors to offer a *Warm Space*. All details can be found at [www.gloucestershiremethodist.org.uk/about-us-1/warm-spaces.html](http://www.gloucestershiremethodist.org.uk/about-us-1/warm-spaces.html)

### Grants

If you plan to open up a warm space in your church and you are concerned about meeting the costs of heating the building or providing warm food or other facilities you can apply for a grant of up to £500 from the circuit.

To apply simply send an email to Deacon Sue Peat and Louise Hebbon with a brief description of what you are planning and they will get the application processed as quickly as possible. Churches are requested to ensure all existing monies received for the Warm Spaces initiative are used before applying for future funding. As this initiative is aimed at providing a warm space and food to those in need, churches are requested to not charge or request a donation in payment.

### Foodbank

Many thanks to Stonehouse Methodist Church who donated a total of 15.75kg of food and toiletries during December 2023 to Stroud District Foodbank.

### The Vine

The latest edition of The Vine has been distributed which includes free worship resources for Sunday 14 & Sunday 21 January 2024.



The Vine Worship at Home material is a circuit paid resource for all Methodist churches in our circuit which provides material that can be used with Local Arrangements. If you would like to be included on the distribution list please contact Louise Hebbon at the Circuit Office on [office@gloscircuit.co.uk](mailto:office@gloscircuit.co.uk)

### The Inclusive Language Guide

The Inclusive Language Guide helps the Church hold conversations without making assumptions or inadvertently causing upset.

The Assistant Secretary of the Methodist Conference, the Revd Michaela Youngson, explains why words are important and how the guide affirms traditional terms such as husband and wife while allowing people to express themselves using the language that is right for them.



Read more here: [The Inclusive Language Guide \(methodist.org.uk\)](http://methodist.org.uk)

Bristol, Cornwall & Isles of Scilly, Plymouth & Exeter Methodist Districts

# Joint District Retreat

**6th to 8th February 2024**

(from after lunch on 6th to lunch-time on 8th)

**Come and be... with Me...**

## **Our focus this year will be on worship**

This year we are looking forward to exploring worship in our time away together, and offering some different worship opportunities with a team of locally based worship leaders.

We are also pleased to offer a new venue,

**The Passage House Hotel, Newton Abbot TQ 12 3QH**

where we will have full use of all their facilities including their indoor pool and Spa area.



Cost: £220 per person

50% is paid by your District and 50% by Circuit  
+ supplement of £40 payable for an Estuary View

Open to anyone in the 3 Districts who works in a pastoral role,  
including ministers and lay workers.

**Please come away with us for a time of refreshment in God's presence. This is a gift to you from the church.**

To book your place on the 2024 retreat please email Rachel Mitchell [rachel.southdevon@gmail.com](mailto:rachel.southdevon@gmail.com)

# DEEP WATERS

An 8-week  
online study group  
starting 7pm  
Monday 5th February 2024

For more information, or to register,  
contact:  
[revrachel.leather@methodist.org.uk](mailto:revrachel.leather@methodist.org.uk)

**Do you  
experience  
climate anxiety?**

*Deep Waters aims to help  
people navigate their grief and  
anger through a Christian lens  
of love, wisdom, and justice,  
and to lead people into a place  
of active hope*



## Bring & Buy Book & Jigsaw Puzzle Sale

This will take place at Hucclecote Methodist Church Hall on Saturday 20 January from 10am to 12.30pm.

The Welcome Café will be open as usual providing refreshments, Proceeds of the sale will be divided between the WaterAid charity and Church Funds. To make this event a success we need you to donate your preloved jigsaws and books. Please bring these to the Welcome Café before 20 January or with you when you come to the sale. All types of books and jigsaws are needed for this event. Please come along and enjoy the sale and tell you friends and neighbours too! Everyone is welcome. For more information please contact Sue and Andy Woodward on 01452 615143

### Meet up Monday's


We meet every Monday afternoon from 2-4pm for a cup of tea/coffee and cakes/biscuits, offering friendship to everyone in our community. We have a mixture of church members and 'friends' who are not church members and the aim is 'to make friends, meet friends and be friends'.

*Come along and join us at Bishop's Cleeve Methodist Church.*

### Wednesday Fellowship

We meet every Wednesday to enjoy fellowship and to hear a variety of speakers who entertain and educate us. We have musical moments, craft afternoons and the odd quiz. Recent speakers have been from Winston's Wish and Stroud Women's Refuge as well as a musical afternoon with the Winchcombe Handbell Ringers.

