



ST. MARK'S METHODIST CHURCH

Minister: Rev Rachel Leather

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Sunday 15 September 2024 10.30am Local Arrangement led by a team from St Mark's

Sunday 15 September 3.00pm Circuit Assembly at Stonehouse Methodist Church followed by circuit service at 6.00pm

Collect for the twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

God our Redeemer, who called your Church to witness that you were in Christ reconciling the world to yourself: help us so to proclaim the good news of your love that all who hear it may be reconciled to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

From day 15 of the Methodist Prayer Handbook

Praying with Christians in the Middle East and the Isle of Man District of the Methodist Church

By the sorrow you suffered when all the powers of your heart failed you, O Jesus have mercy on us. In our days of darkness help us and in our hours of weakness strengthen us that we do not lose hold of you in this life, nor fail to enjoy you in the life of the world to come. Amen
Bridget of Sweden (1303-1373)

Live stream link: <https://youtube.com/live/OrurP0yhou4?feature=share>

Please join us for refreshments in the hall after the service.

Notices

Tuesday 17 September 10.00am-12noon Coffee morning in church. All welcome.

Wednesday 18 September 9.00am Ecumenical communion service at Bishop's Cleeve Methodist Church.

Wednesday 18 September 9.30am-11.30am Toddlers in the main hall.

Friday 20 September 7.00pm Music practice in church.

Sunday 22 September 10.30am Denise Baugh

Some dates from Cheltenham Green Christians

Thursday 19 September 7.00pm, Season of Creation zoom with Vatican consultant Fr Josh Kureethadam, organised by the Scottish Catholic bishops: book [here](#).

Friday 20 September 7.00pm *If Prison Walls Could Speak* is the title of a play being performed at Highbury Church, Cheltenham GL52 6DT. It tells the true story of a Christian humanitarian worker Petr Jasek who was imprisoned by the authorities in Sudan for the 'crime' of helping the small indigenous churches in that country: click [here](#) to book.

Saturday 21 September International Day of Peace – if you would like to join a Peace & Friendship Walk that day in Cheltenham (starting 9.30am) contact info@cheltenhaminterfaith.org.uk. There's also a Peace Vigil planned for 4.00pm in the Town Centre, and a bring/share gathering at 6.30pm

27-29 September 'To hope & act with Creation – learning from the animals' is the theme for a residential weekend at Brownhill Monastery GL6 8AL: details [here](#).

Our Cheltenham MP, Max Wilkinson has been selected for the House of Commons Private Members' Bill Ballot. This means he can champion a Bill through to its next stage in Parliament, and there's one Bill in particular which is really important for safeguarding God's Creation - the Climate & Nature Bill. Max has already pledged to support it, and if passed it would address the full extent of the climate and nature crisis in line with the most up-to-date science. [This link](#) enables you (assuming you are a Cheltenham constituent) to send Max a message, urging him to back the Bill. A great way 'to Hope and Act with Creation'.

Advance notices

Our harvest celebrations will take place on Sunday 29 September. If you are able please bring gifts of tinned and dried goods and also fresh fruit and vegetables. These will be divided between our local foodbank and GARAS (Gloucestershire action for refugees and asylum seekers). Monetary donations for GARAS and the foodbank can also be received on that day. Thank you.



Cheltenham Literature Festival and Us

The Methodist Evangelism Team will be hosting a venue at the Cheltenham Literature Festival called The Hush. The venue will be in Montpellier Gardens and will offer a relaxing space on the theme of wellbeing and spirituality. I am looking for some volunteers who might be willing to join the team throughout the festival to staff the space.

We are looking for volunteers who can:

- Volunteer for at least one shift - shifts will be organised into three slots throughout the day: a morning slot (9.30am-12.30pm) an afternoon slot (12.00pm-4.00pm) and an early evening slot (3.30pm-7.30pm) throughout the festival from the 4-13 October.
- Offer a warm welcome to people who visit the venue and engage with members of the public at the event, invite them to relax in the venue, and to take part in any activities that are happening.
- Be attentive to the space we're in, keeping it safe, tidy and clean.

