

Newsletter

September 2024

This is our monthly newsletter. The newsletter can be received by anyone who has an e-mail address. To subscribe to this service please send your e-mail address to: northstaffscircuit@hotmail.co.uk.

Dear Friends

September is a time of new beginnings for many people. For young people and teachers, it is the start of a school year. For some that will mean meeting up with friends that they haven't seen over the summer holidays, sharing stories and experiences. For others it will mean huge anxiety as they walk into that huge building that is secondary school ('big school' we used to call it) knowing only a few people, not knowing their way around, and feeling very out of their depth. Please remember our schools, pupils and teachers in your prayers as this new academic year gets under way.

For ministers in the Methodist Church September is the time when we receive membership cards to be distributed; reminders about the forthcoming Synod; and the arrival of resources for Christmas and even next Easter! For some it is the beginning of a new appointment. September is our new year, with all the excitement and 'newness' that a new year brings.

This year we are welcoming a new minister to our Circuit staff team. Many of you already know Rev James Pritchard as he has been serving as a Free Church Chaplain at Keele University. James will be working with us part-time as he continues to serve as a Chaplain at The Queen's Foundation in Birmingham. Also joining us this September is our new Circuit Lay Pastoral Worker, Justine Eardley. Justine will be supporting the staff team in their pastoral work as well as offering help and guidance to our wonderful church pastoral networks and visitors. You can find out a little more about both James and Justine elsewhere in this newsletter. Please do remember them and their families in your prayers as they each set out on this new chapter of their faith journeys.

And for many of you there will be new beginnings this September. The beginning of life without a loved one; the beginning of a walk with a serious illness; the start of a new job; moving to a new house; a change of doctor or dentist; retirement. New beginnings – they can be exciting but more often than not they can also bring anxious moments. Pat Marsh wrote this.....

Thank you, Lord, that you have brought me here,
albeit by a route I never would have chosen for myself.
I have just one more prayer, Lord, if I may:
stay close and lead me on.

*My child,
I understand your nervousness,
can see how hard it is
for you to see where I am leading you
when you can't view the detail of the path
from my divine perspective.
Give all your fears to me.
Humble yourself beneath my mighty power.
Keep in mind
that all that lies ahead
is cradled in my love,
held gently in my nail-scarred hands.*

Methodist New Year blessings to you all.

Liz

North Staffordshire Circuit (11/22)

Preaching Plan – September 2024

					September				
					1	8	15	22	29
					22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time	Education Sunday	24th Sunday in Ordinary Time	Peace Sunday	26th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Lectionary Year (B)					Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9	Isaiah 35:4-7a	Isaiah 50:4-9a	Jeremiah 11:18-20	Esther 7:1-6, 9-10; 9:20-22
(Principal Service)					Psalms 15	Psalms 146	Psalms 116:1-9	Psalms 54	Psalms 124
					James 1:17-27	James 2:1-10, (11-13), 14-17	James 3:1-12	James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a	James 5:13-20
					Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23	Mark 7:24-37	Mark 8:27-38	Mark 9:30-37	Mark 9:38-50
Please Pray For:					Audley	Baldwins Gate Community	Bradwell	Cross Heath	Halmer End
Cross Heath (24)	LS	11.00	StF MSB	NIV	Singleton HC	LA	R Jones	Singleton HF	Chadwick
Silverdale (44)	LS	11.00	StF	MM	Café Church LA	Chadwick	Singleton HC	Emmaus Refuel	NeXus Youth Choir LA
Wolstanton (90)	LS	10.30	StF MWB		Barnett	Singleton B W M HC	LA	Davies T	Singleton
Audley (29)	JV	10.30	StF MWB	SoF 1&2 GNB	Wakelin HC CA X	X Ventom	Ventom HF X	X Ventom	Baker HC X
Bradwell (33)	JV	10.00	StF MWB	SoF 1&2 NIV H&P	Ventom HC	Davies T	LA	Chadwick	Williams
Halmer End (23)	JV	10.30	H&P MWB	SoF 1&2 GNB	LA	Ventom HC	X Parkes HF	LA	N Jones
Madeley (24)	JV	10.30	StF MWB	SoF 1234 NIV	LA	Pritchard HC	B Harrison T	Barnett	Ventom HF
St Luke's (22)	JV	10.30	H&P MWB	GNB	N Jones	Irvine	LA	Ventom HC	Matthews
Higherland (38)	JP	10.00	StF	MM	Pritchard	N Jones	Parkes HC	LA HF	Barnett Singleton/Pritchard Messy Vintage
Printed Service for this week prepared by:									
BGMC					Wednesday 18th September, 2.30 pm - Holy Communion - Revd Liz Singleton				

