

**Nottingham South
Methodist Circuit 
Preaching Plan
December 2023 to February 2024**

Revd. Andy Fyall- Chair of the District

Revd. Mark Roberts-Superintendent Minister

Revd. Tony Simpson- Minister

Deacon Joy Everingham- Community Pioneer

(Residing in the circuit but without appointment)

Revd. Helen Fyall- Hospital Chaplain

Message from our Superintendent Minister Mark Roberts

I've just realised I'm going to be singing a lot more carols this year. Last year with only two churches, there were only 5 special Christmas services for me. This year I've counted 9. That means that by the first week of December there will need to be some sort of plan with the themes and carols mapped out. Sorting out the themes does get a bit harder each year. 7 Christmases' in Nottingham South means that I've now used all the good ideas that came from my previous appointment. The carols on the

other hand don't change much. Each Christmas we'll try to sing each of the well known carols at least one of the Christmas services, with the odd newer or slightly different one thrown in here and there.

I wonder what your favourite carols are (and whether you have ones that you'd rather not have to sing!). My favourites are the ones that somewhere have a verse or even just a line that capture the power of Christmas with a reminder that just over 2,000 years something happened that changed the universe forever. If I had to choose just one then it would O Little Town of Bethlehem, in particular the first verse:

*O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light;
the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.*

The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight. The people of Bethlehem when Jesus was born would have had hopes and fears that are repeated down the years. The hopes and fears of their immediate circumstances, I can't wait for my grandchild to be born, is my husband going to be well enough to carry on working, it looks like a bumper year for the crops, how can we find food this week. The hopes and fears of a nation, the Romans are getting a bit more active, I'm worried that they'll want more money, I hope this occupation comes to an end. And the deep hopes and fears, when will there be justice, what happens when I die, when will God sort this mess out.

We are like those people in Bethlehem. We come with our hopes and fears about our situations, and families and work and money, and about the nation, and the health service, and the cost of living, and the deep hopes and fears about life and death. Christmas offers a possibility of change. For a moment in the year, not perfectly, and not in every case, and not always without a cost, people still do feel the hope and possibilities of a better world, and people come together, and differences are overlooked, and money and time is given, and there is a spring in people's steps and unexpected smiles and a magic in the air. And then it can be forgotten.

But not for us, I hope. The universe was changed that first Christmas. We are offered through the Holy Spirit the possibility of Christ's presence in the ordinary stuff of life, 24/7, 365 days of the year, to lift the good and to offer strength and comfort in the bad, and when the lights are down and the tinsel back in the box and the radio stations have stopped playing the Christmas hits, he will still be there, and when we go back to our hopes and fears for our situations and our nations and the big stuff in life he will be there too, offering the possibility of transformation offering to make holy our ordinary homes and streets, through us offering the possibility that the world, or at least our part of it, might be changed, allowing us to find and to reveal the glorious humble love at the heart of existence.

Every blessing,

mark

Christmas Specials

Friday 22nd December 4.15pm Radcliffe Christingle Morley

Sunday 24th December 11.30pm Keyworth Communion Simpson

Sunday 24th December 11.15pm West Bridgford Communion Roberts

Monday 25th December 10am Keyworth Simpson

Monday 25th December 9.30am Cotgrave Roberts

Monday 25th December 10am Radcliffe Morley and A Fyall

Monday 25th December 10.30am West Bridgford Roberts

Monday 25th December 10.15 am Bradmore Johns

Monday 25th December 10.30am Bridgeway LA



Christingle & Hot Chocolate



Friday 22nd December

**Join us at 3pm for free hot chocolate and
marshmallows for all the children.**

Coffee and cookies available for adults. Costs £1.50

Christingle service at 4.15pm



Radcliffe Methodist Church, Shelford Road, NG12 2AE

www.radcliffemethodist.org.uk  Radcliffe on Trent Methodist Church



Christmas Sale at Ruddington MC

Joining in with Ruddington Village's Christmas event this year there will be stalls, including a cake sale, and refreshments, at Ruddington MC on Saturday 2nd December.

