



## THE METHODIST CIRCUIT OF WEST OXFORDSHIRE (23/3)

Charity number 1134159

### CIRCUIT PREACHING PLAN No.14 - WINTER QUARTER 2023

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#### PASTORAL LETTER from the Superintendent

Once again as we enter the winter months, the days draw in darker and colder, and this can lead our spirits to take a dip. There are compensations though - warm evenings by the fire, 'Strictly Come Dancing on the tele' and, of course, the Advent Season leading to that great celebration of our Savior's birth - Christmas. For some this year, celebrations this Christmas may not match the exuberance of Christmas's past. This may be due to churches struggling with fewer people to do the work, or due to financial pressure from the recent increases in the costs of living, or the overshadowing of the 'Season of Peace and Good Will', with the knowledge that there is little peace currently in Palestine or the Ukraine and that war continues in other part of the world. Perhaps this winter seems little a darker than usual.

We don't need to be extravagant in our celebration of Christmas. All that is required is that we join together in whatever way is appropriate in our context to remember the birth of the one who gave so much to us. And that we invite others to join with us in that celebration. It is only by remembering the fundamental teaching of Jesus, to love our neighbour *and* to love our enemies that we can influence the world for justice and peace. Every person who accepts and lives by the teaching of Christ, brings us nearer the goal of universal peace. We may sometimes feel that we have little power or influence, or that there is little we can do, but we can pray, and God hears our prayers.

We have to remember also that, for some people, Christmas is not the joyful time that it is for many. It can be a time for difficult memories, of grieving for lost loved ones or remembering hurt or pain. Some of our churches will be holding Blue Christmas services this year, which are aimed at people for whom this is true. These services aim to acknowledge the struggle of darkness and grief and offer opportunities for expression of pain and grief while also focusing on the promise of hope held in Christ. You can find where these services are being held, along with other types of Christmas service in the Service Search section of the Circuit web site.

Whatever your situation this year I wish you a peaceful and Blessed Christmas.

**A prayer for Israel / Palestine** (from [methodist.org.uk/our-faith/prayer/israel-palestine](http://methodist.org.uk/our-faith/prayer/israel-palestine))

Loving God

I see the news and I am afraid.

Violence is spiralling out of control.

I don't know what to think or feel.

The temptation to fall into

hatred, or

despair

feels very close at hand.

Help me to remember

that nothing in all creation

can separate me from your love

that I know in Jesus.

May your perfect love for me

cast out my fear

and free me to discern

what is mine to do

amidst the chaos of this suffering world.

Amen

**Rev'd Andrew Biggs,**

**Superintendent**

## PREACHING APPOINTMENTS AND MAKING THE PLAN

If you are unable to fulfil an appointment on the plan, it is your responsibility to find an accredited substitute and inform the Superintendent, and the relevant church steward of the change. Or, if you are unable, through illness or other significant reason to arrange a suitable substitute, to notify this to the Superintendent.

**Availability for Preachers** on the next plan will open on **1<sup>st</sup> December and the deadline is 29<sup>th</sup> December**. Please offer as wide a range of dates as you can and to enter the total number of appointments you wish to take in the “Maximum number of appointments this period box” . Please also remember to use the comments box to let me know any information you would like me to take into account when I make the plan. And remember to select the churches to which you are willing to travel, *in terms of distance for the time of year*, not just to select your favourite churches!

**Church Stewards** need to ensure that any requests for the next plan are given to **their minister by 2<sup>nd</sup> January**. please and section planning (for ministers) opens on **3<sup>rd</sup> January to 10<sup>th</sup> January**. I hope to publish the next plan on 31<sup>st</sup> January 2024

## SERVICE CODES

Code	Title	Code	Title	Code	Title
HC	Holy Communion	CV	Covenant Service	CC	Cafe Church
HGP	Hosting God's Presence	Crib	Crib Service	CS	Carol Service
LA	Locally Arranged Service	GS	Gift Service	Celeb	Celebration Service
AAW	All age worship	LHNT	LHNT Candles and Carols of Remembrance	CT	Christingle
AW	Ash Wednesday Service	P	Parade Service	CTF	Christmas Tree Festival
BC	Blue Christmas	US	United or ecumenical Service	CA	Church Anniversary

