

# Bethesda Methodist Church Cheltenham

[www.bethesda-church.org.uk](http://www.bethesda-church.org.uk)  
Minister: Rev. Rachel Leather  
Lay Worker: Rachel Simpson  
Church Office tel: 01242 269803

A community of hope  
**ECO**  **CHURCH**  
AN A ROCHA UK PROJECT

We welcome all friends and visitors to our Services and invite you to join us for refreshments after the Morning Service. Services are held at Bethesda unless indicated.

## Sunday, 10<sup>th</sup> March

10:30 am	Morning Worship	Denise Baugh
3:00 pm	Holy Communion	Rev John McNeill

Lectionary Readings: Lent 4 - Mothering Sunday

Exodus 2:1-10; Psalm 34:11-20; 2 Corinthians 1:3-7; Luke 2:33-35

The Stewards today are Teresa Griffiths (am) & Keith Norman (pm).  
Alexis & Brian Cassin welcome us to church this morning.

Today's flowers are given by Elaine, Chris and Nick Bailey remembering David who died 40 years ago this week.

## Sunday, 17<sup>th</sup> March

10:30 am	Holy Communion	Rev John Hellyer
3:00 pm	Circuit Meeting, St Mark's, Gloucester Rd	
6:00 pm	Circuit Service, St Mark's, Gloucester Rd	

Lectionary Readings: Lent 5 - Passion Sunday

Jeremiah 31:31-34; Psalm 51:1-12; Hebrews 5:5-10; John 12:20-33

Large Print: If you would prefer to use a large print hymn book or service book we have some available. Also, if you cannot read the screen and would like to have a printed order of the service please speak to a steward.



This church has an induction loop system. Please set your hearing aid to the T, telephone or loop setting.

## Regular Events

<u>Monday, 11<sup>th</sup> March</u> 10:00 am Toddlers	<u>Thursday, 14<sup>th</sup> March</u> 10:00 am Toddlers
<u>Tuesday, 12<sup>th</sup> March</u> 12:30 pm Lunch Club	<u>Friday, 15<sup>th</sup> March</u>
<u>Wednesday, 13<sup>th</sup> March</u> 10:30 am Bible Study 10:30 am - 3:30 pm Warm Space Last session this season	<u>Saturday, 16<sup>th</sup> March</u> 10:30 am - 12 noon Coffee Shop (Teresa Griffiths & Bernard Stradling)

### Sunday Duty Rota - 17<sup>th</sup> March

Steward: Bridget Nye  
Vestry: Anne Rawlinson  
Welcome: Peter & Margaret Allsopp  
Communion: Graham Locke & Sally Williams  
Music: Wendy Berry  
PowerPoint: Bridget & Graham Nye  
Coffee: Katie Hare, Lindsay Williams & Val Gage  
Flower dist: Doddy Marlow  
PA: Stephen Marlow  
Screen: Graham Nye

### Mothering Sunday Flowers

This Sunday, 10<sup>th</sup> March, is Mothering Sunday and we have a beautiful floral arrangement at the front of the church for all to enjoy.

This year, instead of the purchase and distribution of individual posies, your stewards are recommending a donation from Bethesda to The Nelson Trust which operates in many centres over the South West including Cheltenham and Gloucester. Their Women's Community Services offer counselling, advocacy and help with life skills, and a Residential Rehabilitation Programme helps many achieve abstinence from substance abuse. If you would like to add to the donation, please speak to any steward.

### Cobalt Appeal

Thank you once again to everyone who has purchased Cobalt cards from the stand in the Willow. I have this week paid in £32.70. Thank you also for continuing to donate your used cards for up-cycling. Pam Brookes

## Help Wanted - [The Methodist Church @ Cheltenham Literature Festival](#) (4<sup>th</sup> - 13<sup>th</sup> October)

The Evangelism & Contemporary Cultural Officer for the Methodist Church (Holly Adams) has been in contact with the Festival organisers, who are keen to partner with the Methodist Church with a view to give us a space to host in the festival grounds. She would love the Methodist churches in Cheltenham, as well as the wider circuit, to get involved in planning and facilitating this event.

Rather than a Connexional team parachuting in, Holly is keen to work with us here in the Gloucestershire circuit. The questions & suggestions she makes are:

Could the circuit offer some volunteers to join the team who would be onsite during the festival, alongside people I could recruit from around the Connexion? I would offer training and support to these folks.

Could the circuit offer 2-4 people to meet with me, once a month for an hour on zoom between now and October, who are creative and missional, who could help me plan what we're doing?

Could folks offer accommodation in their homes to volunteers coming from further afield?

Could the circuit run a prayer support team, to be praying for the event and the work the volunteers were doing? And perhaps at the start or the end of the festival, a special service of prayer?

