

Newsletter December 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

Some people love it and have never really lost the wonderful child-like innocence of it all, they can't wait for the decorations to go up, the music to start playing and the anticipation of the big day itself.

For others, it's one of the toughest times of the year. Cold weather, memories of past Christmases, broken relationships and loneliness all take their toll. And Christmas is the hardest time to be alone.

And for those of us who go to church, Christmas is often the time when we hear sermons reminding us not to take Christ out of Christmas, or all we'll be left with is M&S.

Christmas is about Jesus being born in Bethlehem over 2000 years ago. And it's a great story to teach children - there are all kinds of useful lessons about it being important to treat refugees and poor people well. But so often we leave the Christmas story for the children, and we don't stop to realise how earth-shatteringly huge it is.

Christmas is when the infinite, eternal God, who made everything that exists became part of his own creation. And not an important part either. He didn't become King of the Universe at Christmas, though even that would have been a big step down. He became an illegitimate baby born to a poor couple from a conquered race, born in a grotty stable in an insignificant backwater of a town in the unfashionable end of the Roman Empire. And that is the same God who spoke and the universe was created. A Christmas carol puts it well:

Our God, Heaven cannot hold Him, nor earth sustain;
Heaven and earth shall flee away when He comes to reign.
In the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed
The Lord God Almighty, Jesus Christ.

Or as C.S. Lewis wrote in *The Last Battle*: "In our world, too, a stable once held something inside it that was bigger than our whole world." If that doesn't blow your mind, I don't know what will.

So I hope and pray you will all enjoy Christmas, that you will enjoy Christmas all the more because Jesus is at the centre of it, and that you will share that enjoyment with others who don't have as much to rejoice about.

God bless, and have a very Happy Christmas!

Rev Joy

North Staffordshire Circuit (11/22)

Preaching Plan – December 2024

					December				
					1	8	15	22	29
					Advent 1	Advent 2	Advent 3	Advent 4	First Sunday of Christmas
Lectionary Year (C)					Jeremiah 33:14-16	Baruch 5:1-9 or Malachi 3:1-4	Zephaniah 3:14-20	Micah 5:2-5a	1 Samuel 2:18-20,26
(Principal Service)					Psalm 25:1-10	Luke 1:68-79	Isaiah 12:2-6	Luke 1:46b-55	Psalm 148
					1 Thessalonians 3:9-13	Philippians 1:3-11	Philippians 4:4-7	Hebrews 10:5-10	Colossians 3:12-17
					Luke 21:25-36	Luke 3:1-6	Luke 3:7-18	Luke 1:39-45(46-55)	Luke 2:41-52
Please Pray For:					Cross Heath	Halmer End	Higherland	Madeley	St Luke's
Cross Heath	LS	11.00	StF	NIV	Singleton HC	Christingle LA	Rowley	Pritchard	US @ Wolstanton
(23)			MSB		CS 6.30 pm @ Wolstanton				
Silverdale	LS	11.00	StF	MM	Café Church LA	Chadwick & Brass Band	Singleton HC	X	X
(43)		5.00			CS 6.30 pm @ Wolstanton			Carols by Candlelight @ 6 pm	
Wolstanton	LS	10.30	StF		LA	Singleton	Chadwick	Singleton HC	Ventom US
(88)		6.30	MMWB		Circuit Advent Service		Carols with NULCO		
Audley	JV	10.30	StF	SoF 1&2	X	Chambers HC	X	Ventom Carols	X
(28)		3.00	MMWB	GNB	Harrison T	X	LA Candlelight	X	Ventom US
		6.30			CS 6.30 pm @ Wolstanton				
Bradwell	JV	10.00	StF	SoF 1&2	US TS @ St Luke's	Ventom Bursley Academy	Ventom US	LA Carols	US @ Wolstanton
(33)		6.30	MMWB	NIV H&P	CS 6.30 pm @ Wolstanton				
Halmer End	JV	10.30	H&P	SoF 1&2	US TS @ St Luke's	N Jones	Barnett HC	R Jones Carols	X
(23)		3.00	MMWB	GNB	CS 6.30 pm @ Wolstanton				US @ Audley
Madeley	JV	10.30	StF	SoF 1234	Ventom HC	Williams	LA	Strachan Carols	N Jones
(23)		3.00	MMWB	NIV	CS 6.30 pm @ Wolstanton				
St Luke's	JV	10.30	H&P	GNB	R Jones US TS	Wakelin HC	US @ Bradwell	X	Chadwick
(23)		3.00	MMWB		CS 6.30 pm @ Wolstanton			LA Nativity	
Higherland	JP	10.00	StF	MM	Pritchard	Barnett HC	Nativity LA @ 11 am	X	Irvine
(36)		6.00			CS 6.30 pm @ Wolstanton			Pritchard Carols @ 3 pm	
Printed Service for this week prepared by:					Singleton	Ventom	Heap	Pritchard	Ventom
Baldwins Gate JP					Wednesday 18th December, 2.30 pm - Service - Mrs Rebecca Jones				

Eco Tips

Give the gift of time ... too many unwanted gifts end up in landfill. Here's an idea. What about a gift of cooking for someone once a month for a year, taking them for a coffee, babysitting, house cleaning ... or whatever. Just make a 'gift of time gift voucher' and put it in a card for them.

