

Church Family News and Prayers

Being born in lockdown

: a family advent calendar part 1

1 This calendar covers events from June 2020 to November 2021. It's is how it was back then for us. But perhaps some of it was not so different to 2,000years ago. A baby was going to be born but no one knew for certain quite how it would happen. Only God.

2 I don't get presents on Father's Day. At least, not usually. In 2020, it was different. A fuzzy back and white scan on a scrap of paper: the promise of a child, a grandson. At that moment, there was no guarantee of where he would live. It wasn't a case of Nazareth or Bethlehem but Bedminster or Warmley. We couldn't be sure. You just have to trust it will happen.

3 The big thing with promises is that you don't know how they will work out. A promise should secure everything. That's what the angels clearly think. But Mary seems to know better. Promises don't quite work like that. The bigger the promise, the greater the fears about it. The challenge is always the road ahead.

4 What if the Warmley house had fallen through? All sorts of people didn't move in 2020 in spite of their expectations. Well, it would have been a mess but we'd have sorted it out together just as they did in Bethlehem. No need to panic. Somebody will make space; someone will sort it out. That's what friends and family are for.

5 The move happened. Unlikely as it seemed, the deals got over the line. But it wasn't a nicely finished, everything-in-place property. Instead, it was a ramshackle wonder that would need years of hard work and care. Beautiful but challenging. In fact, a bit like the arrival of a child into this strange, complicated but still wonderful world.

We continue to pray for those members of our Church Family and Friends who are unwell and all those who mourn.



CYNCOED METHODIST CHURCH

Church Notices for Sunday 20th November 2022 **Sunday before Advent**

Services

Steward: Jenny Siddall

10.30am The Stewards

Readings: *Jeremiah 23: 1-6; Psalm 46 or Canticle: Benedictus (Luke 1: 68-79); Colossians 1: 11-20; Luke 23: 33-43*

No More Covid Restrictions

As we are all aware, all COVID restrictions have been lifted. There are therefore no restrictions applicable to our services or any gathering in the Cyncoed Methodist building. We are however aware that Covid is still around. For this reason, we encourage that when in the Cyncoed Methodist building, everyone must graciously respect the preferences of other members of the congregation and the community, especially if people choose to maintain any of the preventive protocols.

At Cyncoed Methodist Church

We are called to tell God's story by living as God's people through:

- Preaching and teaching the gospel
- Encouraging spiritual growth
- Outreach in the community
- Responding to opportunities for change

All inspired by God centred worship and prayer.

The Ministerial Team:

Rev. Kofi Amissah

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Rev. Alexis Mahoney

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Sunday 27th November 2022

First Sunday of Advent

Steward: Alison Harrison

10.30am Rev. Kofi Amissah

Readings: *Isaiah 2: 1-5; Psalm 122; Romans 13: 11-14; Matthew 24: 36-44*



Informal mid-week Communion

Thursdays at 10.30am in the Fellowship Room

An Oasis of peace in a busy week

Cyncoed Church Premises

For Out of Hours or Emergency access to the Cyncoed Church Premises

please call Martin on 07849 632 394 or

email: cyncoedmethodistchurch@gmail.com

Notices

❖ **Back Page Advent Calendar**

The next five back pages go together to form a calendar of thoughts to take you from December 1st to Christmas Eve. You can read them day by day or treat them as normal back pages. If you have an advent calendar you bring out every year, you can even cut up the thoughts and slip one into each of the 24 slots. It's up to you but I just thought it might be nice to have a calendar that was written around a real birth in the middle of lockdown. Dave Kitchen

❖ **Cards for Good Causes.** The **Cards for Good Causes** shop is open again at **St John's** Church in town for charity Christmas cards. Hours are from **10am to 4pm Monday to Saturday**. Please spread the word around and pop in if you can. Your support will be very much appreciated.

❖ **Outreach Magazine** I am hoping that you will consider submitting a contribution for the 'Winter Outreach' whether you have done it before or be it for the first time.

Photos, news, poems, reflections, stories, articles etc ...

All contributions will be VERY welcome!!

Submissions can be left in the 'Outreach tray' in the church Office.

Deadline for submissions is Sunday 27th November

Many thanks, Anne

❖ **Wenchi Hospital - Coffee Morning** - The stewards are holding a Coffee Morning on Saturday, 26th November 10am - 12md to raise money for the Wenchi Hospital in Ghana. There will be a few stalls including a cake stall, for which contributions will be very welcome. Admission £2.50 which includes coffee/tea and biscuits. Alison Harrison.

❖ **Circuit Advent Study.** All are welcome to join the Circuit Advent Study based on Walter Brueggemann's book 'Names for the Messiah'.

Monday Evenings: 21st November - 12th December from 7.30pm - 9pm on Zoom

Wednesday Afternoons: 23rd November - 14th December from 2pm - 3.30pm at Llandaff North Methodist Church.

For more information or Zoom details, please contact the Circuit Office office@cardiffmethodist.org.uk

Please send items for the church notices to the Church Office or email to cyncoedmethodistchurch@gmail.com before 5.00pm on Wednesday.