



Woodstock **Methodist** Church



Notices: notices@woodstockmethodists.org.uk

Website: www.woodstockmethodists.org.uk

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Items for inclusion in the notices need to be received by Thursday lunchtime.

Notices for the week beginning 25 February 2024

Sunday 25 Feb 10.30am Mike Trinder
 7.00pm Stillness, Silence and Simplicity
 Joint service with Holy Communion at
 Sunday 3 Mar 10.30am Kidlington Methodist Church led by
 Miriam Moul (also available on Zoom)
 7.00pm Stillness, Silence and Simplicity

Worship at Church takes place as shown above. We will be serving tea and coffee after the morning service in the hall/garden to which all are welcome.

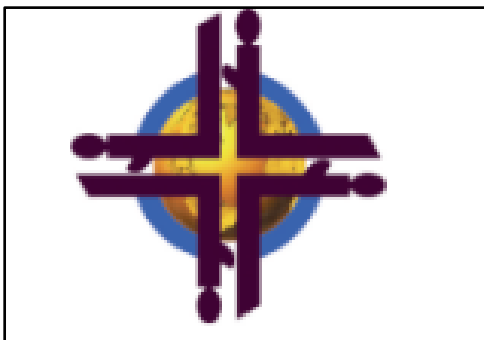
Bible readings Lectionary readings for today, second Sunday of Lent, are:

- ❖ Genesis 17: 1-7, 15-16
- ❖ Romans 4:13-25
- ❖ Psalm 22: 23-31
- ❖ Mark 8:31-38

Diary for coming week

Monday 26 Feb	7.30pm	Circuit Lent study group on Zoom
Tuesday 27 Feb	10.00am onwards	Tuesday Tots
Thursday 29 Feb	10-10.30am	Thursday Prayers
	10am-12 noon	Coffee Club in hall
	7.30pm	Solar on your roof. Sustainable Woodstock open meeting in church hall
Friday 1 March	7.00pm	World Day of Prayer service at Woodstock Baptist Church
Sunday 3 March	3-5pm	Games and Cake at 40 Merton Way
Monday 4 March	7.30pm	The Narrow Road passion play at Wesley Memorial church

Refreshments after morning service We continue to serve drinks and biscuits after our morning services and any money donated via the cash bowl or the electronic card reader on the serving hatch will be given to our chosen charities for this year – Asylum Welcome and Médecins Sans Frontières.



World Day of Prayer 2024 – Friday 1 March This year our Woodstock Church's together ecumenical service will be at Woodstock Baptist church at 7pm on Friday 1 March. All are welcome to this service which this year has been written by the women of Palestine around the theme "I beg you, bear with one another in love". All are welcome – young, old, women and men do please come along. If you would like any more information or if you would like a lift, contact Debbie Teanby on 01993 812325/07882 447214 or email doranteanby@btinternet.com

Sunday 3 March There will be a joint service at Kidlington Methodist on Sunday 3 March when Miriam Moul will be leading a communion service for Kidlington, Woodstock and Tackley congregations. If you would like a lift to this service please speak to one of the stewards. A Junior Church will be running at Kidlington for any younger members who wish to attend. The service will be at 10.30am but will also be available on zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/99782408520?pwd=NWx5TE96ZVlpLzB5T01yek1zWnllQT09>
Meeting ID: 997 8240 8520 Passcode: 808299

Games and cake The next games and cake gathering at Sue's house, 40 Merton Way, Yarnton, will be on Sunday 3 March from 3-5pm. All welcome, bring your own games or play some of Sue's collection.

Tuesday fellowship continues on Tuesday 5 March at 2.30pm when the meeting is titled 'Travels in Egypt' led by Michael & Margaret Sawyer. All welcome, more information available from Sue Beuzeval.

Woodstock Methodist Church Community Survey final week The community survey is still live until Thursday so please encourage any friends and family to complete it online or on paper so we can gather as many views from our community as we can.