Eco Tips

Compost at Home ... if you have any outdoor space then you can discover the joys of home composting. The simple rule of thumb is that, if a food is raw and vegan, then it can be composted, the exception being egg shells which will add useful minerals to your soil.

Foodbank – please click on this link [here](#).

Thank you to everyone across the Circuit who gives regularly to Foodbank through their church. Foodbank remains open through these troubled times and demand for food is high. Can I please ask you to all keep on giving by taking your donations to your nearest Foodbank.



Clayton St Luke's host a session
on Tuesday morning. 10.00am – 12 noon

All Saints, Madeley host a session
on a Wednesday morning. 10.30 am - 12.30 pm

Cornerstone, High Street, Knutton, ST5 6BX
On Wednesday afternoon 2.00 pm – 4.00pm

Chesterton Pentecostal church
on Thursday Morning. 10.00 -12.00 noon

Newcastle Congregational church
on Thursday afternoon. 2.00 pm – 4.00pm

St Thomas church Kidsgrove
on Friday afternoon 1.00 pm – 3.00 pm

or you can take your contribution to our warehouse on Brick Kiln Lane, Chesterton on a Monday afternoon or Wednesday morning ... please give us a ring if you want details of how to get there, it is on the Aspire work complex.

Your gifts large or small are very much appreciated and are a lifeline to those sadly more vulnerable than ourselves.

*Please give us a ring if you want to drop your gift off at our house!
Carol and Marion Reddish TEL 01782 613265*

If you would like to make a monetary donation to Newcastle Staffs Foodbank you can contact the Trustee/Treasurer Paul A Roberts for details: -
tel: 0300 102 9088 or email him on
accounts@newcastlestaffs.foodbank.org.uk.

If you would like to Gift Aid your donation please visit the website or contact Paul A Roberts for details.

People can also contact info@newcastlestaffs.foodbank.org.uk for details to donate food or money donations.

At the present time Foodbank are short of the following items:-

Washing Pods

Tea

Coffee

Shower Gel

Tinned Fish

Long Life Fruit Juice

Tinned Spaghetti

Tinned Cold Meat

Custard

Rice Pudding

Introducing Our New Circuit Staff:

Revd James Pritchard – Circuit Minister

Hi All,

A few words of introduction from the study manse at Silverdale, where we are starting to feel very much at home and as I prepare for this new season. I look forward to sharing more with you over the coming years.

I arrived to the Newcastle-under-Lyme area 11 years ago, to serve as a University Chaplain at Keele. During that time I led a small team as we served God, supporting staff and students and ministering at Keele Chapel. I now begin a new season of my ministry as I share in the life of the Circuit, alongside the role of Chaplain at the Queens Theological foundation (Birmingham) where Methodist ministers and many others study.

I am a pastor at heart and I love to see and support the transformative work of God in people's lives. I appreciate worship that touches the heart but also engages the mind. I seek to encourage faith that is open to God and to the life in its fullness offered through Christ (John 10:10). My own faith leads me naturally to be concerned about justice and peace and I'm looking forward to hearing about what your faith means to you.