There is more information and a sign up form here: <https://r1.dotdigital-pages.com/p/BV1-1GE6/volunteering-for-the-methodist-church-at-cheltenham-literature-festival>

It will be a really fantastic way for local folks to get involved with a mission project – without it being too scary! Holly Adams who heads up the Connexional Evangelism Team wants this to feel like this is a partnership with local folks, and not something ‘the Connexion’ is doing parachuting in. This has always been about engaging the local circuit, but of course we’re now running on a super tight timescale, with the festival less than a month away. Rachel

A sparkling production of dance, theatre, song and poetry for all the family!

Bethesda Methodist Church, Cheltenham 6 December 7.30pm

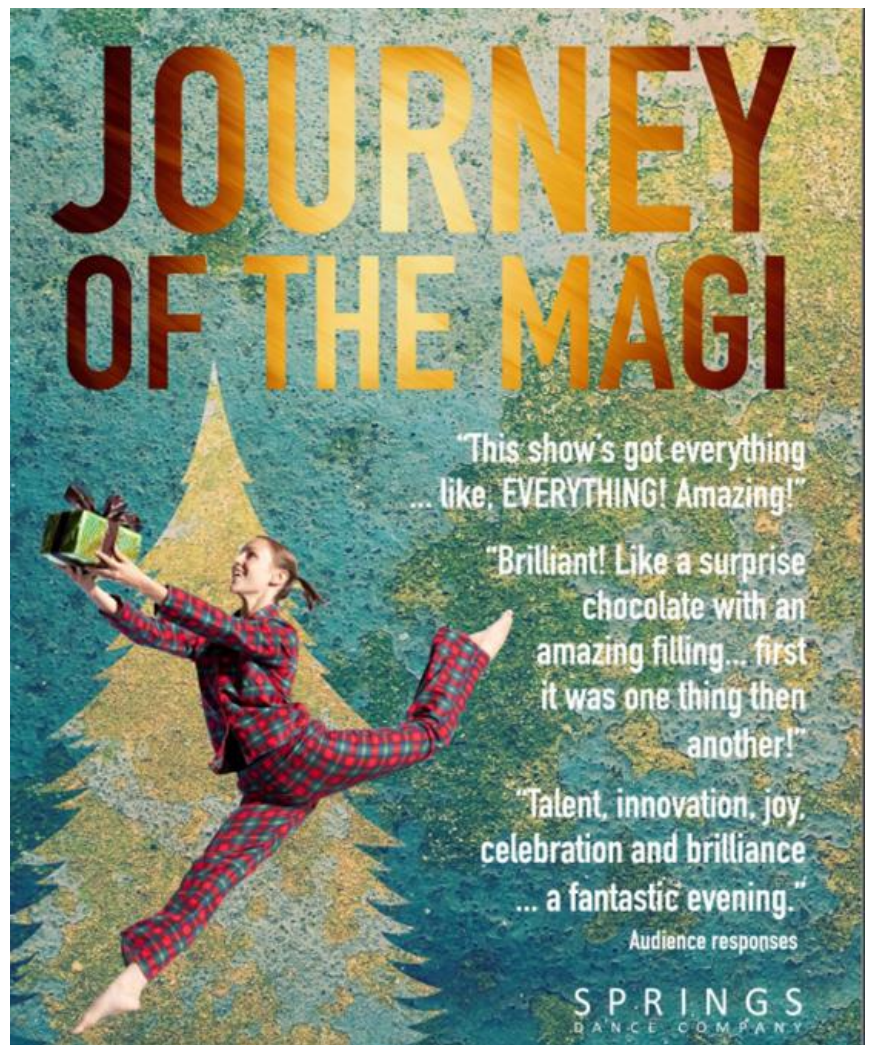
Journey of the Magi

Springs Dance Company brings its festive, witty and poignant Advent performance. *Journey of the Magi* to Bethesda.

Early bird discount available until 30 September

Journey of the Magi is a fast-paced, brilliantly witty performance inspired by T. S. Eliot’s poem of the same name. The show offers a contemporary comparison between the quest of the wise men 2000 years ago, and our own preparations in the run up to Christmas. Relatable characters help viewers to be inspired in their own “journey” to Christmas Day and can help them think about who Christ is for them.

Journey of the Magi is a family show: accessible for all, fun and thought provoking, full of warmth, hilarity and insight. It offers a wonderful opportunity to laugh, reflect and refocus during advent.



To book tickets please visit:

<http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/995071344177>

Early bird discount is available until 30 September with the Promo Code “MAGI10”