

# UOMC News



Unity Oldland Methodist Church,  
West Street, Oldland Common,  
Bristol BS30 9QS  
[www.uomc.org.uk](http://www.uomc.org.uk)

We are part of the Bristol and South Gloucestershire Methodist Circuit.

## January 2025



# WELCOME

## Our Mission

**Unity Oldland Methodist Church seeks to proclaim the gospel of God's love in Christ and to live out our discipleship in worship and mission.**

### **Relationship with God**

- ◆ The worship of God in word and sacrament in the power of the Holy Spirit
- ◆ Celebrating the Good News and the love of Jesus Christ
- ◆ Encouraging growth in faith, discipleship and spirituality

### **Relationship with each other**

- Continuing developing a welcoming and open fellowship.
- Working towards supporting and including everyone.
- Continue developing working with people of all ages.

### **Relationship with the community**

- Serving as a focal point in the community
- Encouraging our relationship with other churches and community groups
- Reaching out to the local and wider community with God's love in Christ offering opportunities to express their spirituality.

## UOMC NEWSLETTER

We welcome you to the Newsletter of Unity Oldland Methodist Church.

The Newsletter is published on the first Sunday of each month, except August. If you have any ideas how the Newsletter can be improved please do talk to Margaret S, the compiler.

In order to get your item into the Newsletter please can you let me have it a week before the first Sunday of the following month. **The next edition will be published on 2nd February . Please can all items be with me by Tuesday 28th January by 5pm at the latest please.**

Please don't be shy whether you can send your item by email or something that is handwritten or verbal—but make sure I write it down! Photographs etc all are welcome.

**My contact details are Margaret Slucutt (referred to as Margaret S) 07967102141 or email [mgt.s@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:mgt.s@blueyonder.co.uk)**

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**Our Minister is Rev P J Jackson**

**To contact her**

**Email is [rook2rook4@yahoo.com](mailto:rook2rook4@yahoo.com)**

**Telephone number is 965 9364**

**Jo Stevens, our Pastoral Secretary, can be contacted via**

**Tel: 0117 9477093, Mobile: 07800784587,**

**Email: [jo.stevens312@gmail.com](mailto:jo.stevens312@gmail.com)**

## LIVING IN UNEXPECTEDNESS

These are certainly uncertain times, and we never know what is right around the corner. We are expected to live in unexpectedness. Last week the lectionary took us to Luke chapter 2, and we saw Mary and Joseph being filled with anxiety, anger and confoundment as the twelve year old Jesus does not join the caravan home and is found three days later teaching in the temple. These were unexpected times for Mary and Joseph. Mary was living as a regular teenager when an angel comes and offers her an opportunity to be the mother of the son of God and that was so very unexpected for Mary. The angels pronounce the greatest birth of all time to lowly shepherds and for them such an honour was unexpected.

If we look at recent events in our world, church and life we see that we live in unexpectedness. With the coming of each new day, we live a life of unexpectedness because we don't know what each new day will bring. Members leave and new ones join, people we love pass away and chubby smiley babies come into the world and in those moments our lives are forever changed. We are told in Hebrews 13:8 that Jesus is the same yesterday, today and forever, but I would like to think that Jesus does offer change. That today will not be the same as yesterday. That the joy I experienced yesterday will only be improved upon today. We come into 2025 hoping that it will be different than 2024 was.



# SERVICES IN JANUARY

We continue to share our morning service 'live' on Zoom. Join

Zoom Meeting

Code 893 0313 2856

Password Worship

## **Sunday 5th January Covenant Service**

10.30am Rev David Deeks—Holy Communion

Stewards Phil & Kay

## **Sunday 12th January**

10.30am Rev P.J. Jackson

Stewards Joy & Alison Britton

## **Sunday 19th January**

10.30am Joy Harris

Stewards Susan & Debbie

## **Sunday 26th January**

10.30am Rev Hilary Cooke

Stewards—Catherine & Roger

## **EVENING FELLOWSHIP @ UOMC**

**You may remember that at the Annual Church Meeting it was requested that we have a regular evening fellowship evening on a Sunday.**

**This started at the end of July and now runs at 4pm on the 1st and 3rd Sundays in the month.**

**The group is focusing on Bible Study with material from the Bible Society.**

**All are very welcome.**





The suggestion for our service on 5th January is Jesus, Love Song  
This service will also be our Covant Service with Rev David Deeks



### **Gwyneth Dean's Funeral**

As we still take in the unexpected new of Gwyneth's passing on Christmas Eve, we have now been informed that her funeral will be at Westerleigh on Monday 27th January at 1pm and a Service of Remembrance at UOMC at 2.15pm.

