



CHRISTMAS GREETINGS
From
Wesley Methodist Church

**The Minister and people of
Wesley Methodist Church
wish you peace and joy.
Come and join us to
celebrate
Christmas.**



Services this Advent and Christmas
December 1st Rev Kate Strange
December 8th Rev Alan Bolton
December 15th Carol Service
Followed by mince pies
December 22nd Linda Lovell
December 24th Midnight Communion
@ 11.30pm
December 25th Christmas Day
@ 10.00am

All are offered a warm welcome

Or watch on line @
<https://bit.ly/WesleyHWYT>

See inside for Rev Kate's letter





Wesley Methodist Church

Christmas Message 2024

Dear Friends

This is the first Christmas as your new minister and I wanted to write a Christmas greeting to you all, those who are able to worship regularly at the chapel and those who for whatever reason now are unable to worship with us.

I have to admit that Christmas is my favourite time of the year, it fills me with nostalgia. It has such a rich store of things that make me smile. I can see my granny in her small kitchen making the stuffing for the turkey. I can remember helping my mum fill jar after jar of homemade preserves. On Christmas eve the church choir would take to the streets carol singing, ending up at the church for mulled (non alcoholic) wine and mince pies followed by midnight communion service. There was a Christingle service, crib service, carols by candlelight when there were real candles (probably a complete fire hazard) when they used to get ladders out and climb up to the rafters to light them, and for years you had to watch where you stood to avoid the dripping hot wax! But it was all part of growing up in the church which was part of my rich memories as a child. They had what I thought was the biggest Christmas tree I had ever seen. A real one of course and the smell of it wafting all through the church for three weeks before Christmas. Whenever I smell a real tree it spins me straight back to those days, those glory days when everyone came to church, at least at Christmas time, when families gathered, to celebrate the light coming into the world and peace on earth.

The world has changed a lot since then. 50 years on and there's lots of events that compete with the message of Christmas, not least a rather large chap in a red suit, and adverts telling us that happiness comes in the amount of money we spend on presents. But the message of the church has not changed. Ephesians 5:8 tells us "*for you were once darkness, but now in the lord you are light, live as children of light*". Whether or not you had a childhood of Christian experiences, if you have not been to church for a while, or are a regular attender, I encourage you to 'hush the noise' this Christmas and take time to attend one of the Christmas services. We have a Carol Service, we are putting on a midnight communion service again this year, and there is a service on Christmas day, a chance to reconnect to the 'light of Christ'. There is also a circuit Christmas festivities program coming out with all the activities that are in all the churches across the circuit, so please look out for that there is a good and varied program for you to access.

Most of all I want to wish you a peaceful Christmas and a happy and healthy new year as I look forward with hope to what God will lead us to do at Wesley and the community we serve.

Your minister

Rev Kate Strange

Wesley Methodist Church

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