The survey can be accessed in a variety of ways:

- Via this QR Code or it can also be accessed on the church's website [Woodstock Methodist Church \(woodstockmethodists.org.uk\)](http://Woodstock Methodist Church (woodstockmethodists.org.uk))
- A paper copy of the survey can be downloaded via the website [Woodstock Methodist Church \(woodstockmethodists.org.uk\)](http://Woodstock Methodist Church (woodstockmethodists.org.uk))
- There are paper copies at church and also in the Woodstock Bookshop, the Save the Children Bookshop and the Museum
- Ask Debbie Teanby (01993 812325) and she will send you copies

Completed paper copies can be returned to church. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask a member of the Our Church's Future Story Group (Debbie Teanby, Margaret Sawyer, Michael Sawyer, Paul Carter or Andy Hardy). Thank you for your help in this.



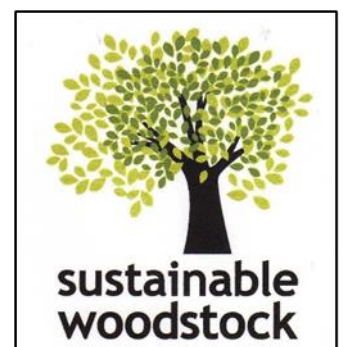
*God of yesterday and God of tomorrow,
you hold our stories in your hand.
Guide the future story of our church
and help us each to play our part today
as you reveal your kingdom here.
Amen*



North Oxfordshire Community Foodbank The Food Bank are grateful for any donations. Items left in the box at the back of church will be taken to them each week for distribution. They are always needing long life juice and milk and are particularly short of tinned meats at the moment. They are open to receiving financial donations to purchase items that are particularly needed.

Solar on your roof – want to know more? Sustainable Woodstock are holding an open meeting in our church hall on Thursday this week – 29 February from 7.30-9pm. A chance to hear more about generating clean electricity at home via solar panels. Greg Bishop, a local expert and installer of solar systems from Next Generation Renewable Energy will be available to answer your questions. Do come along and find out more.

More information from sustainablewoodstockuk@gmail.com



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We aim to be a church which celebrates and affirms every person and does not discriminate.

Lent activities

Circuit Lent Study Group on Zoom The Oxford Methodist circuit ministerial team are going to run a weekly group through Lent using the Methodist Church's Unbounded Love materials. These will be on Monday evenings starting on Monday 19 March at 7.30pm. Each session will stand alone, so you do not have to attend all the sessions. This is a chance for members from around the circuit to join in discussion, prayer and reflection through the Lenten season. The group will not meet on Monday 4 March so people can join the performance at Wesley Memorial of The Narrow Road.

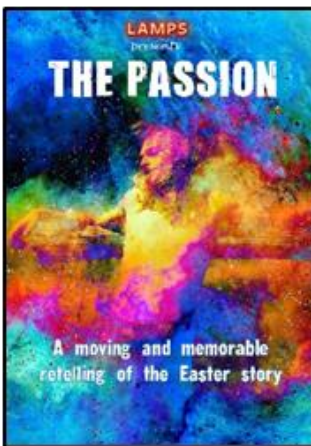
Zoom details: <https://bit.ly/OxfordCircuitLent2023>

<https://zoom.us/j/97405745982?pwd=RHBjclJ2T2FjTkxUVStYc05PVkpodz09>

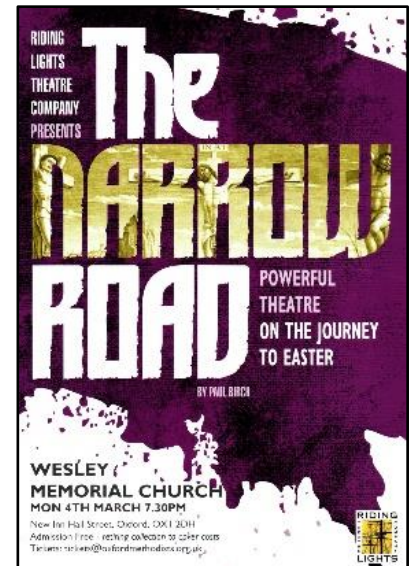
Meeting ID: 974 0574 5982

Passcode: 721818

The Narrow Road The acclaimed Theatre company Riding Lights are taking their passion play on tour this Lent and will be performing The Narrow Road at Wesley Memorial Church on Monday 4 March at 7.30pm. This will be an inspiring evening of theatre and worship as we journey through lent. Tickets are free but do need booking via tickets@oxfordmethodists.org.uk Donations will be taken on the evening to cover costs.



