

CIRCUIT NEWS

March and April 2026



Coventry & Nuneaton
METHODIST CIRCUIT

Welcome to our Bumper Spring edition, covering both March and April.

Easter reminds us of new life.... in all its fulness... following death and endings, new beginnings and new forms of life. In this news you'll find many examples of people discovering next phases in their lives, at different ages, as God has prompted them to move from one thing to another.

We hope to see all of you at the Circuit Service, on Saturday 11th April, at 4pm when we will say goodbye and thank you to

Rev Doreen Koffie-Williams who has been with us since she answered God's call to become an ordained minister. It's been a joy to see her ministry grow and develop and we thank Doreen for all her gifts and graces, and humour!

As you read what is below, please pray for all those events and people you see covered. We are called to be a community who pray for each other.

Perhaps, as you read, you'll also see how God might help you, or those you know, step into new roles and develop new ministries as the circuit changes its patterns of ministry

Thank you!

We give a big thank you to Keith Drinkwater - Circuit Safeguarding Officer, Graham Hargreaves - Circuit Property Sales, Judith Mudzamiri LP/WL's meeting Secretary who are all at, or near, the end of stints doing significant circuit roles.

We thank them each for the way they have given their best to the roles they were asked to take on. We hope you enjoy your 'retirements' from these voluntary jobs.

Welcome!

We welcome Clive Marsh as LP/WL Meeting Secretary and Asare Ye-boah as a Circuit Steward.

Encouragement!

We are always encouraged when people enjoy being part of the circuit work which God has given to us.

If you can offer any of the following, even for 2-3 hours a month, please be in touch with

Jill Marsh super@covnunmethodist.org.uk

Organisational skills

Practical skills

Financial expertise

Tech know-how

Computer design

Musical ability

Other skills that God has given you

Thank you.



Coventry & Nuneaton
METHODIST CIRCUIT

Circuit Service

Saturday 11th April 2026 at 4pm

Please come and join us as we say
farewell and thank you to
Rev'd Doreen Koffie-Williams and
family

Radford & Holbrooks
Methodist Church
Rupert Road, Coventry, CV6 3AZ

Please bring some food to share after
the service



CHAPEL OF UNITY at Coventry Cathedral Lenten Reflections



The Chapel of Unity is hosting an On-line 30-minute Scripture Reflection at 6.00pm each Monday evening during Lent.

Inspired by Jesuit spirituality, each short session will reflect on the week's Sunday Gospel and meditate on a piece of a sacred work of art inspired by the Sunday Gospel.

An opportunity to take a new look at this season of spiritual renewal through the lens of sacred art in the style of 'Visio Divina'.

Week 1	23 Feb	<i>Matthew 4:1</i>	<i>Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.</i>
Week 2	2 March	<i>Matthew 17:5-6</i>	<i>This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I well pleased; listen to him!</i>
Week 3	9 March	<i>John 4:10</i>	<i>Jesus said, 'If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, "Give me a drink,"</i>
Week 4	16 March	<i>John 9:35-38</i>	<i>Jesus said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?"</i>
Week 5	23 March	<i>John 11:35</i>	<i>Jesus wept.</i>
Week 6	30 March	<i>Matthew 21:9</i>	<i>The crowds that went ahead of him.....</i>

For Zoom click this link: [Join Zoom Meeting](#) Or use Meeting ID: 864 9505 4646 Passcode: COUR2025

Our Link Students from Queen's are moving on!

Mel Wheeler has been a student deacon with the circuit based at Bedworth Methodist Church.

Mel now prepares to move from Bedworth Methodist Church to Kings Cross, London. Leaving a church and stepping into something new is always such a bittersweet experience. It's never easy to say goodbye to a place that's been so welcoming, where I've built friendships, found belonging, and felt the support of the church community. There's a sadness in the parting and a sense of profound gratitude to have shared our lives briefly.

