



## Monthly Notices - November 2020

**Our Ministers - Rev Lin Healey & Rev Joe Rooney**

To communicate with our Ministers please use the website  
[www.caldicotmethodists.co.uk](http://www.caldicotmethodists.co.uk) - and select 'Contact Us'

### Pastoral Letter November 2020

My Dear Friends,

We are living in unsteady, uncertain times, when much is changing and climate change is bringing extreme weather conditions.

In our personal lives, a sudden storm can come out of nowhere. Our relationships and family lives, and our health and strength can be quickly threatened. Like a sailor on a stormy sea, we strain our eyes to see the harbour lights, and to note if a safe haven is nearby. Like the hymn writers, we too wonder if our 'anchor will hold' 'when sorrows like sea billows roll'.

Our church worship has had to change and what we have always known and been comfortable with, has become for many a time of trial and tribulation. Much of our church worship has been designed by and for, people who are familiar with the traditions and content of the Christian faith. If we turn in on ourselves, and turn our back on the world around us, we are in danger of becoming self-serving.

So just now, our worship as a Christian community is taking on a shape which may not suit everybody. However, being mindful that other folk, also looking for light in the darkness are following our activities on zoom and face book, we endeavour to make our worship relevant and meaningful for the day.

Like many of you, I miss the singing. On All Saints Day:-

'Come let us join our friends above  
that have obtained the prize. (STF744)

I will also miss having a part in an Army Remembrance service, where we have often sung:  
' O God our help in Ages past'

and 'Eternal Father'....

'Hear us when we cry to Thee  
For those in peril on the sea'.

Though we may not be able to meet as a physical community, may the Good Lord help us to help each other keep the Faith.

Stay safe and trust in the power and purposes of God.

Blessings to you all  
**Joe Rooney**

### NEXT MONTHLY NOTICES

If you have an item, please contact Roger  
by **27th November** -Tel : 01633 880304 or  
email :- [roger@barbaraandroger.co.uk](mailto:roger@barbaraandroger.co.uk)



# **We welcome all who worship with us**

**There is Morning Worship every Sunday at 10am**

**When the church building is open we have limited numbers and booking is essential.**

## **Booking a seat**

Nick and Marion Jones have kindly agreed to coordinate this. Booking can only be made for the following Sunday by contacting them at a specific time Fridays between 3pm and 6pm on 01291 423981. Please be considerate when calling them and keep the call brief by just giving them your name and telephone contact number. Should we have no free seats then you will be given the option to add your name to the list for the next service.

**Zoom Service - Every Sunday at 10.00am**

**United with the service in the church, when legal**

To join the service or for further details or to request the Zoom link be emailed to you please contact Jack Healey or Gareth Edwards (caldicotmc@gmail.com)

## **Preachers for November**

1<sup>st</sup> Rev Lin - Holy Communion + 8<sup>th</sup> Rev Joe  
15<sup>th</sup> Marion + 22<sup>nd</sup> Rev Joe + 29<sup>th</sup> Paula

## **Lord of the mountains**

You, O God, are the Lord of the mountains and the valleys. As I travel over mountains and through valleys, I am beneath your feet. You surround me with every kind of creature... Open my eyes to see their beauty, that I may perceive them as the work of your hands...

Tonight, I will sleep beneath your feet, O Lord of the mountains and valleys, ruler of the trees and vines. I will rest in your love, with you protecting me as a father protects his children, with you watching over me as a mother watches over her children. Then tomorrow the sun will rise and I will not know where I am; but I know that you will guide my footsteps.

*A prayer of the Sioux Indians*

The greatest saints have always shown the perfect combination of nearness to our Lord on the one hand, and a deep sense of their own unworthiness and weakness on the other.

*Abbe de Tourville*



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CALDICOT METHODIST CHURCH

Caldicot  
FOOD  
Bank



## "Dolly the Trolley"

for Christmas parcels



*The requirement for the Foodbank has escalated during the pandemic. We will have the trolley in the front porch on the following dates*

**UPDATED**

**10<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER**  
**Tuesdays 10 - 11.30am**



**Caldicot Foodbank request the following :-**

A Greetings Card	Mince Pies (or bottle of Mincemeat)
Oral hygiene products	Other Chocolates or Sweets
Advent Calendar	Chicken (tin) - Ham or Pork (tin)
Gift for everyone (e.g. hand cream for women, after-shave for men, matchbox toy for boys and puzzle for girls)	Tin of Salmon - Tin of Soup
Colouring-in or puzzle book	Tin of Potatoes
Christmas Crackers	Tin of Vegetables - Pork stuffing - Gravy
Balloons - Christmas Cake	Bottle of Cranberry Source - Tin of Fruit
Fish paste or Sandwich Spread	Strawberry Jelly - Christmas Pudding
Jar of Coffee - Jar of jam or marmalade.	Evaporated Cream or Custard
Children's Chocolate Assortment	Bottle of fruit Squash (e.g. Ribena)
	Nibbles (Crisps, nuts, etc.)

