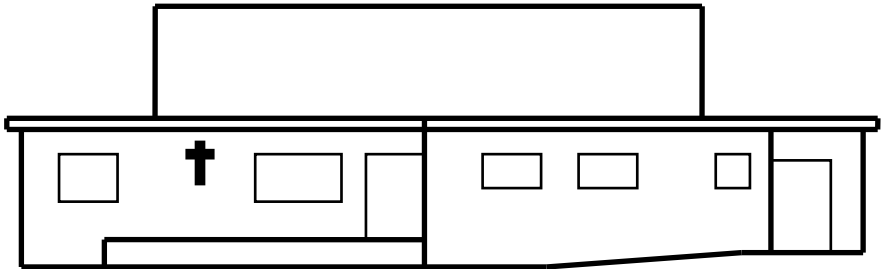




East Leake Methodist Church



**November 2023
to
January 2024**



Advent is a four week preparation for Christmas, the birthday of Jesus Christ, our Lord and saviour. We think about the need to stay awake and what it means to be ready as we await the coming of the Lord.

There are three comings of the Lord. The first; when He was born of Mary in Bethlehem to fulfil the ancient prophecies made by God to His people, Israel. The second coming is the saving presence of Christ in each new generation of believers as they live out their daily lives in obedience to His teaching. His third and final coming will be at the end of time when He returns in glory as judge, and to make all things new. Our lives might be described as an Advent, as a time of waiting in faith for the final coming of our saviour.

During His time on earth Christ taught us to pray for the coming of God's kingdom. Each one of us, therefore, is called upon to play our part in building up that kingdom by what we say and do in the ordinary events of everyday. The prophet Isaiah sets before us his divinely inspired vision of universal peace, when the weapons of war will no longer be employed and the nations of the world live together in harmony under God. It is a reality for which we all long.

Let us remember that Christ comes to us whenever we think thoughts of peace, pray for peace and reconciliation and follow His example by loving our neighbour as He taught. As He says, Blessed indeed are the peacemakers!

We are very much aware of the darkness and the absence of light at this time of the year. Yet there is another kind of light - Paul urges us to stay awake and watch for the approaching light of Christ. The days and weeks leading up to Christmas are busy for most of us; but the lovely season of Advent gently reminds us to stop, take stock, to remember

and make our own the great truth of our faith that the Son of Mary still knocks today at our door, desiring our company and friendship, and that He will finally return to take us home to heaven.

“Lord, the light of your love is shining. Shine on me.” Amen.

With every blessing, Sandra

Prayer for Peace

Father God, hear our prayers for peace in the Middle East.

May all people in the region be safe, protected from harm.

We pray that this crisis will end now, with no further loss of life.

Father God, may the injured and distressed know your healing presence.

May the powerful and the decision-makers follow the paths of justice, mercy and peace.

We pray for recognition of the dignity and value of every life.

May the clamour of violence cease, replaced by the beating of swords into ploughshares.

Father God, in your name.

Amen

Churches Together in England

Church Services

Our services from November to January next year will be as follows. We start at 10.30am unless otherwise stated. Tea and coffee are served after our services.

November	
Nov 5	Mr John Pipet
Nov 12	Mrs Chris Watkins
Nov 19	Mrs Eleri Bristow
Nov 26	Circuit Service at Christchurch Methodist Church Shepshed. Begins at 10.45am. No service at our church.
December	
Dec 3	Mr Rob Newton
Dec 10	Rev Mike Lees. Communion
Dec 17	Nativity Service with the Brownies. Led by Rev Sandra Marshall
Dec 24	Christmas Eve. No morning service. We will have our Christmas Eve communion at 11.15pm. Led by Mrs Chris Watkins
Dec 25	Christmas Day. United service with Christchurch Methodist Church Shepshed at 10.30am. No service at our church
Dec 31	Circuit Service at Trinity Methodist Church Loughborough. Begins at 10.45am. No service at our church.
January	
Jan 7	Mrs Ann Temple
Jan 14	Mrs Chris Watkins
Jan 21	Mrs Carolyn Thornborow
Jan 28	Mrs Eleri Bristow

Please note that services are altered from time to time and changes can be made. To check for changes please see our Facebook page East Leake Methodist Church or our website <https://eastleakemethodists.org.uk>

We continue to produce a full written service every week which we send out by email. If you would like to receive it, please send your email address to roger.86latham@btinternet.com and he will add you to our distribution list.