If you would like to know more about getting involved, or if you feel you can offer any of the above, please can you contact Rev Rachel by Monday, 18<sup>th</sup> March? [revrachel.leather@methodist.org.uk](mailto:revrachel.leather@methodist.org.uk) 07470 557332

### Alternative-Alpha Course

Do you understand what prayer is for? Do you know what the Second Coming and/or the Rapture means? Do you know why we take communion? Are you confident at reading the bible and know where to start? If the answer to all of these questions is yes, then this new house group is probably not for you. But if you would like to find out more, if you have questions you feel embarrassed at asking, if you think everyone else in church seems to have greater understanding than you, regardless of how long you have been coming to church, then this house group is definitely for you. Rev Rachel is planning on running an Alternative Alpha Course ('Thinking Out Loud') where a variety of topics can be explored and discussed. There will be no promises of absolute certainty or only one way of answering these questions, but she will share some of her thoughts on faith, belief and doctrine, and

encouraging conversation on how others find God. This will be a monthly evening House Group (location to be decided) starting after Easter...but only if there is a need for this. If you are interested in attending, please can you let Rachel know, and depending on numbers, she will get consensus on dates. For more information or to express an interest, please contact her: [revrachel.leather@methodist.org.uk](mailto:revrachel.leather@methodist.org.uk) or 07470 557 332.

### Big Plastic Count

[Tearfund](#) & Greenpeace UK are inviting you to get involved in this year's Big Plastic Count survey from 11<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> March. Almost a quarter of a million people took part in The Big Plastic Count in 2022. Together, we revealed that almost 2 billion pieces of plastic packaging are being thrown away every week in the UK. This year, you can help us to build even more evidence and use it to call for bold, global action at the UN plastics treaty talks.

During the week (11<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> March), use your tally sheet to count every single piece of plastic packaging that you throw away - that's plastic waste that you put in the bin or into recycling.

### Backpackers

On Tuesday (12<sup>th</sup>) this week the Backpackers are hoping to see the only daytime 5\* bore of the year on the River Severn at Minsterworth. As it is expected around 9:00 am our walk will necessitate an early start from Cheltenham and we will share lifts as much as possible. There will be a 3 mile walk along the river to follow and, depending on the time, late elevenses or an early lunch. Please contact Elaine if you would like to join us either just to see the bore or to join the walk.

The Backpackers will be celebrating 25 years (in which time we will have walked over 4,800 miles in 900 walks - almost as far as Calcutta to the east or Salt Lake City going west) with a picnic at Sudeley on 20<sup>th</sup> April. Please put this into your diaries.

### Calling all Pastoral Visitors

The regular spring support meeting for all Pastoral Visitors will be held on Tuesday, 12<sup>th</sup> March in The Ark at 7:30 pm. We look forward to a great turnout at the start of Race Week. Let me know if you can't come. Christine

### Circuit Foundation Safeguarding Training at Bethesda

This will be held from 10 am to 12 noon next Saturday, 16<sup>th</sup> March.

### Faith Lunch, Palm Sunday

On Palm Sunday, 24<sup>th</sup> March, we hope to join together in sharing fellowship over a 'Faith lunch' after the service. Bring whatever food you feel comfortable in sharing but we do ask, as a GOLD Eco-Church, that you bear the LOAF principles in mind in your preparations.

L - Local, O - Organic, A - Animal friendly, F - Fair trade.

While you may not be able to make all your ingredients adhere to these standards we hope it will give you food for thought!

### Easter Eggs

The Real Easter Egg from the Meaningful Chocolate Company is made from Fairtrade chocolate, is palm oil free and includes a mini Easter storybook. The sale of these supports charitable projects. I am happy to order these in bulk at £5 per egg. If you would like any please email me by 17<sup>th</sup> March or see me at Church. Payment upon delivery.

Thank you, Helen Davies

### Date for Your Diary

You are warmly invited to the welcome service for the Rev Dr Marcus Torchon, the new chair of the Bristol Methodist District at 3:30 pm on Saturday, 31st August at St Mary Redcliffe church, Bristol BS1 6RA with refreshments afterwards at Faithspace Methodist Community, Redcliffe BS1 6PB. Poster available [online](#). Any enquiries and to RSVP please contact the district office: 07743 398186. RSVP also by email to [synod.secretary@bristolmethodist.org.uk](mailto:synod.secretary@bristolmethodist.org.uk)

### Bethesda Service Recordings

Audio recordings of the most recent [morning](#) and [afternoon](#) services are available.

### Congregation Email List for Bethesda, Hawling and North Cerney Fellowship

To join this please use the contact form at [wp.bethesda-church.org.uk/contact/](http://wp.bethesda-church.org.uk/contact/) stating that you wish to join the congregation list.

### Items for Notices

Items for the notices should be sent to Graham Nye by 7 pm on the preceding Thursday.

Telephone numbers are Cheltenham area (01242-) unless otherwise indicated.

These notices are available from the church website at [bethesda-church.org.uk](http://bethesda-church.org.uk), via the congregation email list or via the church twitter account:

 [@Bethesda\\_Chelt](#)

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