

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](mailto:northstaffscircuit@hotmail.co.uk).

Dear Friends

### **The Gentle Courage of Snowdrops**

In the quiet stillness of winter, when the days are short and the air carries a sharp chill, the first signs of life can feel like a whisper of hope. Among the earliest heralds of spring in the UK are the humble snowdrops — small, white flowers that push their way through frozen soil and frost-kissed grass. They arrive not with fanfare, but with quiet determination, reminding us that even in the bleakest seasons, life is still stirring beneath the surface.

Snowdrops are often overlooked because of their size, yet their presence is deeply symbolic. They bloom when the world still feels cold and grey, standing as a living testimony that winter does not have the final word. Their delicate petals bow slightly, as if in humility, yet they stand firm against the wind. This combination of gentleness and resilience is a lesson for us all.

In our own lives, we often face seasons that feel like winter — times of waiting, uncertainty, or hardship. It can be tempting to believe that nothing is changing, that the cold will last forever. But the snowdrop teaches us that transformation often begins quietly, unseen, and in the most unlikely conditions. God's work in us is sometimes hidden, but it is always moving toward life and renewal.

The snowdrop's white bloom has long been associated with purity and hope. In Christian tradition, it can remind us of Christ's light breaking into the darkness — a light that the darkness cannot overcome. Just as the snowdrop emerges before the warmth of spring, so too does God's grace meet us before our circumstances change. We are invited to trust that His promises are already taking root, even when we cannot yet see the full bloom.

There is also a beautiful humility in the snowdrop's posture. It does not stand tall to demand attention, but bows its head as if in quiet prayer. In a world that often prizes loudness and self-promotion, the snowdrop reminds us that strength can be found in stillness, and that humility is not weakness but a form of grace.

For those who walk through grief, loneliness, or fatigue, the snowdrop offers a gentle encouragement: you are not forgotten, and your winter will not last forever. God's seasons are sure, and His timing is perfect. Just as the snowdrop knows when to rise, so too will your moment of renewal come.

As we notice these small white flowers in gardens, churchyards, and woodland edges, may they be more than a sign of changing weather. Let them be a reminder that God is always at work, bringing life where we thought there was only barrenness. May we, like the snowdrop, stand firm in faith, bow in humility, and quietly bear witness to the hope that is ours in Christ.

Even in the coldest days, the snowdrop whispers: *spring is coming*. And with it, the assurance that God's love is steadfast, His mercy new every morning, and His light unquenchable.

Every Blessing

Rev'd Joy

# North Staffordshire Circuit (11/22)

## Preaching Plan – February 2026

				February			
				1	8	15	22
				Epiphany 4	Epiphany 5	Transfiguration	Lent 1
				Ordinary 4	Ordinary 5		
<b>Lectionary Year (A)</b> (Principal Service)				Micah 6:1-8	Isaiah 58:1-9a (9b-12)	Exodus 24:12-18	Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7
				Psalm 15	Psalm 112:1-9 (10)	Psalm 2 or 99	Psalm 32
				1 Corinthians 1:18-31	1 Cor. 2:1-12(13-16)	2 Peter 1:16-21	Romans 5:12-19
				Matthew 5:1-12	Matthew 5:13-20	Matthew 17:1-9	Matthew 4:1-11
<b>Please Pray For:</b>				Halmer End	Higherland	Madeley	St Luke's
<b>Cross Heath</b> (23)	LS	11.00	<b>StF</b>	NIV	Singleton HC	N Jones	LA
		3.00	MSB				Pritchard
<b>Silverdale</b> (39)	LS	11.00	<b>StF</b>	MM	Café Church	Chadwick	Singleton HC
		5.00					CA Emmaus
<b>Wolstanton</b> (82)	LS	10.30	<b>StF</b>		N Jones	Willis HC	Refuel
		3.00	MWB				Singleton
<b>Audley</b> (28)	JV	10.30	<b>StF</b>	SoF 1&2	Ford	X	Wakelin HC US
		3.00	MWB	GNB	X	Ventom	X
<b>Bradwell</b> (30)	JV	10.00	<b>StF</b>	SoF 1&2	Parkes HC	R Jones	Ventom
		3.00	MWB	NIV H&P			Matthews
<b>Halmer End</b> (20)	JV	10.30	H&P	SoF 1&2	Williams	Ventom	US @ Audley
		3.00	MWB	GNB			Barnett HC
<b>Madeley</b> (23)	JV	10.30	<b>StF</b>	SoF 1234	Ventom	Barnett HC	Rowley
		3.00	MWB	NIV			LA
<b>St Luke's</b> (22)	JV	10.30	H&P	GNB	Davies T	Irvine	Ventom Breakfast Praise
		3.00	MWB				
<b>Higherland</b> (36)	JP	10.00	<b>StF</b>	MM	Pritchard HC	LA	Irvine
		6.00	MWB				Café Church Pritchard
<b>Printed Service for this week prepared by:</b>				Pritchard	Ventom	Singleton	Heap

### Eco Tips

- Eat local and seasonally:** Choose locally grown, seasonal produce to reduce food miles and packaging. Supporting local farmers also benefits the community. Even if you have limited space, you can grow your own food – herbs, salad leaves, or tomatoes can thrive in window boxes.
- Choose efficient appliances:** Opt for energy-saving devices and LED lighting. Boil only the water you need, use lids on saucepans, microwave when possible, and minimise showers to 7 minutes.

