

Withington Methodist News

November 2022



SUNDAY WORSHIP

Nov. 6th Worship at Levenshulme

Nov. 13th Rev. Peter Went, Remembrance Sunday, HC

Nov. 20th Liz Stuart

Nov. 27th Rev. Joy Rulton

GREETINGS FROM CAROLINE

November is a month for remembering. First, there is All Saints' Day, when we remember the saints of the church, including the ones we know, the saints who shape our Christian growing and who help us to flourish, some still with us, others at home with the Lord. Maybe the saints we know wouldn't choose to think of themselves that way, but we can remember them and honour them.

Then comes Remembrance Sunday, with its solemn commemoration of those who have lost their lives in war – too many wars. This year there will be a special poignancy as we think about the people of Ukraine, soldiers and civilians, men, women and children whose lives have been wiped out too soon. We will remember them – and we will continue to work and pray for peace with justice.

And then at the end of the month we are into Advent. Advent calendars encourage us to see this time as the run-up to Christmas, but for the church, it is another time of remembering. We think of the brave men and women who helped prepare for Jesus' birth. We remember how Jesus came to live among us, Emmanuel, God-with-us, and we remember that he will come again as king of the nations, when God's kingdom comes in all its glory.

Do you remember? we ask each other. Often, it's nostalgia that leads us to look backwards. The church's invitations to remember are different. Our remembering leads us to re-evaluate the way we live. Are we keeping the faith entrusted to us by the saints? Are we trying to create the conditions for God's peace to flourish? Are we alert to the promise of God's kingdom, already present among us, one day coming in glory? November, the month

of remembering, can change our lives for good.

God bless you all through this time,

Your minister Caroline

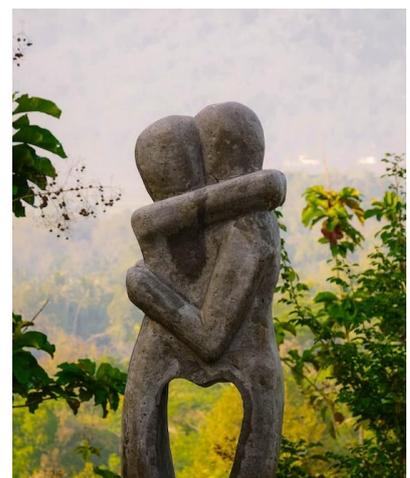
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minister@withingtonmethodistchurch.org

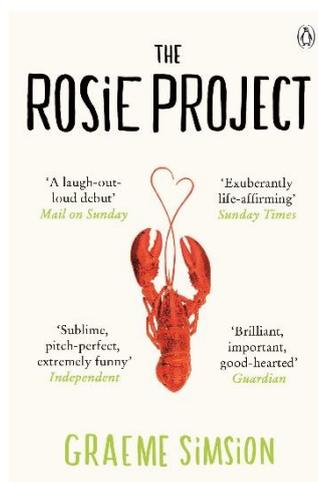
PRAYER LIST

We remember in our prayers:

Thandiwe,
Ora and Stasi,
John and Marguerite,
Sarah,
the family and friends of Muriel,
the family and friends of Henry,
our friends who are no longer worshipping with us,
all those friends still impacted by Covid-19



WITHINGTON BOOK CLUB



The next meeting of the Book Club will be on Monday 28th November, at 7.30pm, when we will be discussing "The Rosie Project" by Graeme Simsion. New members welcome! Talk to Helen or Heather.

CHURCH COUNCIL UPDATE

Dear friends,

Earlier this year I agreed to step into Don's shoes and become church council secretary. It has been a real learning experience for me so far! Even though I've been coming to Withington for close to eight years, I had no idea how busy the church was during the week with so many organisations using our premises – and also how much hard work goes on behind the scenes to keep the church running.

I'm sure some of you will already know this, having been involved in WMC in all sorts of ways over the years. But one of my aims is to put those people in the picture who – like me – might not know about the different parts of the mechanism that makes WMC happen. Over the next few issues of our church magazine, I will try to share with you something of what I have found out.

But first, something exciting to tell you about. On 12 October we had our Autumn church council meeting, and Caroline prayerfully guided us through the agenda. One of the things we did was to plan our programme of worship and fellowship for Advent, in the run up to Christmas. We have an exciting programme, and we hope that you will be able to join us for this!

Please do come and have a chat if you see me at church, or email if there's something you'd like to ask.

