



Keswick Methodist Church

I lift up my eyes to the hills.....

www.keswickmethodistchurch.org.uk



Notices for week commencing 12 December 2021



Ministers:

Rev Paul Saunders
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Deacon Kina Saunders
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01900 823273

Leadership Team:

See back page for contact details

Lord,
we pray for a just economy
with equality at its heart,
an economy where all
may flourish.

We pray for those in power
to work tirelessly
for such a vision.

We commit ourselves
to 'lift up our voices
mightily' as we strive for
economic justice for all.

Amen.

(Week 3 Advent Liturgy)

10.30am Worship – Advent 3 & Communion

led by Rev Paul Saunders

Singing the Faith: 166(v3), 181, 187, 186, 208

Readings: Luke 1:26-38 & Luke 1:46-55

The bread we use during communion is gluten free.

Please stay after the service for coffee and tea. Mince pies and biscuits also available.

This Coming Week:

Thursday 16 December:

9.30-10am Prayer Group in the hall
10-11.30am Coffee Drop-in in the hall

Sunday 19 December:

10.30am Carol Service led by Deacon Kina Saunders

Advent

Today is Week 3 of Advent and we'll be lighting three candles in our Advent Wreath. The special liturgy is one from JPIT (Joint Public Issues Team) and today we sing verse 3 from Singing the Faith 166 Christmas is Coming. Our Advent candle-lighting prayer focuses on sharing the blessings we have with others. You can find out about the connection between the environment and the economy and more at jointpublicissues.org.uk/economy.



Notices for 19 December-2 January

The notices for next Sunday, 19 December, will cover the two weeks up to 2 January. This is because we don't have a service on 26 December, although hopefully many of us will be at the 10am Christmas Day family service (led by Rev Paul Saunders this year). Please bear this in mind when thinking about when to put your special notice in during this time.



Church Christmas Card

£1.50 each or 5 for £6

Brian Moffat has produced a limited run of Christmas cards showing our nativity wall (card as illustrated). All proceeds for the church. £1.50 each or 5 for £6.

Newsletter

I'm starting to put together articles for the January/ February Newsletter. If possible please let me have contributions by today, Sunday 12 December as I shall be away over Christmas. I look forward to hearing from you – complete with photos of course!

Joyce Ellis (73340)

The Way

The latest edition of the free newspaper of the Church in Cumbria is now available online at godforall.org.uk/resource/the-way.



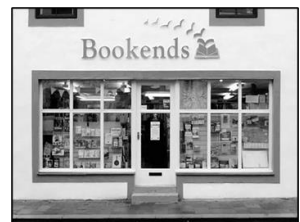
Foodbank Reverse Advent Calendar

At Christmas the Foodbank likes to give out extra items to vulnerable families in addition to their normal emergency parcels. This year they've again produced a **Reverse Advent Calendar**.

For each day of Advent, instead of opening a door and eating chocolate, there's a suggested item which you can buy and set aside for the Foodbank. You don't have to give an item every day – just do what you can. You can bring your donations to the collection point at church in the usual way or deliver them to me at 38 Briar Rigg or ring me and I'll come and collect. Items can be handed in at any time. If you'd like to take part please pick up a copy of the **Reverse Advent Calendar** from the table in the welcome area. Roy Ellis (73340)

Children's Book Bank

Bookends in Keswick is again collecting donations of **new** children's books (from toddlers to teens) to give to local foodbanks (including North Lakes Foodbank) for children of their clients, to Jigsaw Children's Hospice and Salvation Army.





Christmas Tree Festival

Our 9th annual Christmas Tree Festival was a very happy event, and I hope you all enjoyed it! Thanks go to all the people who contributed to the success of this event in many different ways. The sale of refreshments raised £429.10 and donations amounted to £509.69; a fantastic amount raised for Action for Children!



A total of 474 people visited. In our "Vote for your favourite tree" competition, all the trees were someone's favourite. St Herbert's After School Club, decorated with reindeer and snowmen stuck on pegs, was the winner, with 29 votes. The second was the New Alhambra Mini Tree, with an actual reel of the film Frozen, which had 27 votes. Joint third were St John's Advent Tree and Threlkeld Lego Tree, with 26 votes each.

Our church trees and most of the Nativity scenes will remain for the Christmas season for you to enjoy. Prayers can still be written on a bauble shape and added to the Prayer Tree in the entrance area. Also, take a closer look at the lovely "Peace at Christmas" tree, which some of our members helped to decorate.

Sheila Files (79253)

Thank you from Greta Grave

I would like to thank all kind friends at Keswick Methodist Church for the best wishes received on my 90th birthday. I continue to love being a member of the church and feel connected to you all when reading the church news and the written weekly services I receive in the post. I am thinking of all the people who are unwell or grieving at this time and wish you well.

Greta Grave

(Sally was able to visit Greta on her birthday, taking along the card many of us recently signed – and a helium balloon!)