## Can you or your church give more to Foodbank?



I am aware demands on our goodwill giving becomes greater and greater as times are hard for all. However I am appealing for help once again.

**Newcastle Foodbank** has given **three days food supply to 5820 adults and 3088 children** in the **past twelve months**, which equates to **68,992 kilogrammes of food** providing **164,267 meals**.

At the moment we have 66 organisations on our system who refer clients to us, having determined them as someone in crisis. **No one is given food without that assessment.**

**£40,000** was spent on buying food in the past twelve months to supplement your generous donations. **Sadly this is not sustainable long term, hence this appeal.**

Would you consider giving one item a week to help us to help those less fortunate than ourselves?

Or, if it is more convenient to you, can you help us financially on a regular or one-off basis?

We would love to hear from you if you want to know more.

I leave you with a few ideas as to what you may be able to contribute

Items we are short of include:

- Bags for life
- Pasta sauce
- Shaving foam/gel
- Tinned fruit
- Tinned carrots
- Tinned meat
- Tinned peas
- Tinned rice pudding
- Tinned soup
- Coffee

I can guarantee your contribution will be used wisely and be much appreciated.

Take care and look after yourselves too. If you would prefer contact details for our warehouse team I can supply them.

Thank you

Marion Reddish (Foodbank Volunteer) 01782 613265  
[marionreddish@btinternet.com](mailto:marionreddish@btinternet.com)

## **Circuit Lent Reflections**

### **Space to pause, ponder and pray...**

James Pritchard will lead two Lent reflection sessions - each will include a reflection on a biblical passage, space for conversation, prayer and a spiritual activity.

The Reflection sessions are open to all and the two sessions are standalone so you can still come if you can't make both sessions.

**Session One Wed 25<sup>th</sup> Feb 10am at Higherland or 2pm at Wolstanton**

**Session Two Wed 25<sup>th</sup> March 10am at Higherland or 2pm at Wolstanton**

Just turn up or for more information contact James [revjpritchard@outlook.com](mailto:revjpritchard@outlook.com)

### **Wider Lent Opportunities...**

It might be you have a pattern of how you mark Lent, or maybe it's not something you normally consider. Lent is often used as a time of self-reflection; some engage in acts of self-discipline such as 'giving something up'. Others take up a positive project or task, maybe being more disciplined in prayer or the study of the Bible. Lent is also a time when some focus on the work of charities and commit to acts of generosity or supporting others in need. Below are some suggestions or ideas to help you consider how you might mark Lent.

**The Methodist Church** is producing resources they say '*Lent is bigger than giving up chocolate. It's about letting go of what weighs us down and being open to what lifts us up. The benefits last longer than 40 days – it's a way of life, and we do it together.*' If you follow the link you can sign up for weekly emails with prompts of spiritual practices designed to help you pause, breathe, and rediscover what matters most all through simple habits that nurture faith beyond Sunday [Lent and Easter Resources - The Methodist Church](#)

Many charities have a Lent focus so why not look at charities you support or consider this link from Christian Aid [Lent 2026 | Christian Aid](#)

[www.stewardship.org.uk/40acts](http://www.stewardship.org.uk/40acts) has an invitation to join thousands for a 40-day generosity challenge – building habits, deepening faith and reflecting the heart of Jesus through everyday acts. Each day offers a simple invitation to give, bless, and grow in generosity – one act at a time.

There are many '**Lent books**' and now many prayer and Bible **Apps** - Lectio 365 have a lent focussed programme you might want to try. [Lectio 365](#)

*These are just a few options and suggestions, why not find something that suits you?*

# New Bible Study Group

First Wednesday of every  
month  
2.30pm-4pm

Wolstanton Methodist Church All welcome

BRADWELL METHODIST CHURCH  
WANT TO RECRUIT  
A HANDY PERSON  
TO HELP MAINTAIN AND REPAIR THE  
INTERIOR AND EXTERIOR OF THE  
CHURCH PREMISES.

6 hours per week at  
£15 per hour.

