



Bethesda Methodist Church

Minister: Rev. Rachel Leather
www.bethesda-church.org.uk - Tel 01242 269803



MARCH NOTICES

WE WELCOME ALL FRIENDS AND VISITORS TO OUR SERVICES.
WE INVITE YOU TO JOIN US FOR REFRESHMENTS IN THE HALL AFTER THE MORNING SERVICE.



We want to be an inclusive church and seek to make our services accessible to all. If you need any help or assistance please speak to a steward. If you have suggestions to help us improve please get in touch.



Please set your hearing aid to the T, telephone or loop setting.

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



We are a Gold award Ecochurch.
Find out more at
<https://ecochurch.arocha.org.uk/>

Sundays this month

Sunday 1st March

10:30am - Morning Worship at Bethesda - Rev Rachel Leather

3:00pm - District Service at Midsomer Norton

6:00pm - Evening Worship at Hawling - Rev Rachel Leather

6:30pm - Youth Discipleship Group

7:30pm - Youth Group - Seminar night

Lectionary: Genesis 12: 1-4a, Psalm 121, Romans 4: 1-5, 13-17, John 3: 1-17

Sunday 8th March

10:30am - Morning Worship at Bethesda - Rev Steve Ward
Sunday Morning Youth Group

Lectionary: Exodus 17: 1-7, Psalm 95, Romans 5: 1-11, John 4: 5-42

Sunday 15th March

10:30am - Holy Communion at Bethesda - Rev Rachel Leather

4:30pm - Youth Discipleship Group

5:45pm - Youth Group - Social night out

6:00pm - Holy Communion at Hawling - Rev Rachel Leather

Lectionary: 1 Samuel 16: 1-13, Psalm 23, Ephesians 5: 8-14, John 9: 1-41

Sunday 22nd March

10:30am - Morning Worship at Bethesda - Rev John Kime

6:00pm - Evening Worship at Hucclecote - **Circuit Service**

Lectionary: Ezekiel 37: 1-14, Psalm 130, Romans 8: 6-11, John 11: 1-45

Sunday 29th March - Palm Sunday

10:30am - Ecumenical Service with Pip and Jim's at Bethesda
Sunday Morning Youth Group

6:00pm - Evening Worship at Hawling - Rev John Kime

6:30pm - Youth Discipleship Group

7:30pm - Youth Group - Games night

Lectionary: Matthew 21: 1-11, Psalm 118: 1-2, 19-29,
Isaiah 50: 4-9a, Psalm 31: 9-16, Philippians 2: 5-11,
Matthew 26:14 - 27: 66



Monthly Notices

Lent Group

Lent is a season of invitation. It begins on Ash Wednesday and lasts for 40 days (not counting Sundays) before Easter. As the days lengthen and the earth begins to stir, we're invited to loosen our grip on what holds us back – habits, assumptions, fears – and open ourselves to the renewing presence of God. Our Lent journey isn't always easy, but it's rich with possibility. And it's better shared with travelling companions.

Our 'Let Go and Be Open' group is designed to facilitate a journey through Lent together: one that is peaceful, reflective and real. It's a place of gentle connection, where new insights can take root and grow. So come and join us on Tuesday evenings from 7:30pm at Bethesda in The Well.



Christine Pringle (please note change of date)

Memorial prayers will be held for Christine Pringle in the sanctuary at Bethesda on Wednesday 10th March at 2pm. We will be lighting candles and holding a short service to remember Christine and all are welcome to attend. This will be followed by tea and cake in the Willow. It would be helpful for numbers if you were able to indicate to the stewards or either of the Rachels if you will be attending.

FUNDRAISING CAKE SALE – A message from Owen Radtke

Recently I have been fundraising for HCPT which is a charity that is made up of numerous groups and they take children with special needs to Lourdes at Easter at no expense to the parents.

I am volunteering with group 3 which is the group based in Gloucestershire and we are taking a group of children to Lourdes this year with multiple helpers including myself. This group is great and they took my brother to Lourdes in 2019 which is how I know about them. In order to cover the costs all of the volunteers do some individual fundraising as well as the group doing some together.

