NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE METHODIST CIRCUIT

ISSUE 63

Newsletter
November 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.

Remembering our heroes, cherishing peace, and finding hope together

Dear Friends

November invites us to pause, remember, and look towards the future with hope. As we gather for Remembrance Sunday, we honour those who sacrificed their lives for our freedom and peace. As Advent approaches, we prepare to celebrate the coming of Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace. For me, these two occasions share a powerful message: we can face the future without fear because God journeys with us.

Last week, my visit to the National Memorial Arboretum and its Royal Memorial Gardens was a deeply moving experience. Walking among the memorials reminded me that behind every name lies a story of courage, sacrifice, and love. It made me reflect on the peace we enjoy today and the responsibility we share to protect it.

Here in our own communities, we see how precious peace is in the simple things of everyday life: families gathering together, neighbours supporting one another, children growing up with hope, and people finding friendship and belonging in our churches. These things may seem ordinary, but they are gifts we should never take for granted.

As we remember our heroes, may we honour their sacrifice by becoming peacemakers where we live, choosing kindness over division and understanding over prejudice. As Jesus reminds us, *"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God"* (Matthew 5:9).

This desire for peace leads us naturally into Advent, when we welcome the One who comes to bring hope to our troubled world.

Our Advent theme this year is "Don't Be Afraid." When the angel appeared to the shepherds, they were terrified, but the angel reassured them: *"Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people"* (Luke 2:10).

The good news was that God had come to live among us. In Jesus Christ, God entered our world to share our joys and sorrows, our hopes and fears. This is a message we need just as much today as the shepherds needed it then.

As individuals, families, and a church community, we may face uncertainty about the future. Yet we are not called to face these challenges alone. God is with us, guiding us and giving us courage to take the next step.

As we move from Remembrance into Advent, may we remember the sacrifices of the past, cherish the peace we share today, and trust God with the future. Let us make our churches places where the lonely find friendship, the anxious find encouragement, and everyone discovers the welcome and love of Christ.

The poppy reminds us of the sacrifices made for peace; the manger reminds us that God has come to bring us peace. Both call us to cherish life, love our neighbours, and become bearers of hope in our local community.

So, as we journey through November together, let us hold on to our Advent promise: Do not be afraid. God has come to live among us. God is with us, God journeys with us, and because God is with us, there is always hope.

May the peace of Christ be with you and your families throughout November and the Advent season.

