



Zion Methodist Church Notices Sunday 22 December 2024



Sunday 22 December: 10.30am

- ✝ Worship led by Mr M Jessop
- ✝ Fourth Sunday in Advent
- ✝ Carol Service

Tuesday 24 December: 3pm

- ✝ Worship led by Rev Dr Val Ogden
- ✝ Christmas Eve
- ✝ Christingle Circuit Service at Zion

Wednesday 25 December: 10am

- ✝ Worship led by Rev Dr Val Ogden
- ✝ Christmas Day service at Zion

Sunday 29 December: 10.30am

- ✝ Circuit Service at Centenary
- ✝ No service at Zion

Sunday 5 January 2025: 10.30am

- ✝ Worship led by Rev Greenwood
- ✝ Covenant Service
- ✝ Holy Communion

Tuesday 12 January: 10.30am

- ✝ Worship led by Mr M Jessop
- ✝ Charity collection: Centrepont

Advent (week 4) Liturgy – The Love Song

Preparations almost complete, the time is nearly here.
Promises and praises echo all around,
Silencing the noises of injustice.

O hush the noise, **Let's hear the angels sing.**

The promise of God for the servant lowly, God who comes to the help of all,
whose ancient promise still stands today.

O hush the noise, **Let's hear the angels sing.**

And we watch and we seek, and we learn, we pray and we praise, and we wait
and we wait. O hush the noise, **Let's hear the angels sing.**



Christmas Day Liturgy – Hear the Angels Sing

Light in our darkness, joy in our sorrow, our Saviour is born, the Prince of Peace,
the King of all, Emmanuel, God with us.

Let's share the song, **With angels let us sing.**

Glory to God, revealed among us, given for us, offered for us, living within, one
with us. Let's share the song, **With angels let us sing.**

The day is here, the time is now. Promised long ago and promised still. Within
the laughter and the chat, Let's share the song, **With angels let us sing.**

Zion Christmas Cards

The board near the Kitchen door is available for your Christmas cards to the
church community. Also on the board is an Advent Calendar for the community
to use. Pull off the correct holly leaf and place in the bag provided.

Centenary Community Meals at Christmas

Community Lunches Christmas Opening.

- ✚ Wednesday 25 December, Christmas Day: open 10am till 4pm for fun and festivities. 12pm Hot dinner.
- ✚ Friday 27 December: 9.30am Warm Space; 12pm Hot dinner.
- ✚ Wednesday 1 January, New Year's Day: 9.30am Warm Space; 12pm Hot dinner.

A Christmas Message from the President and Vice-President

In this year's Christmas Message, the President of the Methodist Conference, the Revd Helen Cameron, and Vice-President, Carolyn Godfrey, offer a timely message of hope and stillness amidst life's overwhelming noise.

<https://www.methodist.org.uk/about/news/president-and-vice-president-christmas-message-2024/>

Recognising the challenges of modern existence – from global news to personal struggles – the message encourages community members to pause, reflect and listen for “the song of the angels”.

In the film, they explore how overwhelming life can be and the importance of self-care, as well as the power of Christian love:

“We are now in Advent and a time of preparation for Christmas and the voices and noises in our hearts and heads can feel amplified, but we have the chance to pause in our thoughts, look around us, hush the noise and listen for the song of the angels. [...] At Christmas we celebrate the birth of Jesus, the son of God, God coming close to us, and our lives. This is good news for all of us. God is born among us, in us, in our world. It means that the love of God comes close to us, to those we love and to those who we struggle to love and care for. God does not discriminate.”

Their Christmas message ties in with the theme of the Methodist Church's Christmas campaign Hush the Noise which encourages us to take time out to listen to the song of the angels.

The President and Vice President's message was filmed at Edale Methodist Chapel, which is situated in the Peak District between Manchester and Sheffield, part of the Peak Wesley Way – a pilgrimage linking the beauty of the Peak District to local Methodist Chapels.

Hush the loneliness: belonging matters

Tracey Collins, Wellbeing Officer in the South West Peninsula Methodist District, wrote a blog about the power of connecting with others.

