



# Messenger

## Solihull Methodist Church

December 2023 / January 2024

### Journey to Christmas



**Sunday 3 December**  
*Advent Sunday*

**10.30 am**

#### **Gift Service**

Advent 1: Love brings peace  
Focus on a local charity (the Sweet Project) working with deprived families

**3.00 pm**

#### **Service of Love and Remembrance**

Help and support for those who have lost someone and finding Christmas difficult.

**Sunday 10 December**

**10.30 am**

#### **Holy Communion**

Advent 2: Peace brings hope

**Sunday 17 December**

**10.30 am**

#### **Morning Service**

Advent 3: Hope brings joy

**6.30 pm**

#### **Candlelight Carol Service**

Christmas singing, poetry and readings followed by mince pies

**Saturday 23 December**

**3.00 pm**

#### **Crib Service**

Lively interactive telling of the Christmas story for all ages

**Sunday 24 December**  
*Christmas Eve*

**10.30 am**

#### **Service of Lessons and Carols**

Advent 4: Joy leads to Christ  
A traditional service which tells the story of Jesus' birth through bible readings and carols.

**11.15 pm**

#### **Late night communion**

See in Christmas by giving thanks to Christ

**Monday 25 December**  
*Christmas Day*

**10.30 am**

#### **Christmas Celebration**

Children are invited to bring a new toy to show

**Saturday 13 January**

**3.00 pm**

#### **Christingle Service**

For everyone to make a Christingle; a candle representing Jesus, Light of the world.

### In this issue

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# Church Family News

## Baptism



Freddy and Charlotte, son and daughter of Fraser and Sophie, grandchildren of Indira were baptised on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> November.

## Prayer Box



We pray for:

- Doreen Haviland
- the family and friends of Rev David Blanchflower and Tim Iles
- those of our church family in care homes
- those for whom this is a difficult season

## Memorial Service: All Are Welcome With Love

Whether this is your first Christmas without someone you love, or if it's many years since you were bereaved, it can still be a tough time of year for anyone who has lost someone special. That is why at Solihull Methodist Church we are holding a:

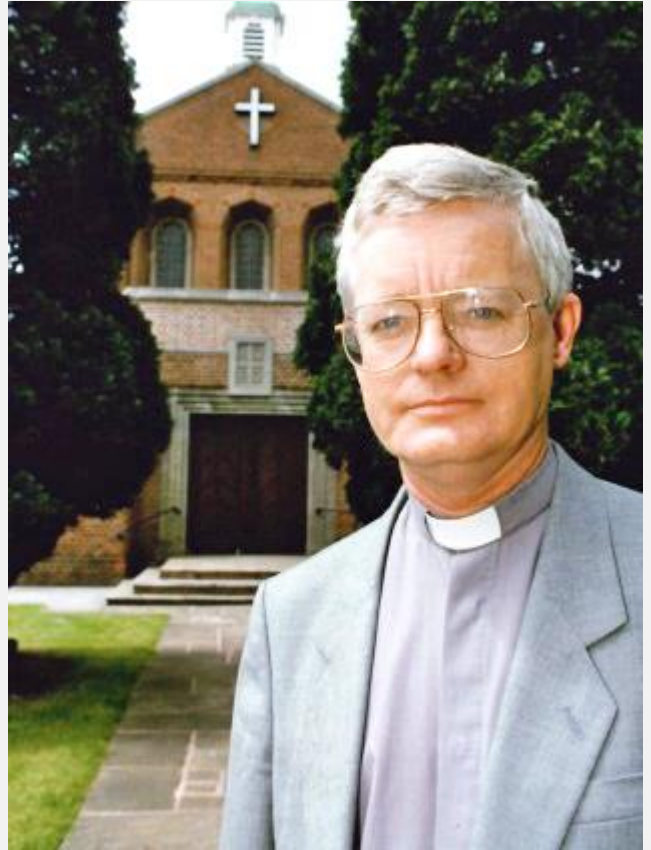
### Service of Love and Remembrance Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 3pm.

Led by the minister: Rev Molly Chitokwindo

If you want your loved one's name to be remembered, please contact the office at Solihull Methodist on 0121 705 7367

## Deaths

**Rev David Blanchflower** died on 12<sup>th</sup> November. David was the minister at Solihull Methodist Church from 1995 to 2003. David had retired to Cambridge.