With every blessing,

Rev Teddy Siwila

North Staffordshire Circuit (11/22)
Preaching Plan – November 2026

					November				
					1	8	15	22	29
					31st Sunday in Ordinary Time	Remembrance Sunday	33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time	Sunday Before Advent	Advent 1
Lectionary Year (A)					Micah 3:5-12	Joshua 24:1-3a,14-25	Judges 4:1-7	Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24	Isaiah 64:1-9
(Principal Service)					Psalm 43	Psalm 78:1-7	Psalm 123	Psalm 100 or Psalm 95:1-7	Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19
					1 Thessalonians 2:9-13	1 Thessalonians 4:13-18	1 Thessalonians 5:1-11	Ephesians 1:15-23	1 Corinthians 1:3-9
					Matthew 23:1-12	Matthew 25:1-13	Matthew 25:14-30	Matthew 25:31-46	Mark 13:24-37
Please Pray For:					St Luke's	Silverdale	Wolstanton	Audley	Bradwell
Cross Heath	TS	11.00	**StF**	NIV	Chadwick	LA	Wakelin HC	LA	Siwila
(23)		3.00	MWB						CS Advent @Bradwell
Higherland	TS/KB	10.00	**StF**	MM	Barnett	LA	Parkes HC	Davies T	Irvine
(35)		3.00							CS Advent @Bradwell
		6.00	MWB						Sutcliffe Café Church
Silverdale	TS	11.00	**StF**	MM	Café Church	Davies T	Emmaus	X	Christmas Café Church
(51)		3.00						Siwila Golden Anniversary Sunday @ 4pm	CS Advent @Bradwell
		5.00							Refuel
Wolstanton	TS	10.30	**StF**		Siwila HC	Siwila	Rowley	LA	Davies T
(92)		3.00	MWB						CS Advent @Bradwell
Audley	JV	10.30	**StF**	SoF 1&2	R Jones CAMEO	Ventom Cenatoph	Ventom MS	Parkes HC	LA prayer brunch
(25)		3.00	MWB	GNB					CS Advent @Bradwell
Bradwell	JV	10.00	**StF**	SoF 1&2	Ventom HC	LA @ 10.15 am	N Jones	Siwila HC	X
(30)		3.00	MWB	NIV H&P					CS Advent @Bradwell
Halmer End	JV	10.30	**StF**	SoF 1&2	LA	Reeves @ St John's	Barnett	Barnett	Ventom HC
(19)		3.00	MWB	GNB H&P					CS Advent @Bradwell
Madeley	JV	10.30	**StF**	SoF 1234	LA	R Jones	Baker	Ventom HC	LA
(23)		3.00	MWB	NIV					CS Advent @Bradwell
St Luke's	JV	10.30	H&P	GNB	Willis HC	LA	Hardacre	Harrison T	Matthews
(22)		3.00	MWB						CS Advent @Bradwell
Printed Service for this week prepared by:					Heap	Siwila	Parkes	Ventom	Heap

Eco Tips

As winter creeps in, homes are really important. God calls us to give nature a home, too. Does your garden have a bird feeder? Could your balcony or windowsill do with some plant life? If you don't own the house you could make a case to the homeowner for a bird box, hedgehog highway or whatever. (For a hedgehog highway do make sure the neighbours are OK with you making a small hole in a shared fence). Why not gather your housemates, friends and family to discuss how a new recycling, heating or transport arrangement might work for you all - you'll go further together!

A Rocha UK's Easy Eco Tips 2026 Calendar

A BIG THANK YOU

Thank you to all the churches who donated their harvest gifts to Foodbank this year and a special thanks to those who donate food all the year round. It is time for an update now.

In the past twelve months 69,940 kilograms of food has been donated to us either by giving to a particular food bank centre or directly to our warehouse in Knutton. The percentage of food donated by churches is 14%, it is mostly businesses that contribute to our stock

9,940 people have been fed of which 3,252 have been children. Unfortunately the demand for food is greater than supply at the moment and so we have purchased food to top up stock by £ 48,837. Whilst at the moment we have a positive sum of money in the bank, can this be maintained long term?

So can you as an individual help, or can you ask your church members to be involved by either donating food or becoming a friend of Foodbank by giving a donation of money whenever you or they can afford. Every little helps as the Tesco motto goes. Tesco are a good example of business help given, every time we have a supermarket collect Tesco will double whatever we collect, so please put items in our box in store if you are able.

Times are hard and we all know how much our household bills have gone up so we fully understand that not everyone can give. It may be that you yourself are struggling to buy food so please do feel able to ask for help if that is appropriate. Whilst we do have guidelines to follow, it is not often we say no to needy folk who obviously need support. Every centre can also offer professional advice, given by MONEY MATTERS, on how clients can move forward financially so it is not a case of just giving out food, advice is there too.

I hope you find this helpful, please do ask me if you want more information. Thank you again to all our faithful food providers.

