
Dursley Methodist Church

FEBRUARY
2025

NEWS

Contact the Minister:
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website <http://www.dursley-methodistchurch.org.uk>



We welcome all friends and visitors
and invite you to join us for
refreshments after the service.
We have large print hymn books
and a loop system.

Jimmy's February Reflection

Happy New Year! Or have I passed the date that this is still appropriate?

2025! A new year, a time for starting new things and planning the forthcoming year. Are we still able to hang onto the Advent theme of "Hush the noise", or have our calendars and life overtaken us again?

In contrast, our first service together in 2025 has been grounded in the annual Methodist Covenant Service. An invitation for us to renew our covenant relationship with God. It is a reminder of God's constant faithfulness enfolding us with generous love, wherever we find ourselves in life. And as individuals, we respond together, beginning with: "I am no longer my own but Yours, Your will, not mine, be done in all things".

I must admit, it is a piece of liturgy that stops me in my tracks. I wonder if it is the same for you? It has a profound effect on my faith and the way I live my life, as I realise that to live from one covenant service to the next, requires a total trust and reliance on God wherever life takes me, and necessitates a response from me. To help me with this, I am reminded of four things.

The lyrics of Charlotte Elliot's hymn "Just as I am" helps me to explore my humanity in the face of all that God gives through Jesus, and my response is "O lamb of God, I come!".

The last verse of the carol "In the bleak midwinter" provides an answer to the question – what part of me does God want.... "What can I give, poor as I am?... yet what I can I give [God]– give my heart."

In January, I was blessed to be at Andy Eyre's induction as the new Baptist minister at Wotton's Baptist church. At the service, his wife Ellie reminded us of the catalyst to the feeding of five thousand people who had come to listen to Jesus. A boy offered all that he had, and Jesus did the rest.

Finally, I am reminded of a story of an improbable relationship. An elephant and a mouse were friends and hung out together. One day they crossed a wooden bridge causing it to shake and sway. After they were across, the mouse impressed by their ability to make such an impact, said to the elephant, "Together, We really shook that bridge!"

It is easy to think that any relationship between us and God is improbable. But we know that we can have a very real relationship with God.

And so, as we begin this new year, wherever it takes us and whatever it offers us, let us hold fast to the promises we made in the Covenant Service.

For us to come to God, to give our heart to God and to offer what we have in our hands to serve God as and where God chooses.

Throughout 2025, I look forward to the testimonies of "bridges being shaken" as we hang out and walk with God!

Stonehouse Methodist Church

Come and join us for a

Quiz Night

with
Fish 'n Chip Supper
& Raffle



To reserve your
ticket call
07845488006

Tickets - £7.50

6.30pm

Friday 21st February

Douglas Morley Hall,

Elm Road GL10 2NP

Please contact **PAULINE**
to join a team and
arrange transport.



FlapJack Friday

2pm 28th Feb

Music,
Entertainment
& Refreshments
All Welcome

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2025
Friday 7 March 2.30pm
A service for everyone!

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER
Cam Methodist Church
Chapel Street Cam
GL11 5NX

Cook Islands *I made you wonderful*



INFORMED PRAYER | PRAYERFUL ACTION
24-7 365 Days a year Prayer movement. Ecumenical. International. Women-led
wwdp.org.uk Registered Charity Number 233242

2pm

FILM AFTERNOON

14th Feb

UNITED KINGDOM

with refreshments

Date	Readers	Welcomers	Coffee	Flowers	Preacher
2nd Feb	Christine & Brian Wetton	Cynthia Ambridge	Meriel Hellen & Pauline Chidlaw	Kath Buckingham	Jimmy Cullingford (Covenant Service & Holy Communion)
9th Feb	Bernhard Gruber & Faye Massey	Faye Massey & Margaret Pimlot	Janet & Bernard Leach	Margaret Pimlot	Liz Ledger
16th Feb	Sally Hall & Rita Joscelyne	Sally Hall	Pauline Chidlaw & Jacki Whitehead		Gareth Zimmerman
23rd Feb	Janet Leach & Gwyneth Pegler	Gwyneth Pegler	Rosemary & Ian Cross	Jane Grecian	Stuart Hobbs



Community Fridays
11am – 2pm

Free Hot Drinks
Soup Lunches for £1
Free Wi-fi
Time to Chat
Film Shows

The Methodist Covenant Service **2nd February 2025 10.30am**

The Methodist Covenant Service is a significant and meaningful tradition in the Methodist Church, usually held at the beginning of the year. It is a time for member of the congregation to renew their commitment to God, reaffirming their faith and devotion, and it holds both personal and communal significance.

The service draws from the concept of a "covenant" in the Bible, where God promises to be faithful to His people, and in response, His people pledge their faithfulness to Him. For Methodists, the Covenant Service is an opportunity to renew that personal covenant with God, acknowledging His sovereignty and committing to live according to His will.

At the heart of the service is the "Covenant Prayer," a powerful prayer of surrender and commitment. It is a solemn and humble declaration of willingness to be used by God, no matter the circumstances.

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.

The service is also communal, with the congregation coming together to affirm their shared commitment to follow Christ. There is a strong emphasis on mutual accountability and support, reflecting the Methodist understanding of the Christian life as a journey to be walked together in community.

The Covenant Service was first introduced by John Wesley, the founder of Methodism, in 1755 as a way for Methodists to deepen their commitment to God and live more intentionally in discipleship. It's a time for both reflection and renewal, an invitation to intentionally begin the year by surrendering one's life to God's will.

Dates for your diary

<i>31st January 11am - 2pm</i>	<i>Community Friday</i>
<i>4th February 7.30pm</i>	<i>Church Council</i>
<i>6th February 6.30pm</i>	<i>Safeguarding Training via Zoom</i>
<i>7th February 11am - 2pm</i>	<i>Community Friday</i>
<i>14th February 11am - 2pm</i>	<i>Community Friday</i>
<i>14th February 2pm</i>	<i>Film Afternoon - UNITED KINGDOM</i>
<i>21st February 11am - 2pm</i>	<i>Community Friday</i>
<i>21st February 6.30pm</i>	<i>Quiz Night at Stonehouse Methodist Church</i>
<i>28th February 11am - 2pm</i>	<i>Community Friday</i>
<i>28th February 2pm</i>	<i>Flapjack Friday</i>
<i>7th March 2.30pm</i>	<i>World Day of Prayer Service at Cam Methodist</i>
<i>14th March 2pm</i>	<i>Film Afternoon - A STREET CAT NAMED BOB</i>
<i>18th April 2pm</i>	<i>Good Friday Reflection led by Revd David VonBerg</i>
<i>26th April</i>	<i>David and Jenny's wedding</i>
<i>8th June 10.30am</i>	<i>Jonathon Froggatt preaching at Cam Methodist</i>