### NOTICE - CAR PARK FEES

Church car park fees are due on 1st October.

The fee for the coming year is **£10**

**Early payment to Wilf Wilsher**  
**will be appreciated**

**If you need help how to contact Wilf,  
please ask for assistance**

### The Promise of Advent

Stir up our hearts, we beseech you,  
to prepare ourselves to receive your Son.  
When He comes and knocks, may He find us  
not sleeping in sin,  
But awake to righteousness,  
Ceaselessly rejoicing in His love.  
May our hearts and minds be so purified,  
That we may be ready to receive His promise  
of eternal life.

*from The Gelasian Sacramentary, c.500 (oldest  
official prayer book of the Western Church)*

## We Will Remember 80 years on



This year we've been remembering the Battle of Britain, described by Winston Churchill in August 1940 as 'one of the decisive battles of the war... never in the field of human conflict

was so much owed by so many to so few.' It was a dramatic turning point in the history of the Second World War. The occasions for Remembrance this month will provide us times of gratitude for what was achieved in the darkest moments of war.

However, this year we are very aware of our own struggles with the worldwide Covid-19 pandemic. We face an unseen enemy, but the effects on our lives and society are almost as devastating as world war.

Remembering is not just about focusing on past events. It is also about making present past events, as we give thanks for all that took place. The Battle of Britain was fought by the Few and won in the skies over the Channel. In our battle with the virus, we can call to mind the victory of Jesus: 'Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, descended from David.' (2 Timothy 2:8). Jesus secured the victory of death by His cross and resurrection, so that we don't need to fear death, but trust in His loving purposes for our lives.

Currently we can't see clearly what the future holds for us; it may be very different from what we might expect. However, we can pray for God's will to be done and that we will play our part, just as each of those airmen did so many years ago.

'They shall grow not old as we that are left grow old: Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn. At the going down of the sun and in the morning we will remember them.'

**Paul Hardingham**



## CHRISTMAS SHOE BOXES

Unfortunately we are unable to organise Shoe Boxes this year, but it is possible for you to donate to 'Samaritan Purse'

Donate by phone - 020 8559 1180

More info online

<https://www.samaritans-purse.org.uk/>

## Psalm 122 and Advent

*'I rejoiced with those who said to me, 'Let us go to the house of the Lord. Our feet are standing in your gates, Jerusalem.'* (Psalm 122:1,2). These words from Psalm 122 inspired Hubert Parry's great Coronation Anthem *'I was Glad.'* As a Song of Ascent (Psalms 120-134), it was used by pilgrims going to the great festivals in Jerusalem. For the Jews this represented *'coming home'* to worship at the Temple, the place of God's presence.

### *Our Worship of God:*

As God's people today, we are also called to worship in praise and thanksgiving: *'That is where the tribes go up – to praise the name of the Lord'* (4). Of course, currently our coming together in church to sing our praise to God is greatly restricted. We are a *scattered* rather than a *gathered* community. However, as individuals, we can still offer God the worship of our lives using the resource of psalms like this one.

### *Our prayer to God:*

The psalm encourages the pilgrims to pray for the peace of Jerusalem: *'Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: May those who love you be secure.'* (6). The peace referred to here is more than simply an absence of conflict. Peace speak of wholeness of life in every aspect. This must be our prayer as we continue to struggle with the effects of the pandemic and as we seek the prosperity of the wider community: *'I will seek your prosperity'* (9).

This month sees the beginning of Advent, the season when we affirm the hope of Jesus' return. As we pray for peace, we know that it is fulfilled in the coming of God's kingdom in Jesus. Despite living with so much uncertainty, we have the assurance of God's future purposes for our lives, churches and the world.

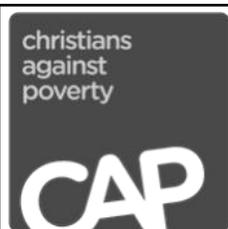
***Paul Hardingham***

Dear Friends,  
Thank you for all  
the cards, gifts  
and Good Wishes  
on the occasion of  
my 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday,  
Yours,

***Jean Crawford***

Hilda and Family  
would like to thank all  
church friends for  
their cards letters and  
messages of  
condolence following  
the death of Lewis.

***Hilda Smith***



## CHRISTIANS AGAINST POVERTY

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