Those interested please contact

[bradwellmethodist@yahoo.com](mailto:bradwellmethodist@yahoo.com)

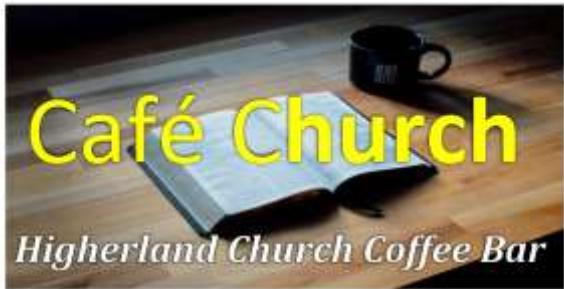
Closing date for applications  
28th February 2026.

## Minnie Pit & Diglake Pit Disasters Memorial Service at Halmer End Methodist Church

The Memorial Service that was held on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2026 is available to view on YouTube via the following link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dkiVdb1YAfo>





# Café Church

Higherland Church Coffee Bar

Friendly chatter & discussion,  
Welcoming Smiles & a good Laugh,  
Songs, poems, thoughts & Prayers  
Drinks & biscuits.

Come along @ 6pm  
Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> Feb

Higherland Church Coffee Bar  
2pm-4pm on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> Feb



Everyone welcome to come and  
**Join in the chatter**

Free snacks, cakes & drinks.

## SPRING TABLE TOP

AT AUDLEY  
METHODIST CHURCH

SATURDAY 21ST MARCH  
10:30AM TO 12:30PM

£12 per table  
to book - contact office  
01782 722755 or email  
audleymethodist@btconnect.com

refreshments  
available  
free parking

## ★FUSTIAN★ & MUSICAL MISFITS

COUNTRY ROADS SING ALONG CONCERT

HIGHLAND METHODIST CHURCH  
6PM SATURDAY, MARCH 21ST



DOORS OPEN FROM 5PM • CONCERT STARTS AT 6PM

TICKETS £5 EACH INCL. LIGHT REFRESHMENTS  
FOR TICKETS CALL KEV ON 07988 532738

Are you, or someone you know, looking for a group to join or an activity to take part in, there may be something happening at Wolstanton Methodist Church that will suit?



Every other Monday 2.30-4pm: Elderberries a church social group for older people normally with a speaker always with refreshments

1<sup>st</sup> Monday of the month 2-4pm: Trefoil Guild a social meeting for people connected with Girl Guiding

Monday 5.30pm- 8.30pm: Workout with Mika three different exercise classes from hula hoop fitness to boxing to rock music [workoutwithmika@gmail.com](mailto:workoutwithmika@gmail.com)

Monday 6.30-7.30pm Pilates with Nicola [nicolajherd@hotmail.com](mailto:nicolajherd@hotmail.com)

Tuesday 9.30am-10.30am Baby Signing and Tiny Talk for young babies under 1 year [nicolaausterberry@tinytalk.co.uk](mailto:nicolaausterberry@tinytalk.co.uk)

Tuesday 10am - 11am: YogaJules, Stoke [yogajules.stoke@gmail.com](mailto:yogajules.stoke@gmail.com)

Tuesday 7.30pm-9pm: Church Music Group

1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of the month Bible Study 2.30pm -4pm

Wednesday 10.30am-12.30pm: Community coffee morning - open to all

Wednesday 6-7.30: Brownies

Wednesday 7.30pm-9.30pm: NULCO Newcastle under Lyme Community Orchestra music rehearsals for shows and concerts [secretary@nulco.co.uk](mailto:secretary@nulco.co.uk)

1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of the month 7.30pm Sugar craft – fondant decorations for cake.

Thursday 10am -11am: Tots of fun music and play for little ones under 4 [totoffunuk@gmail.com](mailto:totoffunuk@gmail.com)

Thursday 11.45am-12.45am Tots of Fun new mums social with coffee and cake for young babies and new mums [totoffunuk@gmail.com](mailto:totoffunuk@gmail.com)

Thursday 7.30pm-9.30pm Jazz Orchestra / Flute ensemble alternative weeks

Thursday 6pm 7 6.45pm: Dog obedience classes  
[darwins-dog-grooming.square.site](http://darwins-dog-grooming.square.site)

Friday 9.30am-11.30am Tots of Fun Playgroup [totoffunuk@gmail.com](mailto:totoffunuk@gmail.com)

Saturday 9am-10.15am: Spanish lessons for children  
[delia.alvarez@kidslingo.co.uk](mailto:delia.alvarez@kidslingo.co.uk)

Book Swap  
at  
Bradwell Methodist Church

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



**Coffee Morning's at  
Audley Methodist  
Church**

Refreshments, in a  
welcoming  
“WARM SPACE”  
await you

Join us  
every  
Tuesday  
10am to  
midday



## Coffee Morning

10.30am – 12.30pm

Every Wednesday at  
Wolstanton  
Methodist Church

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



**Warm Space**



**Elevenses**

On Wednesdays at 11am



**Activities**  
**Everyone Welcome**

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



Let's catch up!

