

BUXTED METHODIST CHURCH

The regular Sunday Morning Services, held at Buxted, will be led as shown below:

January Services 2025

5 th	10:30	Pat Oakley	Local Preacher	
12 th	10:30	Rev Sheila Foreman	Minister	
19 th	10:30	Rev Andy Melvin	Minister	Covenant Service with Holy Communion
26 th	10:30	Christine Sweet	Local Preacher	

February Services 2025

2 nd	10:30	Steward		
9 th	10:30	Rev Sheila Foreman	Minister	
16 th	10:30	Rev Andy Melvin	Minister	Holy Communion
23 rd	10:30	Wendy Parker	Local Preacher	

An evening service (6:00 PM via Zoom), normally hosted by Rev Barbara Evans-Routley, will continue to be broadcast throughout 2025.

Activity Dates for January 2025 and February 2025

6 th	January	2:00 PM	Emmaus
11 th	January	10:30 AM	Coffee Morning
11 th	January	2:00 PM	Art Group – 'New Year'
29 th	January	10:30 AM	POP-IN
3 rd	February	2:00 PM	Emmaus
8 th	February	10:30 AM	Coffee Morning
8 th	February	2:00 PM	Art Group – 'Valentines Day'
26 th	February	10:30 AM	POP-IN

Art Group

The theme for:

- January will be '*New Year*' and February will be 'Valentines Day'.
- March will be 'Spring time' and April will be 'Easter'.

Decoration

D F Toure are planning to undertake some internal decoration (painting) of the rear vestibule, toilets and kitchen starting Monday 27th January. Anyone planning to come into the building that week should be aware that the access to the building, particularly the hall, may be problematic.

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During the December services, we used the Methodist Church Advent Liturgy “**Hush The Noise**”.

The article, reproduced below, was written by Rev Dr Jonathon Hustler and appeared in the winter issue of **The Connexion**. It was anticipated that this article would be read before Christmas but I spotted it too late to include in the December issue of the Buxted Newsletter.



The run up to Christmas is loud.

So much expectation.

So many voices.

Telling us how to celebrate, what to wear, what to eat and drink, what to watch and what to buy.



In his article (reproduced below), the Revd Dr Jonathan Hustler contemplates the value of finding a moment for quiet.

It's quite a few years now since my children were born, but the memories of being in the hospital delivery room remain. One of those memories is of the moment immediately after my daughter was born. Up until then, there had been a lot of noise. A few seconds later, the baby would start crying, but in between there was hush, as if everything just stopped. Something (the labour) was finally over; a new life had begun with all that that would mean and achieve. In between, everyone drew breath. Something unbelievably wonderful had happened and we needed a moment of silence and calm. The activity would very quickly resume.

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SILENCE AND CALM

Was the stable in Bethlehem, where Jesus was born, like that?

Very shortly, the angels would begin to sing, the family would ask "[what happens now?](#)", and the swaddling bands would be brought into use. But, just for a moment, was there silence and calm?

"[That moment of peace and quiet can seem all too brief.](#)"

One of my favourite times at Christmas, when we celebrate the birth of Jesus, is the immediate aftermath of the midnight Communion church service on Christmas Eve. The service itself will have been a joyful occasion, rich in music and words, but at home afterwards everything seems very quiet.

For many people, 24th December is the last day of a very busy period. For those working in retail, for example, perhaps 25th December may be the only day of peace they have between the pre-Christmas busy-ness and the Boxing Day sales.

DRAW BREATH

That moment of peace and quiet can seem all too brief. We're used to living with a calendar that dates our years from the (notional) date of the birth of Jesus, but I'm struck by the fact that there is no year zero. We move from 1BC to 1AD, from the last year '[Before Christ](#)' to the first '[Year of Our Lord](#)'. But, however short, that moment can be a much-needed moment of peace and quiet, a moment to draw breath, to give thanks for what has been and to move into the future.

"[In that moment there can be reassurance
that we are still held by God.](#)"

In the Bible, the first chapter of Luke's Gospel includes two passages that have been taken over in the Church as hymns that are frequently sung. The first is Mary's song, [The Magnificat](#), which begins "[My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord](#)". The other, [Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel](#), is the [Song of Zechariah](#) on the occasion of his son's birth. Both of these passages thank God for what God has done, and both anticipate a future in which God will do great things.

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CONFIDENCE IN GOD

If we want it to, Christmas can include a time of quiet contemplation, however brief, to join Zechariah and Mary (who lived under occupation in Palestine) in that moment and to share their expression of confidence in God.

Edmund Sears, American minister and author, wrote the poem, which became the Christmas carol '[It Came Upon the Midnight Clear](#)', in 1849, at a time of unrest in Europe and the aftermath of war in North America. There's a verse of the hymn that's rarely sung in English churches:

And ye, beneath life's crushing load,
Whose forms are bending low,
Who toil along the climbing way
With painful steps and slow,
Look now! for glad and golden hours
Come swiftly on the wing;
Oh, rest beside the weary road
And hear the angels sing!

I find this image helpful. The traveller stops on the journey for a moment of rest and refreshment. The 'weary road' is still there to be trodden, but for now they can sit down, draw breath and gather strength for whatever the next stage is. In that moment there can be reassurance that we are still held by God and that God's purposes are being fulfilled. Things might have been tough, and might still be tough, but wonderful things have happened and the future's potential is unfolding before us.

Revd Dr Jonathan Hustler

Let's just be quiet for a moment and take it in.