As we receive more information so it will be announced in the Sunday notices.

Our love and prayers to Mike, and her brother and his family.



## PASTORAL REPORT

Wishing you all a very Happy New Year with health and with events and happenings, excitements that we can all look forward to in the year ahead.

Hush the noise made us stop and think of what was around us and to stop for a moment of peace and quiet to forget the hustle and bustle that Christmas brings with it.

We were all saddened by the news of our friend Gwyneth who passed away Christmas Eve after a short illness in hospital. Gwyneth was a part of our church and congregation, and we are all going to miss Gwyneth being with us and her contribution she brought and gave to us all. We think of her husband Mike who has been a supporter of events. The vastness of his loss we can only imagine, especially as it was so sudden. Gwyneth had only previously gone to hospital when she broke her arm. She also took no medication so it is all a real shock.

It is great news to hear the Shaun is getting married in July 2025 in Ecuador. The family are slowly all recovering from the accident, there is still quite a way to go but God is with them all as there health and life begins to get back into more normal life again for them all.

Over the Advent and Christmas period many of you have had coughs and colds, Covid in Joy's case. We pray that you all have speedy recovery and can enjoy the coming of the new year ahead.

We pray for Val Rawbone who has been suffering from chest infections and we look forward to her being able to join us in church again.



Margaret Bennett too has been ill over these past weeks and we pray that she too will recover and return and join us here at Unity.

We pray for Mike and Kay, as Mike is going into hospital this week. Our prayers are with you both.

We pray for each other and keep an eye on our friends and neighbours as we ask that God's hands protect us as we go forward in your work for the new year ahead.

Please let me know of any celebrations or illnesses so that we can all pray and help each other at these times.

God Bless  
Jo

### [A Prayer for January 2 025](#)

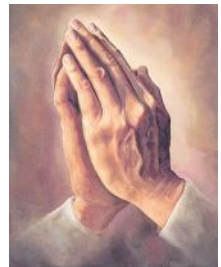
**The true light that gives light to every man was coming into the world.**

**John 1:9**

Amazing God, as we enter a New Year may we fix our eyes on the light and walk into the New Year holding fast to your hand. May our words and actions reflect your light to all those that we meet. May we learn to show your love to all especially to our enemies and those we find difficult to relate too.

In Jesu's name  
Amen

*Thank you Pat*



## A Prayer for Epiphany

Lord Jesus,

Thank you for revealing yourself to us. We shout for joy and worship you with gladness. We come before with joyful songs and join with the angels as they say, “Glory to God in the highest and peace on earth to men.” We receive your peace and comfort. As we continue into the new year, we ask that we remember your divinity and revel in your identity. You are a miracle-working God, and so we ask you to do a mighty work of internal transformation in our lives. Change us to be more like you. Let our words and the meditation of our hearts be pleasing to you. Just as the wise men followed the star, so we commit to following you. Lead and guide us. Comfort and heal us. Let our hearts be set on you as you reveal more and more of yourself to us. We adore you and give you glory.

(Taken from the internet.)



## **A THANK YOU FROM KINGSWOOD FOOD BANK**

**To The members of Unity Oldland Methodist Church  
Dear All,**

**KINGSWOOD FOODBANK**

**I write on behalf of the Kingswood Foodbank team to thank you for your support during the calendar year 2024.**

**The Kingswood Foodbank first opened in November 2013, but I hold records dating back only to 2017. In that year we fed 1,177 people. In 2024 we fed 2,300 adults and 1,500 children, a total of 3,800. Luckily for us and those people, donations have also increased, and we have always been able to meet the demand. And I suspect that demand is going to be with us for some time yet.**

**With your monthly donations you have played a big part in helping us meet the demand. Once again, thank you ever so much for your support.**

**Happy New Year.  
Best wishes,**

**Peter Shears**

Don't miss our **Coffee Morning on Saturday 11th January** 10am—11.30am. There will be our usual Bacon Butties, Cakes, Marmalade, Tea and Coffee.