<https://www.methodist.org.uk/about/our-stories/hush-the-loneliness-belonging-matters/>

The word belonging is a word that we hear a lot, but what do you think of when you hear the word belonging? Many of us will conclude that belonging is one of the basic human needs and that it has a significant positive impact on our

general well-being. To me, belonging means I am accepted and valued and I am part of something that makes me feel safe and happy.

We are aware through the media that a growing number of people are reporting feelings of loneliness and isolation, this is backed up by recent studies, and this research has emphasised that loneliness is not only prevalent in our society, but it is sadly on the increase. COVID-19 has played a significant part in this increase, but so have busy lifestyles, the replacement of face-to-face encounters by digital communications and also societal shifts.

When we can share our personal thoughts, memories, and experiences with other people it helps us to feel more connected and that we belong to something bigger. Being united is a powerful feeling and it is the shared common experiences we experience that can improve our general well-being as well as strengthen our friendships, and create meaningful lasting relationships. Belonging importantly makes us feel safe.

We all need to experience fulfilment, feel valued and have purpose. We connect to something bigger when we feel we belong.

Supportive church communities can play a significant role in helping people feel connected and to belong. These strong church communities can give people opportunities to interact, form new relationships, and share experiences by providing both a warm environment for worship and fellowship, as well as community involvement.

By living up to the ideals of love and compassion, churches can provide much-needed care and can accomplish great things. Providing a haven where people can flourish and achieve spiritual growth through a journey with others is both biblical and missional. Acts of kindness have a wonderful and powerful way of spreading, and enriching our sense of community and of belonging both within our own connections and beyond.

The heart of the Christmas message is found in the birth of Jesus, highlighting the significance of welcoming for ALL. This Christmas I encourage us to think about that deep connection between love and compassion, and the connection that belonging brings, which is not just limited to our close connections, but extends to those who may feel alone or marginalised.

This Christmas, let's challenge ourselves to honour our relationships and reaffirm that everyone deserves a place to call home. The Christmas story tells us that together, with Christ at the centre, we can work to create a world that is filled with joy, hope, and love, and where everyone feels they belong.

Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF)

As we gear up for the festive season, what Christmas gift are you dreaming of this year? For MAF pilot Ryan Koher, it's the gift of freedom following false accusations and imprisonment for a crime he didn't commit. Listen to Ryan's incredible story in episode 10 of the Flying for Life podcast: <https://maf-uk.org/podcast/>

For Madagascans, it's the promise of better infrastructure connecting them to life's essential services. For MAF's Captain Marcus Grey, it's recognition of 40 years of life-transforming service.

And what would make the perfect gift for others this year? Check out MAF's Christmas catalogue and change someone's life today: <https://maf-uk.org/gift-catalogue/> *Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from MAF!*

Memorial Service for Margaret McLean at Zion: Friday 10 January, 1pm

Memorial Service for Margaret McLean will be on Friday 10 January at 1pm at Zion. We are encouraged to wear colours, especially yellow or purple, to reflect Margaret's love for garden flowers. Tea/Coffee and cake will be served after the service.

Weekly activities at Zion		
Mondays	10am-12pm	Knit & Knatter
	2pm-3pm	Zumba dance class
	7.15pm	Badminton (Sep-Apr)
Tuesdays	6pm-7.15pm	Beavers and Cubs
	7pm-9pm	Scouts
	7.30pm	'The Way' Fellowship Group (1 st and 3 rd Tue)
Wednesdays	9.45am	Boston Community Health Walk
	5pm-6pm	Rainbows
	6pm-7.15pm	Brownies
	7pm	Short Mat Bowls (Sep-May)
Thursdays	7.15pm-8.45pm	Guides
	9.30am-11.30am	Coffee Morning
	12.30pm	Community Lunch (3 rd Thu; booking required)
Fridays	10am	Trinity Badminton Group
	2pm-4pm	Come & Meet Each Other (CAMEO) – table top games, puzzles

Next notices on 5 January 2025