I enjoy a busy and full life I enjoy spending time with my family: my wife, Sarah and 'children' Rebecca (18) and Adam (16). I enjoy conservation volunteering at Silverdale country park, board and card games, gigs, shows and much, much more!

Although I've met many folk around the Circuit my memory for names is not my greatest strength so please forgive me if I can't remember you at first.

Please pray for me as I begin this new stage in my ministry as I will pray for you.

James

Justine Eardley – Circuit Lay Pastoral Assistant

Justine was born in Tunstall and is a proud Stokie but has lived in Audley for 26 years. She was first taken to Church by her grandparents as a baby and has never left. Having grown up surrounded by believers and baptised at 12 years old, her faith has been a mainstay and has carried her throughout her life.

Justine is married with a daughter who attends university. She enjoys reading and taking the Dane/Mastiff cross rescue dog Tia, out for daily walks. She has worked in health services for over 10 years with children, adults and elderly folk, and is a qualified trainer and person-centred counsellor with nearly 20 years of experience counselling those who have experienced or who are affected by abuse. Justine considers herself very blessed to have heard many experiences and precious life stories. She now attends Audley Methodist Church and is excited to be the new Circuit Lay Pastoral Assistant looking forward to supporting more people and groups in her new role

There will be a Circuit Service for the Commissioning of Justine on Sunday 20th October at 3.00 pm at Audley Methodist Church. Please come and join us in welcoming Justine to her new role.



Methodist Women
in Britain

Chester and Stoke on Trent District

AFTERNOON TEA

with entertainment by
WELLS GREEN CHOIR



Saturday 7th September

2pm to 4-30pm

At

St Lukes Methodist Church
Clayton, Newcastle-under-Lyme

ST5 4BH



Bring & Buy



Fair Trade

MWIB Resources

Everyone Welcome – Men, Ladies & Children
Donations for MWIB Projects

Baldwins Gate

Methodist Community

(Baldwins Gate, Newcastle, Staffs, ST5 5DA)

Mid-Week Service

on the third Wednesday of each
month at 2.30 pm

Wednesday, 18th September 2024 –

Rev'd Liz Singleton

Holy Communion Service

Please come and join us.

All are very welcome.

It's time for a Macmillan Coffee Morning and you're invited

Let's do whatever it takes
to support people living with cancer.

Place: Audley Methodist Church

Date: Tuesday 24th September

Time: 10:30am to midday

Contact: Justine - please pop in to coffee
morning every Tuesday.



Simply scan this QR code with your phone
to donate to your host's Coffee Morning.
It's easy, quick and secure. Thank you.



Headline Partners

MACMILLAN
CANCER SUPPORT

M&S
FOOD

COSTA
COFFEE

FR Registered with
FUNDRAISING
REGULATOR

Macmillan Cancer Support, registered charity in England and Wales (245017), Scotland (SC039957) and the Isle of Man (504). Also operating in Northern Ireland. MAC1943_Posted2

Godly Play as Bible Study

Story is one of the most ancient forms of knowing. It is the way our Christian heritage has been passed down to us. And story forms the foundation of Godly Play. It invites you to sit as part of a circle and listen as the stories of the Bible are told through word and action. It allows you to immerse yourself in the stories as an act of meditation and prayer and ultimately to encounter God. As the stories are told you sit and listen and at the end of the storytelling you are invited to consider a number of 'I wonder questions'. Questions posed by the storyteller that ask you to reflect on what you have heard. Questions like:

I wonder what part of the story was most important to you?

Or

I wonder where you are in the story?

Or

I wonder if there is a part of the story we can leave out and still have all the story we need?

There are no right or wrong answers to any of the questions, they are a means by which you are invited to wonder deeply about the story and what it says to you. Then when the story is put away there is time to respond to all that you have heard and wondered about. It may be that you want to re-read the story again for yourself, paint, draw, model or write a response - the choice is entirely yours.