Car Rota

There is no transport rota yet but if anyone would like a lift to Church please contact me. 853697

Lesley Allan

Ladies Fellowship Autumn 2023.

Oct 17th	“Where I was born”
Oct 31st	The Taize community with Maggie Lachlan
Nov 14th	Remembrance
Nov 28th -	Advent’s on its way
Dec 12th	Our Christmas event

Spring session begins on Jan 9th. 2024 with Rev Karen Beecham

Chris Watkins

Meter mystery.

For gas and electricity supply the Church is treated as a business, which means we have regular fixed term contracts. As I'm sure we are all aware, the cost of gas and electricity has gone up significantly over the last couple of years, so when the Church contracts came up for renewal this year, I expected that the increases would be significant. Because of this we got some help from an energy broker who looked at the best deals that we could do in the current circumstances. When the gas contract came up for renewal in June, the transfer to a new supplier wasn't particularly difficult. It all seemed to go very smoothly, but the electricity changeover in October was something else!

Alternative suppliers were offering a better deal than continuing with our existing provider, so we decided to switch. That's when the trouble started. When the energy broker started to look at our supply costs it could make sense of the fact that the electricity meter that was designated as East Leake Methodist Church showed a very substantial use of power, far more than the Church actually used. So some more investigation was required. He started to look at the meters that were scheduled in the national database for the Church address of 32 Main Street. Surprisingly, there were six of them! One of them was clearly designated as the Parish Council, it's just that the address was the one across the road instead of their own. But then the difficulties started. It appeared that the meter which we had been paying the bills for was not actually located in East Leake, but in the Methodist Church in Sutton Bonington. It seemed possible that we were paying their bills, and they were paying ours. So a quick contact with the Steward and Treasurer of Sutton Bonington was required. According to the national database they had two meters installed in Sutton Bonington Church.

However, they could only find one, and it was the one that they have been paying their bills for.

So we investigated the meter – the only meter – for electricity that was installed on our Church premises. It turned out that this meter was, according to the national database, actually located in Sutton Bonington! But it did mean that we have been paying the right electricity bill. It turns out that the national database is riddled with errors, because when someone comes to fit a new meter they put down the address that they think the meter has been installed at. In the absence of obvious addresses, the nearest one seems to be chosen, and nobody checks it.

So it turns out that there are not six electricity meters installed at 32 Main Street – the Church’s address – but only one, and that one is, according to the national database, actually in Sutton Bonington. One of the meters clearly belongs to the Parish Council, but the address is wrong. This leaves four electricity meters that belong to businesses somewhere in East Leake that, according to the national database, are located on Church premises. Where they actually are, I really couldn’t say. But no doubt somebody wants to change the meter for one of these businesses in the future they will find out they are not where they are expected to be.

Hopefully, our new supplier will be correcting the error for our own electricity meter, and we will wait to see what happens with the remaining five mystery meters!

Roger Latham

Coffee Rota

November		
4th	Sarah	Sue
11th	Angela	Roger
18th	Anne	Lesley
25th	Pauline	Greg
December		
2nd	Pam	Ann Mace
9th	Sarah	Sue
16th	Angela	Roger
23rd	To be agreed	
30th	To be agreed	
January		
6th	To be agreed	
13th	To be agreed	
20th	To be agreed	
27th	To be agreed	

Please note: This Saturday morning coffee rota may not represent the actual people running the coffee morning on the date planned, as it's customary to swap if they are unavailable.

Four Square Meetings Summer/Autumn 2023

We will meet at 7.30pm at church in the little room and will also zoom the meetings. Join us in person or on zoom.

Nov 2nd "Words about The Word". A look at translations of the Bible
Led by Roger

Nov 16th "It was the strangest thing that I ever saw". Members to share an experience that they found quirky, off beat or funny.
Led by Angela

Nov 23rd "Fine Cell Work" in prisons. Chris Watkins will share her experiences

Dec 7th Social evening
Led by Lesley

Restart on Thursday January 4.

Starting time 7.30pm.

Zoom log in details:

Meeting ID 445 064 3070

Password 209860

Angela Latham

FOUR SQUARE

We have very varied evenings at the Four Square Group. During October we had an evening of poetry. The readings varied from Chaucer (guess who) which was quite rude! to Wordsworth and the one that a friend gave to me. I was asked to share it with you all!

IF MY BODY WERE A CAR.

If my body were a car, this is the time I would be thinking about trading it in for a newer model.

I've got bumps and dents and scratches in my finish and my paint job is getting a little dull, but that's not the worst of it.