*Come along and join us at Bishop's Cleeve Methodist Church.*



The Methodist Church  
Children, Youth and Family

### ALL-ROUND TRAINING FOR EVERY VOLUNTEER YOUTH LEADER

*"The Youthscape Essentials course is a helpful resource for those working with teenagers in our churches. No matter how long you have been working with young people there's always something useful to pick up from taking part in this training."*

Simon, Lancashire

### FREE ONLINE COURSE, STARTING IN JANUARY!

If you're wanting to grow your confidence and skills working with young people in churches & community projects then this programme is just what you're looking for!

Youthscape Essentials offers the opportunity to spend time in community with other workers and volunteers, exploring together insights into the lives of young people, relevant skills and character development. It's a perfect course for anyone involved in or interested in developing ministry with young people (aged 11-18). The material has been developed and piloted in a Methodist Circuit in partnership with Youthscape.

**Find out more & register here.**

### Christian Aid Emergency Appeal for the Middle East

Members of Stroud contributed to this appeal and raised a whopping £450. This will hopefully make an enormous difference to those living in very difficult circumstances in this sacred but troubled part of the world.

Thank you.

### New Years Honours List 2024

The New Year's Honours List, announced last week, included Michael Eavis, a Methodist and the founder of the Glastonbury Festival, who was awarded a knighthood for his services to music and charity. Revd Roy Watson, a Methodist



Chaplain for the Hospice of the Valleys charity, has been awarded a British Empire Medal (BEM) for his services to the community in Barry and Blaenau Gwent in Wales.



## Last Taboo

A free course all about death and dying, developed by Methodist Homes for the Aged (MHA), and suitable for people of all faith and no faith.

Everyone will die. But how do we help people to think about, and plan for, their death? This practical course will help you grow in confidence around talking with people at all ages about death and dying. The course will be held at Holy Trinity LEP, Broad Croft, Bradley Stoke.

Anyone can benefit from attending this training, and it's suitable for people of all faiths and none, but we think the following groups will find this course useful:

Ministers, Lay Employees, Chaplains, Local Preachers/Worship Leaders, Care home workers (any and all – even the gardener can have conversations with residents about death etc.), Supported living staff, Nurses / doctors in your congregation, Paid or unpaid carers of folks living in family homes

To book a place, please visit Eventbrite at [www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/the-last-taboo-conversations-on-death-dying-registration-790918868627?aff=oddtcreator](http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/the-last-taboo-conversations-on-death-dying-registration-790918868627?aff=oddtcreator) [eventbrite.co.uk]



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## Practical Christian Mysticism

Revd Jayne Webb runs a series of monthly sessions on Divine Wisdom and Practical Mysticism at Prinknash Abbey in the conference room at Prinknash Abbey (next to the Abbey Café). The sessions begin at 10.30am and will finish at 12.00 noon latest.

All sessions are on the 1st Saturday of every month.

We will follow the stream of Divine Wisdom through a variety of faiths and in particular explore our own encounter with the Wisdom Tradition from the perspective of Christian Mysticism. These are practical sessions where we will focus on the contemplative 'tools' that will help us to engage with this tradition.

This is an ecumenical venture, all are welcome.

*Jayne is a Minister in the Gloucestershire Circuit of the Methodist Church and an Oblate of Prinknash Abbey. She has a particular interest in the Christian Mysticism and has an MA in the contemplative practice of desert spirituality. She is a retreat leader and spiritual mentor*

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## Exploring Digital Lunchtime Learning

On Tuesday 20 February 2024 we enter into the world of online church and online community. What can we learn about being an inclusive church from these experiences? Can we create authentic relationships online? Join Laura Neale, founder of **YouBelong** an online community catering for those who are chronically ill and disabled and



Tori Allen, Digital and Communications Officer for the Manchester and Stockport District.

Bring your lunch and join us at 12noon for an hour of insight and conversation and an opportunity to learn new skills, ask questions in a safe space, and leave with a digital toolkit of resources and ideas for mission and ministry.

This event is free and hosted online by Methodist Digital Training. You can book a place via Eventbrite.