LAMPS The Passion will be performed at St Mary Magdalene Church, Woodstock on Monday 25 March at 7pm. The life, death and resurrection of Jesus are recreated in this moving, memorable and ultimately joyful retelling of the Easter story. Tickets are available from Sue Beuzeval at £12 for adults and £6 for under 18s.



Sunday 10 March: Breaking Down Barriers Our next local arrangement service is on Sunday 10 March at 10.30am when we are holding a café style service and will be looking at inclusivity with the theme 'Breaking Down Barriers'. We will be welcoming two visiting speakers that morning. Laura Worsfold who is CEO of Severn Arts a charitable arts company, bringing high quality music and arts to a wide range of people across Worcestershire. It is committed to offering new, inclusive arts activities that focus on widening access to the arts for all, with a particular emphasis on children and young people. Ben Worsfold is a Student Recruitment & Access Officer at The University of Reading where his role involves breaking down barriers for secondary school children, trying to raise aspirations in local communities to enable children and young people to progress to higher education.

Methodist World Mission Fund Appeal for Gaza It's very rare for our Methodist World Mission Fund to call an emergency appeal, but the situation in Gaza and the West Bank is so appalling, and because the Methodist Liaison Office in Jerusalem has partner organisations that are offering relief. It was decided that an appeal would be made specifically to the Methodist people. It is now possible to donate online via a Just Giving page: <https://www.justgiving.com/mcfworldmission> or if you prefer you can pass any donations to a steward in church.



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A Statement from the President and Vice-President of the Methodist Conference on the situation in Gaza (issued on Thursday 22 February 2024)

We are deeply disappointed that the headlines today are about a parliamentary process and not the horrors of what is happening in Gaza. Such a vote should be above party politics and we urge the UK government to denounce actions that epitomise a collective punishment of the population of Gaza.

The scale of the destruction and tragic loss of life in so short a space of time is incomparable to any other conflict in recent times. We grieve for all lives lost on 7 October and in the subsequent fighting. There is no justification for such widespread killing of tens of thousands of innocent people and we are gravely concerned for the entire population of the Gaza Strip.

One and a half million people currently shelter in crowded conditions with little food and water in the city of Rafah. The horrific strikes on southern Gaza have killed many in recent days and those injured are unable to get treatment because of Israel's attacks on hospitals.

We were alarmed to hear reports that the Nasser Hospital in Gaza has been shelled, killing patients, staff and others sheltering there. The protection of hospitals during a war is a basic and inescapable requirement in international law.

The International Court of Justice has called on Israel to ensure that its forces do not commit any of the acts covered by the Genocide Convention. Yet attacks on Gaza have continued with inadequate regard to the protection of civilians. For those crowded into Rafah there is nowhere left to go. It is disturbing to hear that some in the Israeli government are discussing the possibility of creating settlements across the Gaza Strip. Time will tell whether what we witness in Gaza today is an ethnic cleansing of the present population. Meanwhile, for those sheltering without food and water the situation is critical. To meet the basic human needs of such a large population there is no alternative to an immediate ceasefire. We urge our Government to demand an immediate halt to the shelling for the preservation of innocent life and require that Israel abide by the provisional ruling of the International Court of Justice.

We call on Hamas to immediately release the remaining hostages and urge all governments to work with Israeli and Palestinian parties to achieve an agreement that ensures protection, support and a viable future for innocent victims of this conflict and security for all in the region.

In prayer we stand alongside all those in the region whose heart breaks with ours as we witness the unfathomable suffering. With the psalmist we pray:

You are my help and my deliverer;

you are my God, do not delay. (Psalm 40:17)



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