

Newsletter August 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 friends,

Over these past weeks, I've found myself returning again and again to the simple, difficult, beautiful word: **trust**. It's a word we use often in church life—"trust in the Lord," "trust God's timing," "trust that all will be well"—and yet it is one of the hardest things we are ever asked to do.

Trust is not something we switch on like a light. It grows slowly, often in the shadows, often through seasons we would never have chosen. It grows when life feels uncertain, when the path ahead is unclear, when we are carrying more than we feel able to hold. It grows when we dare to place our weight on God even when we cannot see what comes next.

The psalmist writes, *"When I am afraid, I put my trust in you."* Notice that trust does not erase fear. It sits alongside it. It steadies us, not by removing the storm, but by reminding us that we are not alone in it.

Many of us are carrying things just now—worries about health, family, finances, the future. Some of us are waiting for answers. Some of us are grieving. Some of us are simply tired. If that is you, hear this gently: God does not ask you to pretend. God asks you to lean.

Trust is not blind optimism. It is not pretending everything is fine. Trust is choosing, day by day, to believe that God is faithful even when life feels fragile. It is remembering that the One who holds us has walked the road of uncertainty Himself. Jesus knows what it is to feel overwhelmed, to face the unknown, to pray for strength. And because He knows, He walks with us still.

I invite you to notice the small places where trust is already taking root in your life. A moment of peace in the middle of worry. A friend who checks in. A prayer whispered in the dark. A decision to keep going. A sense—however faint—that God is near.

These are not small things. They are signs of grace.

May you find courage to trust God with what you cannot yet see. May you feel the steadying presence of Christ beside you. And may the Spirit breathe peace into the places where fear has taken hold.

Every blessing

Rev'd Joy

North Staffordshire Circuit (11/22)

Preaching Plan – August 2026

					August				
					2	9	16	23	30
					18th Sunday in Ordinary Time	19th Sunday in Ordinary Time	20th Sunday in Ordinary Time	21st Sunday in Ordinary Time	22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time
Lectionary Year (A)					Genesis 32:22-31	Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28	Genesis 45:1-15	Exodus 1:8-2:10	Exodus 3:1-15
(Principal Service)					Psalms 17:1-7, 15	Psalms 105:1-6, 16-22, 45b	Psalms 133	Psalms 124	Psalms 105:1-6, 23-26, 45b
					Romans 9:1-5	Romans 10:5-15	Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32	Romans 12:1-8	Romans 12:9-21
					Matthew 14:13-21	Matthew 14:22-33	Matthew 15: (10-20), 21-28	Matthew 16:13-20	Matthew 16:21-28
Please Pray For:					Cross Heath	Halmer End	Higherland	Madeley	St Luke's
Cross Heath (23)	LS	11.00	StF	NIV	Chadwick	N Jones	Rowley	CS @ Wolstanton	LA
		3.00	MWB						
Silverdale (51)	LS	11.00	StF	MM	YouTube	Chadwick	Big Day Out	Emmaus	YouTube
		3.00							
		5.00							
Wolstanton (92)	LS	10.30	StF		Barnett	Wakelin HC	LA	Kirk/Ventom CS	Davies T
		3.00	MWB						
Audley (26)	JV	10.30	StF	SoF 1&2	US @ Bradwell	X	US @ St Luke's	CS @ Wolstanton	LA Prayer Brunch
		3.00	MWB	GNB	X	Wakelin	X	X	X
Bradwell (30)	JV	10.00	StF	SoF 1&2	Ventom US HC	LA	US @ St Luke's	CS @ Wolstanton	Chadwick
		3.00	MWB	NIV H&P					
Halmer End (19)	JV	10.30	H&P	SoF 1&2	LA	Irvine	US @ St Luke's	CS @ Wolstanton	US Madeley
		3.00	MWB	GNB					
Madeley (23)	JV	10.30	StF	SoF 1234	LA	Davies T	US @ St Luke's	CS @ Wolstanton	Ventom US
		3.00	MWB	NIV					
St Luke's (22)	JV	10.30	H&P	GNB	R Jones	US @ Higherland	Ventom US HC	CS @ Wolstanton	Matthews
		3.00	MWB						
Higherland (35)	JP	10.00	StF	MM	LA	Ventom HC US	Chadwick	CS @ Wolstanton	Barnett
		3.00							
		6.00	MWB						Café Church LA
Printed Service for this week prepared by:					Ventom	Heap	Parkes	Ventom	Heap

