



Welcoming, loving and caring for all

# NEWSLETTER

## January 2025



## **FROM THE MINISTER'S STUDY**

Dear siblings in Christ,

### **A Covenant of Inclusion: Embracing Gender Diversity in God's Community**

Happy new year! Welcome 2025.

As you will be aware, each of my reflections in this newsletter for this Connexional year will focus on all aspects of our inclusion as a church. This month we consider the fourth aspect of the Inclusive Church statement – Gender. We will also explore how this is even more relevant in the light of the Covenant Prayer. As we step into a new year, we begin to turn our reflections on the promises we will make to God in the Covenant Service on January 12<sup>th</sup>. This act of recommitment reminds us of God's boundless love and calls us to live as an inclusive community, fully embracing the diversity of all God's people.

A reminder of this prayer and what words those of us gathered will reflect on:

*I am no longer my own, but yours. Put me to what you will, rank me with whom you will; put me to doing, put me to suffering; let me be employed for you, or laid aside for you, exalted for you, or brought low for you; let me be full, let me be empty, let me have all things, let me have nothing; I freely and wholeheartedly yield all things to your pleasure and disposal. And now, glorious and blessed God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, you are mine and I am yours. So be it. And the covenant now made on earth, let it be ratified in heaven. Amen.*

The prayer's words, "Put me to what you will, rank me with whom you will," resonate deeply with the values of the Inclusive Church Network. They challenge us to examine how we honour God's image in each person, especially in how we recognize and affirm the variety of gender identities and expressions within our community.

The Inclusive Church Statement declares:

*"We believe in inclusive Church – a Church which celebrates and affirms every person and does not discriminate. We will continue to challenge the Church where it discriminates against people on grounds of disability, economic power, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, learning disability, mental health, or sexuality."*

Gender diversity is a reflection of God's creativity and love. Yet, societal norms and traditional understandings often marginalize those whose gender identities or expressions do not conform to expectations. As disciples of Christ, we are called to reflect the radical inclusivity of the Gospel, ensuring that the Body of Christ truly welcomes, values, and celebrates everyone.

The covenant prayer compels us to surrender to God's will, allowing ourselves to be transformed and to challenge the barriers that exclude others. As we pray, we are reminded that God's Kingdom is one where all people—regardless of gender or gender identity—find belonging and purpose.

### **Living the Covenant: Practical Steps Toward Inclusion**

As we recommit to God's covenant, let us also recommit to making our church a place of radical inclusion. Here are some suggestions of how we might put this into practice:

1. **Deepening Understanding:** We could consider organising opportunities to learn about gender diversity through workshops, books, and conversations, ensuring our community grows in empathy and awareness.
2. **Inclusive Practices:** The Inclusive Church Group could review church language, liturgy, and leadership roles to reflect and affirm the full spectrum of gender identities. This could include using gender-neutral language in prayers and ensuring all voices are heard in decision-making processes.
3. **Advocacy and Support:** All of us could stand with those who experience discrimination or exclusion because of their gender. We could advocate for justice and equality both within and beyond the church walls.

4. **Celebrate Diversity:** As a church we need to create spaces where individuals can share their stories, talents, and gifts, enriching the community through the fullness of who they are.

### **An Invitation to Renewal**

As we step into this new year, let the Covenant Prayer inspire us to be courageous in our love and commitment to one another. Let us become a church where all people, in all their diversity, can experience the transformative love of Christ.

Empowered by the Holy Spirit, may we continue to live out our vision: *“to be a visible community presence, welcoming, loving, and caring for all and God’s creation.”* Together, let us embody God’s inclusive Kingdom, bearing witness to the boundless grace and love that call us into deeper communion with one another and with God.

May this year be a time of renewal, growth, and joyful inclusion for us all.

Loving and inclusive God, we come before You with open hearts, grateful for the diversity of Your creation, and the unique beauty of each person made in Your image.

You have crafted us fearfully and wonderfully, beyond labels, beyond limits, beyond expectations. Teach us to celebrate the fullness of who we are and to embrace the richness of all genders as reflections of Your infinite creativity and love.

In our covenant with You, we offer ourselves fully, to be used for Your purposes, to stand with those who feel unseen or excluded, and to nurture a church that is truly welcoming to all.

Guide us, Holy Spirit, to challenge injustice and discrimination, to speak words of affirmation and love, and to build relationships marked by compassion and respect.

Help us to create spaces where everyone can feel safe to live authentically, free to share their gifts, and empowered to flourish in Your light.

May our words, actions, and prayers bear witness to Your inclusive Kingdom, where all people belong, and Your grace knows no bounds.

We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, who showed us how to love without condition, and to embrace without hesitation. Amen.