Yet, as I prepare to move to King's Cross, there's a mixture of emotions. There's joy at the possibilities ahead, the excitement of a new chapter, and the honour of being trusted with a new opportunity to grow and serve. But there's also fear and intimidation, because stepping into the unknown is never simple. There will be challenges, but that's where the growth happens, right?

And I know that, while there's fear, there's also courage that comes with faith and the people who walk alongside me, just like I experienced at Bedworth.



Louisa Taylor

“After two years of training for ministry at Queen’s and being involved at Coventry Central Hall, I’m delighted to have been stationed (subject to approval at Conference) to the Trafford Circuit in Manchester from September.

I’m so grateful for everything I’ve learned in the Coventry and Nuneaton Circuit, and will continue to learn in the next few months – and for all the support, prayer and encouragement of many friends here. So thank you!”

Catch up with our Local Lay Pastor - John Prickett

John Prickett has been working as a voluntary Local Lay Pastor for the circuit and we caught up with him to ask how he has found the role. Here is what he said. Perhaps it will inspire you to offer, or to encourage somebody else to offer. There is more information about this Methodist role here: <https://www.methodist.org.uk/for-churches/equipping-circuits/offices-and-roles/local-lay-pastors/>



Please speak with your minister if you feel God might be encouraging you in this direction.

Q: Hello John, so how long have you had this role of Local Lay Pastor?

A: About two years now

Q: And how have you found the role?

A: I've really enjoyed the involvement with other churches as well as my own and the building up of friendships by meeting new people and strengthening the bonds of fellowship with people I've already known for a while

Q: Tell us what kind of things you do as a LLP.

A: I've been visiting different people in homes and in hospital, and share extended communion with them. One of the things I really like is that I take preaching appointments regularly each quarter with the same churches and I can stream it towards a group of people I'm getting to know.

Q: Does it feel any different from being the person that you already were?

A: It feels different from being a Local Preacher because now, as the Local Lay Pastor, there's a sense of knowing their situations more closely rather than just calling in now and again as a preacher. I've been learning more about the life of the other churches, and not just what happens on Sunday. I also get some 1-2-1 supervision because I'm working on behalf of the circuit and I appreciate that guidance and help. I feel I have more guidance on what the wider church is doing and the opportunity to get to know people is great.

Q: Does it feel like you represent the church differently?

A: Yes I now feel like I'm more closely linked with the churches I work with and I am representing the circuit when I visit people at home.

Q: Has anything surprised you about the role?

A: It's worked out as I had hoped and the local churches have accepted me as their Local Lay Pastor which has really helped.

Q: How has it changed your feelings about the circuit?

A I've enjoyed being part of the ministerial and leadership team and getting to know those colleagues too.

Q: How long have you offered to do this for?

A: I'm offering 3 years and I offer an average of 6 hours a week. Some weeks it's more hours and some less, but it averages out. I've had holiday too!!

Q: What would you say to anybody wondering about offering as a Local Lay Pastor?

A: If you're thinking of offering this I would say it's well worthwhile and it's helped me to grow and develop.

If anybody would like to talk with me about my experience I'd be very happy to talk.
Email: LLPJP@covnunmethodist.org.uk

Update on Parish Nurse ministry at Woodside Avenue Methodist Church

These are some of the activities that Paula our Parish Nurse is involved with at Woodside.

Baby Massage

There are some many positive reasons for baby massage, including bonding and frontal lobe development which is needed for empathy.

Ruby Therapy dog

Ruby(Paula's dog) and Paula completed a course and Ruby is a qualified therapy dog. Ruby goes into care homes and post op support as well as going into groups such as the memory group and sometimes the fellowship or REFRESH.



Summer fun childrens events

I have organised some childrens events including a messy church Noahs ark event, in the school holidays including story telling, crafts, puppets and a snack.

Wellbeing walks

Ruby and Paula lead a wellness walk on the first Tuesday of the month. Open to all abilities, some take a shorter route and others a longer route but all ending together at the coffee shop.

Beat the January Blues

This was the 3rd year of "Beat the January Blues". Paula organised a different free exercise session each week for 4 weeks. I was surprised to find the response. We had 25-30 people, at least half from outside the church.



Christmas Dinner

Paula organised a Christmas dinner on 28th, aimed specifically at those bereaved and/or living alone. We had a great result, an amazing event with such a great atmosphere and someone stood and said tearfully how lovely it was to eat with others.



New taster exercise classes at Woodside

Woodside Methodist Church
Coventry



**Parish Nursing
Ministries UK**

For more information please click on this weblink [Home | Parish Nursing Ministries UK](#)

Woodside Parish Nurse, in partnership with Parish Nursing Ministries, is delighted to offer two uplifting and accessible exercise classes at

Woodside Methodist Church, Woodside Avenue South, Coventry, CV3 6BE.

These sessions are designed with everyone in mind—whether you prefer to exercise seated or standing, are new to physical activity, or already enjoy keeping active. Every class has been thoughtfully planned to support wellbeing, improve mobility, and help you build strength and confidence in a friendly, encouraging environment.

There is a suggested donation of £6, but please know this is completely flexible—give whatever you can, and if you cannot donate at this time, you are still warmly invited to join us. Your presence is what matters most.

If you would like to try one of these classes, or simply want to learn more, please don't hesitate to get in touch!

Off Balance Dance

Will run on

Wednesdays 11.30 for a trial
6 weeks

session dates are 4th 11th 18th
25th March and 15th and 22nd
April

No sessions on 1 and 8 April

Qigong Flow

Will run on

Thursdays 1.30 for a trial
6 weeks

session dates are 5th 12th 19th
26th March and 9th and 16th
April

No session on 2nd April

It would be a good idea to bring a bottle of water but there will also be water available at the back of the church

For questions, contact via email or text or leave a message

Paula McClenaghan - Parish Nurse

Woodside Methodist Church

Nurse@covnunmethodist.org.uk

Tel 07869715659

More events happening at Woodside

Woodside Methodist Church
Coventry



**Parish Nursing
Ministries UK**

For more information please click on this weblink [Home | Parish Nursing Ministries UK](#)

Come for a walk !

First Tuesday of the Month 1.30pm
Meet at memorial park near the
buses.

We have mixed abilities, so some
may take a more direct route to the
coffee shop than others (most of us
will end up in the coffee shop
though!)

Look out for Paula, Parish Nurse, in
a purple fleece.

Join Woodside's new group!
3rd Tuesday of the month
1:30-3:00pm

Relax
Enjoy
Friendship
Refreshments
Empathy
Support
Hobbies

Drop in for a coffee or join in a board game or craft.

Please contact me for more info:
Paula McClenaghan, Parish Nurse, Woodside Methodist
Church
Tel 07869715659
nurse@covnunmethodist.org.uk

For questions, contact via email or text or leave a message
Paula McClenaghan - Parish Nurse
Woodside Methodist Church
Nurse@covnunmethodist.org.uk
Tel 07869715659

‘Come Away with me’

Quiet Day for ministers, local preachers, and worship leaders

On 21st February we met for our first Quiet Day at the Purley Chase Centre, which provided us with a beautiful setting, delicious food including lunch and lots of cake, and a room with a wonderful view of the gardens to provide inspiration as we went through the day.

We focused on the Feeding of the Five Thousand in Mark 6:30-44. First of all, we considered the context of Jesus and the disciples trying to take some time out for reflection on what had been happening, and we read Wendell Berry’s poem about Sabbath, asking which places brought us peace and how we take Sabbath time for our own spiritual growth.

Next, we looked at how Jesus and the disciples were met by a large crowd, and we reflected on the needs we think we should meet. We reminded ourselves that in Mark 1:29-39 Jesus did not meet all the needs because he had a sense of a larger mission, and we asked ourselves what our personal mission is, and how we best follow our calling.

After lunch we looked at the disciples telling Jesus it was late and he should send the people away to find something to eat. We used colour to help us reflect on issues we face, putting God at the centre of them, and the photograph shows some of the completed pictures and the end of a dried-up branch of blackberries that spoke to one of our number of dying and new life. We shared thoughts on what we had drawn, and as we considered the end of the story, that all ate and were satisfied, we saw that we need to consider our own spiritual feeding in order to be ready to feed others.

I hope that such days can be part of our annual programme of preachers’ and worship leaders’ meetings and training, so that we can draw closer to God and to each other, and build up a team spirit among us, which can only enhance the worshipping life of the Circuit.

Church Stewards, your turn is coming
– watch this space!





Coventry & Nuneaton
METHODIST CIRCUIT

Holy Week 2026

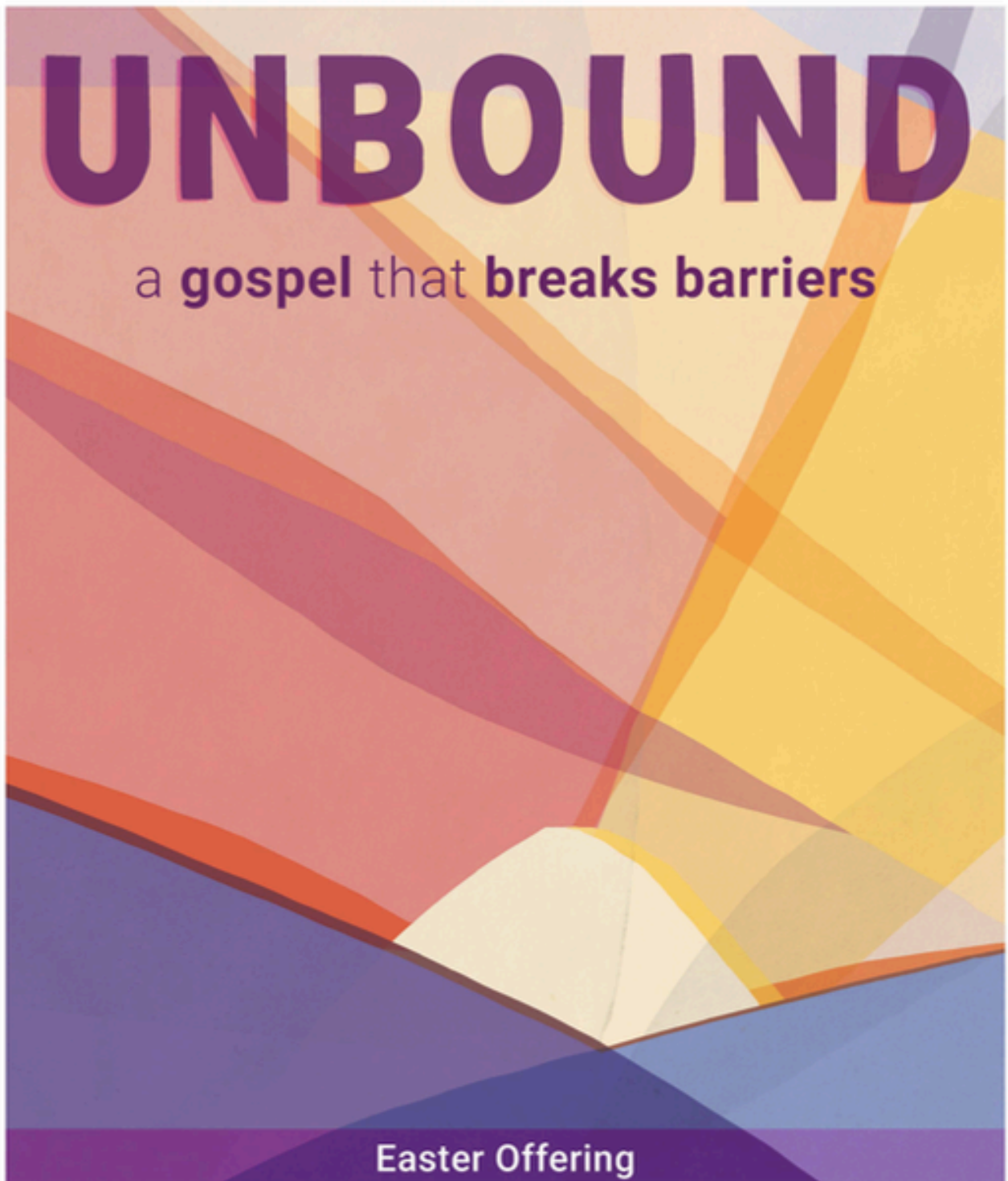
Maundy Thursday 2nd April

Coventry Central Hall 7pm Communion with foot washing – Rev Becki Stennett
Horston Grange 7pm Rev Allan Smith
Nuneaton 7pm Communion – Rev Jill Marsh
Radford & Holbrooks 7pm Communion – Rev Ian Coates

Good Friday 3rd April

Arley 7pm Deacon Sue Fry
Coventry Central Hall 10am Rev Becki Stennett
Earlsdon 11am Rev Doreen Koffie-Williams
Horeston Grange 10am Communion - Rev Allan Smith
Nuneaton 12 noon Rev Clive Fowle





The service will be held at:

Earlsdon Methodist Church
227 Albany Road, Earlsdon, CV5 6NF
on Sunday 10th May 2026

Please join us for tea and cake at 4.15pm with the service
to start at 5pm





Coventry & Nuneaton
METHODIST CIRCUIT

Circuit Ascension Day Services

Thursday 14th May 2026

Arley 7pm Rev Pauline Warner
Woodside 7pm Rev Becki Stennett

Keresley Pit Stop

Our place in Keresley!

Did you know the circuit has helped to begin and fund some new work in Keresley? Here is a history of 'The Keresley Pit Stop'

Please keep the local Christians there in your prayers, call in if you are nearby, and look out for news of a circuit visit to meet them later in the Summer.

History

In 1925 a redundant wooden Sinker's Hut was given to be used as a home for the Mission Church of the Parish of Keresley with Coundon, in Bennett's Road. It was renamed The Church of the Ascension in the 1980s and that building was demolished in December 1994, after it became unsafe, not long before Keresley Colliery finally closed in 1996. After the closure, the small congregation had no new premises, but rose to the challenge, and held services in people's homes, on the village green, in the community hut and in the back room of a pub! It was a test of endurance and faith to continue. Out of this time of fellowship, grew a desire that a new church would be an ecumenical church, and in 1997 two shops in the heart of the village were purchased with money contributed by individuals and other churches, and these shops were converted into Keresley Village Community Church dedicated in February 1999.

In 2016 we set up a community conversation with a questionnaire and meetings to see what people living in the village most wanted. Out of this came a clear need for a meeting place. Community Coffee Stop, a weekly drop-in and café, was the first result. In 2017 the congregation that had been meeting in the church on Sunday mornings as part of an Anglican/Methodist LEP had reduced to a small group of older members and they decided to stop the Sunday services, with remaining members joining with St Thomas. The building was maintained as a community base in the village with the church continuing with various ministries there. The word church was a stumbling block for some and after consultation it was agreed to rename the building 'The Pit Stop.' This reflected the history of the village as a former colliery village and also as a place to stop, be refreshed, take a break and refuel.

Timeline	
1911	Boring for coal starts
1919	Colliery village building begins
1923	Church in hut on Fivefield Road
1925	Mission Church on Bennetts Road
1937	Captain Walker, Church Army
1947	Parish centenary
1980	Martin Hathaway, Church Army
1982	Renamed Church of the Ascension
1990	Rev Anne Donaldson
1991	Colliery closes for first time
1994	Mission church declared unsafe. Moved to ATC hut
1996	Colliery closes for final time
1997	Shops bought with Anglican-Methodist covenant
1999	Shop refit complete and consecrated
	Name changed to Keresley Village Community Church
2011	Steve Medley appointed Pioneer Minister for Keresley village, to 2015
2018	KVCC congregation ceases. Building continues to be used by St Thomas' for outreach and building community in Keresley Village
2020	Building name chosen by users 'The Pit Stop'

Prayer Points

- Celebrate all that is going on in the village to love it back to life as we partner with others
 - That we can maintain a strong Christian presence in the village and are a safe space where people feel welcomed, loved and can build friendships
- For our volunteers, several who are struggling with family commitments and for others to join us to keep the Coffee Stop open
- For movement on the building next door to be renovated

To read more about Keresley church please go to their website

<https://www.keresley.church/>

Nuneaton Anniversay 2026

Nuneaton MC celebrated our 60th anniversary. Old friends met up, new friends learned about 'old times', the exhibition attracted a lot of interest from local people and those who use the building, helping newer members to 'see' the past of the church.

Over 80 people came to the anniversary meal and on Sunday we were pleased to welcome the district chair, Rev Novette Headley as we celebrated together. An architect is currently conducting a feasibility study and an environmental survey (thanks to funding from the Connexion and the Circuit) to see how we might develop the building with disabled access and lower energy bills, and to discover what the costings will be. We have been very encouraged by a recent legacy gift of £25,000 from a member of the public and by the level of 'pledges' from local people and members. Thank you for keeping us in your prayers as we explore what our future might be and how we can serve the people of Nuneaton in the town centre. Our mission plan, and a pledge form (if you could afford to support us financially), as well as some of our exhibition items, will soon be posted on our webpage

<https://www.covnunmethodist.org.uk/churches/nuneaton.html>



Outdoor Church Event

Our next outdoor church event at Coombe Abbey is on Saturday April 18th, meeting at 11am. Do join if you can for a gentle Spring walk and worship in nature. Perfect for people who love nature and wonder about God.

If interested please contact
super@covnunmethodist.org.uk



THE BIG PLASTIC COUNT

The Big Plastic is back!
Save the date: 9–15 March 2026

This is an opportunity each year to help provide data which can be used to inform government and industry about our consumption and disposal of plastics.

For more information about how you can join in visit:
<https://thebigplasticcount.com/>

Individual households, groups and schools can take part. It just involves counting the plastic that is thrown away. There's a handy check list to use.

Great Green Gathering

Our next online meeting is Saturday 4th April (Easter Saturday) 4pm – 5pm
Everyone is welcome; put the date in your diary!

We will be looking for ideas in 2026

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://zoom.us/j/93162474974?](https://zoom.us/j/93162474974?pwd=SkNZSHdpcDhveFUvNmZVak5qbEZydz09)

[pwd=SkNZSHdpcDhveFUvNmZVak5qbEZydz09](https://zoom.us/j/93162474974?pwd=SkNZSHdpcDhveFUvNmZVak5qbEZydz09)

Meeting ID: 931 6247 4974

Passcode: 837844

Lois Talbot, loismtalbot@gmail.com (Circuit Eco Rep)

Join us for **OUTDOOR WORSHIP**

One Saturday each quarter at Coombe Abbey.

Arrival 10.45am, meeting in the cafe area (nearest the car park) for 11am.
For worship in prayer and wonder, fun and some gentle walking. Suitable
for all ages.

Save the Dates!

17th January
2026

18th April
2026

18th July
2026

17th October
2026

Worship will last for around an hour and then perhaps coffee or
lunch together if you choose to stay on!

EVERYBODY WELCOME!



Coventry & Nuneaton
METHODIST CIRCUIT

Meat Free recipe

Here is another meat-free recipe for you to try from Christine Welham:

Cottage Pie

Ingredients

250g green lentils
50g red lentils
2 sticks of celery
3 carrots
2 or 3 onions
Herbs (thyme, basil,; mixed herbs); bay leaves
1 red pepper
3 tablespoons concentrated tomato purée
1 teaspoon marmite/yeast extract
1 stock cube
oil
2kg potatoes
milk
100 g grated cheese



Directions

1. Rinse and cook the green lentils in water according to the packet instructions. After 20 minutes add the red lentils and more water.
2. Sauté the onions in oil.
3. Chop carrots and add to onions, followed by celery and red pepper.
4. Combine the lentil and vegetables. Add tomato puree, yeast extract, a stock cube and pepper to taste. (You should not need additional salt.)
5. Peel, chop and boil the potatoes. Mash with a little milk.
6. Put the filling into an oven proof dish. Top with the mashed potato and sprinkle the cheese on top. Bake for 25 to 30 minutes at 180°C/160°C fan until the pie is piping hot and crisp on top.

Notes

Lentils: green lentils especially puy/lentilles vertes hold their shape. Red lentils are a source of iron so I recommend including some.

Bay leaves if you have them add flavour and a pleasant aroma. Remove them before adding the potato.

Serving suggestion: a green vegetable and sweet potatoes (sliced and placed on an oiled baking tray), and vegetarian gravy.

Events



GAMES NIGHT

Saturday 7th March

Arley Methodist Chapel CV7 8FU

7.00-9.00pm

Tickets £10 to include jacket potato supper

Please contact Carole 07460257151



BOOK NOW

AUTISM & THE CHURCH

Friday, 8th May 2026
7pm-8:30pm

Doors open at 6:30 for teas and coffees



The Salvation Army,
1 Victoria Street, Nuneaton, CV11 5QE

More info & Tickets on Eventbrite
or via website www.almaautism.uk

In collaboration with Red Events & Distribution Ltd., we are proud to present

**The Universe of Neo-Classics:
Contemporary Music and Dance**

25 April | Coventry Central Hall From
6:30pm - 7:45pm

On 25 April, Red Events & Distribution Ltd. brings Universe Neoclassics to Coventry Central Hall – a historic cultural landmark in the very heart of the city. Built in 1932 as a place where community, creativity and shared experience converge, Central Hall has long been one of Coventry’s most welcoming spaces for performances, gatherings, and artistic expression. This immersive performance unites modern music and contemporary dance – transforming sound into movement and emotion within our elegant, acoustically refined space. For more than a decade, the project has championed contemporary music of the 20th and 21st centuries – works by composers who are our contemporaries, and whose creations have already become the classics of our time.

This year, Universe Neoclassics takes a bold new step.



Alongside the renowned Mystery Ensemble, the programme is enriched with contemporary dance, featuring choreography by Riccardo Arduzzo (Italy), with support and supervision by Ilaria Giardina (Italy). Together, they open a new dimension of perception and understanding of neoclassical music.

Experience music you can see.
Experience movement you can feel.

Tickets:

https://redevents.world/event/603-universe-of-neoclassics-contemporary-music-dance.html?date=2026-04-25%2018:30:00&utm_source=CoventryCentralHall&utm_medium=referral&utm_campaign=Neoclassics

West Midlands District - Save the Date!

Something special is coming... 🎵

A day to refocus. A day to be inspired. A day to grow your calling in worship with the West Midlands District and the President of Conference.

🎵 Our Story, Our Song: Growing your Calling in Worship

📅 Saturday 9 May, 9:30 – 15:30

📍 Trinity Methodist Church in Kidderminster, DY10 2JL

Interested? Save the date - more details to follow soon!



Our Story, Our Song: Growing your Calling in Worship

With the President of the Methodist Conference

Do you feel called to lead worship or see it flourish in your church?

Join us for a day designed to encourage, equip and inspire everyone involved in worship across our churches.

Saturday 9 May | 9:30–15:30

Trinity Methodist Church, Kidderminster, DY10 2JL

Save the date! More information coming soon...