My email address is nicholaspalfreyman@yours.com.



All good wishes – Nick Palfreyman

WORSHIP WITH US

December Services at Withington!

It's not long off Advent and Christmas so here's our December service plan!

Sunday 4 December, 10.45am - Gift service

Sunday 11 December, 4pm 'Blue Christmas'

Sunday 18 December, 10.45am - Carol service

Sunday 25 December, 10am - Christmas morning service



Sunday Morning In Person Worship

Our Sunday Morning services are held at 10:45 in the downstairs hall. Please enter the church via the back car park entrance. We have refreshments after the service and if you would like to help facilitate this, please let us know.

Reflections and written worship resources:

If you are not on email and would like to receive a printed copy of our weekly reflections or written worship resources for Sunday, please contact Caroline Wickens.

Chat and Bible Study on Zoom:

We have a weekly virtual half hour catch up followed by a half hour Bible Study every Wednesday from 2:00 pm. All are welcome to join the chat, bible study or both!

Joining details for both meetings are the same every week:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84141198605>

Meeting ID: 841 4119 8605

Manchester Circuit Sunday Evening Service

A warm welcome as ever to our worship tomorrow evening.

The Zoom platform will be open from 6pm for those who wish to catch up with others from their church, and as usual worship will begin at 6:30.

The joining details follow-

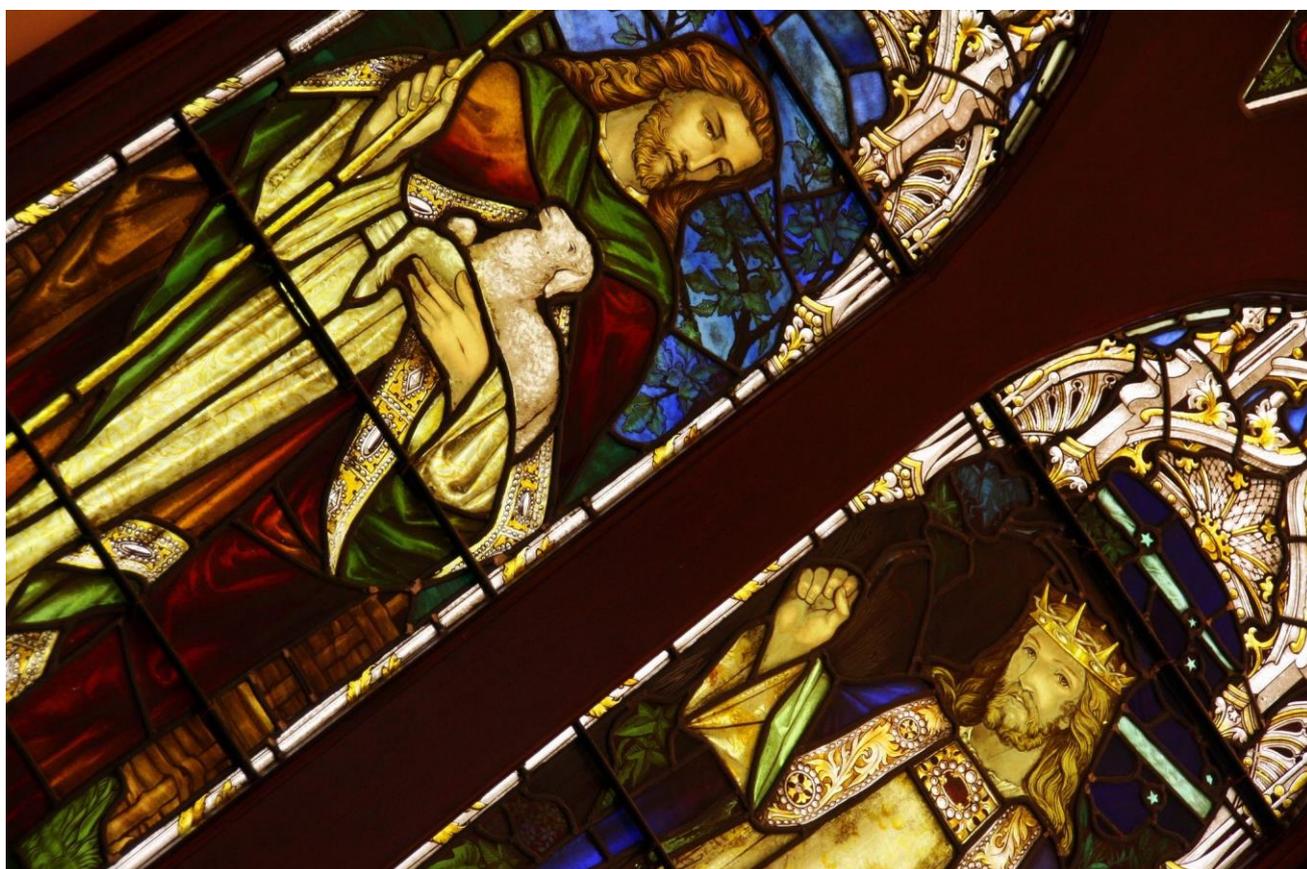
Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/92204599032?pwd=Tzg0SU9xcVZEZFNQK0FnYnNKWjlUQT09>

