

## Newsletter March 2026

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

For my daily devotions during Lent I'm following the Lectio 365\* series Wisdom in the Desert, a journey into the wilderness with the Desert Fathers and Mothers. 1700 years ago (approximately!) a radical counter-cultural movement began in the deserts of Egypt as men and women made the decision to leave the sophisticated metropolitan cities of the time and seek a simpler life through which they might find the holiness they so desired. And whilst it is easy for us, in our modern 21<sup>st</sup> century digital and technical world, to dismiss the Desert Fathers and Mothers as old fashioned and irrelevant, they can actually teach us more than we might think.

This movement began after the Church had experienced huge persecution, in a time when Christianity was increasingly being politicised. It was a busy and noisy world, not unlike the world we experience today, and these folk craved silence and solitude and spirituality – a simpler, truer life. They recognised that the Church was already looking less and less like the church Jesus intended it to be. And so they followed Jesus' example and entered the wilderness in order to deepen and strengthen their relationship with God.

We can't take ourselves off to a physical desert this Lent but I wonder what you are doing to step back from the world and immerse yourself in God – even if only for a few minutes each day. Have you entered a wilderness of self-denial, embracing silence and times of solitude? The Lectio 365 devotion has reminded me of the opening words of Isaiah 40 which are often misread as 'A voice of one calling in the wilderness prepare the way for the Lord.' When the text actually says 'A voice of one calling: 'In the wilderness prepare the way for the Lord.' (The punctuation is crucial!) In other words we should be looking for God in the wilderness which means there are times when we too should consider removing ourselves from the busyness and noise which surrounds us and enjoy the silence and the solitude and the presence of God. The example and witness of the Desert Fathers and Mothers still has much to offer!

Lenten blessings

Liz

If you want to read more about the Desert Fathers and Mothers I highly recommend 'Silence and Honey Cakes' by Rowan Williams

\*Lectio 365 is a free devotional app which offers daily morning, midday and evening opportunities to pause in the presence of God for ten minutes or so. You can find out more at <https://lectio65.com>

# North Staffordshire Circuit (11/22)

## Preaching Plan – March 2026

					March				
					1	8	15	22	29
					Lent 2	Lent 3	Lent 4	Lent 5	Palm Sunday
							Mothering Sunday		
<b>Lectionary Year (A)</b>					Genesis 12:1-4a	Exodus 17:1-7	1 Samuel 16:1-13	Ezekiel 37:1-14	Matthew 21:1-11
(Principal Service)					Psalms 121	Psalms 95	Psalms 23	Psalms 130	Psalms 118:1-2, 19-29
					Romans 4:1-5,13-17	Romans 5:1-11	Ephesians 5:8-14	Romans 8:6-11	Isaiah 50:4-9a
					John 3:1-17	John 4:5-42	John 9:1-41	John 11:1-45	Psalms 31:9-16
									Philippians 2:5-11
									Matthew 26:14-27:66
									or Matthew 27:11-54
Please Pray For:					Silverdale	Wolstanton	Audley	Bradwell	Cross Heath
<b>Cross Heath</b>	LS	9.00	STF	NIV					
		11.00			LA	Davies T	Harrison T	Singleton HC	Matthews
(23)		3.00	MWB						
<b>Silverdale</b>	LS	11.00	STF	MM	Café Church LA	Singleton HC	Chadwick	Emmaus LA	LA
		3.00							
(38)		5.00							Refuel LA
<b>Wolstanton</b>	LS	10.30	STF		Parkes	LA	Singleton	Barnett HC	Pritchard
(91)		3.00	MWB						
<b>Audley</b>	JV	10.30	STF	SoF 1&2	Denny	X	Ventom US	X	Hoe HC
(26)		3.00	MWB	GNB	X	Singleton	X	LA	X
<b>Bradwell</b>	JV	10.00	STF	SoF 1&2	LA	Ventom	Strachan HC	Parkes	Open Air @ St Barnabas 9.30 am
(30)		3.00	MWB	NIV H&P					
<b>Halmer End</b>	JV	10.30	H&P	SoF 1&2	LA	Hilton	US @ Audley	Pritchard HC	Singleton
(19)		3.00	MWB	GNB					
<b>Madeley</b>	JV	10.30	STF	SoF 1234	Singleton	Parkes HC	LA	Ventom & CC	N Jones
(22)		3.00	MWB	NIV					
<b>St Luke's</b>	JV	10.30	H&P	GNB	N Jones	Rowley	R Jones	LA	Ventom HC
(22)		3.00	MWB						
<b>Higherland</b>	JP	10.00	STF	MM	Pritchard	Wakelin HC	BB & GA LA	Davies T	Parkes
(36)		6.00	MWB						Café Church Pritchard
Printed Service for this week prepared by:					Pritchard	Ventom	Singleton	Heap	Pritchard

