

Truly this Man was the Son of God!

Luke 15:39b

NKJV ~ used with permissio

Deadline for March to May 2025 edition Tuesday 29 April 2025

Please send all articles for inclusion in the next edition to the Circuit Administrator at:

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yandbvcircuit@gmail.com



www.yeovilblackmorevalemc.org.uk





Our Mission Statement

To Know God's Love, To Show God's Love,

To Share God's Love



From the Circuit Office

My usual working hours are now Tuesday and Thursday mornings 9am-1pm. I mainly work from home, visiting the Circuit Office as required. I can be contacted by telephone on 07423 837504 during working hours or email yandbvcircuit@gmail.com

Annual Leave—Please note that I will be takin annual leave during the week commencing Monday 3rd March. The office will therefore be closed from 1pm on Thursday 27 February and will reopen on Tuesday 11 March.

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY:

Circuit Meeting — Wednesday 19 February— 7pm on Zoom Wednesday 18 June—7pm at Cheap street Church

Please send your News and details of upcoming events for the Bridge Magazine to the Circuit Office **well before Tuesday 29th April 2025** This hopefully gives you time to get any Easter news and reports to me.

Many thanks. Helen.

If you are submitting photographs for publication in the Bridge Magazine please ensure that anyone portrayed in pictures is aware that it is being taken and may be published. It is particularly important that written parental consent is obtained to publish pictures of children.

Circuit Presbyters

<u>Superintendent Minister</u>: Revd Lin Francis 01747 823777. <u>Minister</u>: Revd Kate Konrad—01935 415837 <u>Supernumerary Ministers</u>: Revd Ruth Farrant; * Revd Christina Le Moignan; Revd Margaret Oxenham; Revd Judy Turner-Smith; *Revd Catherine Campbell-Hyde; Revd Soon Cheol Choi (* before the name indicates 'not active')



ew friends, friendly Christain chat together with a



Hire a room at YMC Chelston Avenue, Yeovil!

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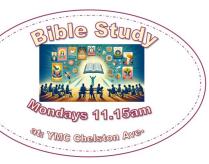
What's happening around the Circuit

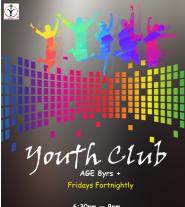




10:30am—11:30am At YMC: Chelston Ave. Come and enjoy Worship with Breakfast and Chat. EVERYONE WELCOME!







6:30pm — 8pm £1.50 + Money for Tuck Shop @ Yeovil Methodist Church: Chelston Avenue For More Info call Lindsav: 0781 727 1001 March 2024

Dear Friends,

This time of year reminds me of a friend of mine and his grief. It is the anniversary of this mans son's death. His teenage son committed suicide in a most horrific way. The father was and is still 'lost', and I am sure the mother is too. He looks distracted, is quieter than normal and seems to be operating on remote control. These are the after affects of a sudden tragic death which this family had no way of foreseeing.

I cannot get the face of this man out of my mind's eye. In my mind and in my thinking Jesus comes to the fore. Through Lent we explore our relationship with God. The Bible readings point us towards Jerusalem and to the final days of Jesus' life. Jesus knew of his death, he was constantly preparing his disciples for it. This preparation was painstakingly carried out; three times Jesus predicted his death. The three Synoptic Gospels tell in graphic details of what would happen to him. Note though, that only Luke explains that the disciples didn't understand.

For Jesus life carried on as normal (well as normal as it could), Matthew and Mark find Jesus dealing with two of the disciples jockeying for position and Luke finds him healing the blind beggar. When I think of the man whose son died, it makes me wonder what Jesus looked like, how did he cope with the strain, was he haggard and pale. His friends didn't understand and so often we do not understand people who are bereaved.

The only way we, as Christians get through these type of difficulties is by turning to God in a very special way, wanting and needing his sustaining love and care. Jesus too prayed to his Father.

The whole Easter message is about Christ being arisen, that love is eternal, that faith and hope thrive and that there are no barriers to God's love for us.

Hymn 304 in 'Singing the Faith' voices this far better than I can; have a read and see what I mean.

With some of Jean Murdoch's words: let this Easter season find us recognising that on the dawn of Easter morn came a resurrection, a new hope that grew with the rising sun, that went out to a waiting world... to you and me. Let us live our lives with a resurrection faith and continually shout "Alleluia, Christ is arisen".

