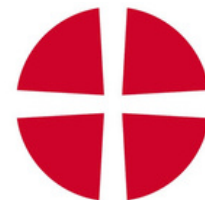




Bethesda Methodist Church

Minister: Rev. Rachel Leather
www.bethesda-church.org.uk - Tel 01242 269803



SEPTEMBER NOTICES

WE WELCOME ALL FRIENDS AND VISITORS TO OUR SERVICES.
WE INVITE YOU TO JOIN US FOR REFRESHMENTS IN THE HALL AFTER THE MORNING SERVICE.



We seek to make our services accessible to all. If you need any help or assistance please speak to a steward. If you have any suggestions to help us improve please get in touch.

Please feel free to use the children's area in church which has toys and colouring. We also have a Junior Church group during most Sunday morning services for ages 3-11.



Please set your hearing aid to the T, telephone or loop setting.

If you would like a large print hymn book or service book we have these available. If you cannot read the screen and would like to have a printed order of the service please speak to a steward.

There is a toilet at the back of the church (accessed via the entrance foyer) and ladies and gents toilets through the building, accessed via the side doors.



Services this month

Sunday 6th September

10:30am - Morning Worship at Bethesda - Rev Martin Turner

6:00pm - Holy Communion at Hawling - Rev John McNeill

Lectionary: Exodus 12: 1-14 Psalm 149 Romans 13: 8-14 Matthew 18: 15-20

Sunday 13th September

10:30am - Harvest Festival at Bethesda - Local Arrangement

Sunday Morning Youth Group

Harvest festival will be followed by a bring and share faith lunch

3:00pm - Circuit Service at Stroud

6:30pm - Youth Discipleship Group

7:30pm - Youth Group

Lectionary: Exodus 14: 19-31 Psalm 114 Romans 14: 1-12 Matthew 18: 21-35

Sunday 20th September

10:30am - Holy Communion at Bethesda - Rev Rachel Leather

6:00pm - Harvest Festival at Hawling - Rev Rachel Leather

Lectionary: Exodus 16: 2-15 Psalm 105: 1-6, 37-45 Philippians 1: 21-30
Matthew 20: 1-16

Sunday 27th September

10:30am - All Age Worship at Bethesda - Rev Rachel Leather

6:30pm - Youth Discipleship Group

7:30pm - Youth Group

Lectionary: Exodus 17: 1-7 Psalm 78: 1-4, 12-16 Philippians 2: 1-13
Matthew 21: 23-32

Church for all

We believe in a Church which welcomes and serves all people in the name of Jesus Christ; which is scripturally faithful; which seeks to proclaim the Gospel afresh for each generation; and which, in the power of the Holy Spirit, allows all people to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Jesus Christ.



Notices and Events

Eco Group Meeting – 22nd September

Our Bethesda eco group will be meeting at 7.30pm on the evening of Tuesday September 22nd by zoom to plan our activities up to Christmas. We are open to everyone who cares for our world to join us as we consider what we can do to raise awareness in our community. Meeting Zoom link:

ECUMENICAL COMMUNION SERVICE ...

Wednesday 2nd September 9.00am:

Ecumenical Communion service Bishop's Cleeve Methodist. All are welcome.



Curry evening (Thai meal)

The curry club's next meal will be at Siam Smile on Suffolk Road, at 7pm on Tuesday, 1 September. This will be a Thai meal, so if you fancy a meal out in great company, but don't like curry, this is a perfect opportunity to join us. All are welcome. If you would like to join in this evening of fun, food and fellowship, please speak to Katie (tel.).

NETWORK CHELTENHAM SHOWCASE ...

The Network Cheltenham Showcase is happening on Monday 14th September, starting at 7:30pm, at Bethesda Methodist Church – Cheltenham. Come and hear about the work of YMCA Cheltenham, Cheltenham and Bishop's Cleeve Anna Chaplaincy for older people, LAMPS Collective and Home for Good. There will be plenty of other local Christian groups and organisations to meet and connect with during the evening.

All are welcome! ... Spread the word



Bethesda at Six

The 'Bethesda at Six' concert series returns this autumn. A date for your diaries: Gordon Busbridge and the Cheltenham Sinfonietta are giving a recital here at Bethesda at 6.00pm on Sunday 15th November.

Our September welcome teams are:

Sunday 6th – Peter & Margaret Allsopp
Sunday 13th – Stephen & Doddy Marlow
Sunday 20th – Helen Davies & Sally Williams
Sunday 27th – Brian & Alexis Cassin



Harvest Festival

Everyone is invited to join us for a bring and share lunch on Sunday 13th September after our Harvest Festival service.

Please sign up on the sheet in the vestibule and Willow.

Please follow the LOAF principles if possible, (see below for more information on LOAF.)

Saturday Coffee



Join us for coffee, cake and a chat every Saturday morning from 10:30 – 12:00 here at Bethesda. We look forward to welcoming you! Donations to charity.

Do you enjoy doing jigsaw puzzles? Do come along to our Jigsaw Swap at the Saturday Coffee Shop on 19th September. Bring along any jigsaw puzzles you've finished with and choose from a selection of others to take home. Whether you're an experienced puzzler or just enjoy the occasional challenge, there will be plenty to choose from.



What does LOAF mean?

LOAF is an acronym that stands for:

Locally produced: Buying food from nearby farms and markets to cut down on transport pollution and supporting local communities.

Organically grown: Choosing food grown without harmful synthetic chemicals or artificial fertilizers to protect the soil and wildlife.

Animal friendly: Selecting items produced with high standards of animal welfare, such as free-range or humanely raised meat and dairy.