Meeting ID: 922 0459 9032

Passcode: 1901

One tap mobile + 12532158782, 92204599032 #, 1901#



NEWS FROM THE CONNEXION

04 OCTOBER 2022

Seeing the Spiritual

This autumn, to mark its 60th anniversary, major artworks from the Methodist Modern Art Collection are on loan to diverse venues across the country. A programme of events will accompany the loans to celebrate sixty years of collecting and art-based activism.

The Methodist Modern Art Collection has been described by Tim Marlow, Director of the Design Museum, as ‘one of the art world’s unexpected treasures shining new light on the historically rich relationship between art and faith.’

Since 1962, thousands of people have viewed the growing Collection which now numbers over 50 art works with strengths in 20th Century British art, including examples by Graham Sutherland, Elisabeth Frink, Patrick Heron and Maggie Hambling. The first acquisition was made in June 1962, just a month after the consecration of Coventry Cathedral, that major post-war celebration of contemporary religious art and architecture.

The Collection was brought together by a group of individuals, led by Methodists John Morel Gibbs and the Revd Douglas Wollen in Penarth, south Wales, who were united in their aim to engage people with new visual languages and promote conversations about God and Christianity. Works have been shown over the past 60 years in galleries, churches, cathedrals, schools, universities; in small rural communities and larger urban areas.

60th anniversary
Methodist Modern
Art Collection
1962–2022

Loans of artworks to mark the Collection's 60th anniversary until December 2022 are:

- The painting Good Friday Walking on Water by Maggie Hambling is on show at Coventry Cathedral to mark a shared 60th anniversary in 2022.
- The watercolour Crucifixion by Michael Edmonds is at Y Gaer, Brecon, reflecting the Welsh links with the origins of this collection.
- The painting Christ Writes in the Dust by Clive Hicks-Jenkins is on show at the childhood home of John Wesley, The Old Rectory Epworth, Lincolnshire.
- Four aluminium sculptures from the Stations of the Cross, by Frank Roper are on display at Woodhouse Grove Methodist School Chapel, Apperley Bridge, Bradford. Roper was born in nearby Howarth and attended Keighley School of Art.
- The Elements of Holy Communion by Jacques Iselin is on loan to Balsall Common Methodist Church, Coventry until the end of the year.

Earlier this year as part of the 60th anniversary celebrations, the painting The Five Thousand by Eularia Clarke was lent to Shieldfield Art Works, Newcastle.

Talks to accompany the season of celebration led by the Chair of the Collection, Professor Ann Sumner, will take place including at Victoria Methodist Church in Bristol which will also be the venue for the next major exhibition of the Collection, Articles of Faith, in February 2023.

Professor Ann Sumner, said: 'I am delighted that we have been able to share the Collection during our 60th milestone year with partners across the country.'

'While the Collection is renowned for its strengths in British 20th Century art, international works were also acquired from the beginning, ensuring the Collection's enduring attraction to a world-wide audience.'

Forthcoming events:

- Professor Ann Sumner in conversation with Dr John Gibbs, Saturday 15 October, 3.30pm, Victoria Methodist Church, 1A Whiteladies Road, Bristol BS8 1NU. Free admission but prior booking advised here. Further details are here. Professor Ann Sumner, Chair of the Methodist Modern Art Collection Management Committee, will talk to Dr John Gibbs, son of the founder of the Collection and former Chair.
- 60 years of the Methodist Modern Art Collection, an online talk, Saturday 12 November 2022, 11am – 12noon, from Epworth Old Rectory in Lincolnshire. Free admission. Book by email to Anya Johnson, Visits and Collections Manager, at vcm@epwortholdrectory.org.uk. Professor Ann Sumner will outline the early history of the Collection, describe how it has developed and contextualise the acquisition of the Clive Hicks-Jenkins Christ writes in the Dust: The Woman Caught in Adultery painting of 2011, currently on loan to Epworth Old Rectory as part of the 60th anniversary programme.