### Eco Tips

Take part in a local litter pick during The Great British Spring Clean (Friday 13-Sunday 29 March), the nation's biggest mass-action environmental campaign. Litter picking benefits the environment by removing rubbish that can be hazardous for wildlife and helps bring people together. See if there's a litter pick in your local area or consider organising your own - after church on Sunday or with a youth group for example. Pray for your local area as you do the litter pick and ask God for opportunities to share why you are doing it. Find out more and pledge to pick up a bag at [keepbritaintidy.org/our-work/eliminating-litter/great-british-spring-clean](http://keepbritaintidy.org/our-work/eliminating-litter/great-british-spring-clean)

For more eco-tips, sign up to A Rocha UK's Wild Christian email: [arochoa.org.uk/wild-christian](mailto:arochoa.org.uk/wild-christian)

## 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**

**Tinned fruit**

**Tinned vegetables**

**Tinned meat**

**Rice**

**Tinned soup**

**Deodorant**

**Toothpaste**

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

## **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?*

## THANK YOU ....

David Rowley would like to thank all who collect and pass to the Circuit Office their used postage stamps. David delivers them to Quarry Garage in Nantwich Road, Audley and the lady there tells him that they are raising funds for the Motor Neurone Charity and so far £6,000 has been raised.

If you have any stamps and are passing by the Circuit Office please let Michelle have them to pass on to David.

Many thanks.



**WORLD DAY OF PRAYER**  
A service for everyone!  
**Friday 6 March**  
*I will give you rest, come*

**Shared Service at  
All Saints' Church  
Madeley 7.30pm**

**Nigeria 2026**

Slides  
Stories  
Favourite Hymns  
Refreshments

**EVERYONE WELCOME**

**INFORMED PRAYER PRAYERFUL ACTION**  
24/7 365 Days a year Prayer movement. Ecumenical. International. Women-led.  
wwdp.org.uk  
Registered Charity Number 233242

## Boxes Needed

Dear All

Each year, just prior to Christmas, the six local Trussell Trust Foodbanks, distribute gifts, along with the usual food parcels, to families with young children.

These gifts, which are of very high quality, are purchased, on a weekly basis, throughout the year, by a local couple!

Last Christmas 16 large & robust boxes (30 x 40 x 50cm) and the presents they contained were distributed to our local centres and then, individual items were passed on to the families using the food banks.

This year, it is likely that 20 (or more) boxes will be required (of the sort of size and depth mentioned above) so that the presents purchased can be safely stored and then distributed at Christmas.  
so....

If you have any boxes, or are likely to receive, any boxes (groceries/ Amazon etc.) we would be grateful if we could take them off your hands, rather than crushing them and placing in recycling.

If you think you can help: Please contact me (Val Bayley) email: [valerie.bayley@me.com](mailto:valerie.bayley@me.com).

The boxes can be dropped off at St Lukes, Clayton, or Wolstanton Church. We need about 20.

I will update you all, when we have enough.

Val Bayley.

# 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

HIGHERLAND 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

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

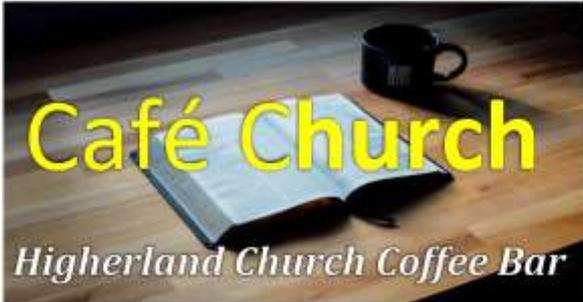


**Higherland  
Chatterbox**

Everyone welcome to come and

*Join in the chatter*

*Free snacks, cakes & drinks.*



## Café Church

*Higherland Church Coffee Bar*

*Friendly Chatter & discussion,  
welcoming smiles & a good laugh,  
Songs, poems, thoughts & Prayers  
Drinks & biscuits.*

*Come along @ 6pm*

*Sunday 29th Mar*

## Audley Methodist Church

We are delighted that the Rev'd Helen Hoe and Graham will be with us to lead worship on 29<sup>th</sup> March 2026 for our Palm Sunday Service at 10.30 am. Following the service Audley Methodist Church will be hosting a sandwich buffet lunch so that Helen and Graham can meet and chat to friends from Audley and other churches not forgetting the Ladies Choir.

This is an open invitation to friends from other Circuit churches including Halmer End, Bradwell, Madeley and Wolstanton to join us after your own service has finished for tea, sandwiches, cake and a chat from about 12.00 midday.

Helen and Graham are looking forward to a lovely time together.

