

**WEYBAY NEWS**

A monthly what’s on

**December 2023 & January 2024**

What Child is this, who, laid to rest,

On Mary's lap is sleeping?

Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,

While shepherds watch are keeping?

Weymouth Bay is part of the Dorset South and West Circuit

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Dear Friends

As seems to happen every year, it feels like we are galloping towards Advent at a great pace and all things Christmassy are popping up, on our screens and in the high street, except one, that perhaps we long for the most….peace.

What comes to mind for you when you hear the word ‘peace’?

As I write, families of hostages in Israel and Gaza hold their breath as they hope for release of loved ones, families in Ukraine & Russia long for the safe return of loved ones involved in the fighting in Ukraine, and there are many other locations around the world and closer to home, which are not places of peace, where people and communities are at odds with each other.

Peace, and not just the absence of conflict, seems to be an elusive thing!

The first Christmas happened in an occupied country where control and oppression was part of the everyday. Mary’s plans for Jesus’ birth went out of the window when she and Joseph had to travel to Bethlehem, Jesus’ birthplace was less than ideal for a newborn baby. The visitors to see this baby weren’t exactly expected by his parents. No wonder Mary spent time pondering all that happened that first Christmas!

And yet, the angels who appeared to the shepherds at Jesus’ birth, heralded the reign of the Prince of Peace, as foretold by the prophet Isaiah. (Isaiah 9: 6-7, Luke 2: 14).

The peace that Jesus brought then and still brings today to those who will receive him, is an out-of-the-ordinary peace, upheld with justice and righteousness, a peace which goes beyond all human understanding and which, even in the upheaval of human living, can be experienced in the here and now.

The theme of our Advent journey this year is ‘Out of the ordinary’. The Methodist Church resources will help us to see again, or perhaps even for the first time, the wonder of how God’s love is revealed in the ordinary; how a seemingly ordinary birth becomes God’s out-of-the-ordinary means of salvation for all people. Look out for the special postcards which you could use for your own spiritual preparation during Advent, or to invite someone else to one of our services during Advent.

I hope and pray that as you make your Advent journey to the manger, you will discover anew the out-of-the-ordinary peace that Jesus gives and know that peace in your heart, whatever your worldly circumstances.

Wishing you a very Happy Christmas and a peace-filled New Year.

Ruth

Following an appeal by Christian Aid for their work in Gaza the church has sent a donation of £500.

**Family News**

**The end of last year we lost two** well loved members of our church .

 The church was full for the thanksgiving service for our organist John Savage . Organist first at Maiden St then Wey bay for nearly 60 years With his friend Rev John Walker on the organ we sang with great voice Many tributes were paid to John but mostly he will be remembered by us for the sympathetic thoughtful addition he made to our services.

Just before Christmas we lost Rev Barrie Snook. His funeral service was in Dorchester united church where he we was once minister. Barrie retire from the ministry – but never retired from his love and caring for anyone he met.

We count ourselves privileged to have knowm these 2 true gentlemen, but are happy that they are now both with their Lord they served so well – and at peace.

**PREACHERS AT WEYMOUTH BAY for the coming weeks:**

3rd December Pam Woodland

10th December Rev Ruth Lownsbrough HC

17th December 10.30am Roger Phillips

17th December 6.30pm Carol Service

24th December 10.30am Peter Jenner HC

There will be no midnight service at Weybay this year

25th December No Service

31st December No Service

7th January Flora Waring

14th January Rev Ruth Lownsbrough HC/Cov

21st January Tim Wells

28th January 10.30am To be arranged

28th January 3pm The planned service with the Salvation Army is postponed until later in the year

Other Services taking place across the circuit:

24th December 4pm Lanehouse Christingle

24th December 11.15pm Rev Ruth Lownsbrough Midnight communion

25th December 10.30 Rev Jayne Wilson Bridport UC

 Rev John Yarrien Dorchester UC

 Rev Ruth Lownsbrough Easton

31st December Local arrangement Dorchester UC

**CHRISTMAS FAYRE on 4th NOVEMBER**

The fayre raised £1,200 for the Weymouth Foodbank. This was raised from the café, craft stalls, bric-a-brac and donations. Well done to everyone who helped arrange the fayre and to everyone who came to spend their money!