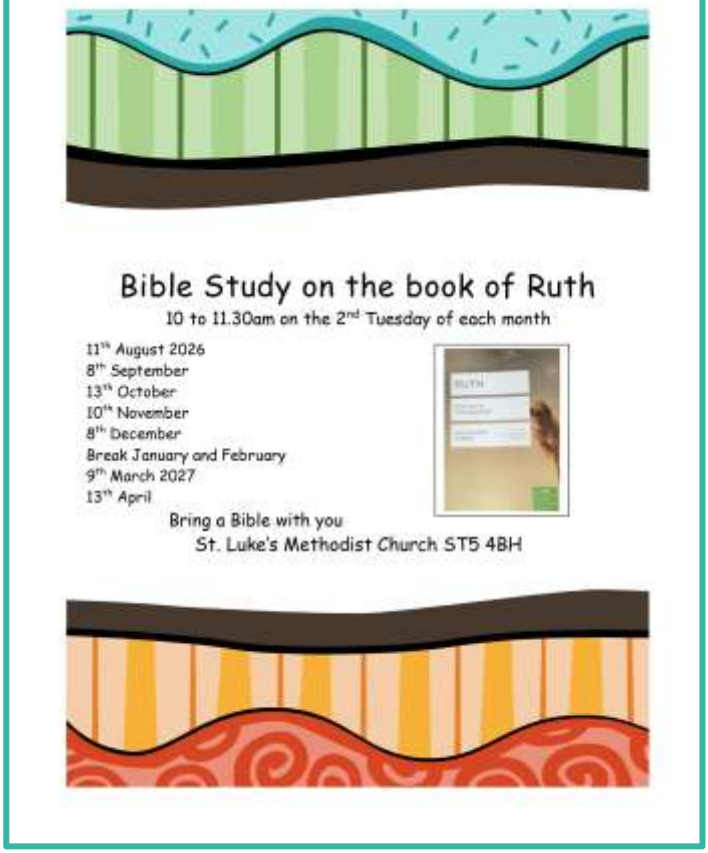
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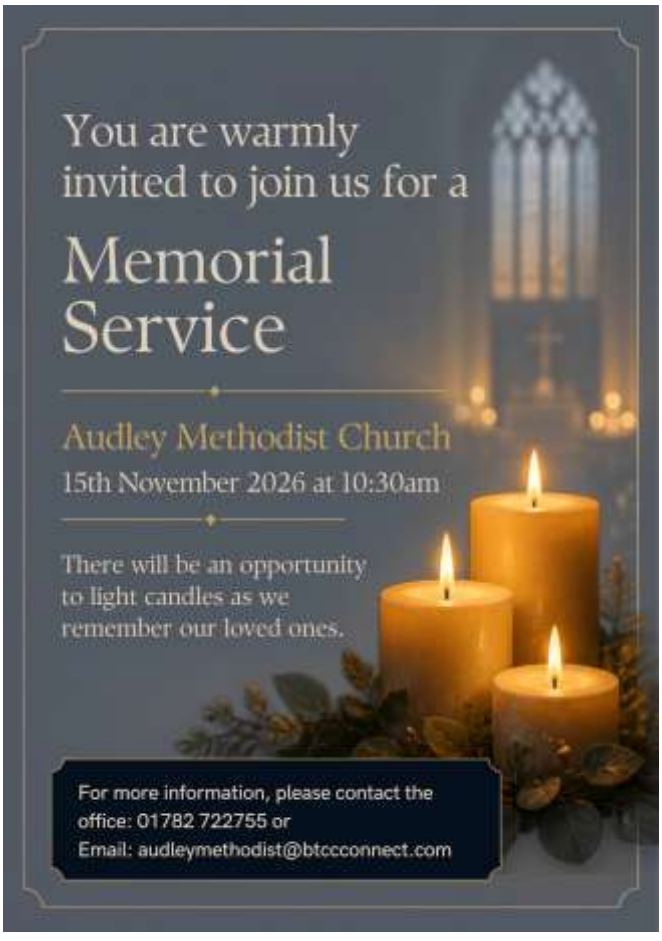
Shortages at the present time:

- **Bags for life**
- **Chocolate**
- **Hot tinned meat**
- **Shampoo**
- **Sponge puddings**
- **Tinned custard**
- **Tinned fish**
- **Tinned vegetables**


