



The Methodist Church

Chapel Street, Easingwold, York. YO61 3AE

www.easingwoldmethodists.org.uk

Easingwold Methodist Church is a Christ-centred community who seek to know and love Him and to make Him known to all.

Our Calling is to **Worship** the One God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit: to **grow and develop** as his disciples and to **serve** Him in the local Community and wider world.

Minister: Rev Elizabeth Cushion (01347) 821460

Senior Steward: Jocelyn Pearson 07510 670 570

WEEK BEGINNING SUNDAY 3RD JANUARY 2021

Hello all

I hope that you had a good Christmas, even if it were different from usual, and were able to see or be in contact with family and friends.

Many of us will be pleased to see the end of the year 2020 and we look forward to better things in the new year, for the pandemic situation as well as our personal ones. This 'pause for thought' may be helpful as we reflect on the year ending and the year ahead.

Looking back...

- What word best sums up your experience of living through this year?
- What was the best decision you made?
- What was the greatest lesson you learned?
- What was the most loving service you performed?
- What is your biggest piece of unfinished business?
- What else do you need to do or say to be complete with this year?

Looking forward

- What is God calling you to do or be next?
- What would you most like to see change?

- What about your ministry - are you committed to changing and improving? It is not just ordained people and 'leaders' who have ministries)
- Where have you flourished this year? How will you continue to make that part of your life?
- What Bible passages have become important to this year?
- What word sums up your thoughts for the new year?

Whatever it holds for us, I wish you peace, joy, health and many blessings in the new year.

Elizabeth

Restart of Quiet Prayer Sessions - Friday mornings at Easingwold Methodist Church

The church building will be open for prayer on Friday mornings 10-11am

Please follow guidelines of wearing a mask

Use hand sanitiser when entering and leaving the building.

Follow social distancing of two metres.

Two Stewards will be in attendance during the opening time to give you advice and assistance.

Easingwold Covenant Service joined with the Parish Church

This will be a Zoom service at 10.30am on Sunday 10th January.

Please contact Elizabeth if you need the zoom invitation address.

Dear Friends,

I'm writing in the dying embers of 2020 on a day which has brought us both good news and the less good variety. The authorisation of the second vaccine for use was a great way to begin the day, as was the news that Margaret Keenan, the first recipient of the other vaccine, had received her second dose and, in a week's time, should have full immunity. However, as all the figures released today continue to move in the wrong direction, the announcement that the whole Circuit is joining Stamford Bridge in Tier 3 was sadly inevitable and will have taken few by surprise. It does mean that following the advice of the District, and the decision of the Circuit Leadership Team, all Churches in the Circuit are strongly encouraged not to hold in-building services and other activities. At this stage there is no clue as to how long we will remain in Tier 3, but I suspect it will be for some while.

In beginning the New Year in this way, I want to say a big thank you to all those around the Circuit who have gone many extra miles over the past 9 months to maintain contact with people in all of our Churches.

Few if any would have expected that what they took on back in March would still be required as the next March looms into view! Please pace yourselves and share the burden around as much as is possible – but also know that what you are doing is valued by those who receive your ministry.

We will continue to provide many opportunities for people who can to gather online to share in worship, prayer and Bible Study, and the weekly Circuit YouTube Service will continue. This Sunday's offering is in the form of a Covenant Service and the link will be available via the Circuit website at <https://www.yorkmethodist.org.uk/coronavirus-information/online-services.html>

This coming week brings us to the season of Epiphany – when we think about the manifestation of God and those who came to recognise God's revelation in Jesus. It is also the time when we consign the trimmings of Christmas either to the recycling or to wherever we hide them for the rest of the year! But as many suggested that we might celebrate Christmas at Easter, it seems like a good opportunity to leave something on display which witnesses to God's revelation (an angel or star for example?) or to prepare a Lenten Cross from the Christmas Tree which can stand bare for now but which will become the link between the two festivals. And in the meantime, despite all the things we cannot do, the challenge of Howard Thurman's epiphany poem reminds us of what we must continue to do...

When the song of the angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and the princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flocks,
The work of Christmas begins:
To find the lost,
To heal the broken,
To feed the hungry,
To release the prisoner,
To rebuild the nations,
To bring peace among people,
To make music in the heart.

Yours sincerely,
Rev. Dr. Keith R. Albans
(Superintendent Minister)

Circuit Services in the New Year

All Circuit services will be on our YouTube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCMZII3vyksFEonZ-EQbbhuQ>

The Circuit Covenant service will be at that link by the first Sunday in January.

The Circuit website Online Service page also lists regular services happening around the circuit <https://www.yorkmethodist.org.uk/coronavirus-information/online-services.html>

Together Constantly in Prayer:

Please take a moment each morning to join us in prayer.

1. “She (Anna) never left the temple but worshiped night and day, fasting and praying. Coming up to them (Mary and Joseph) at that very moment, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child [Jesus] to all who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem.” Luke 2:36–38.

As we start this new year let us like Anna resolve to be thankful to God for our saviour and to speak about him to those looking for hope in these difficult days.

2. Let us commit our country to God as we go into 2021 particularly all those affected by Covid-19 and Brexit, and pray for our leaders to make wise and just decisions about the way ahead.

Organisation for prayer: Christians Against Poverty

From their website:

“Prayer is the foundation of everything we do. It’s part of our culture. Every morning at head office we meet together to pray for our clients, frontline staff and each other because we believe that God answers prayer. Many of our clients are facing impossible situations with no way out – except God. That’s why we’re so grateful for the dedication of amazing supporters like you who pray regularly for CAP. We’re seeing thousands of families go debt free and hundreds respond to Christ each year, thanks to your prayers.”

In 2020 COVID-19 caused many to lose their normal income and end up in debt particularly those under 30. Pray for them that either through CAP or in other ways they may move out of debt in 2021.

Notices for week beginning 10th January 2021:

Please contact Carolyn on 01347 822787 or e-mail carolyn.hardie@gmail.com by 11.00am on Friday.