Our Carol Service at Ruddington will be on Sunday 17th December at 10.30am. Tea, coffee, and mince pies to follow.

| | December 2023 | | | | | January 2024 | | | | February 2024 | | | |
|--|---|--|--|---|---|--|---|--|--|---|--|--|--|
| | 3 | 10 | 17 | 24 | 31 | 7 | 14 | 21 | 28 | 4 | 11 | 18 | 25 |
| Service Times | Advent Sunday | | | Christmas Eve | | | | | | | | First Sunday in Lent | |
| Bradmore 10.15 NG11 6PE | | Simpson CS | Hoath (T) HC | LA | H Fyall | | Simpson Cov | Kerr | Morley | | Simpson HC | Young | Hoath (T) |
| Bridgeway Hall 10.30 NG2 2JD | Mclvor | LA | Foulds | Roberts CS HC | LA | Hoath (T) | LA | A Fyall | Roberts Cov | Collinson | LA | Johns HC | Crawford |
| Clifton 10.30 2pm NG11 8AU | Collinson | | Mclvor Chr | Simpson HC | LA | Farrow | | Mclvor HC | LA | Simpson Cov | | LA | Foulds |
| | | Farrow ML | | | | | Farrow ML | | | | Farrow ML | | |
| Cotgrave NG12 3JR | Blyth AA | Young | Roberts HC | | Roberts | H Cheng | Blyth | Roberts Cov | Farrow AA | Blyth | Beaumont AA | Roberts HC | LA |
| | | | 7.30pm CS M Blyth | | | | | | | | | | |
| Keyworth 8.30am NG12 5AH 10.15 4pm | | | Simpson HC | | | | | Simpson HC | | | | Rioberts HC | |
| | Kerr | Johns HC | LA Nat | Beaumont | Farrow | L Cheng | Crawford | Hoath (T) | Simpson Cov | Foulds | Farrow AA | Clark | Simpson HC |
| | | LA Chr | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Radcliffe on Trent 10.30 3.00 NG12 2AG | Lees HC | Roberts | | | US @ St M | Roberts Cov | Young | | | LA | Hoath (T) HC | L Cheng | Roberts |
| | | | Roberts CS 4pm | Roberts HC 6pm | | | | Roberts HC | | | | Roberts HC | |
| Ruddington 10.30 NG11 6EF | Simpson HC | Hoath (T) | Clark CS | H+L Cheng | Lees | Simpson Cov | Foulds | Beaumont | Johns | LA | Mclvor | Simpson HC | H Fyall |
| Tollerton 10.30 NG12 4EA | US @ St P | | Simpson CS | | | Mclvor | | Simpson Cov | | Kerr | | US @ St P | |
| West Bridgford 10.30 3pm NG2 7PQ | Roberts HC | | Heard AA | Mclvor | Hoath | Collinson | Roberts AA Cov | LA (TLM) | Heard | Roberts HC | H Cheng | Heard AA | LA |
| | | Roberts CS | | Roberts Chr 4pm | | | | | | | | | |
| Lectionary readings | Isaiah 64:1-9 1 Corinthians 1:2-9 Mark 13:24-37 | Isaiah 40: 1-11 2 Peter 3: 8-15a Mark 1: 1-8 | Isaiah 61: 1-4, 2-11 1 Thess 5: 16-24 John 1: 6-8, 19-28 | 2 Samuel 7: 1-11 Romans 16: 25-27 Luke 1: 26-38 | Isaiah 61: 10-12 Galatians 4: 4-7 Luke 2: 22-40 | Genesis 1: 1-5 Acts 19: 1-7 Mark 1: 4-11 | 1Sam 3: 1-10 1 Cor 6: 12-20 John 1: 43-51 | Jonah 3: 1-5,10 1 Cor 7: 29-31 Mark 1: 14-20 | Deut 18: 15-20 1 Cor 8: 1-13 Mark 1: 21-28 | Isaiah 40: 21-31 1 Cor 9: 16-23 Mark 1: 29-39 | 2 Kings 5: 1-14 1 Cor 9: 24-27 Mark 1: 40-45 | Isaiah 43: 18-25 2 Cor 1: 18-22 Mark 2: 1-12 | Hosea 2:14-20 2 Corinthians 2:1-6 Mark 2:13-22 |

Please send all requests for the next Plan to the Superintendent Minister by Friday January 12th

Key:

HC- Holy Communion

US - United Service

CS - Carol Service

AA- All age

CtS - Circuit Service

T- Preacher needing transport

LA - Local arrangement

ML - Memory Lane worship

AWC - All We Can

TLM - The Leprosy Mission

Cov - Covenant Service

Chr - Christingle

Nat - Nativity