



Zion Methodist Church Notices Sunday 14 December 2025



Sunday 14 December: 10.30am

- ✚ Third Sunday in Advent
- ✚ Worship led by Rev Julie Doddrell
- ✚ Holy Communion
- ✚ Charity collection: Centrepont

Sunday 21 December: 10.30am

- ✚ Fourth Sunday in Advent
- ✚ Carol Service led by Mr J Hewitt

Advent Liturgy 3: Give Hope

Gift-giving God, **may Advent be for us a time of giving and receiving.**

Heavenly God, you speak to us through messengers, words and deeds, the rhythm, the beat of your gift never ceases, never stops or falters or fails. Your gift is for life, not limited by time or space.

Gift-giving God, **may Advent be for us a time of giving and receiving.**

Heavenly God, you challenge us to be the heartbeat of love to our community. You challenge and call us to be a constant power for good. You inspire us to be the bringers of good news.

Gift-giving God, **may Advent be for us a time of giving and receiving.**

Heavenly God, may we be up to the challenges you set before us. May we give you time in our busy days, in our list making and our shopping, so that we are buzzing with your Spirit as your gift to all we meet.

Gift-giving God, **may Advent be for us a time of giving and receiving.**

Advent with the Presidents: The Gift of Joy

Each week of Advent we join the President and Vice-President of the Methodist Conference as they unwrap a different gift. This week they consider the gift of joy: <https://www.methodist.org.uk/for-churches/resources/videos/advent-2025-video-reflections-from-the-president-and-vice-president/>

Zion Christmas Fayre

Following the sale of produce after last Sunday's service, and also the receipt of a donation, the total amount of money raised by this year's Fayre has increased to £1483. Your church stewards would also like to take this opportunity to thank Lesley for all the work that she has done and also all the patience, good grace and leadership that she has shown in making this year's Christmas Fayre the success that it has been. Thanks also goes to all those who helped to plan the event and who served on the day. Without you no event could have taken place.

Thank you for your prayers

Thank you for your prayers over the last few months. I went for a consultation on Tuesday night following my recent operation and was given a positive report. All was clear. A good note to end our tragic year. Praise God for answered prayer.

John Hewitt

Christmas Cards

The board near the kitchen door is now ready for your Christmas Cards, if you wish to use it.

Please save your stamps

Centenary Church are still collecting used postage stamps which raises money to support the work of Embrace the Middle East. Donations are allocated to educational projects ensuring that more children in one of the most marginalised and dangerous regions in the world are able to get an education that can lift them out of poverty.

So, next time you receive a stamped letter, please remember to save the stamp. You just need to tear or cut around the stamp leaving a margin of the envelope and drop them into the Circuit office or leave them in the used stamp box in the lounge. Thank you.

Boston Town Carols at Centenary: Sunday 14 December, 6pm

Join Boston's local churches as we celebrate Christmas together at Centenary. Refreshments from 5.30pm. A collection will be taken for the Salvation Army Christmas Appeal. Need more details? Call 01205 355543

Gipsey Bridge Live Nativity: Wednesday 17 December, 3.30pm

Take a beautiful walk through the village with Mary, Joseph, and the Nativity characters. Feel free to come in Nativity costume too! Join us for a very special community time of love, hope, peace and joy. It starts in Castlegate at 3.30pm. Please bring a lamp or a torch to light the way. Children must be accompanied by their responsible adults. Thank you. Followed by Carols at Gipsey Bridge Academy at 4.30pm.

Circuit Prayer Meeting: Friday 19 December, 10.45am to 11.30am

Circuit Prayer Meeting every Friday, 10.45am to 11.30am, in the Little Chapel at Centenary Methodist Church.

Gipsey Bridge Coffee Morning: Saturday 20 December, 10am

Gipsey Bridge Chapel invites you to our coffee morning on Saturday 20 December, 10am to 12 noon. Everyone welcome.