Eco Tips

Assist local wildlife during very hot weather. Provide hedgehogs with hedgehog biscuits (available at many pet stores and online) or dog biscuits (small/ crumbed) as their prey of slugs, snails and worms diminishes, and ensure a safe exit for them and other small mammals if you have a garden pond. Help garden birds by maintaining a filled bird bath and supplying supplementary food including black sunflower seeds, pinhead oatmeal, soaked sultanas, raisins, currants, mealworms, waxworms, and a nutritious seed mixture, when natural supplies become scarce. More tips can be found at arocha.org.uk/looking-after-wildlifein-the-heat/

A Rocha UK's Easy 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

Biscuits

Nappies (size 5, size 6, size 7, size 8)

Tinned fruit

Tinned vegetables

Tinned potatoes

Baked beans

Rice

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

Godly Play as Bible Study at Cross Heath Methodist Church

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, 3rd August at 6.30 pm** at **Cross Heath Methodist Church**. Come and see, wonder, and reflect deeply about stories you thought you knew.

Karen Barnett

Would you enjoy

Interesting speakers on a wide variety of topics,
entertainers and Afternoon Teas?

You will find a warm welcome at

'ELDERBERRIES'

We meet fortnightly on Mondays from 2.30 pm
At Wolstanton Methodist Church

Please look at our programme below to see what is
planned for the summer:

10th August: ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
24th August: 'Midlands Air Ambulance' with Sally McMahon

A donation of £3 is invited towards costs.

Higherland Church Coffee Bar 2pm-4pm on Monday 24th Aug



Everyone welcome to come and

Join in the chatter

Free snacks, cakes & drinks.



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

Come along @ 6pm

Sunday 30th Aug

CIRCUIT SERVICES

Circuit Service on Sunday 23rd August at 10.30 am at Wolstanton Methodist Church – Rev'd Helen Kirk & Rev'd Joy Ventom

Welcome Service for Rev'd Teddy Siwila
on Wednesday, 2nd September at 7.00 pm
at Wolstanton Methodist Church

Thank You

Many, many thanks to all the churches for their generous donations at:

The Local Preachers' Affirmation Service for the Leaders of Worship & Preachers Trust, £90 was collected and sent off.

The Farewell Service for Rev'd Liz, £580.00 was collected for Christian Aid.

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

1st 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

Monday 6.30-7.30pm Pilates with Nicola nicolajherd@hotmail.com

Tuesday 9.30am-10.30am Baby Signing and Tiny Talk for young babies under 1 year nicolaausterberry@tinytalk.co.uk

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

Tuesday 7.30pm-9pm: Church Music Group

1st 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

1st 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

Thursday 11.45am-12.45am Tots of Fun new mums social with coffee and cake for young babies and new mums 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

Friday 9.30am-11.30am Tots of Fun Playgroup totoffunuk@gmail.com

Saturday 9am-10.15am: Spanish lessons for children
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
Elevenes



On Wednesdays at 11am



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
Gitana Street, Hanley, ST1 1DY
01782 212146