**Thank you for your generosity.**

**UOMC MONTHLY COFFEE MORNING 2024 & TWO SEPARATE FUNDRAISERS**

Our takings from Coffee Morning have been given to the following organisations:

<b>JANUARY (13<sup>th</sup>)</b>	<b>International Red Cross and Red Circle Movement</b>	<b>£215.00</b>
<b>FEBRUARY (10<sup>th</sup>)</b>	<b>Christian Action on Poverty</b>	<b>£205.00</b>
<b>MARCH (9<sup>th</sup>)</b>	<b>UOMC Church Funds</b>	<b>£228.00</b>
<b>APRIL (13<sup>th</sup>)</b>	<b>ONE25</b>	<b>£230.00</b>
<b>MAY (11<sup>th</sup>)</b>	<b>Christian Aid</b>	<b>£215.00</b>
<b>JUNE (8<sup>th</sup>)</b>	<b>Methodist Homes for the Aged</b>	<b>£400 and donations</b>
<b>JULY (13<sup>th</sup>)</b>	<b>UOMC Church Funds</b>	<b>£220.50</b>
<b>AUGUST (10<sup>th</sup>)</b>	<b>Transform Trade</b>	<b>£186.00</b>
<b>SEPTEMBER (14<sup>th</sup>)</b>	<b>MacMillian Cancer Support</b>	<b>£300</b>
<b>OCTOBER (12<sup>th</sup>)</b>	<b>The Methodist Centre</b>	<b>£232.00</b>
<b>NOVEMBER (10<sup>th</sup>)</b>	<b>UOMC Church Funds</b>	<b>£422.00</b>
<b>DECEMBER (14<sup>th</sup>)</b>	<b>Action for Children</b>	<b>£250.00</b>

Margaret has also sent Children's Hospice SW £800 following her sponsored walks throughout June.

The Disasters Emergency Appeal collection for the Middle East £220.00 **THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY FOR OTHERS.**

**FILM NIGHT Friday 17th January  
7.15pm for a 7.30pm start.**

## **The Miracle Club**



The plot follows a group of working-class women from Dublin on a pilgrimage to Lourdes in France.

**Refreshments available.  
If you need transport please let us know.**

## Some thoughts from Gordon James

We will not all feel the same way about Christmas, but each year the world I read and hear about gets more interesting. On one hand, I see a traditional time when families enjoy themselves with colourful decorations keeps going. Lights, decorated trees and bouncy music appear on many streets, although some come and go at unexpected times, and the decorations include the strangest figures (to me, anyway) - a house with a model ski resort does not mean much to me!

Sadly, many places are not safe, some people who want to brighten their house or street cannot afford it. Closer than we think. Last year we noticed the undecorated and non-celebration places, but probably there have always been more than we realised.

People also heard, to my surprise, many more people singing what I think of as hymns, but they just enjoyed something without noticing, or caring, what the words were. I heard a prominent comedian and vocal atheist actually sing “ Lo, he abhors not the virgin’s womb” and say “God bless us all.” Actually, what matters is that for me I do not judge anybody but myself. I will, like many readers of this newsletter, encourage all friendship and shared happiness, and feel the sadness which will prevent many from any celebrating. For me, however, I treasure memories of sharing services at midnight after 24th December, and in my heart feeling that I am marking not a date but simply trying to focus completely on the birth of baby Jesus.

We hope that you have had a truly happy Christmas. Then a New Year of peace. Happy New Year!

Gordon and Joyce James



## December 2024 NHCP newsletter for Wesley Guilds & Fellowships



'Hush the Noise' is the Methodist Church in Britain's theme for Advent 2024 when we are invited to pause a while amid all the busyness leading up to Christmas. On behalf of NHCP, may I wish you peace and joy during this season.

It so happens that the NHCP Association of Friends newsletter will be sent out by post shortly, so I have chosen some different NHCP news, as quite a few of the readers of this newsletter are also Aof members.

We wish our founder and President Peter Grubb a happy **ninetieth birthday** at the end of this month. He is in good health and always keeps in touch with NHCP news.



