

## Newsletter April 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.

Dear All,

April is often marked by brighter skies and signs of new life. The long reflective weeks of Lent are drawing to an end and soon we will once again mark the wonderful mysteries of Easter with glad Alleluias! In this season faith and hope call us onwards to the cross and towards an empty tomb. In this Spring season the joy of new life is shown all around us, we see lambs and flowers and green shoots, this got me wondering where we see those signs of life in our lives and in the life of our churches?

I'm often struck at my/our lack of faith and the way we often fail to embrace the new life offered to us. Instead of embracing it we all too often cling to how things have been, rather than learning from our gospel story of death leading to new life. In the record of the first Easter Jesus tells Mary not to cling to him, it might at first seem rather harsh, after all she is so excited to see her risen Lord! But Jesus is saying '*this is not the end... there is more*'. At Easter, Jesus shows a different way; shows how servanthood proclaims glory, reminds us that with God amazing things are possible, even things we dare not dream. So, as disciples today we are encouraged not to cling to how things are, or have been, not to concentrate on what has been, but to look and work for what might be. We are called onwards from death to new life. So let us not cling to what has been but embrace the new life of this season and look to what can be.

At the end of this month, I will begin my sabbatical leave and conclude my ministry here in the circuit. I'm sorry that it has been a shorter time than many would hope, but it has been a privilege to share with you on this little part of life's journey. I am confident that God will continue to be with you (and with me) in all that life holds. I am also confident that God has plenty more in store for us all and just as the Easter story is not an end, but a new beginning let us remember our Easter hope that continues to burst forth offering good news and new life.

God's peace, joy and hope be with you all!

James

*Christ is alive! Let Christian saying. The cross stands empty to the sky.  
Let streets and homes with praises ring. Love drowned in death shall never die.*

*V5 Christ is alive and comes to bring good news to this and every age,  
till earth and sky and ocean ring with joy, with justice, love, and praise.  
Brian Wren (b1936)*

# North Staffordshire Circuit (11/22)

## Preaching Plan – April 2026

					April			
					5	12	19	26
					Easter Day	Easter 2	Easter 3	Easter 4
<b>Lectionary Year (A)</b> (Principal Service)					Acts 20:34-43 or Jeremiah 31:1-6 Psalm 118:1-2,14-24 Col. 3:1-4 or Acts 10:34-43 John 20:1-18 or Matthew 28:1-10	Acts 2:14a,22-32 Psalm 16 1 Peter 1:3-9 John 20:19-31	Acts 2:14a,36-41 Psalm 116:1-4,12-19 1 Peter 1:17-23 Luke 24:13-35	Acts 2:42-47 Psalm 23 1 Peter 2:19-25 John 10:1-10
Please Pray For:					Halmer End	Higherland	Madeley	St Luke's
<b>Cross Heath</b>	LS	9.00	<b>StF</b>	NIV	Easter Breakfast LA			
		11.00			Barnett HC	LA	Rowley	Singleton
<b>(23)</b>		3.00	MWB				CS Easter Offering Audley	CS @ Higherland @ 3pm
<b>Silverdale</b>	LS	11.00	<b>StF</b>	MM	Café Church LA	Chadwick	Singleton HC	Emmaus
		3.00					CS Easter Offering Audley	CS @ Higherland @ 3pm
<b>(38)</b>		5.00						Refuel
<b>Wolstanton</b>	LS	10.30	<b>StF</b>		Sutcliffe HC	N Jones	LA	Kirk
<b>(91)</b>		3.00	MWB				CS Easter Offering Audley	CS @ Higherland @ 3pm
<b>Audley</b>	JV	10.30	<b>StF</b>	SoF 1&2	X	Ventom HC	X	Davies T
<b>(26)</b>		3.00	MWB	GNB	White	X	Pritchard CS Easter Offering	CS @ Higherland @ 3pm
<b>Bradwell</b>	JV	10.00	<b>StF</b>	SoF 1&2	Ventom HC	R Jones	LA	Pritchard
<b>(30)</b>		3.00	MWB	NIV H&P			CS Easter Offering Audley	CS @ Higherland @ 3pm
<b>Halmer End</b>	JV	10.30	H&P	SoF 1&2	Williams	Wakelin HC	Ventom	LA
<b>(19)</b>		3.00	MWB	GNB			CS Easter Offering Audley	CS @ Higherland @ 3pm
<b>Madeley</b>	JV	10.30	<b>StF</b>	SoF 1234	Strachan HC	Davies T	LA	Barnett
<b>(22)</b>		3.00	MWB	NIV			CS Easter Offering Audley	CS @ Higherland @ 3pm
<b>St Luke's</b>	JV	10.30	H&P	GNB	Parkes HC	Irvine	Harrison T	Ventom HC
<b>(22)</b>		3.00	MWB				CS Easter Offering Audley	CS @ Higherland @ 3PM
<b>Higherland</b>	JP	10.00	<b>StF</b>	MM	Pritchard HC	LA	Pritchard GCM	Matthews
		3.00					CS Easter Offering Audley	
<b>(36)</b>		6.00	MWB					Singleton/Kirk CS @ 3pm
<b>Printed Service for this week prepared by:</b>					Singleton	Ventom	Heap	Pritchard