**Tim Iles** died at the end of October. Tim had been a life long member of Solihull Methodist Church. For many years Tim carried out the valuable service of posting the Messengers to the church family, who live away from Solihull.





# Minister's Message for December

Dear Friends,

Another season of Advent is beginning. For Christians the world over, this means beginning a new year of reflection and action about who and what we are called to be. It is a season of choices, preparation and beginnings.

Scriptures that call us to make choices about where we stand mark the opening days of this season. They point toward Jesus' call for a 'new world order' and highlight our human struggle in choosing between the powers of this world and the power of God. As we recall the birth of Jesus and reflect on the Biblical town of Bethlehem, we cannot help but think of the Bethlehem of today with the conflict in Israel and Palestine and then all the other conflicts around the world, including Ukraine, Syria, Yemen and many others. You name them.

My brothers and sisters let us lift up the call to wage a just peace rather than war. Advent is a time to renew hope in a God that loved the world so much that a child was sent to

proclaim a new heaven and a new earth. Christians find our way by faith in the incarnation. It is what allows us to believe that we have a choice in how to respond to daily violence. It is what allows us to believe that the larger choices of war and its destruction are not out of our hands.

Faithful choices and thoughtful preparations create ways for new beginnings. Advent is a time to rejoice that today is not too late to start anew. In the chaos of our world, we hear the angels proclaim, "Do not be afraid; I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people." (Luke 2:10) We rejoice, for the world can be a different place, knowing that God will work miracles within us.

Come, Lord Jesus, as a family we thank God for his love we experience through your love to us..

May God bless you all for your support. Peace and Joy

Rev. Molly



## Carol Singing



Generations Outreach organise regular worship each month at care homes in Solihull. It is led by representatives of Churches Together in Central Solihull. At Christmas they will sing carols at four of the homes:

### **Fountains Care Home**

1355 Stratford Rd, Shirley, Solihull B90 4EF

**Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> December 11 am**

### **Blossomfield Rose Care Home**

Blossomfield Park, Blossomfield Rd, B91 1FN

**Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December 11 am**

### **Royal Star and Garter Home**

Tudor Coppice, Monkspath Hall Rd, B91 3DE

**Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December 11.30 am**

Meet at Solihull Methodist Church Car Park at 11am due to limited parking.

### **Hampton House**

17-19 Hampton Ln, Solihull B91 2QJ

**Monday 17<sup>th</sup> December 11 am**

Meet at Solihull Methodist Church Car Park at 10.30am, parking at the Leisure Centre.

**There will also be Carol Singing outside Solihull Station on**

**Thursday 21st December 4.30 pm - 6.30 pm**

**Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> December 4.30 pm - 6.30 pm**

**Saturday 23rd December 4.30 pm - 6.30 pm**

Come and join in

All money raised will go to **Birmingham Christmas Shelter**. A local charity that raises funds and recruits volunteers each year to provide local adults who are homeless or otherwise alone at Christmas with a free warm, safe and welcoming place to eat, shower, sleep and enjoy Christmas.

See Diane Webb for more details.

## Christmas Angels for Care Homes



When we are Carol Singing in the Care Homes, it is nice to share a gift with the residents. For the last few years we have given out Angels in each of the homes.

**Would you be able to help with this please?**

The link to the pattern:

<http://www.christmasangel.net/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/Christmas-Angel.pdf>

Patterns are also available on Notice Board in Hall.

If you could also sew a little loop on the top that would be great.

Please let me know if you can help with this project?

We would seek to gather them in by 10th December 2023.

Diane Webb.

# Remembrance Day Flowers

Margaret Rumens did another stunning flower arrangement for Remembrance Sunday, 12<sup>th</sup> November. She says that the design this year shows simple wooden crosses made of ordinary wooden doweling representing the thousands of war graves of ordinary, yet extraordinary people all over the world with the reminder written on them 'Lest We Forget' – not just the fallen and injured in service, but the quest for peace which is so easily forgotten.

The war graves are arranged in tidy formal lines but here they are strewn and off vertical as though cast aside, their message sadly ignored.