With love and peace,

Lín

Holy Week and Easter Services

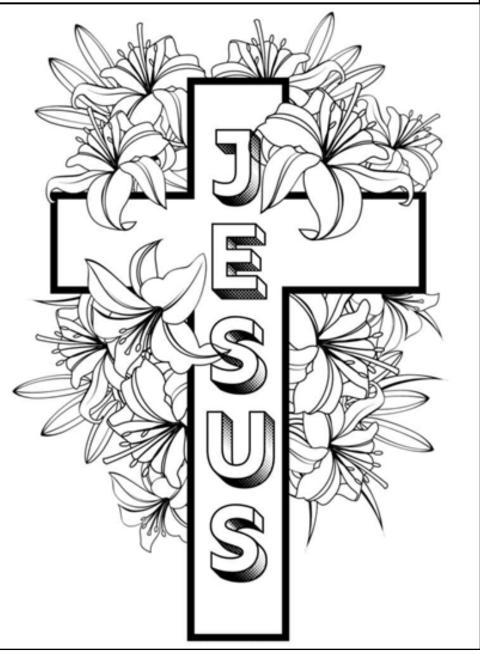
Maundy Thursday 17th April

10:30 am	Cheap Street	Maundy Thursday service with Holy Communion Revd K Konrad						
6:00 pm	Sturminster	Maundy Thursday service with Holy Communion Revd L Francis						
7:00 pm	YMC Chelston	Maundy Thursday service with Holy Communion Revd K Konrad						
Good Friday 18th April								
ТВС	Cheap Street	Sherborne Churches Together Walk of Witness, Details to follow.						
ТВС	Yeovil	Yeovil Town Centre Churches, Walk of Witness, concluding with a frugal lunch at the Quedam						
10:00am	Marnhull	Reflective Service						
	Nale S.Newton	• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •						
2:00pm	Marnhull	United Service at St Gregories (TBC)						
Holy Saturday 19th April								
4:00 pm	Kings Stag	Tea Party – contact Rev Margaret Oxenham 01258 472985						
<u>Easter Sur</u>	nday 20 th April							
10:00 am	Marnhull	Easter Morning Communion. Rev Ruth Farrant						
10:30 am	Cheap Street	Easter Morning Communion. Rev Judy Turner-						
10·30 am	Vale S.Newton	Smith Easter Morning Communion. Rev Lin Francis						
10:30am		Easter Morning Communion. Rev Kate Konrad.						



FOR THE CHILDREN

(and the young at heart)



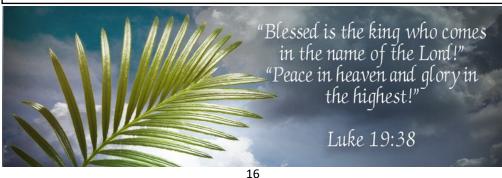
That evening Rev Kate led our carols by Candlelight Service with familiar readings and a reflection on how Jesus is the Light in the Darkness across the world, where there is much despair and from time to time in our own lives. We need to look ahead to that light at the end of the tunnel. From one of the younger members we heard a short narrative of one of the animals that roam the stables - that of the cat and how she saw events unfolding! After we enjoyed fellowship with a most welcome drink and mince pies, much needed after our hearty singing. Thank you also to Paul for putting the organ through its paces!.

The Christmas Service took place on Christmas Eve, followed later by Christmas Communion led by Rev Kate, who also took our Christmas Day Service.

Our Service on Christmas Sunday was led by Sarah, who like most of us, felt that between Christmas and New Year is a bit of a 'no mans land'! Not sure of what day we are on or when to put the decorations etc to bed! Maybe a time of reflection on what's gone before or what may lay ahead. She focused on 'light' - candles, the light coming from the angels - hearing them as they spoke to all those in the Christmas story - it's one thing to 'hear' but do we really listen - to pay attention to the message? Tea lights were lit by various people in remembering loved ones and worldwide situations.

Although the lights that have decorated inside and outside our homes and in our towns, towns to guide us through the dark winter nights of the festive season have been put to bed for another year, the Light of the World - Jesus Christ - burns brightly over us, to guide us through whatever circumstances we find ourselves in.

Thelma



How well do you know your Bible?