Christmas Postbox

This year we again have a Christmas Postbox in the welcome area until Saturday 18 December. If you wish to post Christmas cards (for church friends only please) you're invited to make a donation to **Action for Children** in the collecting tin next to the postbox. The cards will be sorted and left in alphabetical order on a table in the hall to collect during coffee after the Carol Service next Sunday, 19 December.



Action for Children Collections

Our Church Council decided that, as usual, the Christmas Tree Festival donations and refreshment proceeds and the collections from the Carol Service and the Christmas Day service will all go to Action for Children. This is our major fundraising for the charity each year. Many thanks go to all who give so generously to help disadvantaged children and families.



Charity Coffee Mornings

Our first Saturday Charity Coffee Morning of 2022 is on **22 January, 10am-12 noon**. We'll be raising money for **Carlisle Key** which works with young people 16-25 who are homeless or at risk from homelessness. The February one will follow on **19 February** and will be for **Hospice at Home**.

We're looking to organise these Coffee Mornings on a regular basis next year, as a chance to meet together and generate funds for charities, both local and further afield. If you're able to help with these or future events, either helping on the day or baking cakes please contact Pauline H. (tel 07968 003258).

Updated Covid 'Rules' (10 December 2021)

We're delighted to welcome members, friends and visitors to worship with us. We've again reviewed our risk assessment in the light of the Prime Minister's recent announcements and done everything we can to ensure your safety and protection. During these times of further Covid variants, you can be reassured that we're continuing to operate on a covid-secure basis and will continue to do so to keep us all safe. This means it's still **"Hands, Face, Space"** and you must not come into church if you have any Covid symptoms or test positive, either with a lateral flow test or PCR.

- **Hands:** Please sanitise your hands at whichever entrance you use (hall, church and fire exit all have sanitisers on the wall) and wash them as often as you can.
 - **Face:** Please continue to wear a face mask inside our building. This is now a legal requirement. The only exceptions are if you are exempt, if you are eating or drinking or need to speak to someone who is deaf and is lip reading. We must keep them on whilst moving about the church or hall.
 - **Space:** Please help by maintaining social distancing. This may mean you will want to move from where you normally sit. We're not limiting the size of groups.
- We'll continue to ventilate by opening windows and doors.
- **Singing:** We'll be continuing to sing behind our masks! Please be considerate of others and keep your mask on while singing. If you prefer to sit near the back, behind people singing, that's fine.
 - **Test & Trace:** You're advised to continue to use the QR code on your smart phone but we don't need to take your contact details unless you wish us to. The Government advise us all to continue lateral flow tests twice a week (or a PCR test if you have Covid symptoms). Lateral flow tests are available via the internet or from one of the local pharmacies.

- A steward will guide you to the worship area and show you where to sit. We'll still be keeping one chair empty between groups or bubbles. After the service please keep social distancing as you go for coffee or as you leave.
- A collection plate is at the exit as you go out or in the hall during coffee.
- We're delighted to be able to offer you coffee and tea – and a biscuit or mince pie! Please do enjoy a cuppa and a chat if you are able. You should leave your empty cups on the tables for collection. Don't forget to keep your face covering on when you're not sitting down.
- We know many have had the Covid vaccines and booster, but quite understand that some of our members prefer not to return to church just yet. We hope to see you soon.

We know you'll understand that we continue to take these precautions to help reduce the spread of the virus as much as possible, and to protect both our church family and our visitors. If you have any questions please speak to one of us (details below).

The Leadership Team

Future Dates



Sunday 19 Dec 10.30am : Carol Service with Deacon Kina Saunders

Saturday 25 Dec 10am : Family Christmas Day Service

Sunday 26 Dec : No Worship Service planned

Sunday 2 Jan 10.30am : Covenant Service

Sunday 23 Jan 10.30am: Leprosy Mission Sunday with Paul Moores



Foodbank

This week we need **dried rice (1kg & 500g), jam, sponge puddings, UHT milk, tinned fruit and tinned meat.** Can you help? You can leave items either in the collection bin at church or at Booths. Thank you.

Roy Ellis (73340)

Flower Rota

There will be a new Flower Rota for 2022. I'll leave names on the same dates as 2021 unless you wish to come off. There are quite a few blank dates left, so if you'd like to join the rota, please talk to me. I know that many enjoy having flowers in church each week and find that they enhance worship. This also enables us to give the flowers out to people who are unwell, bereaved, housebound or could just do with a lift, so that they know we are thinking of them.



Sheila Files (79253)

Need help?

Please remember if you need help in any way that you can contact any of the Leadership Team:

Helen North 78025

Sheila Files 79253

Anne Hasson 75818

Pauline Huggan 07968 003258

Richard North 78025

David Hasson 75818

Nigel Barker 73818

Fiona Crouch 07768 726681

Notice Sheet: Please email or phone any notices for next week's two-week edition through to Anne Hasson by e-mail to annehasson@aol.com or phone 75818 by **Thursday afternoon** at the latest.