**Lest we forget indeed.**



## Christmas Shoebox Appeal

**WOW!** What a wonderful response to this year's Christmas Shoebox Appeal. **94** Shoeboxes which is an amazing result and a big increase on last year's total. A huge **THANK YOU** to everyone for all your donations including an excellent response to the request for 'shoebox fillers' (quite a number have come from folk using our Community Centre). The knitters among you have been very busy and we have received hats, hand puppets and bags, purses and soap bags, also, stationery, toiletries, hair accessories, soft toys – the list is endless, and all these extra items are very much appreciated as 'fillers' to add to incomplete shoeboxes. These shoebox gifts will travel to needy children and deprived communities in Ukraine, Romania, Moldova, Georgia and Bosnia.

PLEASE keep knitting. Plenty of patterns available in the church and on the church hall notice boards. PLEASE continue to support this worthwhile appeal throughout the year by adding 'filler' items to the box on the shelf at the back of the church. PLEASE save your empty shoeboxes.

People say "its just a shoebox" but it is so much more than that. It tells a child that someone, somewhere, has done this for them; that someone cares about them. Truly, Love in a Box.

There is more information on the Teams4U website.



# T4U

## Calling Walkers



### Turkey Trot

**Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> December** will be the annual turkey trot. Walkers will meet in the church car park at 9.30 am. After about 5 miles the walk will end at The Fleur de Lys, Lowsonford for the festive lunch.

Let Martin know if you are interested. Partners, friends and non-walkers welcome to come and join the meal.

### New Year's Day Family Walk



**All ages welcome**  
*Walk off the extra calories from Christmas*

### Stroll around Knowle on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> January

Meet at 10.30am from the Knowle Parish Church car park and the walk is approximately 3.25 miles in countryside and some urban walking around the perimeter of Knowle. There will be warming soup and mince pies back at the church hall afterwards.



# Church Project

## Matthew Rusike Children's Home (MRCH)

The Matthew Rusike Children's Home Childcare initiative was influenced by the work of the late Rev. Matthew Jacha Rusike who worked tirelessly for the benefit of the less privileged children. Rev. Rusike helped the church to establish a residential care facility for orphaned and vulnerable children in Epworth, 15km east of Harare in 1960. The facility was registered in 1968. It was essentially providing residential care facilities for orphaned and vulnerable children. Currently the home operates a multifaceted programme that combines residential care and community based orphan care initiatives in response to the growing number of children in need of care.

Although it started as an individual vision, the Matthew Rusike Children's Home (MRCH) has developed into one of the largest child welfare organizations in Zimbabwe, caring for over 100 children in its residential care facilities and about 1000 children in its Community Based Orphan Care Schemes. It employs a staff complement of 36 in its childcare services. The MRCH has decentralized its childcare projects to other districts and circuits through home and community based care initiatives. The organization is also setting up and running Community Resource Centres for children in need of care.

**Our church project is raising funds to provide a new classroom and solar panels for the improvement of the Early Child Development Centre.**



If you would like to support this charity directly you can donate to:  
**Friends of Matthew Rusike Children's Home**  
Bank: Co-operative Bank  
Sort Code: 08-92-99  
Account Number: 65869309

Please note any direct donation to MRCH will not be counted as part of the church project.

**First fund raising event**

**Out of the Blue Concert**

**Swing into Christmas**

**Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> December**

7 pm in the Church.

Tickets are just £10

They can be purchased after Sunday morning services in the hall or online at [churchproject@solihull-methodist.org.uk](mailto:churchproject@solihull-methodist.org.uk)

**MRCH News**

The Friends of MRCH produce regular newsletters and recently they reported on the **Donga borehole project** to provide much needed water for one of their sites. After not finding water at a depth of 25 m they are now planning on drilling deeper up to 140 m.



## Open The Book – latest news

Our 'Open The Book' team continue to take their Bible storytelling skills into the three local schools where we take assembly twice a term.

The Open The Book movement has grown considerably and is now used overseas as well as throughout this country. The Bible Society has recently updated all the materials used by storytellers so we will be working hard this year to get used to this new material.

Our schools love to have us take an assembly with them. The children are wonderful, they listen and take part with real interest and enthusiasm. Comment from one child at the end of our 'Jonah the Groaner' assembly (complete with whale!), this October, "That was lovely!"