DON'T BE AFRAID
Jesus is here
Join us this Christmas
at our
Circuit Advent Service
on Sunday 29th November
at 3pm
at Bradwell Methodist Church
The Methodist Church
itsawayoflife.org.uk/Christmas


WOLSTANTON METHODIST CHURCH
Invites you to
'ELDERBERRIES'
embracing all ages and various interests
MONDAY 9th. NOVEMBER at 2.30p.m.
'REMEMBRANCE'
With Andrew Elson of The Royal British Legion
MONDAY 23rd. NOVEMBER at 2.30p.m.
Julie Ellis of Christian Resources for Life
[formerly The Methodist Book Centre]
With cards, books, diaries, candles & ideas for Christmas gifts for sale
MONDAY 30th. NOVEMBER at 2.30p.m.
'BLOOD BIKERS'
With Helen Bundy
Chat & Refreshments
An opportunity to renew friendships
and make new ones – come and join us

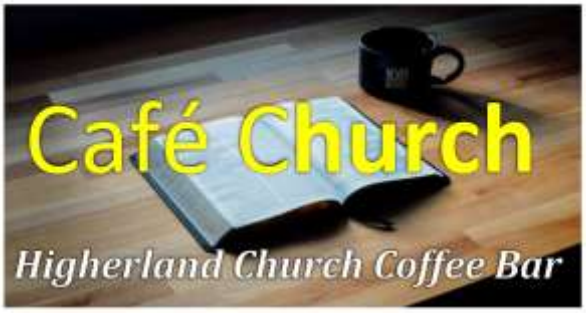

Bible Study on the book of Ruth
10 to 11.30am on the 2nd Tuesday of each month
11th August 2026
8th September
13th October
10th November
8th December
Break January and February
9th March 2027
13th April
Bring a Bible with you
St. Luke's Methodist Church ST5 4BH


You are warmly invited to join us for a
Memorial Service
Audley Methodist Church
15th November 2026 at 10:30am
There will be an opportunity to light candles as we remember our loved ones.
For more information, please contact the office: 01782 722755 or
Email: audleymethodist@btccconnect.com


BRADWELL
VILLAGE
Christmas
FESTIVAL
Thursday 19th November 2026
from 5pm
Local Stalls
Food & Drink
Entertainment
Family Fun
Santa's Grotto







Friendly Chatter & discussion,

Welcoming Smiles & a good laugh,

Songs, poems, thoughts & Prayers

Drinks & biscuits.

Come along @ 6pm

Sunday 29th Nov



Madeley Methodist Church

Christmas Fayre

Saturday 5 December
10.30am - 12pm

Chocolate Tombola
Raffle, Cakes
Fancy Goods
Refreshments:

Suggested donation £2.50 to include hot drink and mince pie

EVERYONE WELCOME

Proceeds to Church Funds
Poolside, Madeley,
CW3 9HL





Cross Heath Methodist Church

CHRISTMAS COFFEE MORNING AND NATIVITY FESTIVAL

Saturday 19th December
@10:30am
Refreshments Cakes
Raffle Good as New Stall
Tombola

Come and see the church decorated for Christmas with many different crib scenes.

Madeley Methodist Church
invites you to a…

Christingle Service for all ages

Monday 21 December at 6.30pm
Led by Rev. Joy Ventom with
'Poolside Puppets'



Refreshments afterwards:
Mulled wine (non-alcoholic),
tea, coffee, juice,
mince pies or chocolate cake