My headlights are out of focus and it is especially hard to see things close up.

My traction is not as graceful as it once was. I slip and slide and skid and bump into things, even in the best of weather.

My white walls are stained with varicose veins.

It takes me hours to reach my maximum speed.

My fuel rate burns inefficiently

But here's the worst of it:

Almost every time I cough or sneeze or splutter, either my radiator leaks or my exhaust backfires!

Lesley Allan

Lost and found.

Over the last few years a number of coats, scarves, bags, umbrellas, and other items have been left at Church and their owners have not collected them. So I have taken a photograph of each of the principal items that currently grace the coat hooks in the corridor at Church. If any of these belong to you, or anyone you know, please will you come and collect your missing property. We will leave the items where they are until the end of this year, but if they are not claimed by then we will be sending them to the local charity shop.



A Big Thank You!

I would like to say a big thank you to all those people who responded to our Gift Day Appeal so generously. We made a special appeal for funds to meet some of the costs associated with repairs that we had been putting off to save money. As a result, the Gift Day Appeal raised nearly £3400, a 23% increase. Partly because of this the Church was able to make a surplus of £2600 last Connexional year (to the end of August). The Church Council that met recently has agreed to spend some of that in undertaking postponed repairs, particularly on the old wooden frame windows that are beginning to rot. We couldn't have done this without all your support, so, again, a big thank you.

Roger Latham

Church Treasurer

Dates for your Diary

Thursday November 23rd 9:30am

AgeUK are running a Scam Awareness and Prevention campaign information session in the Village Hall. This is a presentation followed by the opportunity to ask questions Book through The Greengrocer or Jacqui Owen on 07702694819 Free.

Saturday 25th November

- ❖ Craft Fair in the Village Hall, 11am to 4pm, Free entry.
- ❖ Christmas Market 3-8pm
- ❖ Charnwood Concert Band 3.45pm
- ❖ Santa will arrive at 4.45pm
- ❖ followed by switch on of Christmas Lights at 5pm
- ❖ Liberty Singers 5.15pm

December 6-9th 2023

ELAPS present

Robin Hood Making Merry

Tickets from The Greengrocer

or <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/ELAPS/e-zmxxpj>

East Leake Methodist Church
Hall Bookings

Day	Time	Organisation
Monday	09.30 to 12.00	Pencil Art
	13.00 to 15.00	Bead Group
Tuesday	10.30 to 12.00	Memory Café – East Leake Community Care
	14.15 to 16.15	Ladies Fellowship
	18.00 to 19.30	5th East Leake Brownies (term time only)
Wednesday	10.00 to 11.00	Pilates
	14.30 to 15.30	Tea and Cakes – East Leake Community Care
	18.30 to 20.00	3rd East Leake (Methodist) Brownies (term time only)
Thursday	10.00 to 12.00	Art Group
	14.00 to 15.00	Yoga
	18.15 to 19.15	Pilates
	19.15 to 21.00	Four Square Group (Times vary)
Friday		No bookings at present
Saturday	10.00 to 12.00	Coffee Morning
	13.00 to 16.00	Pencil Art – January 15, February 12, March 12, April 9, May 7 and June 11
Sunday	10.30 to 12.00	Morning Service

Please be aware that all bookings are taken on the understanding that should the Church require the building for a Church event e.g. for a funeral, organisers will be asked to cancel their meeting.

For information about the organisations that hold meetings here: - please visit <https://eastleakemethodists.org.uk> and click on the bookings tab.

For further information about booking: - please contact Pauline Hargraves on 01509 559266

The next magazine will be due for the beginning of **February**. If you have any articles, please send them to me at ways2teach@ntlworld.com or hand them to one of the Stewards who will make sure they reach me.

If you want extra copies of any issue, printed, electronic, in larger print, or a different format, please let me know and I will do my best to help.

Wishing you all and Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year.

Lesley Way

Church Contacts

Local Minister	Rev Sandra Marshall	0116 2304689
Local Pastor	Mrs Christine Watkins	01509 821536
Superintendent	Rev Karen Beecham	01509 219804
Circuit Administrator	Mrs Josephine Wills	01509 807441
Circuit Steward	Trevor Ranson	trevorranson@btinternet.com
Senior Church Steward	Mr Bryan Harrison	01509 820487
Church Bookings	Mrs Pauline Hargraves	01509 559266

Website: <https://eastleakemethodists.org.uk>

Facebook: [East Leake Methodist Church](#)