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

MAGIC MOMENTS

FREE ENTRY

Crafts

Activities

Games

Tea, Coffee & Biscuits

Quiz

Bingo

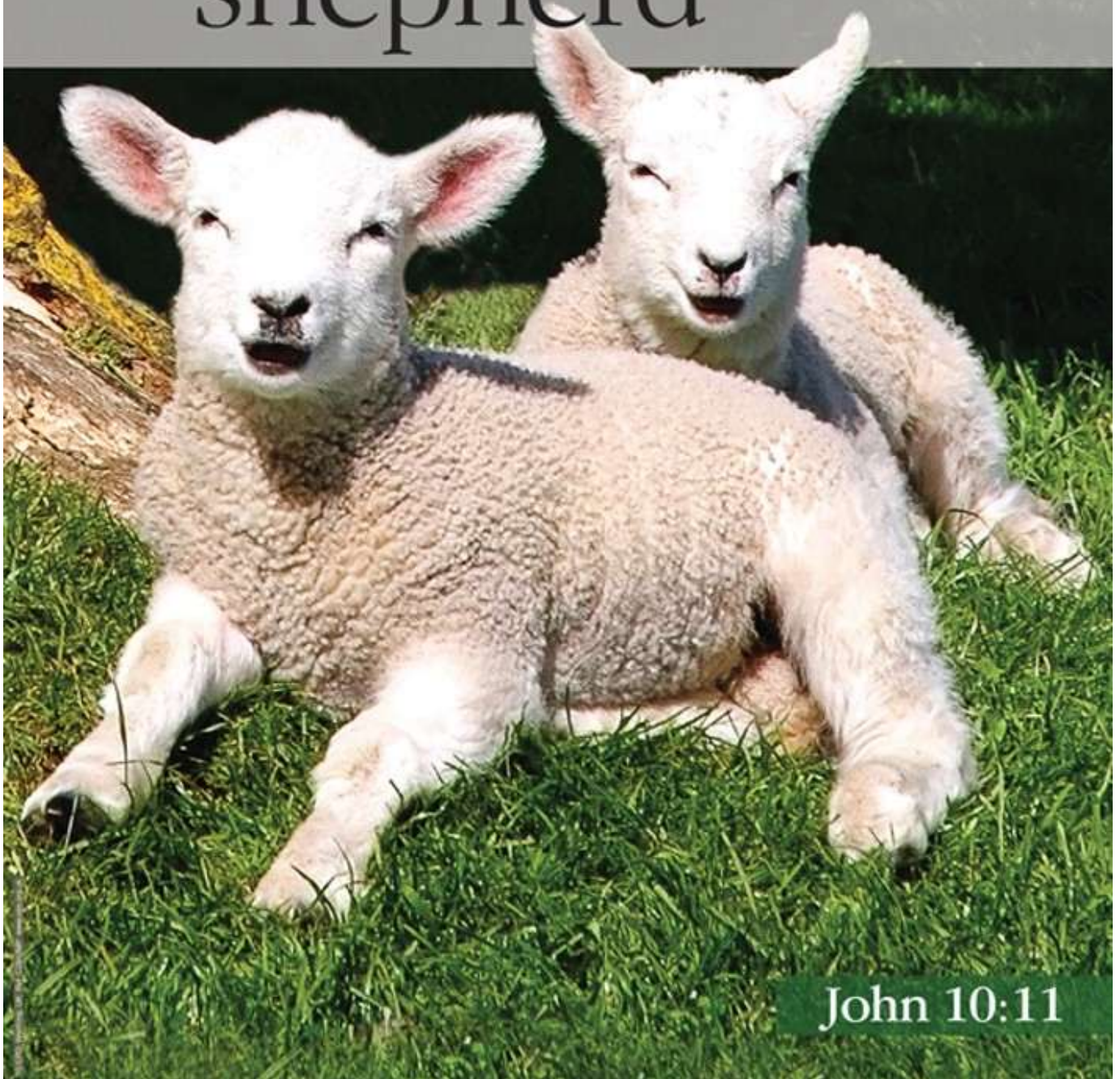
Stories

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.

Jesus said

I am the good shepherd



John 10:11