The following statements about the Bible were written by children. They have not been retouched or corrected (incorrect spelling has been left in). Thanks to David Stedeford for passing these amusing quips on to me.

- In the first book of the bible, Guinessis, God got tired of creating 1) stuff, so he took the Sabbath off.
- 2) Adam and Eve were made from an apple tree. Noah's wife was called Joan of Ark. Noah built an ark, which the animals come on to with pears.
- Lot's wife was a pillar of salt by day, and a ball of fire at night. 3)
- The Jews were a proud people and all through history they had 4) disagreements with the Genitals.
- Samson was a strong man who let himself be led stray by a Jezebel 5) like Delilah.
- Samson slaved the Philistines with the axe of the Apostles. 6)
- 7) Moses led the Hebrews to the Red Sea, where they made unleavened bread which is bread without any ingredients.
- 8) The Egyptians were all drowned in the dessert. Afterwards, Moses went up on Mount Cvanide to find the ten ammendments.
- 9) The first commandment was when Eve told Adam to eat an apple.
- The seventh commandment is thou shalt not admit adultery. 10)
- Moses died before he ever got to America. Then Joshua led the 11) Hebrews in the battle of Geritol.
- 12) The greatest miracle in the Bible is when Joshua told his sone to stand still and he obeyed him.
- David was a Hebrew king skilled at playing the liar. He fought with the 13) Finklesteins, a race of people who lived in Biblical times.
- 14) Solomon, one of David's sons, had 300 wives. It must have been nag, nag, nag all day long.
- 15) When Mary heard that she was the mother of Jesus, she sang the Magna Carta.
- When the three wise guys from the east side arrived, they found Jesus 16) in the manger.
- 17) Jesus was born because Mary had an immaculate contraption.
- St John the blacksmith dumped water on his head. 18)
- Jesus enunciated the Golden Rule, which says do one to others before 19) they do one to you. He also explaimed, a man doth not live by dead alone.
- It was a miracle when Jesus rose from the dead and managed to get 20) the tombstone off the entrance.
- 21) The people who followed the lord were called the 12 decibels.
- 22) The epistles were the wives of the apostles.
- 23) One of the opossum was St Matthew who was also a taximan.
- St Paul cavorted to Christianity. He preacher holy acrimony, which is 24) another word for marriage.
- 25) Christians have only one mate. That is called monotony.



Cheap Street Church

http://www.yeovilblackmorevalemc.org.uk/our-churches/cheap-street

http://cheapstreetchurch.co.uk/index.php

Greetings from Cheap Street Church! At the time of writing this I am just home from a wonderful Covenant Service. For the very first time – as far as I am aware – the service was held at 4pm on a Saturday afternoon. We

invited all our friends from Sherborne Churches Together – the Abbey, St. Paul's, the Catholic Church, the Quakers, Longburton Church, Lillington Church and Reborne! Such a special service for our church and a joy to share it with others as a fabulous start to a Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

Lots of good things have been going on in recent months with Sherborne Churches Together, which Kate – our minister - is Chairperson of for a few more months. The Christmas Tree Festival, held in our church, but run by an energetic group from Sherborne Churches Together, was visited by 3,500 people. 33 trees were decorated, 7 Choirs sang and £2800 was raised for charity. This was divided equally between Sherborne Area Refugee Support (SHARES) and The Rendezvous (a charity working with young people which operates from the basement of the church). We are thankful to SCT for running the festival as it requires a good deal of planning and hard work although our church members did a good deal of stewarding.

During the Christmas Tree Festival the church held a Christingle service for the first time in a number of years. The Brownies and Guides, with their leaders, helpers and parents all enjoyed the atmosphere of the service, lit by fairy lights and the Christingle candles. Sadly I can't share a photo with you because of the youngsters involved, but you can take my word for it that it was magical seeing the young people, with eyes like saucers, holding their candles so carefully and enjoying the sweet treats and singing the Christingle song led by Daniel England.