## CIRCUIT CONTACT DETAILS

Contact details for Circuit Ministers, Local Preachers, Circuit and Church Officers, and address details for churches are in the Circuit Directory which can now be found online at

[www.westoxfordshiremethodists.org.uk](http://www.westoxfordshiremethodists.org.uk)

Under GDPR requirements this information may only be accessed by those who have a 'legitimate interest' in its use. This means those with Circuit leadership and administrative roles and responsibilities and those connected with leading worship and preaching including local church stewards You will need a user name and password to access the online directory from the link at the top of the home page of the web site. Please inform the circuit office of any changes or updates to contact details or any changes of office holders.

Winter		December 2023						
Church		3rd Dec Advent Sunday	10th Dec 2nd of Advent	Wednesday 15th Dec	17th Dec 3rd of Advent	Tuesday 19th Dec	Wednesday 20th Dec	Thursday 21st Dec
Bampton	11:00 am	Harris	Haley		Williams			
Bampton	3:00 pm		Cooke CS / 6:00 pm					
Carterton	10:30 am	Worrall HC / CC	Worrall CC		Worrall CC			
Charlbury	10:30 am	Maisey	Biggs HC		No Service			
Charlbury	6:00 pm				LA CS			
Chipping Norton	10:45 am	Biggs HC	Junior Church Service LA		Biggs		Biggs CC/CS 10.00 am	
Chipping Norton	6:00 pm	J Biggs CTF / 4.30 pm		Biggs LHNT / US	Biggs CS			
Churchill	11:00 am	US @Chippin g Norton US	J Bywater		LA			
Davenport Road	10:30 am	G Faulkner	Blow		J Skinner			
Davenport Road	3:00 pm				LA CS			
Davenport Road	6:00 pm	Worrall / Cooke HGP						
Faringdon	10:30 am	Crawford	Cooke		K Skinner			
Faringdon	4:00 pm				Cooke CS			
High Street	10:30 am	Cooke HC / GS	P Fowler		Cooke			
High Street	7:00 pm					Cooke BC		
Long Hanborough	10:00 am	LA	Harris HC		LA CT			

Winter		December 2023						
Church		3rd Dec Advent Sunday	10th Dec 2nd of Advent	Wednesday 15th Dec	17th Dec 3rd of Advent	Tuesday 19th Dec	Wednesday 20th Dec	Thursday 21st Dec
<b>Minster Lovell</b>	11:00 am	J Skinner HC	E Fowler		No Service			
<b>Minster Lovell</b>	3:00 pm				LA CS / 6:00 pm			
<b>Newland</b>	3:00 pm							Cooke CS / 6.30 pm
<b>Stonesfield</b>	11:00 am	Hannant	Allen		Sarbutts			
<b>Stonesfield</b>	3:00 pm				Biggs CS			
<b>Sutton</b>	3:00 pm		Harris					
<b>Westcote</b>	11:00 am	Crippen	S Bywater HC		No Service			
<b>Westcote</b>	3:00 pm				Gibson CS			
<b>Homestead MHA</b>	3:00 pm				Worrall HC			

Winter		December 2023				
Church		Friday 22nd Dec	Saturday 23rd Dec	24th Dec Christmas Eve	25th Dec Christmas Day	31st Dec 1st of Christmas
<b>Bampton</b>	11:00 am			Cooke HC		LA
<b>Carterton</b>	10:30 am			LA / CC	Worrall Celeb / 10:00 am	Worrall CC
<b>Carterton</b>	6:00 pm			LA HGP		
<b>Charlbury</b>	10:30 am			Broadberry / Moyo		No Service

