

SUNDAY WORSHIP

Our morning worship usually begins at **10.30 a.m.** and lasts about an hour. The services are straightforward and friendly in the Methodist tradition, with Bible readings, prayers, hymns (usually five) and a sermon. Holy Communion is celebrated once a month and Christians of any denomination are always welcome to share communion with us.

Worship is conducted by our own minister, Rev Graham Tidmarsh, by other circuit ministers, or by accredited lay preachers. Service details may be found on the notice board near the church entrance. If you require more information, please contact Eric Long (01367 252131).

You are cordially invited to worship with us – a warm welcome awaits you.

OUR PREMISES

Our church hall is available for use by the whole community, providing useful facilities for youth work, meetings and social events. The hall seats up to fifty in comfort, with a small but adequate kitchen, wheelchair accessible toilet and nappy change facility.

The current cost (January 2006) for local users is £4.50 per hour, and bookings may be made by ringing Mrs Jean Gregory on 01367 252669.

MINISTER;

Rev. Graham Tidmarsh
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**WELCOME
to
LECHLADE
METHODIST
CHURCH**
an accessible church

Lechlade Methodist Church is a Christian community working and worshipping within the fellowship and discipline of the Methodist Church.

Our vision is

To be an active part of the body of God, and to spread the Good News of Christ by word and deed in the local community.

We believe in

The creating and sustaining work of God the Father

The redeeming work of His Son, our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ

The empowering and encouraging work of His Holy Spirit

We are a very welcoming church who meet in fellowship each week -

- To Worship God, to listen and to learn of Him so that we grow in the Christian life together
- To pray for ourselves and others and help in any practical way we can
- To proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ in our words and deeds
- To offer care and concern to those in need, within the church, the local community and beyond

- To provide and maintain premises which are accessible for the needs of the whole community.

ECUMENICAL

Our church seeks to maintain close co-operation with other Christians in Lechlade and beyond. We have links with St Lawrence Church, with occasional pulpit exchanges, and united services, especially for Easter, Christmas and Remembrance. We enjoy visits from the Salvation Army Songsters at Harvest-tide and for some time we were pleased to share our church premises with the local Roman Catholic community.

A LITTLE HISTORY

The Methodist Church originated in the evangelical revivals of the eighteenth century, especially those inspired by John Wesley. Wesley remained an Anglican all his life and founded local 'Societies' which met in addition to attending the established church. Later, refused communion, these 'Methodist' groups had to leave and begin elsewhere. Our worship can be sacramental or less formal and is led by ordained ministers or by lay 'local' preachers. 'Methodism was born in song' and hymns and songs are important in our services.

In Lechlade, Methodism is first recorded in 1843 and by the 1880s almost a hundred Methodists were worshipping in a renovated stable. The present chapel on the corner of Sherborne Street was completed in July 1892,

having cost £510 to build and furnish. It was granted a Certificate for the Solemnisation of Marriages and was able to conduct funerals, ceremonies it continues to offer today.

A church hall was added around the turn of the century and this has had a great deal of use by the church and the community. As well as its original use as a Sunday School, now sadly no longer viable, it has been a classroom for children of pre-school and primary school age. It is used regularly by the Country Market, a variety of Keep Fit and Pilates classes, Scouts, Cubs and Beavers, Lechlade Players, the Art Society and other groups, fundraising events and various activities, all welcome to share our premises from time to time. Our premises were recently refurbished to allow full accessibility for all ages and for those affected by disability.

We are one of the seventeen churches of the Upper Thames Circuit of the Methodist Church, which stretches from Lechlade, via Shrivenham and part of Swindon down to Wootton Bassett. These churches support each other in various ways, including the provision of ministers and local preachers who occupy our pulpit quite frequently. Thus we share our minister, Rev Graham Tidmarsh who is very much a part of Lechlade and of Circuit life, with Shrivenham Methodist Church.

