

DETAILS OF FORTHCOMING SERVICES AND EVENTS

7 December	Woodhouse	10.00 am – 12.00 pm	173 rd Woodhouse Scouts' Christmas Fair
8 December	Handsworth Woodhouse	10.30 am 6.00 pm	Rev Debora Marschner (Holy Communion) Carol Service with Woodhouse Prize Band
14 December	Woodhouse	10.00 am	Nativity Exhibition
15 December	Woodhouse Handsworth	10.30 am 6.00 pm	Mrs Bridget Kellett Memorial Service
22 December	Handsworth	10.30 am	Rev Sean Adair
24 December	Handsworth	6.00 pm	Carols by Candlelight
25 December	Woodhouse	11.00 am	Christmas Day Celebration
29 December	Woodhouse Handsworth	10.30 am 6.30 pm	Mr David Andrews Own Arrangements
<p>NB: Also available to Live Stream on YouTube when the morning service is at Handsworth. Search for 'Handsworth Woodhouse Methodist Church'</p>			

Church website address: www.handsworthmethodist.org.uk

Minister: Rev Debora Marschner – Tel: 0114 2889993
Email: debora.marschner@methodist.org.uk

Prayer:

Loving God, we confess we are not ready. We long to welcome once more the birth of your Son but we confess our impatience. We want you to act now, to transform the world and solve all our problems. Yet we don't use all the guidance and resources you have already provided.

The World tells us you are absent and our faith is of no purpose, but we have done little to show them wrong. Our jaundiced politics and prejudiced theology have prevented us from recognizing those where and people in whom you are already at work.

Lord, forgive us. Help us to prepare our hearts and minds, to be patient and perceptive, and always alert to your actions and purposes through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

HANDSWORTH WOODHOUSE METHODIST CHURCH



Advent 1

Sunday 1st December 2024

**10.30 am Worship at Woodhouse
Led by Ms Charity Muzundo**

**6.30 pm Worship at Handsworth
Own Arrangements**

Everyone is welcome to worship. We hope that you will enjoy sharing in worship with us and we invite you to join us on other occasions.

Weekly Diary:			
Monday	2 December	10.00 am – 11.30 am	Knit and Natter at Woodhouse – new knitters or beginners welcome!
Tuesday	3 December	6.15 pm	Girls' Brigade at Handsworth
Thursday	5 December	3.30 pm	Lego Club at Woodhouse
Friday	6 December	11.30 am – 1.00 pm 6.45 pm	Lunch Club at Handsworth Boys' Brigade at Handsworth
Saturday	7 December	10.00 am – 12.00 pm 10.00 am – 12.00pm	Coffee Morning at Woodhouse Coffee Corner at Handsworth

CHRISTMAS CARDS: Before you buy your Christmas cards this year will you consider talking to friends, particularly those you see at church, about choosing to donate instead to Bluebell Wood Children's Hospice? David Andrews will once again be making 2 Christmas cards so that we can display one in each building. The idea is that we sign one or both of the cards and leave a donation in lieu of money we would have spent on individual Christmas cards that end up in our blue bins after a few days. Somebody commented recently that in the 'olden days' people only sent cards to family and friends they didn't see regularly. As a church we have always supported children's charities at Christmas. As most of you know, Bluebell Wood Hospice provides respite and end of life care for children who are terminally ill. Patients and families are so thankful for the care they receive from this local charity at such a sad and harrowing time.

Our gifts to Bluebell Wood are always gratefully received and acknowledged.

MESSAGE FROM DEBORA: Rev Romeo Pedro has had to travel to Namibia to help care for his father whose health continues to deteriorate. Romeo has asked me once again to be the acting superintendent of the Sheffield Circuit during his absence. I will of course continue to minister to you in the best way possible, but there will be less time for pastoral visits and phone calls. Maybe a good opportunity for you all to look out for each other! However, if there is anything urgent that you would like to share with me, then please do not hesitate to get in touch.

WE NEED YOUR HELP! NATIVITY EXHIBITION: On Saturday 14 December, alongside the coffee morning at Woodhouse, we are planning a Nativity Exhibition. If you have a nativity set that is special to you, then please write a few lines about it (when you first got it, if you used it regularly, what special memories are attached to it etc) and tell a steward that you want to contribute to the exhibition. We will let you know when it'll be needed at Woodhouse Church for setting up in due course.