Winter		December 2023				
Church		Friday 22nd Dec	Saturday 23rd Dec	24th Dec Christmas Eve	25th Dec Christmas Day	31st Dec 1st of Christmas
Chipping Norton	10:45 am			Hannant	Biggs 10:00 am	Brown
Chipping Norton	6:00 pm	J Biggs BC	Biggs Crib / 4:00 pm			
Churchill	11:00 am			Maisey		Cooke
Davenport Road	10:30 am			Biggs CC / HC	LA	LA
Davenport Road	6:00 pm			Worrall HC		
Faringdon	10:30 am			Worrall HC	LA / 10:00 am	No Service
Faringdon	4:00 pm			CT / LA		
High Street	10:30 am			No Service	Cooke	Hannant
High Street	3:00 pm			LA Crib		
High Street	7:00 pm	Cooke CS	Cooke HC / 11:15 pm			
Long Hanborough	10:00 am			No Service	Broadberry / Moyo	
Long Hanborough	6:00 pm			Sarbutts CS		
Minster Lovell	11:00 am			Bowler		LA
Newland	3:00 pm			Cooke		
Stonesfield	11:00 am			J Skinner		Biggs HC
Sutton	3:00 pm			CS / LA / 4:00 pm		
Westcote	11:00 am			LA	US@ St Mary's US / 9:30 am	Blake US

Winter		January 2024			
Church		7th Jan 1st in Ordinary Time	14th Jan 2nd in Ordinary Time	21st Jan 3rd in Ordinary Time	28th Jan 4th in Ordinary Time
Bampton	11:00 am	Maisey	Ireland CV / HC	LA	P Fowler
Carterton	10:30 am	Worrall CV / HC	Haley	Worrall CC	LA / CC
Charlbury	10:30 am	US @ Chipping Norton	J Biggs	US @ St Mary's US	J Skinner
Chipping Norton	10:45 am	Biggs CV / HC	Maisey	Williams	US @ Town Hall 10.30am
Churchill	11:00 am	US @ Chipping Norton	Hannant	Allen	LA
Davenport Road	10:30 am	J Bywater	Biggs CV / HC	Maisey	Bowler
Davenport Road	6:00 pm	Cooke / Worrall HGP	S Bywater		Cooke HC
Faringdon	10:30 am	Ireland CV / HC	LA	S Bywater	E Fowler
High Street	10:30 am	Cooke CV / HC	Levermore	G Faulkner	Worrall
Long Hanborough	10:00 am	Levermore	LA	Ireland AAW	Harris CV / HC
Minster Lovell	11:00 am	S Bywater HC	Blow	Broadberry / Moyo	Cooke
Stonesfield	11:00 am	US @ Chipping Norton	LA	Brown	Maisey
Sutton	3:00 pm		Crawford		
Westcote	11:00 am	Gibson		Blake	Hannant
Westcote	3:00 pm		Ireland CV / HC		
Homestead MHA	3:00 pm			Biggs HC	

Winter		February 2024				
Church		4th Feb 5th in Ordinary Time	11th Feb Sunday before Lent	14th Feb Ash Wednesday	18th Feb 1st of Lent	25th Feb 2nd of Lent
<b>Bampton</b>	11:00 am	LA	Allen		Ireland HC	Blow
<b>Carterton</b>	10:30 am	Worrall HC / CC	LA CC		Worrall CC	Williams CC
<b>Charlbury</b>	10:30 am	S Bywater HC	Worrall		Hannant	Ireland
<b>Chipping Norton</b>	10:45 am	J Bywater	Biggs HC	Biggs AW / HC	Harris	Cooke
<b>Churchill</b>	11:00 am	J Skinner	Gibson		J Biggs	Biggs HC
<b>Davenport Road</b>	10:30 am	Biggs P	J Skinner HC		G Faulkner	K Skinner
<b>Davenport Road</b>	6:00 pm	Worrall HGP	Ireland			Biggs HC
<b>Faringdon</b>	10:30 am	LA	Ireland HC		Bowler	Maisey
<b>High Street</b>	10:30 am	Cooke HC	Cooke		Cooke	Bryon CA
<b>Long Hanborough</b>	10:00 am	LA	Haley	Harris	Maisey AAW	J Skinner HC
<b>Minster Lovell</b>	11:00 am	Ireland CV / HC	K Skinner		Crawford	Harris
<b>Newland</b>	3:00 pm					Cooke
<b>Stonesfield</b>	11:00 am	Hannant	Broadberry / Moyo		Biggs HC	E Fowler
<b>Sutton</b>	3:00 pm		Sarbutts			
<b>Westcote</b>	11:00 am	Maisey	S Bywater HC		A Hopkins	D Cook
<b>Homestead MHA</b>	3:00 pm				Ireland HC	