Peter Grubb



Provost Freedom

It's over a year since the last trustees' visit to Nigeria but we thank God for the wonders of modern communication. Paula Dawson and I have found that monthly WhatsApp meetings with Provost Freedom Ojenya and Very Revd Janet Daramola, of Ebenta College of Health Technology help to keep us up-to-date and, we hope, encourage them. Other pairs of trustees are developing similar links with places we support - for example Edawu and Agboke, the two mental health centres in Benue State. Here is the excellent Provost Freedom at a workshop in Lagos in 2023.

The team at the mental health centre at Edawu do their best with limited resources and have had some success generating income locally to reduce their dependence on external grants, for example by rearing goats. They would like to expand the processing of cassava and yam tubers to make flour. The shared activity of preparing the tubers can also be therapeutic.



On October 27th, Winchester Road Methodist Church in Walthamstow hosted some members of the Nigeria Methodist Mission and NHCP trustees to celebrate the contribution of Mary Burgoine, the Guild and Church in support of NHCP over many years. Mary used to look after the postal sales for NHCP. 'Her' Guild and church also hold the all-comers record for donations collected via the maps, each completed with great creativity. **Thank you so much for all your support.**

Your next newsletter will be in March.

Wishing you all the best for 2025.



David Cundall, 07989194726 nhcp@btinternet.com



Our next One25 cake collection is on Tuesday 14th January. I will be in our car park between 7.15pm and 7.45pm.

If anyone needs a pick up from their home address please let me know. 07967102141 Our contributions are always received with thanks. I will as usual deliver on Wednesday morning.

In December a few of the bakers in our team went to visit One 25 and saw the new electric van. They also were able to see what One25 offers and ask questions. We are grateful to One25 for their hospitality.

You may remember that One25 support the women who are sex workers and live on the streets in various ways. They have just taken delivery on an electric van so they won't have to pay for carbon charge. This means more money can be spent supporting those in need. We can share more next month after a small group of our bakers visit One 25, later this month.

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**HOME INSTEAD** provide a film afternoon on the last Thursday of the month, for older people particularly for those with or caring for people with dementia at UOMC. However all are very welcome.

Care Instead is a care agency based in Hanham.





## EASTVILLE WORKHOUSE

For the past three years I have been involved with a team transcribing the Eastville Workhouse Creed registers. Eastville workhouse is more commonly known by its address of 100 Fishponds Road. They are called creed registers but they are really details of admissions to the workhouse which includes the entrants' religious creed and parish of abode.

In 1834 The Poor Law amendment Act was passed with the intention to end the ever increasing cost of giving payments to the poor so that they could live in their community. The parishes in England and Wales were formed into groups known as Poor Law Unions and managed by a locally elected Board of Guardians. Eastville workhouse was built in 1847 and their admission records date from 1869 and go up to 1952, but records less than 100 years old are closed for privacy.

There are 30 volumes of these admission records from 1869 up to 1899 before the format was changed. We have transcribed and published 26 of them so far, containing 89,000 records. They list the resident's name, age and class (from 1875), religion, parish of origin and date of discharge or death. The class was to indicate dietary requirements depending on whether they were fit for work or not, male or female or a juvenile, infant or a baby.

When families were admitted they were broken up, the husbands and wives lived in different quarters and the children elsewhere also.

When recording and checking the transcripts of these registers it soon becomes apparent that certain people or families were admitted multiple times. The reasons for this and the residents' medical records were destroyed in the last war, but one can speculate that these people were probably unable to work for medical or mental health reasons. One lady who I have noted was Sarah Baulch or Baulsh who lived in Clifton and is recorded

over 100 times coming in. One cannot help starting down rabbit holes whilst doing this work and doing bit of family history research on the side. Sarah was baptised, in Weymouth in 1817 and her family had moved to Bristol by 1841 for reasons unknown. She never married and died in 1890 aged about 71.

Another distraction was a girl called Querina Thorne. She was admitted five times between 1887 and 1889 aged 10 to 12, seemingly alone. With that unusual first name and curious how she came to be on her own, I just had to delve into her life story. Hers and other accounts have been written up by Shirley Hodgson in Bristol's Pauper Children: Victorian Education and Emigration to Canada. She emigrated (or probably more correctly, was shipped off to) New Brunswick in 1890 Also known as Caterina and Queenie she married in 1913, had at least four children and, I hope, lived happily until her death in 1974 aged 97.