November event at Woodhouse Grove School, to be announced shortly.

06 OCTOBER 2022

Call for benefits to rise in line with prices

“We cannot stay quiet when vital support to the communities we are part of is threatened.”

The Revd Canon Graham Thompson, President of the Methodist Conference, has joined a call for the Government to affirm its commitment to ensuring benefits rise in line with inflation.

Church leaders from three denominations have released this statement:

"The social security system should prevent families from being pushed into hardship, yet foodbanks are facing rapidly rising demand and almost half of claimants receiving Universal Credit report skipping meals to make ends meet. The value of benefits has declined for the last decade and already an

average family of four relying on Universal Credit will be £1,400 worse off this winter than last – despite the interventions already put in place. Against this background it would be outrageous to erode benefits further.

"For months we have called on government to provide targeted support to the lowest income households, who are at the sharp end of rising costs. Without that additional help huge numbers of families – particularly families with children – will face impossible choices to make ends meet. The proposal to link benefits to wages rather than prices would mean the largest real terms cut in benefits ever at a time when low-income families are already facing increased hardship. Such a decision would lack both compassion and morality.

"At the beginning of his ministry, Jesus declared “I have come to bring good news to the poor”. We cannot stay quiet when vital support to the communities we are part of is threatened. We call on the Government to reaffirm its commitment to uprate benefits in line with prices and to provide targeted support to those families who are at the sharpest end of the cost of living crisis."

Signed by:

Revd Fiona Bennett, Moderator of General Assembly, United Reformed Church

Revd Graham Thompson, President of the Methodist Conference, The Methodist Church in Britain

Revd. Lynn Green, General Secretary, Baptist Union of Great Britain

17 OCTOBER 2022

Youth President Elections

Following the elections held at this year's 3Generate, the Methodist Children and Youth Assembly, it has been announced that the Youth President for 2023/2024 will be Thomas Hart, aged 17, who lives in Ashby-Cum-Fenby, a small village in Lincolnshire. He attends Keelby Methodist Church.

Thomas, also known as Tom, will become the new Youth President at a

service to be held in the autumn of next year.

Tom was brought up a Methodist, becoming a member when he was 14 and later a youth steward and congregational representative. He loves music and playing in bands and is planning to take a degree in popular music, he also enjoys travel and learning about different cultures and lifestyles.

Tom commented, "Friendship and a sense of community make me who I am, I enjoy conversation with people of different and no faith, belief or thoughts. I want to ensure the message of God and Christianity is something that everyone can understand.

"I felt called to apply for the role. I felt God calling me to represent the youth of the Methodist Church and with some friendly encouragement from my congregation and circuit team, I applied for the role. I am thrilled to know that the young people believe I can serve them and walk beside them as we go on a journey of discovery, exploring what faith is.



The current Youth President, James Carver, commented, "I congratulate Tom on his appointment as Youth President 2023/2024 and I know he will have an amazing time in the role. Tom used Lego to explain inner faith during the elections, and I am eager for more Lego so I look forward to working with Tom when he starts next autumn."

The Methodist Youth President is a salaried position working full-time for one year to serve the children and young people of the Methodist Church in Britain. The role involves meeting and representing the young Methodist people to ensure that their voices are heard and to help them be involved in every aspect of Church life.

20 OCTOBER 2022

Final report of the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse published

The Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse has published the final report of its hearings and investigations today. The report makes twenty recommendations which the Methodist Church will now study in detail.

The Secretary of the Conference, the Revd Dr Jonathan Hustler said: “We are grateful to the Chair and Panel for putting survivors at the forefront of their investigations and recommendations and thank them for their work. The scale of abuse (some of it in religious institutions) uncovered by the Inquiry is both shocking and shameful and we have listened to harrowing stories of where children have been let down.

“We will continue our work to ensure that those connected with the Methodist Church in Great Britain know that safeguarding is everyone’s responsibility. We have an ongoing process to review and improve our support to victims and survivors, to ensure the safety of all who share in our activities, and to address failures where they have occurred, and we are sorry for where this has not happened in the past. We will now take time to consider the recommendations and see where changes in our processes might be made in light of the report and the Government’s subsequent response.”