**CAM METHODIST CHURCH**

Chapel Street, GL11 5DQ

# **Parsons and Pancakes**



Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2024

Serving 12.30 – 2pm

**Everyone welcome**

All proceeds to Church Roof Fund

# WE ARE HIRING

Coffee Shop Assistant (Barista)



20 hours a week



Great team

Living Wage

(training period may apply)

**APPLY NOW**

**KINGSCOFFEE@CKBC.ORG.UK**

## Training & Events

### Thursday 11 Jan to Thursday 14 Nov - online - Youthscape Essentials training

Happening monthly with a break for August. Invest some time in you and your ministry. **Find out more and book here.**

### Friday 12 to Sunday 14 Jan - Yarnfield Park Training & Conference Centre - Whole Hearted: Evangelism & Growth Conference

The Evangelism and Growth team have felt for a while that we need to gather people across the Methodist Church who have a sense of the hopeful future that the Holy Spirit is leading us to. We have created this event which aims to open us to the bigger picture of God's mission in the world today. Places on the conference, including all accommodation and food are fully funded, but a deposit will be required at the time of booking. This deposit will be returned after the weekend to all who attend. As well as residential bookings for the whole weekend, there are also day tickets for Saturday 13 January. **Register for a place here.**

### Tuesday 16 Jan - online - Confidence and self-esteem - ways to help your youth group

Hosted by Hope UK. Ideas and tools youth workers can use to help young people develop self confidence. Participants will learn a variety of activities and will receive resources following the event. **Register here.**

### Friday 2 to Sunday 4 Feb - Eastbourne - Refresh - Hand in Hand conference

Annual children's ministry conference with a mix of keynote sessions, seminars and a lively exhibition. Be inspired, challenged and encouraged as you meet with other children's leaders and hear from leading practitioners. **Find out more and book.**

### Wednesday 7 Feb - online - Now and Beyond

A mental health festival for education settings. Parents/carers, teachers and students alike will be able to participate in a number of ways including access to free online workshops, lesson plans and live streamed celebrity content. **Find out more and sign-up.**

### Every Thursday 22 February to 16 May - online - Evangelism for leaders

This course is for all leaders in the Methodist Church (lay and ordained, paid and unpaid) who really want to reach new people but also understand that evangelism is a word with baggage. It's for leaders who want to discover their inner evangelists - and it's for those who'd rather they remained undiscovered! It's for leaders who are wondering how to help others grow in confidence in their faith and share it. This course aims to equip leaders in their contexts to: confidently model what it means to follow our shared calling to evangelism; to intentionally prioritise and promote evangelism and to cultivate a culture of confident, authentic faith sharing. **Find out more and register.**

### Tuesday 27 Feb - online - Let's End Poverty

You will be hearing from builders and church members who are leading the way and reflect on how you can help to build momentum for change. The Methodist Church is passionate about understanding these causes and how we can help in order to solve it and then you, too, can be part of the movement. **Find out more and register.**

### Friday 24 to Tuesday 28 May - Cliff College, Derbyshire - Cliff Festival: Rerouted

Cliff Festival is a worship and teaching event where people gather to pray, learn and encounter the Spirit of the living God. Cliff Festival is full of opportunities for people of all ages, including children and young people, to engage in worship and learning individually and together. The Festival is offering a **special deal for youth groups**, which includes the opportunity to hire pre-set-up tents and get free tickets for group leaders.



## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

10 January		Planning work for the Spring preaching plan
10 January	7.30pm	Finance Support Group
31 January		Deadline for entry of Statistics for Mission information
Week beginning 5 Feb		Spring Quarter Preaching plan published
15 February	9.30am	Circuit Executive - Zoom
15 February	TBC	Circuit Treasurers Meeting - Venue To Be Confirmed
4 March		Preaching availability opens for the Summer preaching plan
4 March	7.30pm	Local Preachers' & Worship Leaders' Meeting - Zoom
7 March	7.30pm	Local Preachers' & Worship Leaders' Meeting - Zoom
17 March	3pm	Circuit Assembly at St Mark's & Zoom
18 March		Preaching availability closes for the Summer preaching plan
20 March		Section Planning opens for the Summer preaching plan
27 March		Section Planning closes for the Summer preaching plan
1 April - 1 July		Rev'd Michelle Ireland: Sabbatical
1 April - 21 July		Rev'd John McNeill: Annual Leave & Sabbatical
Week beginning 8 April		Summer Quarter Preaching plan published
23 April	9.30am	Circuit Executive - Zoom
19 May	3pm	Circuit Assembly - Venue to be arranged & Zoom
5 June		Local Preacher's and Worship Leader's Meeting - Bishop's Cleeve
21 July	3pm	Circuit Farewell Service for Revd's John Hellyer & Phil Summers