

Newsletter

October 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.

Greetings! I wonder if you have a favourite season of the year?

Are you a 'sun loving summer person?' Maybe you are more into 'the joys of spring'... are you a 'snuggled up embracer of the darkness and cold of winter'? Or maybe you are an 'autumnal animal', someone who can't wait for the rich variety of colours that greet us. Maybe currently you are enjoying the autumn leaves falling from trees or crunching under foot. I guess many of us might have a favourite season (or two), as I write this, I'm trying to work out what I am! I am certainly a fan of the bright fresh mornings, the early evening glowing sun and the vivid amazing colours revealed during autumn, but I guess every season has its gifts and its challenges.

It was only relatively recently that I learnt (or took in) the fact that the yellow and red leaves we see in autumn always have their rich colours, it is just in the growing months they are overpowered or covered by the abundance of chlorophyll (I clearly should have paid more attention in science lessons!). Isn't the natural world amazing! Jesus uses many images from the natural world with stories of seeds and sowers, harvest and workers. These everyday things of his time are used to tell us of the wider experience of God's kingdom, I wonder what might feature in his parables today?

Historically the season of autumn was simply called harvest, but as fewer people lived, worked and relied directly on the land Autumn became the more familiar term. Sadly, our disconnect from the natural world is one of the significant factors that has led to the climate crisis we experience today. The rise of industrialisation and mechanicalization increased productivity, but also led us away from a direct connection with the process of sowing and reaping. In the west our harvest now largely comes from across the world, often delivered by large corporations. We have become used to food 'out of season' (and the airmiles that go with it...). Our lives are less directly affected by the changes in weather and the seasons. The less predictable weather and seasonal changes we experience are however stark signs to us of the lack of balance in the natural world.

Many people find nature a helpful tool for connecting with God – the majesty of the mountain or wonder of the multi-coloured autumnal leaf. For me I find a walk in nature or a time literally getting my hands dirty is a great way to reground me and to remember God our creator. Like the natural world our lives go through different times and seasons with gifts and fruits in each. In scripture the wisdom of Ecclesiastes 3 says...'*For everything, there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven*'

So some points to ponder...

How can you better connect with God the creator?

Or, what time or season in your life does it feel like? What are the gifts or fruit of this season?

What harvest might it bring? What might you need from God?

Whatever this month, this season holds; may you know God's loving and creative presence with you and know the blessing of God our creator, redeemer and sustainer,

God bless,

James

North Staffordshire Circuit (11/22)

Preaching Plan – October 2024

| | | | | | October (Black History Month) | | | |
|--|----|-------|------------|----------|---|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| | | | | | 6 | 13 | 20 | 27 |
| | | | | | 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time | 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time | 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time | 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time |
| Lectionary Year (B) | | | | | Job 1:1; 2:1-10 | Job 23:1-9, 16-17 | Job 38:1-7 (34-41) | Job 42:1-6, 10-17 |
| (Principal Service) | | | | | Psalm 26 | Psalm 22:1-15 | Psalm 104:1-9, 24, 35c | Psalm 34:1-8, (19-22) |
| | | | | | Hebrews 1:1-4; 2:5-12 | Hebrews 4:12-16 | Hebrews 5:1-10 | Hebrews 7:23-28 |
| | | | | | Mark 10:2-16 | Mark 10:17-31 | Mark 10:35-45 | Mark 10:46-52 |
| Please Pray For: | | | | | Higherland | Madeley | St Luke's | Silverdale |
| Cross Heath | LS | 11.00 | StF | NIV | Rowley | Singleton | Parkes HC | Matthews |
| (24) | | 3.00 | MSB | | | | | |
| Silverdale | LS | 11.00 | StF | MM | Café Church LA | Chadwick | Singleton HC | Emmaus |
| (44) | | 5.00 | | | | | | |
| Wolstanton | LS | 10.30 | StF | | Singleton HF | Henshall | Pritchard HC | LA |
| (90) | | 6.30 | MWB | | | | | |
| Audley | JV | 10.30 | StF | SoF 1&2 | X | LA | X | Davies T |
| (29) | | 3.00 | MWB | GNB | White | X | Singleton HC | X |
| | | 6.30 | | | | | | |
| Bradwell | JV | 10.00 | StF | SoF 1&2 | G Harrison HF | Ventom HC | B Harrison T | LA |
| (33) | | 3.00 | MWB | NV H&P | | | | |
| Halmer End | JV | 10.30 | H&P | SoF 1&2 | Ventom HC | Irvine | X | Singleton |
| (23) | | 3.00 | MWB | GNB | | | Wakekin CA | |
| Madeley | JV | 10.30 | StF | SoF 1234 | Kirk | R Jones | Ventom & CC | Barnett HC |
| (24) | | 3.00 | MWB | NV | | | | |
| St Luke's | JV | 10.30 | H&P | GNB | Davies T | Parkes | I Perry | Ventom HC |
| (22) | | 3.00 | MWB | | | | | |
| Higherland | JP | 10.00 | StF | MM | Pritchard HC | Davies T | Chadwick | LA |
| (38) | | 6.00 | | | | | | Ventom Messy Vintage |
| Printed Service for this week prepared by: | | | | | | | | |
| BGMC | | | | | Wednesday 16th October, 2.30 pm - Service - Mrs Rebecca Jones | | | |