Everyone welcome

Donation plate for Karibuni Children

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

Elevenses



On Wednesdays at 11am

Chat

Free Refreshments

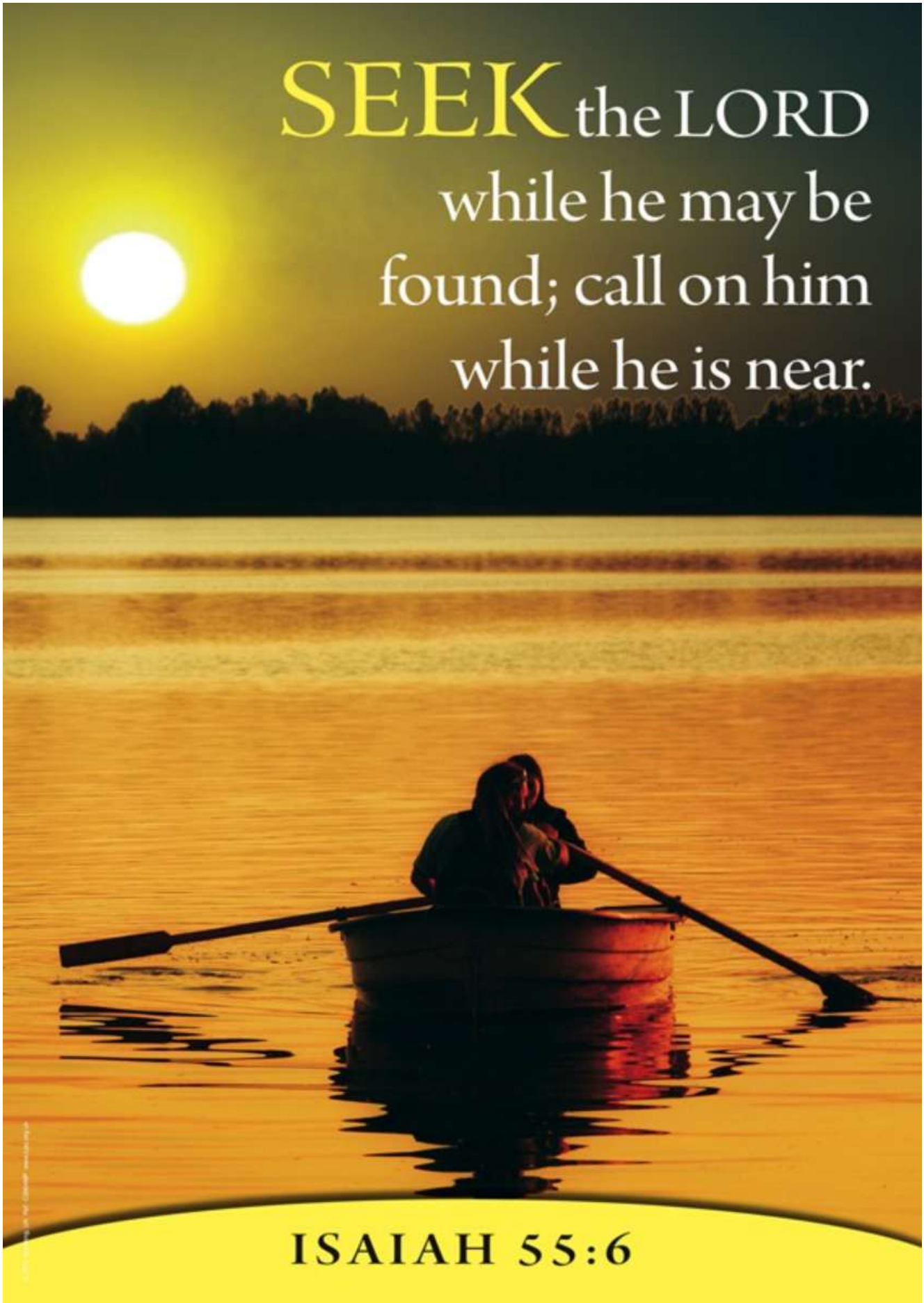
Activities

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
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
Quiz
Bingo
Games
Tea, Coffee & Biscuits
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 Jeanette Hodges on 01782 634766 or look on our Facebook page.


SEEK the LORD
while he may be
found; call on him
while he is near.
ISAIAH 55:6