Yours in Christ's service,

Jason



**SERVICES FOR JANUARY**

**AWSWORTH**

Unless otherwise indicated services are held each Sunday at 10.30am in The Youth Wing, The Lane NG16 2RQ

5 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Deacon Julie Morton
12 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	At Nuthall Methodist Church
19 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Rev. Jason McMahon-Riley (Holy Communion)
26 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Susan Johnson

## **ASPLEY**

Unless otherwise indicated services are held each **Tuesday** at 2.30pm in St. Teresa's Catholic Church Hall, Kingsbury Drive NG8 3EP

7 <sup>th</sup>	Rev. Jason McMahon-Riley (Covenant & Holy Communion)
14 <sup>th</sup>	Mr Emmanuel Ofori
21 <sup>st</sup>	Rev. Richard Byass
28 <sup>th</sup>	Susan Johnson

## **NUTHALL**

Services are held each Sunday at 10.45 am and 6.00 pm.  
Sunrisers (ages 3-7) and Early Risers (ages 7-11) meet at 10.45am (except on Family Service Sunday). Late Risers (11+) meet at 6.00pm.

5 <sup>th</sup>	10.45am	Local Arrangement
	6.00pm	Rev. Jason McMahon-Riley (Carols)
12 <sup>th</sup>	10.45am	Rev. Jason McMahon-Riley (Covenant/Communion)
	6.00pm	Rev. Jason McMahon-Riley & Mr Marc Williamson (Youth Service & Covenant)
19 <sup>th</sup>	10.45am	Mr David Blount (All Age Worship)
	6:00pm	Rev. David Speed
26 <sup>th</sup>	10.45am	Rev. Tony Pick
	6.00pm	Rev. Richard Byass

## **STEWARDS REPORT**

So many wonderful events have happened since our last report! The Christmas Tree Festival was a resounding success. Thank you so much to the many people who helped. The event was planned and co-ordinated, Christmas trees built and decorated, schools invited and hosted, lunches and other refreshments cooked and cleared away, the youth choir and community choir sang, and all the other myriad things that went towards making this fabulous event. The festival has raised over £1,000.00 so far, with more to be counted. We will let you know the final amount when it is calculated. This will be donated equally to Operation Orphan and Canaan Trust. Thank you also to David Speed for his tree, donations to which will be going to the International Appeal Fund as agreed at our last Church Council. Several families visited the church after the festival and schools' visits to see the trees and the church. What marvellous outreach!

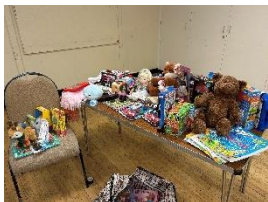
The Advent Meditations have taken place, providing quiet moments and fellowship to prepare ourselves for Christmas. Thank you to all those involved in this endeavour. We are now looking forward to the Risers' Nativity, carols around the village and under the Cross, and all the other various opportunities for worship at Nuthall, Awsworth and Aspley.

In the New Year we are holding a Carol Service on 5th January, to include our favourite carols we don't often have the chance to sing. Sarah, Wendy and the catering team are planning a delicious roast Sunday Lunch to follow the Covenant Service on 12th January, tickets are available at £5 per person.

We have so much to be thankful for in this Advent Season.



## Aspley News



On Tuesday 10th December about 24 members and friends met to celebrate the meaning of Christmas. We had a lovely buffet lunch provided by Millie & Kitty which raised over £200 in aid of Action for Children. Rev Jason led us in our Gift and Carol service and we were able to take 8 bags of toys and gifts to the Salvation Army for distribution in the area.



**Thank you** so much for all the hard work that was put into the Christmas Tree festival. It was a great team effort and really brought in the community. Four hundred children visited us during the week and lots of different people visited at the weekend. The Christmas tree festival raised the magnificent sum of £1341.51. Thanks to everyone who contributed!

### **Covenant Meal**

You are invited to join us for a Covenant Meal on Sunday 12th January 2025 after the morning service.

This will be a two-course roast dinner. The cost is £5.00 per person and tickets are now available.

Please see Wendy, Sarah or any of the stewards for more information.

We look forward to seeing you there for a delicious meal and a chance to meet with joy and fellowship!





## **SAVE THE DATE**

**Christian Aid coffee morning, Saturday  
March 22nd.**

This coffee morning has been moved from Christian Aid week, because so many church members are on holiday in May. Save any unwanted Christmas presents for the raffle or tombola!

### **EDI Training Coffee Morning Saturday 1st February, 10am–12pm**

Join us for a special coffee morning with Revd Jason, who will lead Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) Training for all those with a role or responsibility in church.

This session is designed for:

- Stewards
- Risers Leaders
- Volunteers working with children and young people
- Anyone involved in church ministry

All are welcome to come along to learn how we can create a welcoming and inclusive church community, empowered by the Holy Spirit and inspired by our mission to love and care for all.

