

# Stonehouse Methodist Church

8<sup>th</sup> February 2026

**Preacher - Margaret Marshall**

**Duty Steward - Jacqui Gummer**



Chocolate is getting more expensive, and the real story is happening thousands of miles from the supermarket shelf. West Africa's cocoa farms, which grow most of the world's cocoa, are being hit by extreme weather, crop disease and decades of low prices. Harvests are collapsing. Farmers are earning less. And the global chocolate industry is feeling the shock. While brands debate shrinkflation, farmers are facing something far more serious: the fight to keep their farms alive. This isn't just a price spike, it's a warning sign. If farmers can't earn enough to survive, the future of chocolate is at risk. We need a fairer system. One that pays farmers properly. One that supports climate-resilient farming. One that doesn't leave the people who grow our cocoa carrying all the risk.

**Choose Fairtrade. Back farmers. Demand better.**

## Church Council Meeting

**Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March at 2.30 pm.**

**ALL ARE WELCOME TO THIS GATHERING!**

All groups are asked to send a report to the church council secretary ([robertgriddell3@gmail.com](mailto:robertgriddell3@gmail.com)) as soon as possible so they can be circulated before the meeting, thus saving time!!





On Monday from 8 am to 9.30 am we shall again be serving warm drinks to folks as they take their children to school, and to others on their way to work, or the shops! Please pray for this venture as we seek to be

**Present, Visible and Connected  
in our Community!**

God loves our Community, and we want to show that love in everyway possible!

If you can offer to go on the rota please speak to Revd. Jimmy or a

Church Steward we need your help to spread the load!!

## **Garden Working Party on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup>**

Jobs on the list include:

- Measuring our trees for offsetting our carbon footprint
- Emptying/turning compost bins
- Weeding, mulching the trees
- Tidying hedge and removing brambles
- Replenishing the deadhedge
- Redoing pots by front door
- Pruning/feeding/mulching roses

If too wet, we now have the benches from the Elms which will need looking at/renovating before use.... and we can discuss plans for spring/summer projects





On **Sunday, 15th February, at 3.00 pm** here at Stonehouse, we have our section service - followed by an afternoon tea. **No service here in the morning.** Please speak to Sue Alexander. We need the seating and catering numbers. This will be led by our minister, Revd. Jimmy and a great opportunity to share in worship and fellowship with folks from our section Dursley, Cam, and Wotton,



## Weekly Prayer Diary

As many in the charity sector, locally and nationally, struggle with uncertain finances, please pray for trustees, directors, staff and volunteers and they seek wisdom and move forward.

### New-Build Care Home in Stonehouse

Following on from the drop-in session that was held in the Douglas Morley Hall last week, further information can be found at the following website:-

- New build care home: <https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/health-and-social-care/adult-social-care/types-of-care-and-support-available/care-homes-and-supported-accommodation/new-care-home-development/>
- Stonehouse: <https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/health-and-social-care/adult-social-care/types-of-care-and-support-available/care-homes-and-supported-accommodation/new-care-home-development/a-new-care-home-in-stonehouse/>



# Prayer for the Week

## Prayer To See God In All Things

God of mystery and imagination, help us to see you in both the unexpected and the familiar, for surely you are present in all things.

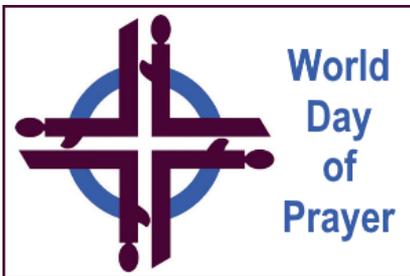
The stranger who, from nowhere, stops to help; the beloved friend who speaks a word of comfort; the stone when lifted reveals the life beneath; the child who marvels at such a world of tiny beings, unnoticed and essential – all these display the wonders of your love, ever present if not always known.

In these times of uncertainty and doubt, enable us to lift our eyes to heaven. Remembering the stars are always there but that it takes the darkness to reveal them. Amen.



*Sheryl Anderson, District Chair, Liverpool District*

## World Day of Prayer



This year the World Day of Prayer Service is being held in our Church on **Friday 6th March. on Friday 13th of February at 10 am** (also at SMC) there will be meeting to plan the Service. Please come if you would like to help in any way. More details later.

Next week our Section Service will be led by  
Rev. Jimmy Cullingford at 3.00pm

**Church Contact Details – Rev. Jimmy Cullingford (07831 406437)**

Please forward all notices by Thursday evening to Chris Gummer,  
07989 155645; cgummer951@gmail.com