The Christmas Tree Festival concluded on a windy Saturday with Government weather alerts sounding! The Carol service with Sherborne Town Band just managed to go ahead as thankfully the wind died down at a perfect time. The church was full, with the balcony in use too, and voices were raised, enjoying the familiar carols and the twinkling lights and smell of the Christmas trees. It really got us all in



Coffee mornings are now being held there on Tuesdays and Fridays. The first big event was a Christmas Fayre. Decorations of all shapes and sizes, strings of lights, Christmas trees and garlands along the balcony gave it a really festive feel. The vestibule was decorated with greenery and space had been made into a grotto for Santa! The stalls were many and varied, with many showing their talents in handmade crafts. A children's table had been set up for them to do their own thing! Coffee and tempting cakes and hot soup and roll were on offer. A lot of hard work had been put in with the setting up of the stalls and it was good to see so many coming in to wander round, on what was a busy day in town, with many other activities on. It was good to show off our lovely building!

Yeovil Music Centre, based at YMC in the Quedam, held their Christmas Concert in December. They gave us a taste of familiar Christmas music as well as Yeovil Community Choir with the rending of carols and songs, and there was the opportunity for us to join in well known carols.

We also hosted the Yeovil Churches Together Carol Service – well supported, led by the Gateway Community Worship Group – a different style to what a lot of us are used to, the Christmas story, carols and readings from another angle – too some of us out of our comfort zone! But reminding us of the overall message of Love, Hope, Peace and Joy to all mankind.

Rev Kate spoke on the forthcoming 24/7 Prayer during January, encouraging us to take up prayer slots – for the life and work here in Yeovil.

At our Sunday morning worship we experienced a 'pop up' Nativity play by the children, seen or rather explored through the 'eyes' or rather a telescope! of the angels. The various characters in whatever costumes or guises they chose!, with us, the body of the church, joining at certain points of the story, along with singing carols. We then enjoyed a mouthwatering Christmas lunch, so we say a very big 'thankyou' for all the hard work in the preparation, setting up the festive tables and services, not forgetting the mouthwatering pudds. Well done everyone!

The following Sunday, communion was let by Rev Judy who gave her thoughts into the special relationship between Mary and Elizabeth and the babies they were carrying, who would shape and change the world.



Yeovil **Methodist** Church

http://yeovilblackmorevalemc.org.uk/our-churches/

The November Coffee Morning with various stalls was well supported, catching up with old friends over coffee and mouthwatering cakes. A time to do your Christmas shopping, with a wide variety of goods on offer. We were well entertained by Brian on the piano with some catchy, Yeovil Methodist toe tapping music, which added to the atmosphere. Some £400+ was raised, so a big thankyou to all those who



Church at **Chelston Avenue**

worked so hard to make it a success - the planning and setting up all takes time.

We marked Remembrance Sunday with Rev Lin leading worship - a thought -provoking service. For many of us we do not know the heartache that came with the knock on the door - the news that a loved one had been lost, it's therefore so important we should never forget the sacrifice given for the freedom we have today. At the close of the service Rev Lin blessed the shoe boxes, 18 of them, that would soon be winging their way to different parts of the world to put a smile on a child's face - something to call their own.

Towards the end of November, the church family and a good many more came together to support Dick Sindon and his family in the celebration of Monica's life - Well lived with emphasis on her love for supporting and encouraging the young and maybe not so young, with reading and learning of the love of her Lord and Master. An inspiring and well thought out service. Well known hymns reminding us of our own childhood and those

Yeovil Methodist Church in the Ouedam

who had left their mark on us as Monica had left hers on so many. There were many tributes from those whose lives had been touched by her just by reading to them. There followed fellowship and mouthwatering refreshments.

With the pews now having been removed from YMC in the Quedam, the space is ideal for many different events.

(Continued on page 15)

the mood for our own church Christmas celebrations a couple of weeks later.

Our church has a second congregation which meets once a month on a Monday evening - Monday Music. We focus on listening to a few pieces of secular music and discussing, over a bring-andshare meal, what Christian message we find in the music. Back in December we had a great time together making

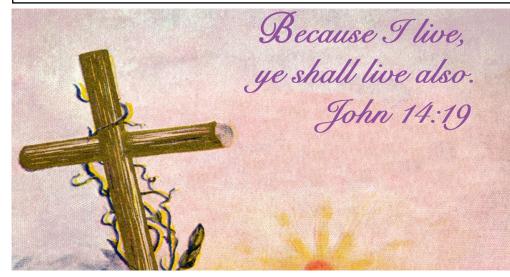


Advent table decorations. We don't usually have a craft activity but it was fun seeing the creativity of others, especially the young people.