From A Rocha UK's Easy Eco Tips 2024 Calendar

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 Monday morning. 11.00 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 .

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:-

Tinned Carrots

Jam

Long Life Milk

Sponge Pudding

Tinned Cold Meat

Tinned Hot Meat

Washing Up Liquid

Long Life Fruit Juice

Mash

Razors



Cross Heath Methodist Church
GRAND CHRISTMAS FAIR

Saturday 30th
 November
 @ 10:30am

Bric-a-brac, Gifts, Books,
 Cakes,

Raffle,
 Tombola,
 Refreshments Free entry!



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, 2nd December at 6.30 pm at Wolstanton Methodist Church.** Come and see, wonder, and reflect deeply about stories you thought you knew.

Karen Barnett

**CIRCUIT
 ADVENT SERVICE**

Sunday, 1st December at 6.30 pm

at Wolstanton Methodist Church

Preacher: Rev'd James Pritchard

CIRCUIT ADVENT COURSE



Continuing on Tuesdays at 2.00 pm
at Wolstanton Methodist Church
Session 2 Tuesday 3rd December
Session 3 Tuesday 10th December
Session 4 Tuesday 17th December

and Thursdays at 7.30 pm
at St Luke's Methodist Church
Session 2 Thursday 5th December
Session 3 Thursday 12th December
Session 4 Thursday 19th December

Christmas
CONCERT
Fustian
Musical Misfits
Higherland Methodist Church
6pm Saturday 7th December
Tickets £5 incl. Light refreshments
For Tickets Call Kev On:
07988 532738

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

MONDAY 9th. DECEMBER at 2.30p.m.
'NOSTALGIA WITH A CHRISTMAS FLAVOUR'
With Pam and Jon Baddeley

MONDAY 16th. DECEMBER at 1.30p.m.
'CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION'

MONDAY 23rd. DECEMBER at 2.30p.m.
'CAROLS FOR CHRISTMAS'

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

St Lukes Methodist Church Clayton

Songs and carols by The Dougie Mac Choir

Where: St Lukes Methodist Church
Severn Drive, Clayton
Time: 7:00pm

Date: Saturday 14th December 2024

Admission: £5.00 per person

Children free of charge

Tickets available or pay at the door

Refreshments to be served at the interval



For tickets please contact Phil Hodges on
01782 634766



Nativity Festival
Wolstanton Methodist Church

Saturday December 14th 10am-4pm
 Sunday December 15th 2-4.30pm

Explore the Christmas story from the perspective of nativity sets from around the world.
 Children's activities and refreshments available.

**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 December 2024 –
 A Service Led by Rebecca Jones**

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



Christmas
MOVIE NIGHT
 AT
**SILVERDALE
 METHODIST CHURCH**

We're in EARL STREET, ST5 6NF - behind the Chippy!

Wed 18th December
Doors open @ 4:45pm
Film starts @ 5pm

Film Showing **TO BE ANNOUNCED...**
the Tuck Shop will be OPEN!
ENTRY = 50p EACH

SUBSCRIBE TO OUR
YouTube
 CHANNEL

Instagram
facebook

www.silverdalemethodistchurch.org.uk

Madeley Methodist Church invites you to our
Christingle Service



For unto us
 a child is born!



Thursday 19th December 6.30pm CW39DX
 Led by Rev'd Joy Ventom, with the help of Poolside Puppets!
 Come along and make a Christingle
 Refreshments afterwards
 All are welcome




Donation plate for Karibuni Children.

Like us on Facebook | SUBSCRIBE TO OUR YouTube CHANNEL | Instagram



SILVERDALE METHODIST CHURCH
 PRESENTS OUR...



Christmas QUIZ NIGHT

21 DEC | 6:00 PM | £2 per person

We're in EARL STREET, ST5 6NF - behind the chippy!