At the end of the response time we gather back together for refreshments before drawing our time together to an end.

If this is something you think you might like to try then our next Godly play session will take place on **Monday, 30th September at 6.30 pm** at **Wolstanton Methodist Church**. Come and see, wonder, and reflect deeply about stories you thought you knew.

Karen Barnett

**It's time for a
Macmillan
Coffee Afternoon
And you're invited by
Elderberries to**

**WOLSTANTON
METHODIST CHURCH
Monday 30th
September at
2.30p.m.**



**Bring & Buy Stall
Drinks & Cake £3**

**Let's do whatever it takes
To support people living with cancer**

**THE AUDLEY &
DISTRICT
MALE VOICE CHOIR**

**In CONCERT at
WOLSTANTON
METHODIST CHURCH**

**SATURDAY 12th
OCTOBER at 7.30p.m.**

**Tickets £10
available from choir
members or book by
telephoning 712768**

**Proceeds will go to the new Church
lift**



**Christmas
CONCERT**
Fustian • Musical Misfits
Higherland Methodist Church
6pm Saturday 7th December
Tickets £5 incl. light refreshments
Call Kev: 07988 532738
Guest Singer
Robbie Benson
Hitmix 102.5
more variety
more of the time

**Book Swop
at
Bradwell Methodist Church**

**There is a new free book swop library outside
Bradwell Methodist Church. Please take a look
and if you have any unwanted books please pop
them in.**



Thank You

**Many, many thanks to all the
churches for their generous
donations at Rev'd Christine's
Farewell Service on Sunday 21st July.
We raised £394.40 which has been
sent off to the Bible Society.**



Christian Resources for Life
 @ Methodist Book Centre
 Support your local, independent
 Christian bookshop



In Store

Online



www.crfl.co.uk
 Gitana Street, Hanley, ST1 1DY
 01782 212146

Madeley Methodist Church
 invites you to join us at our



Warm Space
Elevenses



On Wednesdays at 11am



Everyone Welcome

Senior Moments
 St. Luke's Methodist Church
 Severn Drive
 Clayton
 ST5 4BH

FREE ENTRY

SENIOR MOMENTS

- Crafts
- Activities
- Games
- Art Talks
- Tea, Coffee & Biscuits
- Quiz
- Stories

10.30am - 12.30pm, last Thursday of every month, starting Thursday 27th October.
 Fun, explore together in lots of creative, interactive and fun ways.
 A great opportunity to enjoy some time together.

For more information please contact Phil or Jeanette Hodges
 on 01782 634766 or look on our Facebook page.

Silver Service

..on the 1st & 3rd Thursdays of every month..
 ..beginning at 11:30am..


1st Thursday = Communion Service : 3rd Thursday = Activity Service

at Silverdale Methodist Church,
 Earl Street (behind the Chip Shop!)
 ST5 6NF

Find us on Facebook: "Silverdale Methodist Church"
 Visit our website: www.silverdalemethodistchurch.org.uk

SILVERDALE METHODIST CHURCH


There's nothing like a good cuppa coffee and a friend like you to share it with!



Let's catch up!

WHY NOT CATCH UP WITH FRIENDS OLD AND NEW

BRADWELL METHODIST CHURCH
THURSDAY'S 10 - 12



**SILVERDALE
METHODIST
CHURCH**



REFUEL

worship & the word

FOLLOWED BY FOOD!

Join with us on the **LAST SUNDAY OF EVERY MONTH**, at **5PM**, for 1-hour of..

**PRAISE &
WORSHIP**

..and then stay to share food together.

all-age & interactive, informal & relaxed – a Worship Experience for all

 Like us on Facebook
  Follow us on Instagram
  Find us on YouTube
  VISIT OUR WEBSITE

TRUST in the LORD forever,
for the LORD, the LORD,
is the Rock eternal.

Isaiah 26:4



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