Weymouth Foodbank are appealing for carrier bags – please leave these in the foodbank box near the front door.

**REGULAR EVENTS**

**Coffee morning** – every Wednesday, coffee and cake served from 10.00 until noon. We also have books and jigsaw puzzles that may be borrowed.

**We have begun a short time of prayer in the chapel** every Wednesday before the coffee morning. This is a time for you to bring your own anxieties before the Lord and also to pray for the life of our church here at WeyBay and how we can go forward with God. This is a very simple time of prayer beginning at 9.50am for about 15 – 20 minutes only. Please join us.

**Grace Notes** singing groupmeets every Wednesday at 10.30am. New members welcome. Come and sing and have some fun.

**Cameo**  a fortnightly group for women meeting at WeyBay at 2pm on Wednesday. You are very welcome to come along to all meetings or just when you are able.

29th November – Weymouth Library Service talk

13th December – Handbells with Liz Bartlett

10th January – speaker to be confirmed

24th January - speaker to be confirmed

You can pick up a copy of our programme at the coffee bar.

You are asked for a £1 contribution towards refreshments and speakers.

**Miscellany** is the new name for the music group which meets from 5-6 pm in the church every Wednesday This is for anyone who wants to sing and anyone who plays a musical instrument, however brilliant or rusty you may be. Currently preparing for Christmas, we would particularly like to welcome new singers. Why not give it a go?

**Dementia Cafe*:*** Friday 1st December from 2pm – 4pm. We shall be welcoming visitors from Arlesford Church who are hoping to run a similar event in their own church. We shall be making Christmas Cards and taking part in a Christmas quiz.

Friday 5th January is our first meeting in the New Year.

An afternoon providing a welcome to visitors and carers for a joyful afternoon of activities and music.

More details from Esme on 01305 812637

**Bible Study**The Bible study group– led by Ruth,meets every Thursday afternoon from 2 00pm till 3 00pm. On 30th November we shall be starting a four week Advent course when we shall be sharing the same material as URC Radipole. We hope that some of their members will be able to join us for this at WeyBay. Those at Weybay will be able to join with URC Radipole by accessing zoom with the following:

Meeting ID 2987529588

Passcode 0HCV9e

The zoom link will open at 7.15pm to start at 7.30pm and will run each Wednesday from 29th November to 20th December.

***COMING UP AT WEYMOUTH BAY***

Concert on 27th January with the Memphis Jazzmen.

Tickets £10 in advance from Pete 01305 812637

£12 on door.

**Looking forward to Christmas**

**On Saturday 9th December at 3.30pm** there will be an afternoon of music and fun in the church followed by a Christmasdinnerupstairs.

**Sunday 17th December at 6.30pm** candlelit Carol service led by the Stewards.

There will be a tea of sandwiches and cake before this service from 4.30pm to which everyone is welcome.

Following an appeal by Christian Aid for their work in Gaza the church has sent a donation of £500.

**Gardening Rota** – the next gardening session will be from 10am to noon on Saturday, 16th December. Refreshments will be available, all welcome to come and help.

**New Year’s Day**

The church will be open from 11am for coffee/tea and mince pies. There will be a soup lunch, including a pudding, at 1.30pm for £3. The lunch will be followed by a group walk (if weather allows) or seasonal music, singing and activities in church. The afternoon will conclude with coffee/tea and cake at 3pm.

You are welcome to come all day or just for part of it. A time for everyone to get together and welcome in the New Year.

We wish you all a happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year

Weybay Newsletter Team.