And finally, back to January and the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. Not only have we started the week with the shared Covenant Service, but Sherborne Churches Together have constructed and distributed Blessing Bags to a local Care Home for each member of staff. Just a few little gifts... a pen, some tissues, some sweeties, a candle and a thoughtful card with a message. We hope it will remind all who receive it of the love we and lesus have for them.

Carolíne Wolffsohn





Marnhull Methodist Chapel

http://yeovilblackmorevalemc.org.uk/our-churches/marnhull/

We began this past quarter with our own 1st Sunday in Advent Service when we followed the liturgy and a candle

was lit in the advent ring. At this service we also celebrated 125years from the opening of this church although there was witness in the village before then. The cottage round the corner has a plaque indicating that there was a Methodist Chapel there in the 1860's. We joined members and friends of the other churches in Marnhull for an Advent Service in the afternoon.

Due to the very bad weather, we cancelled the service on the 8th December. Ruth who was due to take our service and as half of our small congregation do not live in Marnhull, plus road closures as well as floods it seemed a sensible thing to do. We hope there will be no more such weather for some time.

We held our candle lit carol service on Wednesday 18th December which was led by Lin and included not only Bible readings but a number of poems. Stephen Binnington was our organist. Donations at this service were for the Salvation Army whom we have supported for the last few Christmases. Christmas Day was also led by Lin and the offering on this occasion was for Action for Children.

Our Covenant Service was on Sunday 12th January when we welcomed friends from St Gregory's church. The Revd Gaenor shared in the service and we were also so pleased to have Gordan Amery play the organ for us.

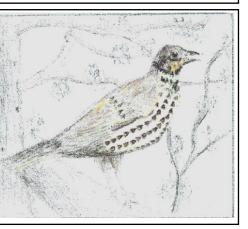
Six half hour Lent reflections will take place led by Lin, Gaenor.

Sally (Williams)

Spring Song

I heard a thrust singing in the tree, a song so bright, so full of glee; This is what God did say to me, "Why shouldn't you sing, your whole life through? You have a song; go sing it too!"

Written and illustrated by (the late) Rev. Laurance R Stedeford.





Vale Methodist Church Incorporating the chapels at Sturminster Newton and Kings Stag http://yeovilblackmorevalemc.org.uk/our-churches



We held our `Light Up The Candles With Carols` Display at Sturminster Newton from December 16th - 20th. The Carol Service was on December 19th at 5pm, we sang the carols pictured in the displays.

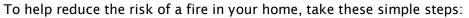
Kings Stag held their Carol Service on Saturday December 21st at 4pm. We hope to be able to return to the Church building at the end of January when the re-decorating will be completed.



DORSET & WILTS FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE

Leaving small electrical devices on charge overnight has been the cause of multiple house fires in recent years, so Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service is urging people to 'Unplug to Unwind'.

Only large appliances such as fridges are designed to be left switched on all the time, so ensuring that everything else is unplugged before you go to bed is a simple routine that could protect your home from fire.



• Make sure an electrical appliance has a British or European safety mark when you buy it. Only buy your electrical chargers from a reputable source.

FIRE AND RESCU

- Never leave items on charge when you are sleeping or when you are not at home.
- Don't overload sockets.
- Regularly check for frayed or worn cables and wires.
- Buy your electrical chargers from a reputable source.

Register your appliances to receive notification of safety alerts or product recalls at <u>www.registermyappliance.org.uk</u>

More information about the Unplug To Unwind campaign can be found on the DWFRS website www.dwfire.org.uk/unplug-to-unwind/



Reebok Z9 Treadmill It's in full working order, one careful owner - hardly been used (you can tell my weight). Must be collected, we can't deliver. Donations to your local church. If you an someone you know is interested please contact Lin Francis for more information.

My Body is a temple, which needs the greatest care. It must be clean and wholesome, for God is living there. And if I keep that temple, my body, strong and clean, My mind must be as wholesome, although it can't be seen. (Having inserted Lin's advert, these word came to me, being the first verse of a recitation I learned many years ago for Sunday School Anniversary. I'm afraid that I do not know who wrote them. Helen).



You bring gladness to our hearts as winter yields to spring, yellow-trumpeting the great glad news that life has come again Uuon the dormant earth.