Eco Tips

Did you know that in the UK, we enjoy a staggering 98 million cups of coffee every day? And as the leaves start to fall, our coffee consumption rises by approximately 12% during the autumn season.

- To turn this autumn staple into a sustainably focused activity consider replacing cow milk with an eco-friendly alternative such as oat or almond milk. Fortunately your coffee will taste just as great, and your environmental impact will be lower.
- To continue this sustainable stance, consider swapping from disposable to reusable mugs and tumblers when on the go.

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 Unit 18 Brock Way, Silverdale, ST5 6AZ (Opposite the Post Office Sorting Office). 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:-

Pasta Sauce

Jam

Tinned Fruit

Cereal

Sponge Pudding

Rice

Tinned Cold Meat

Tinned Hot Meat

Custard

Rice Pudding



The **Methodist** Church
Chester & Stoke-on-Trent District

District Safeguarding Conference 2024
"Safeguarding in Context ~ where do I fit in?"

Saturday 5 October 2024 ~ 10:00am to 3:30pm
(tea and coffee from 9:30am)
Wellspring Methodist Church, Congleton, CW12 3AP

The District Safeguarding Group is pleased to announce the first District Safeguarding Conference which will feature guest speakers to assist those with a leadership role in safeguarding

Guest Speakers include: Revd Helen Kirk, Andy McCulloch, Mark Naylor, Lynsay Jennings, Chris Lewis and Dorothy Davidson

Topics will include Theology of Safeguarding, Safer Recruitment, Supporting Survivors: Shame and Sexual Abuse, Dementia-friendly Church and how other organisations manage safeguarding

The Conference is aimed at Church and Circuit Safeguarding Officers, Ministers, Church Stewards, Safeguarding Trainers and Youth Workers though any who are interested will be very welcome to attend

Booking is essential as lunch will be provided free of charge
email District Administrator, Rob Glassonbury on
chester.stoke@btconnect.com
stating any special dietary requirements

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**



WOLSTANTON METHODIST CHURCH
Invites you to
'ELDERBERRIES'
embracing all ages and various interests

MONDAY 14th. OCTOBER at 2.30p.m.
'HARVEST CELEBRATION'

MONDAY 28th. OCTOBER at 2.30p.m.
'KEEPING SAFE IN WINTER'
with Red Watch, Staffordshire
Fire and Rescue

COFFEE, CAKE & CHAT
An opportunity to renew friendships
and make new ones

**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, 16th October 2024 –
Mrs Rebecca Jones**

**Please come and join us.
All are very welcome.**

CIRCUIT SERVICE

Please come and join us at the Service for the Commissioning of our Circuit Pastoral Lay Pastoral Assistant Justine Eardley

on Sunday 20th October 2024 at 3.00 pm

at Audley Methodist Church

Monthly 6pm Coffee Bar Worship Time

Songs, Craft, Prayers, Smiles, Coffee, Tea
Biscuits, Chatter, welcoming, friendly.

Higherland Church

Messy Vintage

Last Sunday

in the month

from The Bible Reading Fellowship

Come along @ 6pm Sunday 27th Oct

Higherland Methodist Coffee Bar
2pm-4pm Monday 28th October

'Get Together'



Come and join in the
chatter, cake, chatter, cake,
coffee and craft.

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, 4th November at 6.30 pm** at **Wolstanton Methodist Church**.

Come and see, wonder, and reflect deeply about stories you thought you knew.

Karen Barnett

CHRISTMAS MARKET

Saturday 23rd November
10:30am to 12:30pm

at Audley Methodist Church

refreshments available

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
more variety
more of the time 107.5

Thank You's

Many, many thanks to all the churches for their generous donations at Rev'd James's Welcome Service on Thursday 29th August. We raised £65.00 which has been sent to All We Can.

Rebecca Jones would like to thank all who supported the "Afternoon Tea" at St Luke's, Clayton. The District Officers of Methodist Women in Britain were delighted with the response. A special "Thank You" to the choir who entertained us so delightfully. £420 was raised with a little more still to come.



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

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.



Madeley Methodist Church
invites you to join us at our



Warm Space



Elevenes

On Wednesdays at 11am



Activities

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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