For my fundraising I have a 35km walk along the Cotswold Way arranged for late February or early March as well as carrying out coffee mornings/events at local churches. We are doing a cake sale after the 10.30am service at Bethesda on **Sunday 8th March**. If anyone can contribute cakes or come and buy some cakes that would be great!



'Roots' Service

On Saturday 7th March (and every first Saturday of the month) St Marks, Gloucester Road hold their contemporary worship service 'Roots' in the afternoon at 3-4pm. This is a relaxed and friendly all-age service with live worship and discussion.



Easter Experience Volunteers

During the week leading up to Palm Sunday, Sean is running Easter experience sessions for some of the children and young people's groups. These sessions will be short, relaxed, and inclusive (approximately 20 minutes) and will be conducted together as a big group. It will take place in the church sanctuary/or hall. We'll explore key aspects of the Easter story from a Christian perspective through four simple interactive stations (The Cross, The Stone, The Hope, and The Empty Cross). We are looking for a few volunteers to assist during these sessions. If you are interested and can make any of the time slots below, please speak to Sean or email him at sean.marsh@bethesda-church.org.uk

Sunday 22nd March:

10.30 – 11.30, with Junior Church.

Tuesday 24th March:

17.00 – 18.00, with Rainbows.

18.30 – 19.30, with Brownies.

19.30 – 20.30, with South Cheltenham Anglican Youth Group.

Thursday 26th March:

18.30 – 19.30, with Cubs.

Sunday 29th March:

19.00 – 20.00, with Bethesda Youth Group.

Social Action

Two women are facing execution by stoning in Sudan, both accused (without evidence) of adultery. Sham trials have taken place and they have been sentenced to death.

If you are able, please sign the petition below – Rev Rachel has received this from a reputable source: Click [here](#) for the link or visit avaaz.org/campaign/en/stoning_in_sudan_loc/

ACTIVITIES THROUGH THE WEEK

WE HAVE LOTS GOING ON DURING THE WEEK; FIND OUT MORE HERE. PLEASE CONTACT THESE GROUPS DIRECTLY IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS OR WOULD LIKE FURTHER INFORMATION.



Saturday Coffee

Join us for coffee, cake and a chat every Saturday morning from 10:30 - 12:00 here at Bethesda. Donations to charity.

Jigsaw Swap - Do you enjoy a jigsaw? Would you like to try new one? Then come along to our jigsaw swap at Saturday coffee shop on 21st March, where you will find a plentiful variety of jigsaws to choose from. We look forward to seeing you.



Bethesda Singers

The singing group will be meeting on Thursday 12th March and Thursday 26th March in The Well. Join us at 7pm for tea and a chat to begin singing at 7:15pm. We warmly welcome new singers do come along and join us!

The Welcome Table

An invitation for older people, living independently, who would like to meet others for a cup of coffee and a casual catch up. Meeting on the 1st Thursday in each month from 10:30am-12noon at the Fiore Lounge at the top of the Bath Road. Do join us on **5th March**. If you would like more details please message info@cabic.co.uk

Ecumenical World Day of Prayer

A service which has been prepared by Christian women of Nigeria on the theme, 'I will give you rest, come', will be held at Bishop's Cleeve Methodist Church on **Friday 6th March** at 10:30am. All are welcome to attend. Light refreshments will be served after the service.



Curry Club - The next curry evening will be held at 7pm on Monday 2nd March, at the Nepalese Chef, 30 Clarence Street. All are welcome. If you would like to join this evening of food and fellowship, please contact Katie on Chelt.

Toddlers

Our parent and toddler groups meet on Monday and Thursday each week from 10am in the church hall. The toddler groups will meet throughout March.

Bethesda Backpackers

There are 4 Backpackers walks before Easter. Most walks start at 9.30 and we ask that you contact the walk leader in good time so they can arrange lifts and have the numbers to book lunch which is becoming increasingly difficult early in the week.

Saturday March 7th Alan () is leading a 3-mile easy, but possibly muddy, walk from Colesbourne. There is a gentle slope soon after the start. Otherwise undulating and no stiles. 10am start time.