FOODBANK/CHRISTMAS HAMPER APPEAL: This has just been launched to help vulnerable families celebrate Christmas and bring a little hope and light to those who find themselves in difficult situations. The Foodbank is putting together Christmas Dinner Hampers with items of food and some seasonal luxuries to be

delivered the week before Christmas. Please see the posters on the noticeboards and Christmas Hamper List if you can help.

CAROL SERVICE WITH WOODHOUSE PRIZE BAND: On Sunday 8 December we will be asking for donations for the food bank (so we could aim to fill as many hampers as possible!) and a retiring collection for HARC (Homeless and Rootless at Christmas) Sheffield in memory of Pat and Pauline Kilner.

HANDSWORTH CHURCH CLEANING: The last cleaning date for this year is: Wednesday 18 December 2024.

SILENT AUCTION: We are planning to have a Silent Auction at Woodhouse at the beginning of next year. Please save any unwanted gifts that you receive so they can be donated for this event. All items to be donated should be brand new (for example, tags still in clothes). The date of the auction will be announced soon!

BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT: Monthly peer support group to talk about life, loss and grief. Meetings will be held on the third Thursday of the month at Woodhouse from 7.00 pm to 8.00 pm. The next meeting will be on: Thursday 19 December 2024. Please contact Rev Debora Marschner for more information.

PRAYER TREE: If you would like prayer for anyone or anything in particular, please write them on the Prayer Tree at the back of the church at Handsworth (ask a steward or a church member to point you in the right direction). These items will be brought to God in prayer at the prayer group on Friday mornings.

NO ONE IS A STRANGER HERE The Victoria Hall Methodist Church has the vision of being a place of safety and sanctuary for all. Rev Jonathan Haigh would like to invite all to a service to celebrate the awarding of Church of Sanctuary status for Victoria Hall on Sunday 9 February 2025 at 6.00 pm, followed by food provided by the City of Sanctuary. The President of the Methodist Conference will take part in the service, along with Rev Inderjit Bhogal. It would help with the planning if you can RSVP to Jonathan stating your name and office and how many people will be attending with you. The deadline is Friday 10 January 2025.

Our prayers are asked for ALL who are sick, housebound, in community homes or hospitals, those with special needs and the people of Coalbrook Estate, John Hibbard Estate, Badger Estate, Goathland Estate, Old Cottage Close, Beaver Hill Road, Retford Road, Revill Lane, Tithe Barn Estate, Church Lane and View, St James' Church, Market Square and all local businesses. We give thanks for the community of Handsworth and this week we pray for those who live on Richmond Park Road, Close, Drive, Way, Grove, View, Avenue, Croft, Rise and Crescent, Birklands Drive, Close and Avenue.

If you know of any special event, anything of special interest or concern or any new item which you would like added to the greeting, please pass the information to Christine Jackson, tel: 2695263; email: cmj.rhj.42@gmail.com or Lesley Richardson, tel: 2696954 or email: lesley_richardson7@btinternet.com

HARVEST: Our Harvest Project for 2024 came to an end in September when we had our Harvest Festival. A total of £724.89 was raised for Mary's Meals. Thank you to everyone who has given generously throughout the year. A number of people faithfully save their loose change week by week in a box or tin and we ask that you continue to do this ready for when we launch our new Harvest Project in January 2025. The church stewards will discuss which charity we will support in 2025 at their next meeting. If anyone in the congregation has a suggestion, please let one of the stewards know. Thanks also to Jean Wild for collecting, counting and banking the Harvest money throughout the year.

KNIT AND NATTER GROUP: This group is on Mondays at Woodhouse from 10.00 am to 11.30 am. If you would like to make new friends whilst knitting items for charity, please come and join us. We will be knitting baby items for the Salvation Army Baby Bank in Woodhouse. If you can't knit, but would like to learn, come and we will teach you! All materials are provided by National Lottery funding. For more information please contact Val on 07748561520, email: heartofknitting@gmail.com or on Facebook: @heartofknitting, or speak to Lesley Richardson.

FOODBANK: If you have anything to donate, there is a plastic box at the back of the church at Handsworth and at Woodhouse. If you are unable to get to church, Chris Turner would be happy to collect. Please contact him on 07742974484. All items donated should be in date. Thank you in advance for all contributions.