NO TICKET NEEDED, TURN-UP & FORM A TEAM (max. of 6 per team)
HOT DRINKS WILL BE AVAILABLE TO PURCHASE, AND THE TUCK SHOP WILL BE OPEN

Made with PosterMyWall.com | www.silverdalemethodistchurch.org.uk

Silverdale Methodist Church

Saturday 21st December, 11am

Crafts for Christmas



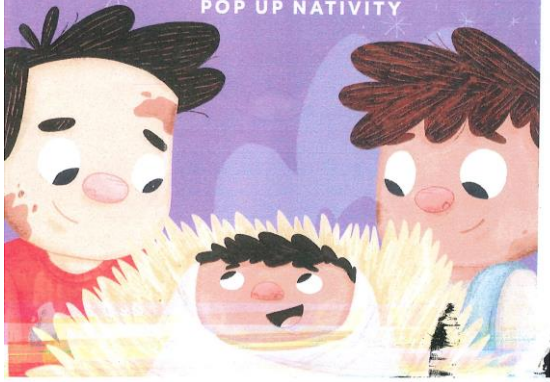
AT SILVERDALE ATHLETIC FOOTBALL CLUB, ST5 6TA



OS BIBLEY SOCIETY

Festive FRED
 Finds The GREATEST GIFT

POP UP NATIVITY



Sunday 22nd December at 3.00 pm
 at St Luke's Methodist Church.
 All Welcome.

Silverdale Methodist Church

Sunday 22nd
December, 6pm

Carols *by*
Candlelight

Scan here to
donate
now



Silverdale Methodist Church

Monday 23rd
December
6:30pm

AT SILVERDALE ATHLETIC
FOOTBALL CLUB, ST5 6TA

Carols
in the Club

Followed by
FREE
Refreshments



Silverdale Methodist Church

CHRISTMAS EVE
4pm Upper Parade

weather
permitting
Christmas
SHOW

Tambourines, Singing, Puppets,
Brass Band & some last-minute
Festive Cheer!

Including
FREE
Refreshments



PEACE NOEL

'ELDERBERRIES'

at

WOLSTANTON METHODIST
CHURCH

Invites you to

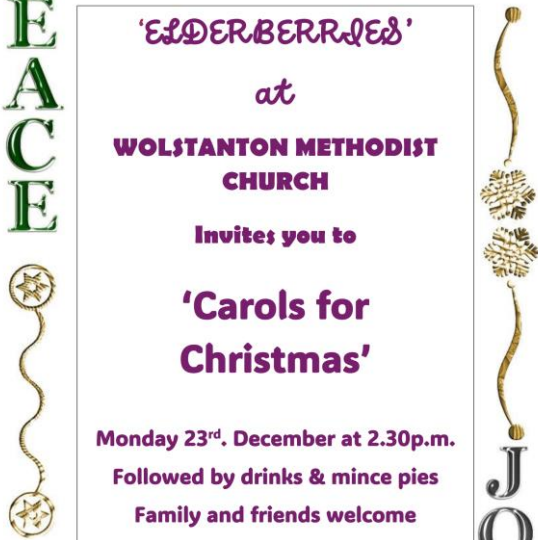
'Carols for
Christmas'

Monday 23rd. December at 2.30p.m.

Followed by drinks & mince pies

Family and friends welcome

Christmas JOY



Silverdale Methodist Church

CHRISTMAS DAY

all from the comfort of
your own home, and so
in a PJ-friendly setting..!

family service

@ 11am **LIVE** zoom

A short all-age interactive celebration,
lasting approx. 45 minutes.

to request the "invite" to join - call Lee on 07403534575, or message us on facebook
("Silverdale Methodist Church"), or e-mail "info@silverdalemethodistchurch.org.uk"





Christmas at Chesterton Salvation Army

Are you alone or know of
anyone who is alone this
Christmas?

Chesterton Salvation Army would
Like to Invite you to have Christmas Lunch
with us :

Our day starts at 10:30AM with Christmas
Morning Worship, followed by Coffee &
Mince Pies

followed by a Christmas Lunch which will
be Served at 12:00pm

**£5.00 secures your place and is refunded
on the day**

To book call

01782 564529 or 07501 301309 or
send us a message via our Facebook Page

**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.



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

**WINTER
CAFÉ**



EVERY MONDAY* AT THE
METHODIST COMMUNITY CENTRE BALDWIN'S GATE,
10AM – 12NOON

As the days grow shorter and colder,
Whitmore Parish Council warmly invite you to our
Monday Morning Winter Café, commencing
4th November.

Residents of all ages are invited to our cosy space for
FREE hot drinks and biscuits, along with friendly
company and conversation.

**We look forward to welcoming you
this Winter!**

*Commencing Monday 4th November through to the end of February 2025.

**Madeley Methodist Church
invites you to join us at our**



Warm Space

Elevenes



On Wednesdays at 11am

Chat

**Free
Refreshments**

Activities

Everyone Welcome

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

FREE ENTRY

SENIOR MOMENTS

Crafts

Activities

Games

Quiz

Art Talks

Tea, Coffee & Biscuits

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

REJOICE



REJOICE IN THE LORD ALWAYS.

Philippians 4:4a

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