

TRINITY METHODIST CHURCH

MARKFIELD

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December

2023



Minister—Revd Jimi Kaci

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MESSAGE FROM OUR MINISTER

December is synonymous with Advent, Christmas, mince pies, carol singing and Christingle. It is the last month of the year and a time to look back at the year 2023 and reflect on our journey for the year. Traders are shouting out about their wares which are for sale calling them Christmas sales.

In Fiji where I have come from it is the month when we can finally go back to our homes in the islands and celebrate Christmas with our close family members. There is a long school holiday and those working take their annual leave to join their families and friends back in their villages.

For us in Markfield we have events planned for the month and all pointing to Christmas and celebrating the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. As we take part in activities and enjoy the mince pies and Christmas lunches and dinners, let us not forget as to who should be in the centre of our celebrations.

Let us make room for Jesus this December, so we do not end up in a situation where there will be no room at the inn. Let us take heed of the message from the angels "For unto you born this very day ... Christ the Lord" Isaiah in his prophecy, (9:6) "A child is born to us! A son is given to us!" When you look closely at the two sentences you will find that they are in the present tense and talking about today. Jesus being born daily in our lives.

For me the above is saying that every day should be Christmas day. Let this December's celebration also point the way to celebrating the birth of Jesus daily in our lives. As traders shout of Christmas sales, let not our faith also fall in their strength by focussing on events and not on Jesus.

As we celebrate what is planned for December let us also make time to remember those who this month are faced with not having a home, family members lost, and children dying in the wars that are going on. We also remember the aged and the sick and what we can give to help them have a good Christmas.

From me and my wife we wish you a happy Christmas and pray that God is going to be with you and your families as we enter this month of celebrations.

PASTORAL CARE

If you are aware of anyone who is ill, in hospital, or had a family bereavement, please contact our Minister, Revd Jimi Kaci, on 07909 280486, or our Pastoral Secretary, Kerry Sharpe, on 07979 607099.

Please send items for the **JANUARY** notices to Linda & William Walmsley by **28th DECEMBER**
wllmwalmsley@yahoo.co.uk

SERVICE DETAILS FOR DECEMBER

3rd December 1st Sunday in Advent

10.30 a.m. CTiM United Service for Homelessness at Markfield Congregational Church

Collection for The Falcon Centre, Loughborough

4.00 p.m. “Carol Praise” Led by Ann Lay *Retiring collection in aid of “All We Can”*

Duty Stewards: Ian Lay & Kerry Sharpe

Welcome Steward: Jenny Marsay

6.00 p.m. Circuit zoom service led by Revd Joy Langford

10th December

10.30 a.m. Morning worships led by Revd Jimi Kaci

Worship leader: Ann Lay

Duty Stewards: Hazel Brewer & Ian Lay

Welcome Steward: Ann Holloway

6.00 p.m. Circuit zoom service led by Revd Helen Bell

17th December

4.00 p.m. Carol Service led by Mr G Clarke

Duty Stewards: Linda Walmsley & Iris Bown

Welcome Steward: Jenny Marsay

24th December

10.30 a.m. Morning worship led by Mr. Fred Bell

Duty Stewards: Ian Lay & Iris Bown

Welcome Steward: Ann Lay

4.30 p.m. Taizé prayer with songs and silence

11.30 p.m. Christmas Eve communion service led by Revd Jimi Kaci

31st December

10.30 a.m. Morning worship led by Ian Lay

Duty Stewards: Linda & William Walmsley

Welcome Steward: Jenny Marsay

OPPORTUNITIES TO SING CAROLS

SUNDAY DECEMBER 3RD 4.00 p.m. CAROL PRAISE! Ann will lead this act of worship to conclude our Christmas Tree Festival. *The retiring collection is in aid of “All We Can”.*

CTiM CAROL SINGING

FRIDAY DECEMBER 8TH 7.00 – 8.00 CAROLS ON THE GREEN followed by refreshments in the school room. *Please give Jimi your support as he leads this village event.*

