

### Saturday 11th January 2025

10.0 a.m. - **Coffee morning**

11.15 - 12.15 a.m.

#### **SATURDAY MORNING RECITAL**

**Susan Hollingworth and Caroline Clemmow**  
entertain with words and music



### Sunday 12th January 2025

10.30 a.m. - Mrs Jean Marshall

4.30 p.m. - Café Church - Mrs Marilyn Hall

### Monday 13th January 2025

9.30 - 11.30 a.m. - **CHATTERBOX**

### Wednesday 15th January 2025

7.45 a.m. - Prayers by Zoom

### Wednesday 15th January 2025

10.0 - 11.30 a.m. - **Jack in a Box**

### Friday 17th January 2025

6.0 p.m. for 6.30 p.m.

Jacket potato with savoury mince or cheese followed by sponge and custard. It will cost £8 and there will be a beetle drive. Book with Glenise or Pat.



### Sunday 19th January 2025

9.30 a.m. - St Andrew's -

**United Service**

4.30 p.m. - Rev. Debbie Caulk -

**Covenant Service**

### Tuesday 21st January 2.0 - 4.0 p.m.

We shall be hosting this year's gathering to mark **The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity** in the Guild Room. Tea, coffee and scones will be served as we gather for prayer and fellowship with our friends from St Andrews and the Baptist Church. All are welcome.

### Safeguarding News

One of the latest initiatives of the Methodist Church is Unconscious Bias Training. This refers to a bias of which we are unaware, and which happens outside of our control. It can undermine and derail our desire to act justly and fairly towards others, including in our recruitment, promotion and openness to new ideas. This training session is suitable for all members and leaders of the Methodist Church but is compulsory for:

- Ministers, presbyters, deacons, local preachers, worship leaders;
- Stewards, pastoral visitors, those working with children.

Rev Debbie is leading a training session during the afternoon service at this church on Sunday 26th January at 4.30 p.m. No need to book. Just come along. I think everyone who needs to do Foundation Training is up to date but there is a session on Monday 27th January at Ashby Wesley. If anyone would like to attend please see Andrew.

### House Groups

During the House Groups we had before Christmas the general feeling was that for the next few sessions we should try to follow a pattern of meetings. A while ago I met with Stuart Gunson and we have resources to have a series of House Groups on any one of the following subjects:

1. The Book of Genesis;
2. Isaiah;
3. Walking with Micah leading to a justice seeking church;
4. Paul's missions.

Our first house groups of 2025 are:

Wednesday January 15th at 7.0 p.m. at Tish Baker's;

Wednesday January 29th at 2.30 p.m. at Margaret Seddon's.

At each session Stuart and I will introduce the 4 subjects and we will decide, completely democratically, which one to follow. Everyone is welcome to come to either of the sessions. *Andrew*

Our **prayer chain** is a valuable part of the spiritual life of our Church. We are a small group of dedicated people who believe in prayer, and who will pray for your needs and concerns if you ask us - in strict confidence of course. We wonder if there is anyone else who feels called to pray and would like to join us. All that is needed is to receive a prayer request (by text or telephone) - pray - then pass it on to the next person on the list. You may wish to continue praying in the next few days/weeks if you feel it is needed. - *Pauline*

### *Baptism*

What do you remember about your baptism? Yes, I know that for most of us that's a silly question. Our friends down the road at Epworth Baptist will remember their baptism as a red-letter day in their lives - a day when they responded to an adult conviction of their faith. However, most of us, myself included, were babies, too young for it to register in our memory. I have a porcelain mug - never used because of its fragility - given to me when I was just a few months old to commemorate the occasion when I was taken to All Saints, Pitsmoor, Sheffield to receive baptism.

Joan's parents, both Salvationists, took her as a baby to be 'dedicated'; the Salvation Army does not have baptism but is instead very keen on the idea of dedicating one's life to God and to His service.

Did Jesus need to be baptized? If he did, there must have been many rivers better suited to the task than the River Jordan. You will remember the Old Testament account of Naaman's cure from leprosy by bathing in it, though he was indignant and being told to wash in its water. We are taught that Jesus was without sin, yet even He felt the need for baptism. And if He, perfect as He was, wished to receive baptism, who are we to consider ourselves better than He?

And now it is the time when we Methodists renew our covenant - next week for us in Epworth. Just remind yourself of it:

***I am no longer my own but yours.***

***Put me to what you will,  
rank me with whom you will;***

***put me to doing,  
put me to suffering;***

***let me be employed for you  
or laid aside for you,***

***exalted for you  
or brought low for you;***

***let me be full,***

***let me be empty,***

***let me have all things,***

***let me have nothing;***

***I freely and wholeheartedly yield all things  
to your pleasure and disposal.***

***And now, glorious and blessed God,  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,  
you are mine and I am yours.***

***So be it.***

***And the covenant now made on earth,  
let it be ratified in heaven. Amen.***

When all the people were being baptized, Jesus was baptized too. And as he was praying, heaven was opened and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: “You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.”

Luke ch. 3, 21-22 (NIV)



Baptism is not only a sacrament of our union with Christ; it is also a sacrament of our communion as the body of Christ. - Michael Horton

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Circuit web site	<a href="http://www.esgmethodist.org.uk">www.esgmethodist.org.uk</a>
Notices	Keith Topham - <a href="mailto:grange.top35@gmail.com">grange.top35@gmail.com</a>
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### The Baptism of Christ

Beginning here we glimpse the Three-in-one;  
The river runs, the clouds are torn apart,  
The Father speaks, the Spirit and the Son  
Reveal to us the single loving heart  
That beats behind the being of all things  
And calls and keeps and kindles us to light.  
The dove descends, the spirit soars and sings  
‘You are beloved, you are my delight!’

In that quick light and life, as water spills  
And streams around the Man like quickening rain,  
The voice that made the universe reveals  
The God in Man who makes it new again.  
He calls us too, to step into that river  
To die and rise and live and love forever.

*Malcolm Guite*



Wesley Memorial  
Church, Epworth

Notices for the week commencing

**Sunday 12th January, 2025**



At Baptism, I received grace - that quality that makes me share in the very nature of God. - Mother Angelica