We are a 'Churches Together' Team and welcome new members. If you would like to join us, please contact me or another team member.

Jackie Farmer

## Soupa Talks

*Light lunch, chat and an interesting talk,  
1.00 pm in the Church Community Centre*



Ivan is the wonderful chef at Soupa Talks and his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday coincided with Soupa Talks on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> November.

Of course, we celebrated with a birthday cake, candles and sparklers!

**Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> December**  
**Christmas Lunch**  
*at West Midlands Golf Club -  
see Sue Balmer for details*

**Wednesday 10th January**  
**Solihull Active—keep the elderly fit**  
*Lee Nash*

**Wednesday 24th January**  
**How we lived then**  
*Mary Bodfish*

## Covenant service

The first Methodists were known as the "Holy Club" because of their holy habits. They knew that if they practiced loving, it would gradually become instinctive for them to love. To help them practice, they had a "Method".

The Covenant service was at the heart of that "method". It was created in 1755 by John Wesley.



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The service encapsulates his understanding of Christian discipleship as a relationship with God – something like a marriage; between human beings on the one side (both as a community and as individuals) and God in Christ on the other (cf. Ephesians 5.21-33).

The service is traditionally held at the beginning of January.

**Our Covenant Service will be the  
morning service on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> January**



# Mens' Coffee Club Annual Lunch

The Men's Coffee Club annual lunch was held for the second year at the West Midlands Golf Club with its fine views over the Lake at Barston and the 18<sup>th</sup> hole. Thirty seven members and guests enjoyed a fine lunch and the opportunity to chat with friends and guests.

After the official welcome, the group remembered members Michael Bennett and Richard Beattie who were unable to be at the lunch through long term illness.

Special thanks was given to Lawrie and Martin for all they do to make the club as successful as it is.

The speaker this year was Joyce Fitter, who was Teacher of the Year for the Midlands in 1999 and Head Teacher of five schools three in rural settings and two in inner city Coventry.



*The beautiful view over the lake at the Golf Club*

She spoke of her time at Joseph Cash School which was in the lowest category of Ofsted inspections: special measures. Morale in the school, unsurprisingly, was low among staff and children.

Joyce told of her struggles to change an open plan school into a more secure building with formal classrooms and to create a caring atmosphere.

The school had been designated as a centre for asylum seekers - there were thirty- two languages spoken and families from ten countries. The effect on standards was considerable. Gradually the atmosphere among the whole school family improved and this was reflected in the SATS results, which in two years had improved from 19% to 70% of the children achieving level 4 with an increasing number of children reaching level 5.

Eventually the great day arrived when after an HMI inspection the school was removed from special measures. The report stated that Joseph Cash was a good school.

Lawrie in his vote of thanks highlighted the vital importance of leadership and how fortunate the school had been to have a leader of the highest calibre.

*Joyce Fitter giving the speech*



*All 37 who attended the lunch*





# Interfaith Chaplaincy at the NEC

***The Revd David Butterworth is Lead Chaplain, Interfaith Chaplaincy, at the NEC in Birmingham. Meeting the needs of 7 million visitors each year is a big job and, in this blog to mark Interfaith Week, 12 - 19 November, David shares some of the joys of his work ensuring all faiths are welcome***

Looking for reassurance about Interfaith work? Well, how long do you have? There are masses of assurances... Every day I'm on campus at the National Exhibition Centre in Birmingham (NEC Group) or one of its satellites, like the International Convention Centre (ICC), there are genuine warm words of engagement, and an ethos of thankfulness all around. With an 'Open Door' policy, these comments come from visitors, staff, and members of the public passing through. Bearing in mind the NEC group receives 7 million visitors every year and is growing, with the Bradford ODEON conventions centre opening later this year, that is a lot of warm words...



In practice, I am fortunate to meet most new starters to the business for up to 30 minutes for an Induction session. The mix of gender, ethnicity, faith, specialism and various first languages are simply amazing. Most are surprised to meet 'the Chaplaincy team'. I often start by welcoming new starters to the business by authentically extolling the genuine NEC Group ethos that 'our people are our best asset'. Chaplaincy sits inside the wider HR and Wellbeing support team and we regularly meet as a wider group for updates and learning. These gatherings are occasionally supported by our Volunteer Chaplains, so they realize we are a diverse team of people with differing faith positions - aiming to represent the widest points of the business platform. We are also very well connected with several Interfaith groups in the wider West Midlands including the 'FAITH Alliance' sponsored by West Midlands Police.