On Wednesday 11th March (Race week) at 9.30am, a 4-mile walk in Sevenhampton, with some steady ascents and descents with 1 stile. Please let Anne Robertson know by 6:30pm on Tuesday evening on () if you intend to join us.

On Monday 16th March, an easy 3 mile walk in Pittville Park starting at 10am. Please contact Anne Robertson, () by 6:30pm the evening before.

Tuesday March 24th Elaine () has a 4-mile fairly flat walk from Coates near Cirencester, hopefully lunching at the reopened Tunnel Inn.

There will not be a walk during Easter week.

Calling all gardeners!

We will be holding a plant share after the service on Sunday 10th May. If you find you have any spare plants or cuttings, we'd be grateful if you could please bring them along on the day for others to take home and enjoy. Thank you.



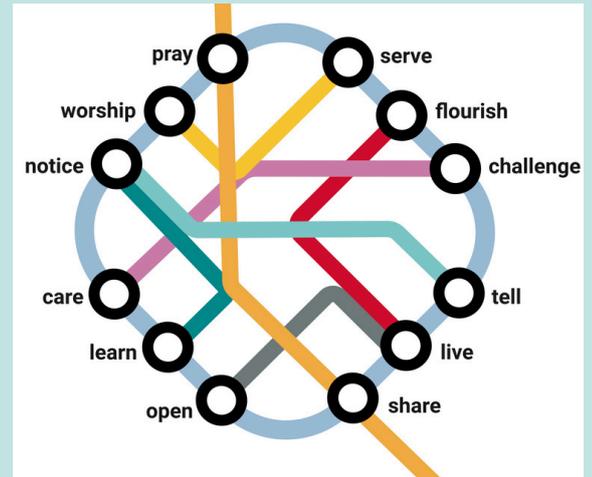
The Methodist Way of Life

God longs to take you on a journey of a lifetime. Being a disciple is a bit like being a traveller on a train; taking an adventure through life, taking risks, growing and learning. It starts with a choice: getting on the train and committing to following Jesus.

In the Methodist Church, there are 12 practices that we think particularly help us to encounter God. We call this A Methodist Way of Life. Each practice is a station on the journey where we meet God and grow in faith.

Every time we visit a station, we learn something new about ourselves and Jesus, as the Holy Spirit works in us. That's why it's important to reflect on our experiences, alone and with others, as we journey.

God calls each of us to get involved in all 12, as each helps us to respond to God's love in a different way. We do not expect to be perfect in this, but we live out these practices as far as we are able, with God's help.



We respond to God's love in Christ through the way we live our lives.

The calling of the Methodist Church is to support you in this. To find out more visit: www.methodist.org.uk/faith/a-methodist-way-of-life/

Contact us...

Minister: Rev Rachel Leather
revrachel.leather@methodist.org.uk

Stewards: Bridget Nye, Keith Norman, Teresa Griffiths and Joanne Reed
Stewards@bethesda-church.org.uk

Safeguarding, Pastoral Care & Hospitality:
Rachel Simpson
rachel.simpson@bethesda-church.org.uk

Children, Young People & Families: Sean Marsh
sean.marsh@bethesda-church.org.uk

Music Coordinator: Diana Wadsworth
music@bethesda-church.org.uk



The work we do in this church and circuit is funded through offerings. If you would like to give to our life and mission at Bethesda please scan this QR code to make an online donation.

April 2026 notices

To receive our notices via email please join the congregation email list by emailing notices@bethesda-church.org.uk. These notices (without personal phone numbers and email addresses) are also available on our website www.bethesda-church.org.uk

Please send any notices for the **April edition** to: notices@bethesda-church.org.uk as soon as you can and by 9pm on Wednesday 25th March at the latest.

We are trialling a new monthly notices sheet. For more urgent messages or notices please contact the stewards@bethesda-church.org.uk and copy in notices@bethesda-church.org.uk and between us we will get the message out. Please bear with us as we adjust!



Please also follow us on Facebook and Bluesky. Please like, share and comment on our posts to help people to hear about us and what we do.