Conditions in the workhouse were harsh. At Eastville one block was for able-bodied paupers, another the infirmary (the only hospital available to the poor) and at the rear were wards for 'lunatics' and 'imbeciles'. These derogatory terms had specific meanings in Victorian times. There was also a separate block for a nursery and for women with young children. In 1867 an inspection report found a lot to criticise In the male infirmary for example, there was only one wash basin and one towel a week for each ward.

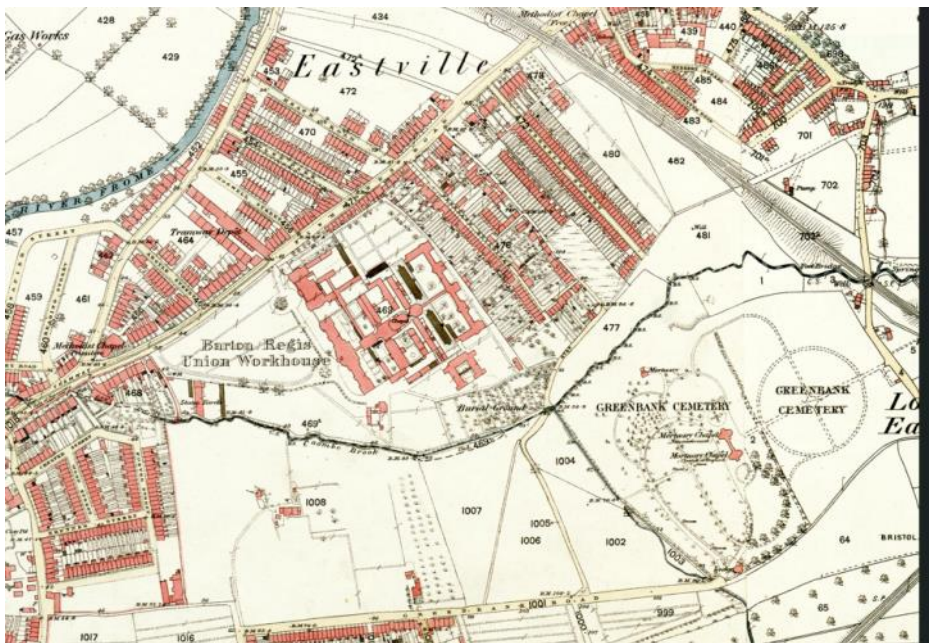
Yes, life was hard but at least our Victorian ancestors made sure that the poor had a roof over their head, a bed to sleep in and food in their bellies. Not something we are good at today. To find out more, you can visit [www.workhouses.org.uk](http://www.workhouses.org.uk) or if you think a relative of yours might have been in Eastville workhouse let me know and I'll look it up.

Mike Slucutt



## Eastville Workhouse

Map of around 1880 from KYPWest.org.uk



## What goes on at UOMC

**Talk to Susan Weaver if you have any queries about bookings.  
07460082852.**

**Services** UOMC have a morning service at 10.30am and there is a Zoom link for those who wish to join us from their digital equipment. The link is on the service plan page of our website.

**50:60s Group**—Meet monthly please contact Brenda Andrews on 07484 705597.

**Wriggle Giggle Hop** –Each Tuesday morning 10.30am—12 noon For young children and their parents or carers. Not 10th September.

**Social Group**—Each Tuesday afternoon, 2—4pm this group meet to share conversation, information and activities. Run by an outside organisation for the benefit of all. .

**ONE25** Cake collections in UOMC Car Park between 7.15pm—7.45pm on Tuesday 14th January.

**Coffee morning**— Saturday 11th January 10am—11.30am for UOMC Funds

**Crafting Friends**—Wednesday 15th & 29th January 2pm –4pm

**Nita Nata**—Wednesday 8th & 22nd January from 2pm—4pm.

**Film Night**— Friday 17th January Arthur Christmas’ 7.15pm for 7.30pm start.

**Board Games** - Dates to be confirmed for this quarterly group.

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