Very often visitors are travelling from all over the world to large conferences and global events. Many are delighted to see an Interfaith Prayer / Quiet Room is available. Sometimes we provide two or more - depending on the event type and their discernment of their clients needs. This can range from the groundbreaking massive National Halal Food event a few weeks ago or the NASUWT Teachers' Union, CRUFTS, Dentistry or Pharmacy Events and the associated eclectic mix of visitors – sometimes all on campus at the same time - overlapping each other. The sense of 'buzz in the house' is immense - especially as some events are only just emerging

post-Covid. Cordially, visitors will say 'I will only come if a Prayer Room is available... and, oh by the way, we will bring six busses of children and young people!' Our answer is a confident 'yes, we have Interfaith Prayer Rooms' – all the time.

Naturally, in such a vast people-centred business, we will have both celebrations and sad times. In the world of events and conferences it is sometimes impossible to leave the business for a funeral or thanksgiving and so, for the last few years, we offer times of 'pause and reflection'. This revolves around offering a time of formal reflection in the diary so members of staff are able to gather together as a team celebrating the life and faith of the team member concerned. We offer a beautiful order of service with photographs, flowers offered with an authentic word garnered from team members who knew the person best. Several times we hear, 'my work family are crucially important to me...' or 'my work mates are my life' – this is so from all faith positions. To be able to draw staff teams together at these times is hugely welcomed. In a few days' time we will 'line up' with members of the staff team and visitors to the events – together we will acknowledge the two-minutes silence, as we tune into the sound of Big Ben and then sensitively lay a poppy wreath by a millstone by NEC lakeside. Nearer Christmas, we will gather with many pensioners from the NEC Group who meet once a year with a Christmas lunch and invite the Chaplain to share a brief word and prayer. The opportunities are immense.

Of course, the joys come along with challenges. Most of these are surmountable and revolve around the requirement for enough physical space and the need for more volunteers to support the Chaplaincy Wellbeing facility. Occasionally we might have a visitor who thinks the Prayer / Quiet space should only be available for the few. But once they are reminded the space is not a Mosque, Church, Synagogue, Temple, or Gurdwara but rather a safe and inclusive space for all to enjoy, the temperature falls again and harmony reigns. Visitors find it hard to believe that the space is freely offered by the NEC group – a gift to everyone. This ethos allows staff and visitors to bring their whole-self to their workplace or event and the benefits to all sides of the visitor or staff equation are immeasurable. The Comments Book is testimony to this - as are the daily verbal commendations. Overseas Visitors will often say, 'Can we have one of these (in Canada or USA). Of course the answer is yes - if you collaboratively work with a company which massively values its Staff teams and visitors.

In closing, here is an example of Interfaith working at its best. During the Commonwealth Games we considerably supported the Athletes Faith Villages with input to the interfaith strategy and the outworking to support athletes and their international teams from all over the world. The CWG team looked to us to garner Faith Volunteers to support the athletes, their back up crews of medics and hospitality. Three Athletes Villages hosting 3,000 athletes and support teams each!

Those we encounter will quietly say, 'this facility and your team are like a warm hug'. With the shocking news over the last months - more warm hugs of discourse are needed.



# Green Matters Caring for God's Creation

## Winter Heating

Sue and I live in flats built in 1964 where the original gas supplies ran up inside the building. Safety legislation now requires pipes be outside and enter via the external wall. Once the trenches have been dug and new pipework laid, the old gas supply must be shut off and the gas meters moved to their new positions near the external wall. Because all meters in a column of flats have to be moved at the same time, we ended up without gas for room heating or hot water for most of a day.

The contractors were genuinely concerned about this. They pressed us to take their fan heaters, supplied free. When few were taken I ended up explaining to the contractors that most of us were born before the second world war and all before central heating became the norm! I was sure we could all manage for a day. And we did.