Zion / Circuit Christmas Services:

- ✚ Sunday 21 December, 10.30am: Carol Service at Zion
 - ✚ Thursday 25 December, 10am: Christmas Day Service at Zion
 - ✚ Sunday 28 December, 10.30am: Circuit Service at Centenary
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Gipsey Bridge Family Carol Service: Sunday 21 December, 2.30pm

Family Carol Service at Gipsey Bridge Chapel, followed by refreshments.

Two Bridges Festive Afternoon Tea: Sunday 21 December, 4pm

Please join us on Sunday 21 December at Hospital Bridge Chapel, Norfolk Street at 4pm for a delicious afternoon tea followed by our 6pm Evening Service with Carols. Please contact Lynn on 07896 128727 to book your place.

Centenary Community Lunches Christmas Opening

- ✚ Wednesday 24 December: 9.30am warm space; 12pm light lunch (soup and a roll)
- ✚ Thursday 25 December: open 9.30am till 3pm for fun and festivities; 12pm hot dinner
- ✚ Friday 26 December: 9.30am warm space; 12pm lunch (burgers)
- ✚ Wednesday 31 December: 9.30am warm space; 12pm hot dinner
- ✚ Friday 2 January: 9.30am warm space; 12pm hot dinner

All welcome. Free. No booking required.

You are a gift. Made with Love

Have you seen the Methodist Church's Christmas film yet? Gifted tells the real-life story of Sue, a member of King's Cross Methodist Church, as she discovers faith through a chance invitation at a local restaurant. As her story unfolds, Sue realises that not only is the church community a gift to her, but that she can be a gift to others: <https://youtu.be/zoSd8FW9IQY>

The initiative points people towards a specially created microsite, <https://youareagift.co.uk/>, which invites visitors to reflect on how they themselves might be a gift to their community, family or workplace this season. The site also connects people with next steps exploring how they are a gift, how church is a gift, and how Jesus is the gift. Reflections, prayers and resources designed to support spiritual curiosity or re-engagement with church life are also available.

The Gift of Christmas, the Gift of Christ

The Revd Dr Mark Rowland, Secretary of the Faith and Order Committee, asks how we ensure that the good news of Christ's birth remains at the heart of our national festive celebrations this year.

<https://www.methodist.org.uk/about/our-stories/the-gift-of-christmas-the-gift-of-christ/>

New contemporary versions of classic carols

As established over the past two years, the release of new contemporary recordings of classic carols across streaming services will continue.

This year, new versions of Joy to the World and In the Bleak Midwinter – titled Joy! (Everything Must Sing) and The Bleak Midwinter – have been recorded, featuring Methodist singers across the tracks.

"We've re-imagined these much-loved carols in a fresh musical style that sits comfortably alongside contemporary playlists, while keeping the depth of the

original words. Our hope is that they become songs people can share easily with friends, family and church communities as part of their Christmas celebrations.”

Listen or watch the new version of Joy to the World, crafted in collaboration with churches across Great Britain and featuring the voice talents of Ruby Le Masurier (Songs of Praise Young Chorister of the Year Finalist 2024) and the Revd Heather Simmons: <https://youtu.be/qS5SzSK4lpE?list=RDPMMLC9yxNLBE>

Also, a contemporary recording of In The Bleak Midwinter, featuring Izzy Wellings: <https://youtu.be/PMLC9yxNLBE?list=RDPMMLC9yxNLBE>

Christmas break for the notices

Please note that next week (Sunday 21 December) will be the last notices of 2025! The next notices after that will be for Sunday 4 January 2026. So, if you have any Christmas or New Year news to share, please let Suzanne have the details by 7pm on Thursday 18 December. Thank you!

Weekly activities at Zion		
Mondays	10am-12pm	Knit & Knatter
	2pm-3pm	Dance for Fun
	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)
	7.15pm-8.45pm	Guides
Thursdays	9.30am-11.30am	Coffee Morning
	12.30pm	Community Lunch (3 rd Thu; booking required)
Fridays	10am	Trinity Badminton Group (Sep-Dec)
	2pm-4pm	Come & Meet Each Other (CAMEO) – table top games, puzzles – (Jul + Sep-Dec)