Refreshments will be provided. Don't miss this important opportunity to grow together in our calling!

## Children and Families Update

Weather permitting, we will continue to run our monthly Buggy walks. These will move to the 4th Thursday of the month to avoid school holidays.

We will be meeting at 10am at Basil Russell Park. After the walk, we'll warm up at the Paws Community Café. Volunteers are welcome—please let Rachel know if you'd like to help.

These will be on the following dates:

Thursday 23rd January

Thursday 27th February

Thursday 27th March



Please sign up via the QR code so we have an idea of numbers.

Youth Choir will carry on in the new year. Mondays in term time 4-5pm. We will be learning new songs after the success of their first performance at the Christmas Tree Festival. Please do spread the word as it would be lovely to have some more singers join us. Similarly volunteers (ideally with DBS) are welcome to come and support our singing.

Pancake party plans...

After the success of last year's pancake party we are looking to run another event for 2025. As Shrove Tuesday falls on 4th March, it will, unfortunately, be on a school day this time around. Our initial plans are to run a party after school from 4 until around 5 to ensure we don't clash with any bookings in the evening. Exactly what this looks like will be dependent on how many volunteers are available. If you would like to be involved please speak to or email Rachel.

## **Youth Room**

The Youth Room (off the church hall) is used regularly by Late Risers and Templars and our uniformed organisations, as well as housing storage cupboards for other church groups. There has been recent work to tidy up this space, now that the mobile sound system has been built. This room needs to be a welcoming, comfortable space for our young people to meet, relax, learn and worship, and should not be a space where any items are stored outside of cupboards, even on a temporary basis. We are so blessed to have young people in our church family so please support them by respecting their space - if we wouldn't be happy with items left in the church worship area then they shouldn't be in the Youth Room either! Any items left in there will be disposed of promptly.

Thank you - Church Property and Finance Committee

<p>Please email any items for the February newsletter to <a href="mailto:communicationsnuthallmeth@gmail.com">communicationsnuthallmeth@gmail.com</a> <b>by Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2025</b></p>
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## **Volunteers Needed**

We are looking for volunteers to work with our Late Risers leaders to help with our sessions on a Sunday evening. No experience necessary, just an interest in working with our young people. For more information please speak to Marc Williamson, Kirstie Dane or Josie Wilcox.

## **ECO-CHURCH NEWS**

As you are hopefully aware, we are trying to encourage all different types of wildlife onto our church grounds with different habitat areas of planting, regular food and water for birds, the bird boxes, bat box, hedgehog house, log pile and bug hotel. Winter is a difficult time for birds when natural food is scarcer, and they rely on gardens and food provided by people more. Bringing more birds into our gardens gives many of us a lot of joy. The change in calendar year means it is almost time for the RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch which is the largest garden wildlife survey in the world and takes place January 24th -26th. It only takes an hour, and if you want to do it at home then visit the RSPB website to find out the details. Alternatively, if you want to join us at church then come along and see if we can see more species than we did last year!

Dates for your diary when you can get involved in our EcoChurch activities:

- Saturday 18th January – EcoChurch meeting 9-10.30am (we will be looking at the new EcoChurch survey questions)
- Saturday 25th January – Big Garden Birdwatch at church 9-10.30am
- Saturday 22nd February and Wednesday 26th February (both 10am-12) – Church Grounds working mornings, doing some grounds maintenance before everything starts growing again, bring tools if you have them but some will be available.

Everyone is welcome at any or all of these times!

**MINISTER**

Rev. Jason McMahon-Riley

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NG16 1GH  
(Day off – Friday)

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**SENIOR STEWARDS**

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✉ [Nuthall@NNEMethodist.org.uk](mailto:Nuthall@NNEMethodist.org.uk)

Mr Stephane Chambrelan

✉ [Nuthall@NNEMethodist.org.uk](mailto:Nuthall@NNEMethodist.org.uk)

**RISERS CO-ORDINATOR**

Mrs. Josie Wilcock

[josie.wilcock@tinyonline.co.uk](mailto:josie.wilcock@tinyonline.co.uk)

**CHURCH / HALL BOOKING  
CLERK**

Mrs. Jo Lievesley

☎ 9278193

**DATES FOR YOUR DIARY****January**

6 <sup>th</sup>	4.00pm	<b>Children's choir</b>
7 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	<b>Creative Corner</b>
12 <sup>th</sup>	12.00pm	<b>Covenant Meal</b>
13 <sup>th</sup>	4.00pm	<b>Children's Choir</b>
13 <sup>th</sup>	7.00pm	<b>BPFA Committee Meeting</b>
14 <sup>th</sup>	2.00pm	<b>Women's Fellowship tea and chat</b>
16 <sup>th</sup>	2.00pm	<b>Take Time Together</b>
18 <sup>th</sup>	9.00am	<b>EcoChurch meeting</b>
20 <sup>th</sup>	4.00pm	<b>Children's choir</b>
23 <sup>rd</sup>	10.00am	<b>Buggy Walk</b>
25 <sup>th</sup>	9.00am	<b>EcoChurch Big Garden Bird Watch</b>
25 <sup>th</sup>	2.00pm	<b>BPFA Jumble Sale</b>
26 <sup>th</sup>	7.15pm	<b>Finance &amp; Property Meeting</b>
27 <sup>th</sup>	4.00pm	<b>Children's choir</b>