### Eco Tips

Celebrate new life this Easter and have a go at growing something! April is the perfect time to try to grow something edible or, if you are a seasoned gardener, to encourage someone else to try. Salad leaves or herbs are a great place to start and will reduce your reliance on those oh-so-convenient supermarket salad bags. For indoor space, try 'micro-greens' (vegetable leaves harvested soon after they open) For greenhouses, try sowing salad leaf seed mixes. For outdoors, beetroot, lettuce, onion and pea plants are frost-resistant so can all be planted outside in April. As you sow, thank God for the opportunity to grow food, and pray for those communities that are facing food shortages and famine.

*A Rocha UK's East Eco Tips 2026 Calendar*

## 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 tomatoes**

**Tinned vegetables**

**Tinned ham**

**Rice sachets (microwavable)**

**Tinned soup**

**Washing up liquid**

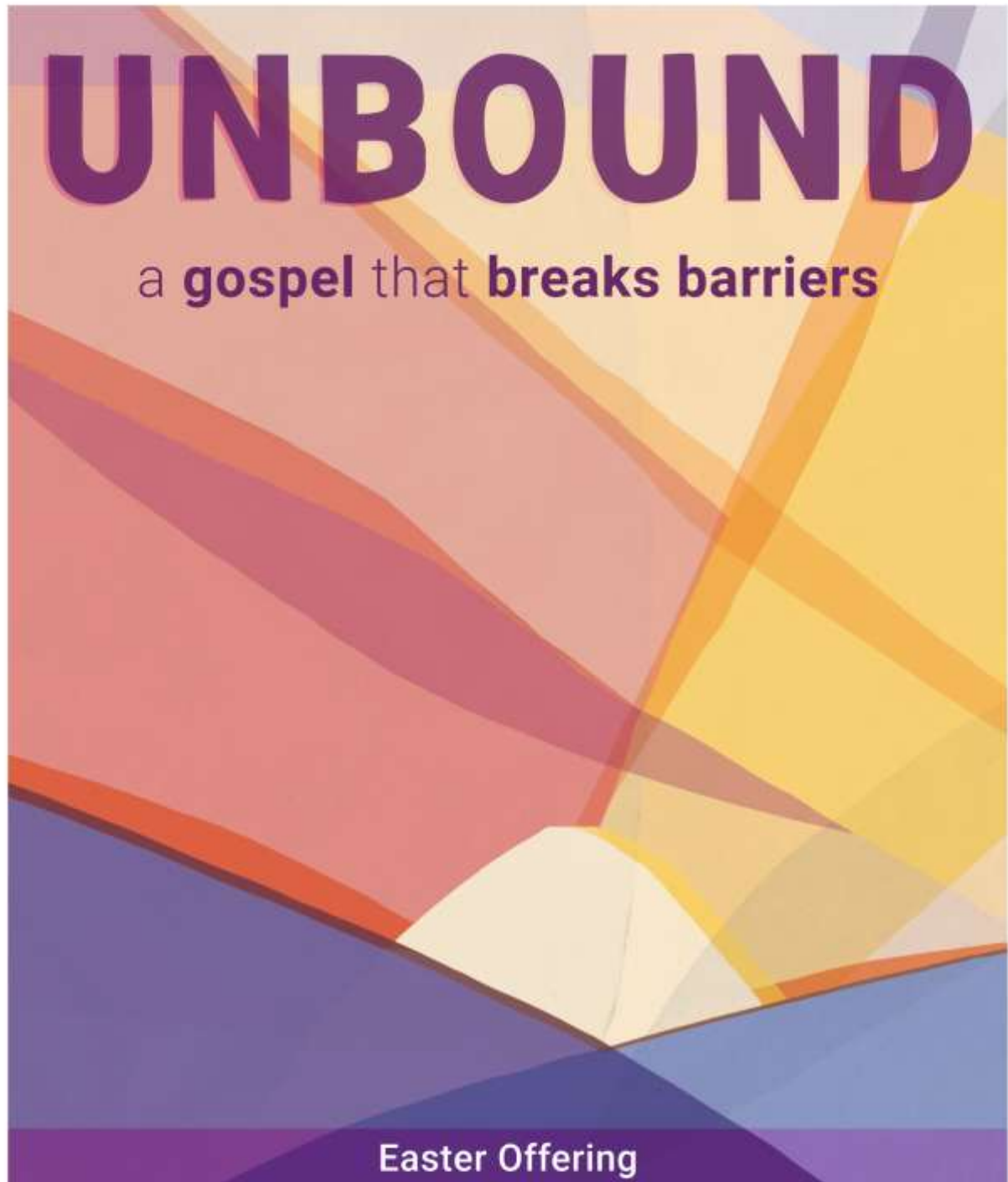
I can guarantee your contribution will be used wisely and be much appreciated.