SATURDAY DECEMBER 16TH 11.00 – 12.00 CAROLS AT THE CO-OP. *Help us bring the spirit of Christmas to the Saturday shoppers - under the leadership of Kate.*

DATE	ORGANIST	FLOWERS	CLEANING
3rd December	<i>Rebecca Goldring</i>	<i>The Russell Family</i>	
10th December	<i>David Woodward</i>		<i>Jenny Marsay & Roderick Lay</i>
17th December	<i>Rebecca Goldring</i>	<i>Janet Forrester</i>	
24th December	<i>a.m. Margaret Silverwood p.m. Rebecca Goldring</i>		<i>Ann & Ian Lay, Iris Bown</i>
31st December	<i>Margaret Silverwood</i>		

CHRISTMAS 2023

The reminder that Christmas is coming seems to get earlier each year. The adverts on the TV and all the big stores and garden centres soon show and display their attractive and tempting festive wares. We as Christians need to make sure that it is the birth of Jesus that takes centre stage as we prepare for Christmas day. During the month of December there are a number of opportunities for us to come together as the family of God. The first weekend is the **Christmas Tree Festival** when we can view and admire the variety of decorated trees, some on the theme of carols, announcing the birth of Christ. The following Friday (8th) at 7pm we can sing some **carols on The Green round the village Christmas tree**. On the Saturday we have **Crafty Christmas** when children will be making all sorts of festive items including a Christingle. Saturday 16th we can broadcast the message of Christ's birth as we **sing carols outside the Co-op – 11am -12noon. Sunday 17th at 4pm** we have our **Carol Service** (no morning service). The choir will be singing Christmas music as part of the service. On Sunday 24th there will be a morning service (10.30 a.m.), a Taize service at 4.30pm and a Christmas Eve Communion service starting at 11.30 p.m. So plenty of reminders of the real meaning of Christmas for us all to support and tell others about. *Ian Lay*

CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL – “SING A SONG OF CHRISTMAS”

FRIDAY 1ST DECEMBER 11.00 – 4.00 SATURDAY 2ND DECEMBER 11.00 – 4.00

SUNDAY 3RD DECEMBER 11.00 – 3.00

TURKEY & CRANBERRY COBS SATURDAY 12.00 – 1.00



CRAFTY CHRISTMAS DECEMBER 9TH 3.00 – 4.30

MAKING CHRISTINGLES AND MUCH MORE!

ALL CHILDREN MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN ADULT

HOME FELLOWSHIP Our Home Fellowships for this month are **Tuesday 5th & Tuesday 19th** both at 5.30pm. The first meeting (5th) will be held at our Minister's home in Groby and the second meeting (19th) at the home of Sandra Andrews. Both meetings will be led by our Minister, Rev. Jimi Kaci. This is an opportunity to explore and chat about how God wants us to live out our lives and also to enrich and foster our fellowship with each other. Why not come along, you will be made very welcome. If you need more information please contact Ann or Ian Lay. (242166)

MUSIC CAFÉ This month we will meet on **14th December** & then have a break until **11th January**. So if you feel the need of a change scene or a bit of company, please join us on the 2nd & 4th Thursdays of the month for a music-based afternoon of fellowship. Contact Linda for more information. Tel: 01530 242607

“COME FOR A CUPPA” Wednesdays 10.00 – 12.00 Come and keep warm, meet each other and have a chat. There is no charge. **Please note that we will not be open on December 27th.**

QUIZ & PLOUGHMAN'S SUPPER - FRIDAY 26TH JANUARY 7.00 p.m.

This annual event is always popular & well-supported so put the date in your new diary. Tickets will be on sale next month.

MARKFIELD RECITALS - PIANO QUARTET

This was a fantastic evening with wonderful music, laughs and entertainment. We are very pleased to have made a profit of £454. Thank you to all who came. *Kerry, Rosie & Kate*