## **DUTIES AND ROTAS FOR JANUARY**

### **CHURCH FLOWERS**

<b>January</b>	5 <sup>th</sup>	Gail Brockway	12 <sup>th</sup>	Margaret Wheatley
	19 <sup>th</sup>	Gill Maloney	26 <sup>th</sup>	Sue Perrett

### **COFFEE CORNER**

<b>January</b>	4 <sup>th</sup>	Sylvia & David	11 <sup>th</sup>	Steve & Tracy
	18 <sup>th</sup>	Liz & Carl	25 <sup>th</sup>	Jean, Janet & John

### **TODDLERS DRINKS ROTA**

<b>January</b>	8 <sup>th</sup>	Wendy Green, Gill Maloney & Sarah Foster
	15 <sup>th</sup>	Janet Lander & Janice Matthews
	22 <sup>nd</sup>	Beryl Harris & Heather Hallam
	29 <sup>th</sup>	Mick & Margaret Sendall

## **SUNDAY SERVICE DUTIES FOR JANUARY**

<b>Date</b>		<b>Duty Steward</b>	<b>Readers</b>	<b>Pianist</b>
<b>5<sup>th</sup></b>	10.45am	J Dent	Ken Twist John Wilson	Lorna Page
	6.00pm	S Chambrelan	Cathy Milne	Janet Wilson
<b>12<sup>th</sup></b>	10:45am	P Corah	Janet Wilson Steve Rydal	Janet Wilson
	6.00pm	J Furlong		Youth Band
<b>19<sup>th</sup></b>	10.45am	G Heffernan	Andy Wilcox Josie Wilcox	Hannah Chamberlain
	6:00pm	G Brockway	Val Stone	Lorna Page
<b>26<sup>th</sup></b>	10.45am	S Langford	Steve Corah Mary Laughton	Janet Wilson
	6.00pm	I Lishman	Bev Coleman	Lorna Page

## **REGULAR WEEKLY ACTIVITIES**

<b>Sunday</b>	10.45am	Morning Worship (crèche for ages 0 to 3) Risers (ages 3 to 11) Family Service (3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month)
	6.00pm	Evening Worship Youth Service (2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month) 'Late Risers' (ages 11+)
	7.00pm	Templars Youth Fellowship
<b>Tuesday</b>	10:30am	Creative Corner (1 <sup>st</sup> Tues. of the month)
	2.00pm	Women's Fellowship (2 <sup>nd</sup> Tues. of the month)
	7.45pm	Table Tennis Club
<b>Wednesday</b>	10.00am	Nuthall Methodist Church Walking Group (3 <sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month - contact M. Sendall for meeting point details)
	10.00am	Tea, Toast and Talk
	10.00am	Pause for Prayer (2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month)
	1.30pm	Toddlers' Group
	6.15pm	Girls' Brigade (Explorers – age 5 to 8)
	6.15pm	Girls' Brigade (Juniors – age 8 to 11)
	6.15pm	Girls' Brigade (Seniors & Brigaders – age 11+)
<b>Thursday</b>	1.30pm	Art Group
	2.00pm	Take Time Together (3 <sup>rd</sup> Thurs. of the month)
<b>Friday</b>	6.00pm	Boys' Brigade (Anchor Boys – age 5 to 8)
	6.00pm	Boys' Brigade (Junior Section – age 8 to 11)
	7.10pm	Boys' Brigade (Company Section – age 11+)
<b>Saturday</b>	10.00am	Coffee Corner - Come and enjoy a cup of tea or coffee, homemade cakes & a chat with friends



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**If you would like to receive an email copy instead, please  
contact Cathy Milne or Kirstie Dane**

## WEBSITE

Visit the Nuthall Methodist Church website  
<https://nuthallmethodistchurch.org.uk/2021/>



## SOCIAL MEDIA

If there is anything you'd like putting on our Facebook/X page regarding events or groups please let the communications team know on:

[communicationsnuthallmeth@gmail.com](mailto:communicationsnuthallmeth@gmail.com)

Please follow/like/share and interact with our social media channels. The more likes and reposts we get the wider audience we can reach. You'll find us on:



Facebook - @NuthallMethodistChurch



Twitter/X - @NuthallMChurch



Instagram: NuthallMethodistChuch