Read the IICSA Final Report online here - www.iicsa.org.uk/final-report

The Methodist Church in Britain was asked to take part in the investigation into Child Protection in Religious Organisations and Settings, one of the 15 areas the Inquiry has looked at over the past 7 years. Read our previous statement here

For support or advice about safeguarding issues:
safeguarding@methodistchurch.org.uk or see
www.methodist.org.uk/safeguarding

20 OCTOBER 2022

Clitheroe church members take action to tackle critical climate issues

Founded in 1868, Trinity Methodist Church sits in the heart of Lancashire's Ribble Valley in the town of Clitheroe - within the shadow of Pendle Hill, famous for its historical connection with witches.

In 2019, Trinity's minister, Rev Ian Humphreys set about addressing some of the critical climate issues raised at the National Methodist Church annual Conference. Archie Whymark, one of Trinity's older members of the congregation volunteered to be their Climate Action Champion with the first activity being to register for the A Rocha Eco Church Award Scheme.

Archie Whymark, Trinity's Climate Action Champion said "The first thing I did was contact three other Methodist Churches, who had already successfully achieved A Rocha Gold Eco Church Awards, to pick their brains. I contacted Romsey, Stratford upon Avon and Wellspring Wirksworth. I also contacted our own Clitheroe URC who had a Silver Award. They were all brilliant and very helpful.

"All the churches I spoke with seemed to have a supportive Minister along with a small group of committee members to head the activity up. Our Minister, Rev Ian Humphreys, is a great supporter and very positive. However, I thought finding volunteers to help would be a different matter. Nevertheless, I was



astonished to have four ladies come forward straight away for our Eco Group. Since then, our group has grown to six, a dog plus myself. The members are all brilliant and I would be lost without them."

Trinity Eco Group (L to R: Eve and Sandra Brooks, Lisa Bridgeman, Archie Whymark, Carol Baird, Anita Kellington, and seated Becky Walsh and Fiona Tomlin)

With an impressive start to their climate change activities, Trinity Methodist Church were awarded their A Rocha Bronze Eco Church Award in April 2022, spurring them on their eco journey to achieve Silver in the coming months.

Some of the highlights of Trinity Methodist Church's journey to their A Rocha Bronze Eco Church Award include:

- A successful 'Climate Sunday' celebration service in September 2021 in support of COP-26
- Completion of an in-house one-page Climate Action Survey by the Church Council
- An impressive bug hotel built out of pallets and house bricks by the Sunday School 'Treasure Seekers'
- The 'twinning' of three church toilets with ones in Uganda, the Yemen and Zambia
- Regular eco church news updates in the weekly Church Notices
- Eco contributions to the church website and Facebook page
- The formation of an Eco Church WhatsApp group
- A monthly climate action prayer letter
- The use of Fairtrade refreshments after church services
- A new relationship with Natural England for help and advice.



Twinned Toilet in Zambia. Damales Kalenga Mwanja and her daughter Monica (age 14) live in Chimbilwa village, Choma District (Photo: Tom Price/Toilet Twinning)

Archie Whymark continues "To achieve a Silver award, we need to maintain what we did last time and increase activity. We have already held a successful 'Caring for God's Earth' service along with a coffee morning to raise money for twinning our remaining three toilets. We have every hope that, provided we continue to retain the support of our Minister and the sympathy of our congregation, we should achieve a Silver award by next Summer."

GREENBELT FESTIVAL 2022 – SOMEWHERE TO BELIEVE IN

Greenbelt is a Christian arts festival that takes place every year during the August bank holiday weekend in a field near Kettering. You might have heard of it: some members and friends of our congregation have attended faithfully for years (Al and Rachael Lowe, for example, as well as Nick and me). Isabel Kelso suggested to us that we write something about it for the magazine, so here goes...

Greenbelt is a family-friendly festival, with many children running around, and plenty of young people as well. It is a safe space for people who identify as LGBT+, and there is an annual communion service (this year it was led by Alex Clare-Young, a trans URC minister). Greenbelt is a great festival for deaf and disabled people, too. All venues are wheelchair accessible, and there is a dedicated team of sign language interpreters who make sure all events are accessible to deaf people. They tend to be nervous when Nick arrives, as he tends to pick the talks that are most challenging to interpret!