Nevertheless, we are into winter now. The cold will deepen. The heat store in our walls and furnishings will drop. We can put on sweaters and the like, warm shoes and even hats, but we will still use more electric and gas. Bills will rise quite sharply. This then is a good time to:

- check for draughts coming through letter boxes, and round windows and doors, and exclude where possible
- get into a routine of closing curtains in daytime in bedrooms and other rooms not in use, when the sun is not shining on those windows
- consider making simple screens which can be placed over windows even where those windows are already double glazed
- check the amount of insulation in the loft. If it is that orange cosy-wrap stuff, is it 12 inches deep?



## Another TWAM Haul - Thankyou

At the time of writing Linda was still receiving useful tools to be refurbished, packaged up and sent to communities in Africa where TWAM arranges training so that both men and women can find employment and lift themselves out of poverty.

What is so encouraging is that it is clear many of you have told your family, friends and neighbours about this charity – and they, who may not necessarily be church goers, have responded.

In just the last **3 months** TWAM have received enough tools, from groups around the country like us, to complete 3,091 tool kits and machines! Included on their list are 184 carpentry kits, 806 sewing machines, 65 plumbers' kits, 85 builders' kits, and 144 computers. Incredible. Thankyou



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## January After Church Coffee

As this year's Church Project includes raising money for solar panels for one of the Matthew Rusike centres in Zimbabwe, the Greener Church Group will give all donations received when they serve 'After Church Coffee' in January to the project.

Solar panels proved a great success when we helped install them at the Kebba Jarjou school in the Gambia as part of our 2015/16 church project. The panels, plus batteries, gave power in the daytime and light and power in the evening allowing the local community, as well as the school (and the planet), to benefit.

Richard Balmer

On behalf of the Greener Church Group: John and Linda Innes,  
Pam Beattie, Bryan Fitter, Anthony Gough, Sue Kelley, Derek  
Giles, Sue and Richard Balmer, Glen Mullineux

## Working Party Celebration



There was a good turnout for the church working party on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> November. The date coincided with Peter Stoakley's birthday which they celebrated when they stopped work for a cup of coffee.

## Christmas Tree Festival and Craft Fair



**Dorridge Methodist Church**  
**Saturday 2nd December**  
**10:00am-3:00pm.**

## Need to talk to your minister?

You don't need to go through anyone.  
I am here for everyone and  
just a phone call away, feel free, please ring  
07878 757024, Rev Molly

## Anxious? Concerned?

Contact the confidential  
**Prayer Chain**  
via Chris Giles  
via the church office



## Church Team



**Rev Molly Chitokwinda**  
Minister  
Day off - Friday



**Abi Godfree**  
Children, Youth and  
Families worker



**Diane Webb**  
Pastoral and Community Worker



**Janice Smith**  
Church Administrator  
Tuesday - Friday



**Chris Giles**  
Pastoral Coordinator

**Church Office**  
**0121 705 7367**



[www.solihull-methodist.org.uk](http://www.solihull-methodist.org.uk)

## The Messenger Team

Pete Austin, Sue Balmer, Rev Molly Chitokwinda, Riva Chung, Bryan Fitter, Jeff Horton, Sue Kelley, Glen Mullineux, and Lawrie Rumens  
Please send material for publication to  
[messenger@solihull-methodist.org.uk](mailto:messenger@solihull-methodist.org.uk) We reserve the  
right to edit articles if necessary.