Floodlit with your golden glory the roadside banks, parks, gardens, city roundabouts, rejoice and we with them, to hear you speak of Easter resurrection!

Would that I too, though only one, might learn from your glad millions to bring some gladness to a world where many lives, sunk in Itheir own drab winter, so greatly need to know the touch of spring!

Written and illustrated by (the late) Rev. Laurance R Stedeford.



CIRCUIT PREACHING PLAN MARCH TO MAY 2025

		MARCH					APRIL				ΜΑΥ			
YEOVIL & BLACKMORE VALE PREACHING PLAN 2024/25		2	9	16	23	30	6	13	20	27	4	11	18	25
		Sunday before Lent	1st Sunday in Lent	2 nd Sunday in Lent	3 rd Sunday in Lent	4 th Sunday in Lent Mothering Sunday	5 th Sunday in Lent	Palm Sunday	Easter Day	2 nd Sunday of Easter	3 rd Sunday of Easter	4 th Sunday of Easter Christian Aid Week	5 th Sunday of Easter	6 th Sunday of Easter
Lection Related Pr Servic Year	incipal es	Ex. 34: 29-35 Psalm 99 2 Cor. 3:12 – 4:2 Luke 9: 28-36 (37-43)	Deut. 26: 1-11 Ps. 91: 1-2, 9-16 Rom. 10: 8b-13 Luke 4: 1-13	Gen. 15:1-12, 17-18 Psalm 27 Phil. 3:17-4:1 Luke 13:31-35	lsaiah 55:1-9 Psalm 63:1-8 1 Cor. 10:1-13 Luke 13:1-9	Joshua 5:9-12 Psalm 32 2 Cor. 5:16-21 Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32	lsaiah 43:16-21 Psalm 126 Phil. 3:4b-14 John 12:1-8	Isaiah 50:4-9a Psalm 31:9-16 Phil. 2:5-11 Luke 22:14- 23:56 or Luke 23: 1-49	Acts 10:34-43 Psalm 118: 1-2, 14-24 1 Cor. 15:19-26 John 20:1-18 or Luke 24: 1-12	Acts 5:27-32 Ps. 118: 14-29 Rev. 1:4-8 John 20:19-31	Acts 9:1-6 (7-20) Psalm 30 Rev. 5:11-14 John 21:1-19	Acts 9:36-43 Psalm 23 Rev. 7:9-17 John 10:22-30	Acts 11:1-18 Psalm 148 Rev. 21:1-6 John 13:31-35	Acts 16:9-15 Psalm 67 Rev. 21:10, 22- 22:5 John 14:23-29 or John 5: 1-9
Cheap Street Church Sherborne (74)	10:30	Way	Konrad HC	England	Konrad	Litchfield	Francis	Konrad	J Turner- Smith HC	James	R Farrant	Konrad HC	J Turner- Smith	Konrad
	6:30		Taizé					Taizé				Taizé		
Marnhull (17)	10:00	A Turner- Smith	Francis HC	Oxenham	Bullock	Francis	De Gruchy	Francis	R Farrant HC	A Turner- Smith	C Farrant	Francis HC	Oxenham	James
Vale (Sturminste r Newton & Kings Stag) (15)	10.30 SN	Francis HC	De Gruchy	Konrad	Francis	Oxenham	A Turner- Smith	C Farrant	Francis HC	Way	J Turner- Smith	De Gruchy	Francis HC	Francis
	6:00 KS		Francis HC		Konrad	Francis SoP		Francis	Francis HC	Oxenham		Francis HC		Konrad
Yeovil Methodist Church Chelston Ave (76)	10:30	Konrad MB	Bullock	Francis HC	James	Konrad	Konrad MB	England	Konrad HC	Francis	Konrad MB	Way	Konrad HC	Farquharson
Tuesday a	t Yeovil	Methodist (Church in the	Quedam, V	icarage Stree	et, Yeovil								
YMC in the Quedam		4	11	18	25	1	8	15	22	29	6	13	20	27
	11:00	A Turner- Smith	De Gruchy	Konrad	Way	Francis	A Turner- Smith	Coates	J Turner- Smith	Way	J Turner- Smith	De Gruchy	J Turner- Smith	Way

Membership numbers in brackets as of 1.11.24

Reference: HC - Holy Communion; MB - Munch Bunch; SoP - Songs of Praise: