

# HAPPY NEW YEAR !



[www.gigmillchurch.co.uk](http://www.gigmillchurch.co.uk)

## January 2019



Minister : Rev. Michael Payne  
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### Weekly Meetings

- Sunday : Church Services - 10:30am and 6:30pm  
Junior Church - 10:30am (Joy Jeffrey)
- Tuesday : Handicraft - 2:30pm (Peggy Broadhead)  
Community Tea (1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday, from February) - 2:30pm  
(Jane Linford)
- Wednesday : Prayer Meeting (2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday) - 7:30pm-8:30pm
- Thursday : Friendship Group (3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday, from February) - 2:30pm  
(Delia Page)  
Choir Practice - 7:45pm (John Walley)
- Friday : Bible Discovery Group (11<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> January) - 7:30pm

If you are a visitor to our Church, we give you a very warm welcome, and hope that you enjoy this time of worship with us and will visit again.

If you would like any information about Gig Mill Methodist Church, please ask any of the Stewards, who will be glad to answer your questions.

LOVING GOD BY LOVING AND SERVING OTHERS



*GIG MILL wishes you a HAPPY NEW YEAR in 2019 !*

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

There will be no Community Tea or Friendship Group meetings in January, returning at their usual scheduled times in February. Happy New Year to all of you !

The date of this month's Prayer Meeting is scheduled for the second Wednesday of the month, Wednesday 9th January. All are invited to attend and share in this uplifting meeting.

The Bible Discovery Group meetings scheduled for this month are on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> January. All are welcome to explore the Bible in fellowship, finding out more about the Bible and sharing what it means to you.

PRAYER BRUNCH — come and join us for a period of fellowship and food on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> January at 11:30am. All welcome. Please give your names to Pauline if you would like to join us.

RETIRING COLLECTION - Your kind donations for the month of January will benefit the Christian Aid Christmas Appeal - Be a Peacemaker. The monies will help to bring healing and hope to people in areas of conflict. Thank you.

Churches Together in Stourbridge produces a prayer list, to allow people to remember and pray for places of worship in our locality. Please remember the following churches in your prayers throughout the month of January :

6<sup>th</sup> January    Hanbury Hill Baptist Church  
13<sup>th</sup> January    Wollaston Methodist Church  
20<sup>th</sup> January    Amblecote Christian Centre  
27<sup>th</sup> January    Prayers for our Clergy and Preachers

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## GIG MILL NEWS

There is a letter from Claire Biggs, the Circuit's Children and Families Worker, at the back of the Church. Please have a read and find out what Claire has been up to so far this year !

Jane Baxter writes : *Nativity Festival - A very big thank you to everyone who contributed to the success of the festival over the Advent weekend. It was a wonderful sight to see so many different nativity scenes - but all having one theme - the birth of Christ. Your kind donations also raised **£158.82** for Action For Children. Thank you.*

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The Methodist District Office have organised an Annual Children's Holiday to Bideford in Devon every year since 1964, and there have been some recent retirements in experienced staffing, leading a few concerns about the future of the holiday. There will be a meeting to talk about the holiday and its future on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2019, time & venue to be decided : if anyone is interested in getting involved in the holiday's future please contact Rev Trevor Pratt to express your interest and to find out the details of the next meeting. More details are to be found here : <https://tinyurl.com/DistrictHolidayBideford>

The Black Country Foodbank currently has the following shortages :

Tinned Fruit, Packets Of Instant Mash, Small Jars Of Coffee, Jam/Marmalade, Squash/Cordial, Hot Chocolate (to mix with water), Roll On Deodorants, Small Boxes Of Washing Powder, Can Openers.

All donations are gratefully accepted ! Thank you, thank you for all you do.

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Gig Mill's Prayer Chain is there for you. If you have a prayer need, please contact any of the names on the list of links in the chain at the back of the Church.

If you are a tax payer and don't normally use offering envelopes, please consider putting your weekly offering into one of our Gift Aid envelopes and fill in the name and address information. The Church will be able to claim back 25p in the £1 from the Tax Man !

Mary Perry collects unwanted spectacles, and also used mobile phones, for charities. Recycling Boxes for these items are now kept at the back of the Church. The unwanted spectacles will be taken to local opticians who collect them to send to third world countries, and the mobile phones may be able to be sold to raise monies for our Church funds.

Rita Harris collects used postage stamps which also benefit charitable works. Many thanks.

Would people consider giving their weekly offerings by Standing Order ? Please see Jane Baxter for details if interested !

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*A New Year*

*Another year I enter, its history unknown ;  
Oh, how my feet would tremble to tread its paths alone !  
But I have heard His whisper, I know I shall be blest ;  
"My presence shall go with thee, and I will give thee rest."  
What will the New Year bring me ? I may not, must not know ;  
Will it be love and rapture, or loneliness and woe ?  
Hush ! Hush ! I hear His whisper ; I surely shall be blest ;  
"My presence shall go with thee, and I will give thee rest."*

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## *A Message from Rev Ajay Singh*

Dear Friends in Christ

Greetings of the season !

A thought that occurred to me when my and my wife's parents were seriously ill during the last months of Nov and Dec. How do the parents might feel when they reach to their old age? Moreover, how their Son, Daughter and Grandchild or Great Grandchild would have associated with them. I am sure each of you must have different but your own experience. Somehow, we are blessed here by having the facilities of NHS, Care Homes and the funding support from the Government (though, nowadays most of it is cut back). The old parents' expectations are that their children could surround them, which gives them happiness, and through their happiness, they get courage and understand the reasons for living. On the other hand, you do understand the engagement and the commitments towards the job you do to earn the bread for your family. However, we must not forget the hardship, love and care of the parents in growing up a child. It was only in the last month when you celebrated Christmas with the family. You might acknowledge the bond and love within your family members, except some exceptional because we do understand that some of you might have different relationship within your family members or there is no one left (may the peace of God be with you!). How will you love others when you have no love for your family? I must say here that love your Church/neighbour as you love yourself/family.

Looking at the scenario in our circuit, we have reached to the point where we need to review who we are and what we have inherited. Please pray and be the voice in this process of our Circuit Review to help each other to find out the best possible way to stand against the challenges and build up a better Church. What kind of Church we are? Is it a fellowship and social club where we come to meet our dear one? On the other hand, are we in the mission of God to embrace each other especially the new comers and the strangers who deprived of the Good news i.e. Jesus. You may raise so many questions to find out the best possible way and the reason to be the Church of 21st century by having respect and valuing the opinions of each other. However, I appreciate what you do as your understanding in exercising of your faith.

Please keep praying for the third stationing round which will begin in the mid of Jan 2019. Especially, pray as we are seeking a Superintendent Minister, and are also recruiting a Circuit Administrator after the loss of Sue Cartwright. We also pray for the healing of the body and the soul of all who have any illness or worries. May God fulfil your wish and protect you from all evils.

I wish that you would have a very happy and blessed New Year. As we stand in the presence of God who leads us in this journey to establish his Kingdom.

With love and every blessings!

Ajay

## Please remember the following people in your Prayers



Felicity Knight, Josh, Aimee and family ; Rose ; Irene ; Janet and Keith ; David ; Barbara and Roly ; Graham and Gwen ; Jessie ; Jean and family ; Ted and Peggy ; Steve and Jane's mum, Elsie ; Joy ; Mike ; Jackie ; George ; Thelma and Lindsey ; Ann and her son, Gwyn ; Maureen ; Colin ; Ann ; The Stourbridge Street Pastors, the Stourbridge Food Bank volunteers, our friends at Oriel House, and all of our fellow Gig Mill members who are unwell at the moment.

If you, or someone you know, would like a visit from our Pastoral Care Team or would like to be included on our prayer list, please contact Delia Page or see one of the Stewards on duty.

### Weekly Offerings :

|                             |         |
|-----------------------------|---------|
| 25 <sup>th</sup> November : | £333.68 |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> December :  | £280.54 |
| 9 <sup>th</sup> December :  | £416.11 |
| 16 <sup>th</sup> December : | £294.27 |



Please give generously if you can !

Please consider the level of your contribution, as we need a minimum of £6.50 per week from each member to cover all of the Church costs, including our payment to the Circuit to cover ministerial costs, and the running costs of our Church.

If you wish to make a contribution or suggestion for our Newsletter, please contact

Malcolm Jeffrey (e-mail: [enquiries@gigmillchurch.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@gigmillchurch.co.uk)), or

Joy Jeffrey by the 25<sup>th</sup> of the month

so that it can be included in the notices and newsletter for February 2019 !

**All contributions gratefully received !**

If you have any items for the Church weekly notice sheet, please contact Jane Linford by the Thursday before, for inclusion the following Sunday.

Don't forget that we have our own website :

[www.gigmillchurch.co.uk](http://www.gigmillchurch.co.uk)

If you have e-mail, your copy of this newsletter can be e-mailed to you :  
just give Malcolm your e-mail address.

*God Bless You All.*