Please send photographs **separately** as jpeg files

**NB. Last date for February Messenger items is  
Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> January**



# December / January Diary

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					<b>1</b> 6.30 EN RG	<b>2</b> 10 – 3.00 Christmas Tree Festival at Dorridge
<b>3</b> 10.30 Morning service – Gift service  3.00 Memorial service	<b>4</b> 9.45 Pushchair Club 10.00 Shall we talk? 7.30 Scouts	<b>5</b> 9.30 Communion 10.15 Contact Choir 10.30 Men's Coffee 10.30 Bible Study 5.00 Rainbows 6.00 Brownies	<b>6</b> 9.30 Morning prayers by Zoom 10.30 Classic Cantonese Fellowship 1.00 Soupa Talks - Christmas lunch	<b>7</b> 6.00 Beavers 6.30 Cubs  8.15 Badminton	<b>8</b> 10.30 Friendship Café 6.30 EN RG	<b>9</b> 7.30 Out of the Blue concert
<b>10</b> 10.30 Morning service with communion	<b>11</b> 9.45 Pushchair Club 10.00 Shall we talk? 7.30 Scouts	<b>12</b> 9.30 Communion 10.15 Contact Choir 10.30 Bible Study 10.30 Men's coffee 5.00 Rainbows 6.00 Brownies	<b>13</b> 9.30 Morning prayers by Zoom  10.30 Classic Cantonese Fellowship	<b>14</b> 6.00 Beavers 6.30 Cubs  8.15 Badminton	<b>15</b> 6.30 EN RG	<b>16</b>
<b>17</b> 10.30 Morning service  6.30 Candlelight carol service	<b>18</b> 9.45 Pushchair Club 10.00 Shall we talk? 7.30 Scouts	<b>19</b> 9.30 Communion 10.15 Contact Choir 10.30 Men's Coffee 10.30 Bible Study 5.00 Rainbows 6.00 Brownies	<b>20</b> 9.30 Morning prayers by Zoom  10.30 Classic Cantonese Fellowship	<b>21</b> 9.30 Turkey Trot 6.00 Beavers 6.30 Cubs  8.15 Badminton	<b>22</b> 6.30 EN RG	<b>23</b> 3.00 Crib service
<b>24 Christmas Eve</b> 10.30 Morning service 11.15 Midnight Communion	<b>25 Christmas Day</b> 10.30 Christmas celebration	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>31</b> 10.30 Morning service	<b>1 January</b> 10.30 New Year's Day walk	<b>2</b> 9.30 Communion 10.30 Men's coffee	<b>3</b> 9.30 Morning prayers	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b> 10.30 Morning service	<b>8</b> 9.45 Pushchair Club 7.30 Scouts	<b>9</b> 9.30 Communion 10.15 Contact Choir 10.30 Men's Coffee 10.30 Bible Study 5.00 Rainbows 6.00 Brownies	<b>10</b> 9.30 Morning prayers by Zoom 1.00 Soupa Talks -	<b>11</b> 6.00 Beavers 6.30 Cubs  8.15 Badminton	<b>12</b> 10.30 Friendship Café 6.30 EN RG	<b>13</b> 3.00 Christingle service
<b>14</b> 10.30 Morning service - Covenant service	<b>15</b> 9.45 Pushchair Club 10.00 Shall we talk? 7.30 Scouts	<b>16</b> 9.30 Communion 10.15 Contact Choir 10.30 Men's Coffee 10.30 Bible Study 5.00 Rainbows 6.00 Brownies	<b>17</b> 9.30 Morning prayers by Zoom 10.30 Classic Cantonese Fellowship	<b>18</b> 9.30 Ramble 6.00 Beavers 6.30 Cubs  8.15 Badminton	<b>19</b> 6.30 EN.RG	<b>20</b>
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# Recruitment for helping with Children and Youth work at church

On Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> November Abi (youth worker) invited the church family to an afternoon tea in the church to find out more about the work with young people in the church. It was an opportunity to explore all the ancillary roles that help is needed.

Help is needed in the following areas:

## **Sunday morning team**

- Welcome
- Tidy up
- Session assistant roles.

## **Friday evening youth team.**

## **Monday Morning Pushchair club**

- Tea and coffee team,
- Set up and tidy up
- Parent befriended teams.

## **Monthly Prayer team.**

Some of these positions were filled after the tea but Abi would still like more help.

If you are interested, please contact Abi, Children families and Youth worker.

This work is such a privilege, come and be a part of it.



Our Church's Musical Theatre Group proudly present their 43rd production

*The Farndale Avenue Housing Estate Townswomen's Guild Operatic Society's production of*

# THE MIKADO

Mishaps with casting, properties, scenery and the musicians result in a hilarious performance of the "comic operetta that goes wrong".

**Friday-Sunday 12-14th April 2024**

**Dovehouse Theatre Solihull B92 7ER**

Tickets available from:

**[ticketsource.co.uk/smash](https://ticketsource.co.uk/smash)**



# Happy Christmas To All



## Church Mission Statement

*We believe that to make the all-embracing love of Jesus Christ known, we need to be brave in God's changing world so that all can belong and find hope.*