What makes Greenbelt special for me is meeting people we share certain values with, so that conversation does not need to start from establishing what we have in common. This means we can move on to talk about how we can build together for the future, and we don't need to spend time focusing on what divides us. Catholic, Evangelical, Methodist, Church of England, even Muslim or atheist: we are all there to share fellowship and dialogue, and to make the world a better place.



Greenbelt might have a reputation as a place for loud worshippers, but things are changing on this front, too. One of the best moments for me was the Quaker worship, which is based on silence across a group of people, until someone feels inspired to speak. And the night-time Taizé worship, with its repeated chants, was moving and intense. Finally, this year they have finally set up a more intimate Sunday morning worship as an alternative the big one on

the main stage, to accommodate for people who look for God in quieter spaces.

The Methodist church has a significant presence at Greenbelt. They hosted a number of inspiring talks in their alcohol-free pub, called Hope & Anchor, and they even organised an 'escape room' – where a group of people have to find clues and work their way through a series of challenges in order to find the way out.

I hadn't realised how much I had missed Greenbelt until we walked onto the camp area with our tents and our bags and we saw how buzzing with excitement the area was. After two years of reduced activity because of the pandemic, the festival was back in full swing and seemingly more popular than ever. Each marquee was overflowing with people eager to listen to the speakers, and what a line-up!



I attended talks about the future of Church. Gloomy, some might think? Well, the panel, which included Rowan Williams, had a very optimistic view – not focused on numbers (which have waned and waxed through the centuries anyway), but on the Spirit. And of course, there were

talks about our planet and what we can do as we face the climate emergency. There was room for poetry and comedy as well. It is hard to come back home from Greenbelt without hope and joy. The Church is truly alive and well.

Greenbelt has always been my battery charger, a once-in-a-year chance to soak up faith and religion, feel inspired and then bring that energy back to my community. The challenge, or rather the promise, is to keep that spark alight for the rest of the year, with the Spirit's help.

Davide Erbogasto

CHURCH NEWS

Thank you to Mary and your green thumb!



In recent weeks Mary, one of our evening staff, has planted flower boxes outside our back doors. They have provided a welcome splash of colour and look very attractive. Mary has also cleared out a huge amount of overgrown greenery and weeds in our Peace Garden and we can now see the ground. The final clean up will be completed in early Spring ahead of the regrowth of the planted bulbs. We are so grateful for all Mary's efforts.

Toy Service

On Sunday morning, 4th Dec, we would be grateful to receive donations of toys during our annual Toy Service. This year we are again supporting our local women's refuge. They are going to email me with the ages of the children living there at present, so when I hear I will post the information in the weekly notices. They are most appreciative of our support and value the generosity they have received from WMC in past years.



Help with Cost of Living

The Council are providing a help line for anyone needing advice and support for those struggling with rises in their living costs. Details are in the poster below-

Call Manchester's Free Cost of Living Advice Line 0800 023 2692

For support with:

- Benefits and your rent
- Debts and paying your bills
- Food
- Getting online.



**Lines open Mon-Fri
9am-4.30pm**

**manchester.gov.uk/coladvice
Or text us on: 07860 022 876**

THANK YOU FOR READING!

SIDESPERSONS

COMMON MISUNDERSTANDINGS ABOUT THEIR ROLE



PEOPLE WHO KEEP AN EYE ON THINGS FROM THE SIDE AISLES



FRIENDS WHO ONLY ORDER CHIPS AT A RESTAURANT



PERSONS MADE UP ONLY OF SIDES



BACKING DANCERS FOR LITURGICAL ROUTINES

CartoonChurch.com

The next magazine will be out on the 4th December on the Withington Methodist Church Facebook Group and via email.

If you have anything you would like to contribute to next month's magazine please pass it on to Caroline Fielding - withingtonmethodistnews@gmail.com

If you would like to receive an emailed copy of the magazine please email - withingtonmethodistnews@gmail.com

Withington Methodist Church

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Editor: Caroline Fielding - withingtonmethodistnews@gmail.com

Minister: Rev Caroline Wickens

Sunday Services

Morning Worship : 10:45 am taking place in the ground floor hall. Holy Communion once a month.

Regular Activities

Monday Monkeys (Mondays 10:00 - 11:30am)

Kundalini Yoga (7:00 - 8:30pm)

Brownies (Wednesdays from Oct. 6:45 - 8:15pm)

Snooker Group (Fridays 1:00 - 3:00pm)