123GreetingCards.com

WHY NOT CATCH UP  
WITH FRIENDS OLD  
AND NEW



BRADWELL METHODIST  
CHURCH  
THURSDAY'S 10 - 12

 Christian Resources for Life  
@ Methodist Book Centre

Support your local, independent  
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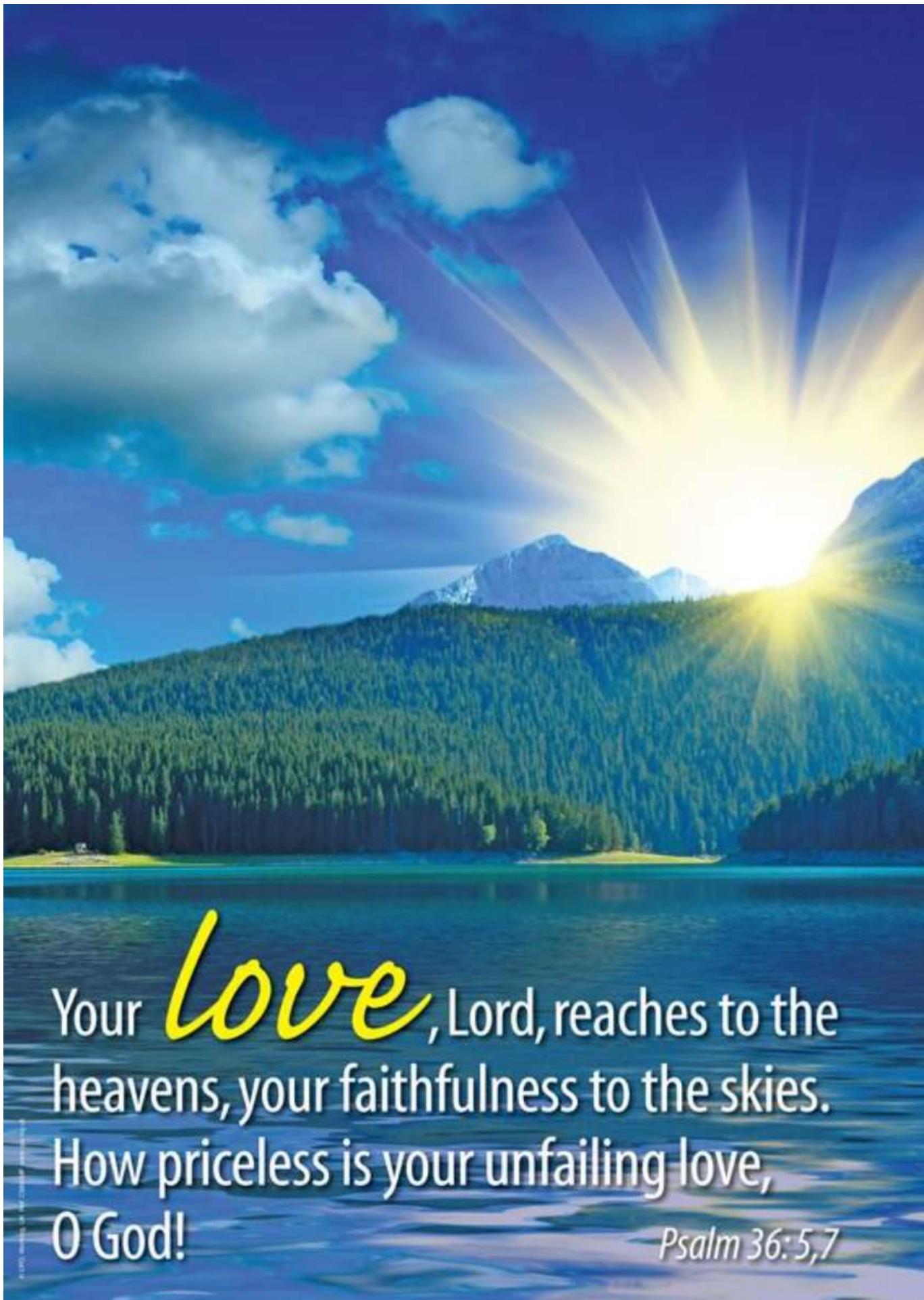
[www.crfl.co.uk](http://www.crfl.co.uk)  
Gitana Street, Hanley, ST1 1DY  
01782 212146

**MAGIC MOMENTS**  
St. Luke's Methodist Church  
Severn Drive  
Clayton  
ST5 4BH

**FREE ENTRY**



10.00am - 12.00 noon, last Thursday of every month.  
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 Joanne Hodges  
on 01782 634766 or look on our Facebook page.



Your *love*, Lord, reaches to the  
heavens, your faithfulness to the skies.  
How priceless is your unfailing love,  
O God!

*Psalm 36:5,7*