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 Easter Offering Service



The service will be held at:

Audley Methodist Church

on Sunday 19th April

at 3.00 pm

 **Methodist Women  
in Britain**  
for women, for justice, for Christ

The **Methodist** Church 



# EXPLORERS!

At Halmer End Methodist Church  
High St, ST7 8AD



Calling all Master builders!

Come and join us for building fun, 6.00 pm till 7.00 pm,

Meeting again on **MONDAY 13th April 2026!**

And then on the 11th May 2026.

Suitable for Reception to Year 6 children accompanied by an adult; Year 7 and above unaccompanied, but must have parental permission.

Contact: Helen 01782 722685 or David 01782 722014  
See [www.halmerendmethodists.org.uk](http://www.halmerendmethodists.org.uk) & Facebook



Drinks  
Bible Stories,




Free to enter

## Spring Fair

Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> April 2026  
10.30 am

Join us for all the fun of the fair with stalls, games, crafts and refreshments.

**Cross Heath Methodist Chapel**  
King Street  
ST5 9HQ



Invite you to a

# Spring Fayre

Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> April

12.00 - 2.00 pm

Various Stalls

Light Lunches served

*Proceeds for Church Funds*

[www.halmerendmethodists.org.uk](http://www.halmerendmethodists.org.uk) & on Facebook

**Higherland Church Coffee Bar**  
**2pm-4pm on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> Apr**



# Higherland Chatterbox

Everyone welcome to come and

**Join in the chatter**

*Free snacks, cakes & drinks.*



Chester and Stoke-on-Trent District



## ECO DAY

**Save the date!  
Save the planet?**

Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2026  
10am to 3pm

at  
Helsby Methodist Church, Chester Road, WA6 0AQ

hosted by Wesley Chester Eco Group with

Revd Helen Kirk, Chair of District

Dr Hamish Leese, Director of Environmental Engagement  
for the Methodist Church

Further information and booking form from Rob Glassonbury at  
[chester.stoke@btconnect.com](mailto:chester.stoke@btconnect.com)



Madeley Methodist Church

# Spring Fayre

Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> May  
10.30 - 12

Stalls include:

- Cakes
- Raffle
- Chocolate Tombola
- Plants
- Children's Activities

Entrance fee: (suggested donation £2)  
Refreshments Available

# Newcastle Male Voice Choir

In Concert

## Wolstanton Methodist Church

ST5 0HE

**Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> May • 7:30PM**

Featuring music from:  
**The Church Music Group**  
Soloist: **Phil Cartwright**

**Tickets: £10**

All welcome - come and enjoy an evening of wonderful choral music.

For more details: [newcastlemalevoicechoir.org.uk](http://newcastlemalevoicechoir.org.uk)

WOLSTANTON METHODIST  
CHURCH

# PLANT SALE

CRAFT STALLS AND REFRESHMENTS

SATURDAY 23<sup>RD</sup> MAY  
10AM - 12.30PM



**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



**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**



MAGIC MOMENTS

Crafts

Activities

Games

Tea, Coffee & Biscuits

Bingo


Quiz

Stories

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.



But God demonstrates his *love*  
for us in this: while we were still sinners,  
Christ died for us.

*Romans 5:8*