Fairly traded: Buying goods like coffee, tea, and chocolate that ensure fair wages and safe working conditions for farmers in developing nations.



Toddlers

Our parent and toddler groups meet on Monday and Thursday each week from 10am in the Church Hall.

New families are always welcome.



Bethesda Singers



The singing group will meet on Thursday 10th September and Thursday 24th September in The Well. Join us at 7pm for tea and a chat to begin singing at 7:15pm.

We warmly welcome new singers of all abilities, do come along and join us!

Lunch Club

From September 8th, our weekly lunch club meet on Tuesdays at 12:30pm.



Roots



Saturday 5th September at 3:00pm: The 'Roots' contemporary worship service is held in the Hall at St Marks, Gloucester Rd.

Climate and nature emergency

The People's Emergency Briefing is a 50 minute film being shown across the country highlighting the climate and nature emergency and the implications for our lives, our economy and our future. Rev Rachel has been to see this (as has our MP, Max Wilkinson), and would strongly encourage all church members to go and see it. You can find out more here: [National Emergency Briefing](#) which includes a short trailer. The next showing locally is at Cowley Girl Guides HQ GL53 9NJ (head to the Green Dragon pub and turn right) on Thursday 17th September 7pm and all are welcome - no booking required. Alternatively Norton Village Hall GL29LJ are showing this on Saturday 17th October 7.30pm. Rachel found this to be informative on the mitigating action we can take, not to reverse the climate emergency, but how we can all make adaptations and meaningful changes.



Bethesda Backpackers

Most walks start at 9.30, please phone the leader for more details and by 6.30 at the latest the evening before so that arrangements can be made for lunch and lifts.

Saturday September 5th is a flat 4 mile walk at the Cotswold Water Park led by Elaine ().

Wednesday 9th Anne and Brian () are leading a 3 mile walk from the Star College.

On **Monday 14th** we embark on the final 3.5mile section of our pilgrimage along the canal from Sharpness to Gloucester Cathedral led by Elaine ().

Tuesday 22nd is a fairly short 2.5 mile walk to Painswick Beacon also led by Elaine.

At the start of October, Thursday 1st, Elaine's walk is 3.2 miles from Haw Bridge on the far side of the River Severn.



Eco Church

We have recently heard the great news that St Peter's Leckhampton has achieved the **Gold Award**, joining us as the only churches in Cheltenham to reach this standard.

We have been involved both in the early support and advice and also in their assessment.

Congratulations to St Peter's!

Upcoming Events ...

Don't forget to send details of any upcoming church or community events in the autumn to notices@bethesda-church.org.uk ready to go in the October notices. Thank you

The Hush at Cheltenham Literature Festival

You may know that over the last few years, the Methodist Church connexional team has hosted a venue called 'The Hush' at Cheltenham Literature Festival. We are now looking for volunteers to support the venue, so if this catches your attention, please read on!

What is The Hush? - The Hush tent venue is The Methodist Church's presence at this year's festival (9th-18th October) - a welcoming, peaceful space where children and families can step away from the noise and busyness to pause, wonder and dream. Rather than being a traditional church activity, the Hush Tent offers an open and inclusive environment where people of all faiths and none can experience moments of calm, creativity and reflection. Through storytelling, imaginative play, craft activities, quiet spaces and gentle conversation, we hope to encourage curiosity, wellbeing and spirituality in ways that are accessible to everyone.

What does volunteering look like? - During the weekdays, we'll welcome booked school groups, and during the gaps we will host some open drop-in sessions for families. Over the first weekend The Hush will be joined by the amazing Bob Hartman - well-known Christian storyteller and author. And over the second weekend The Hush will be joined by a Christian arts company.

Volunteers are at the heart of making this happen. You might be welcoming visitors, helping children with creative activities, sharing stories, chatting with families, guiding people around the different reflection spaces, or simply helping to maintain the calm and hospitable atmosphere. You don't need to be an expert in children's work or have all the answers - just a warm, friendly manner, a willingness to listen, and a desire to help create a space where everyone feels valued, safe and welcome.

The Hush Tent is an opportunity for us, as The Methodist Church, to offer a ministry of hospitality, peace and hope within the heart of the festival, helping children and families discover that sometimes the most meaningful moments begin by simply slowing down. If you are interested we would love to hear from you. Please speak to, or email, Sean Marsh or Rachel Simpson. We have a tight turn around with the festival rapidly approaching so if you would like to be part of The Hush please get in touch with us during the first week of September or as soon as you possibly can!

Thank you so very much in advance. If you have any questions - please do not hesitate to get in touch with me. Every blessing, Sean Marsh (Young People and Families Worker, Bethesda Methodist Church.)

Contact us...

Minister: Rev Rachel Leather

revrachel.leather@methodist.org.uk

Stewards: Bridget Nye, Keith Norman, Teresa Griffiths and Joanne Reed

Stewards@bethesda-church.org.uk

Safeguarding, Pastoral Care & Hospitality:

Rachel Simpson

rachel.simpson@bethesda-church.org.uk

Children, Young People & Families: Sean Marsh

sean.marsh@bethesda-church.org.uk

Music Coordinator: Diana Wadsworth

music@bethesda-church.org.uk

Upcoming Notices

Please send any notices for the **October** edition to: notices@bethesda-church.org.uk as soon as you can and by 9pm on Wednesday 30th September at the latest. The target date for email circulation of the August notices is Friday 2nd October with paper copies available Sunday 4th October.

Please do send any events which you think our church community would like to hear about.

To receive our monthly notice sheet via email please join the congregation email list by emailing notices@bethesda-church.org.uk. These notices (without personal phone numbers and email addresses) are also available on our website.