## Circuit Easter Offering Service

**Sunday, 19<sup>th</sup> April 2026**

**at 3.00 pm**

**at Audley Methodist Church**

**Preacher: Rev'd James Pritchard**

**All Welcome**

## Date for the Diary ....

### District Eco Day

**Saturday, 9<sup>th</sup> May 2026 at Helsby.**

**More details to follow.**

**Audley Together**

at Audley Methodist Church

**Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> June**  
**10:30am to 2pm**

a Community Fundraising Event - further details to follow!!

**Save the Date!**

**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!

**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  
 Christian bookshop



**In Store**

**Online**



[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**

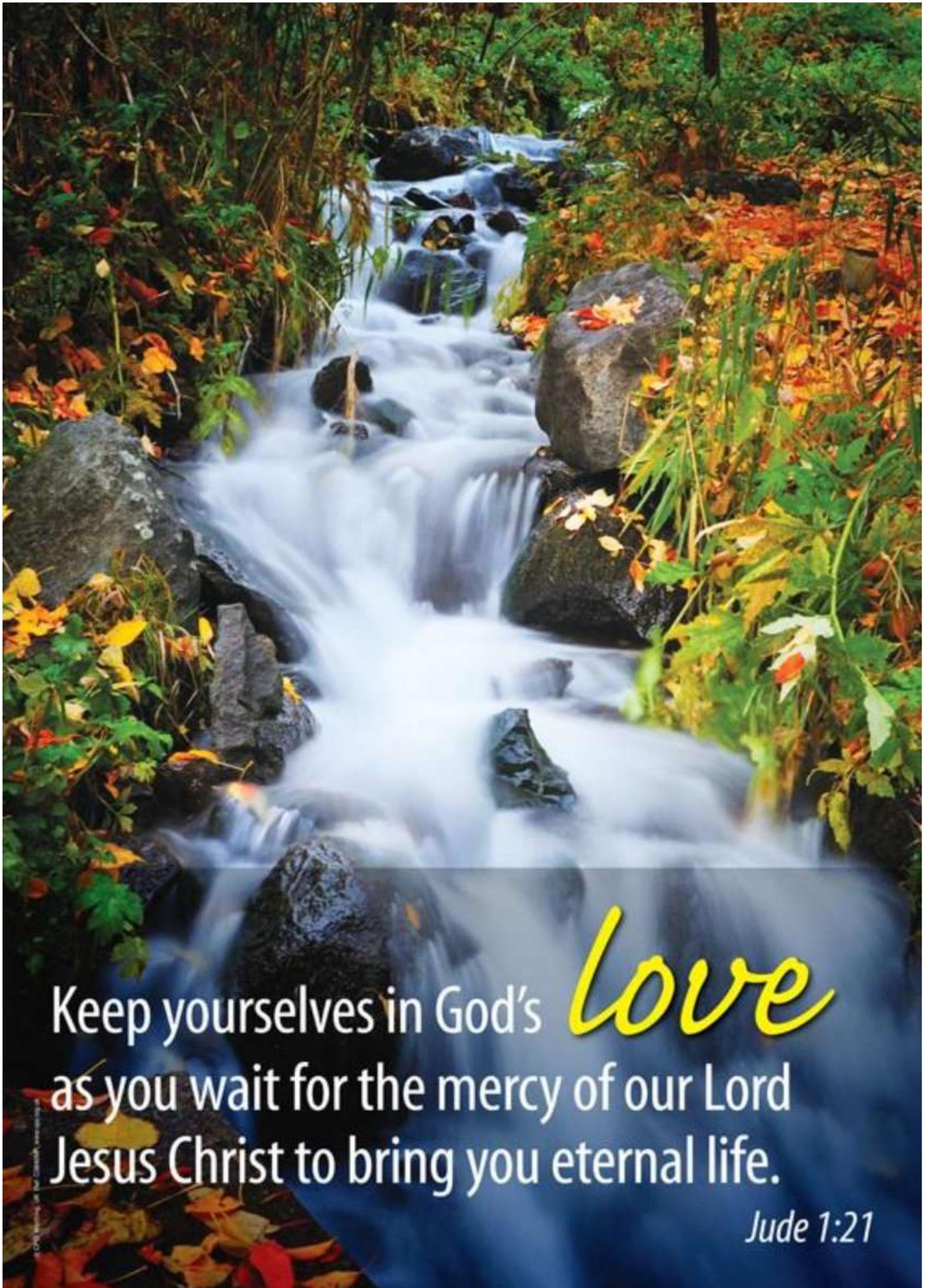


Crafts  
 Activities  
 Quiz  
 Bingo  
 Games  
 Stories  
 Tea, Coffee & Biscuits

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 Joannette Hodges  
on 01782 634766 or look on our Facebook page.



Keep yourselves in God's *Love*  
as you wait for the mercy of our Lord  
Jesus Christ to bring you eternal life.

*Jude 1:21*