

Newsletter

December 2025

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.

December 2025

Dear Friend

Every Advent a lovely friend of mine used to give me a poinsettia plant and every year by Christmas Eve the plant had given up the ghost and wilted and died. It didn't matter what I did – nothing kept it alive. My friend knew this but she faithfully continued to turn up on my doorstep at the beginning of December year on year and present me with a beautiful plant. My friend died a number of years ago now but I have continued to place a poinsettia somewhere in the house every Advent since. And that's because it was my lovely friend who told me this Mexican legend about the first poinsettia plants.

There were once two little children, Pepita and her cousin, Pedro. They loved the Christmas parades and parties in the days leading up to Christmas but, being poor, they never had money to buy presents. They especially wished that they could have something to offer to the Baby Jesus in the large manger scene inside the village church.

One Christmas Eve, the two poor children set out for the church empty handed as usual, to watch as many of the other children brought their fine gifts to the Christ Child in his manger. As they got closer to church, however, little Pepita grew desperate because she had no gift, and, kneeling down by the side of the road, she picked a handful of scraggly weeds, which she made into a bouquet. She was ashamed of her gift as she entered the little village church, but Pedro tried to comfort his cousin by saying, "You know, Pepita, that even the most humble gift, if you give it out of love, will be acceptable in his eyes."

Of course, Pepita was teased by other children when they saw her pathetic gift. But she kept silent, knowing that this was the best she could do. As she walked towards the altar where the manger scene was set up, she remembered Pedro's kind words: "You know, Pepita, that even the most humble gift, if you give it out of love, will be acceptable in his eyes." Then she knelt and carefully laid her bouquet of plain weeds on the straw in the nativity scene as her gift to Baby Jesus.

Suddenly, in full view of everyone in the church, the green top leaves of her weeds burst into star-shaped flowers of brilliant red, and soon the whole manger was surrounded by the same beautiful crimson stars. From that day on the deep red flowers would bloom each year during the Christmas season and would come to be known as *Flores de Noche Buena* – Christmas Eve Flowers.

The legend always reminds me that we often turn up at worship with little more than the equivalent of a handful of weeds. We may be distracted or upset, not really prepared for worship, and too tired to concentrate on prayer, but Jesus, who sees our hearts, transforms our pitiful efforts into a gift that is pleasing in God's eyes.

And then I'm reminded that there are times when I might be critical of the efforts of others – perhaps a job hasn't been done to the standard I expected – and I pray that instead of criticising the 'weeds' I can appreciate that they are in fact gifts. And that when all we can manage is a brief phone call or a card to someone going through a tough time and think we haven't done much, God takes those 'weeds' and turns them into the very gift that was needed at that time.

I pray that this year's Christmas poinsettias be an encouragement to us all to never give up, even when what we offer seems inadequate or the results of what we've done are disappointing.

Remember Pedro's words: "Even the most humble gift, if you give it out of love, will be acceptable in his eyes."

May I wish you, and all those you love and care about, a very happy Christmas.

Liz



CIRCUIT APPOINTMENT

Following the visit last Saturday of the Reverend Teddy Siwila and his wife Mwlo we are pleased to announce that an invitation to join our Circuit has been offered and accepted.

Reverend Teddy is currently in the Wolverhampton Circuit, has three boys all in higher education and has been serving in this country for the last nine years, previously in Zambia for many more years before coming to this country.

Both Reverend Teddy and his wife loved the conversations that were had on the visit, loved the people they met and are excited to be journeying with us as we take the next steps in our Circuit's journey.

North Staffordshire Circuit (11/22)

Preaching Plan – December 2025

					December			
					7	14	21	28
					Advent 2	Advent 3	Advent 4	Christmas 1
Lectionary Year (A)					Isaiah 11:1-10	Isaiah 35:1-10	Isaiah 7:10-16	Isaiah 63:7-9
(Principal Service)					Psalm 72:1-7,18-19	Luke 1:46b-55	Psalm 80:1-7,17-19	Psalm 148
					Romans 15:4-13	James 5:7-10	Romans 1:1-7	Hebrews 2:10-18
					Matthew 3:1-12	Matthew 11:2-11	Matthew 1:18-25	Matthew 2:13-23
Please Pray For:					Madeley	St Luke's	Silverdale	Wolstanton
Cross Heath	LS	11.00	StF	NIV	Harrison T	Singleton Christingle	Pritchard HC	LA
(23)		3.00	MSB					
Silverdale	LS	11.00	StF	MM	Chadwick	X	Singleton HC	X
(39)		5.00				Carols by Candlelight @ 6pm		X
Wolstanton	LS	10.30	StF		Singleton HC	Pritchard	Davies T	Barnett
(82)		3.00	MWB				Carol Service 6.30 pm	
Audley	JV	10.30	StF	SoF 1&2	US @ St Luke's	X	LA Carols	X
(28)		3.00	MWB	GNB	X	Harrison T	X	X
Bradwell	JV	10.00	StF	SoF 1&2	US @ St Luke's	LA Bursley Academy	Ventom Carols	X
(30)		3.00	MWB	NIV H&P				
Halmer End	JV	10.30	H&P	SoF 1&2	US @ St Luke's	Willis HC	LA Carols	X
(20)		3.00	MWB	GNB				
Madeley	JV	10.30	StF	SoF 1234	US @ St Luke's	Ventom HC	Chadwick	X
(23)		3.00	MWB	NIV				
St Luke's	JV	10.30	H&P	GNB	Ventom TS US	X	Wakelin HC	X
(22)		3.00	MWB			Ventom Nativity		
Higherland	JP	10.00	StF	MM	R Jones	Nativity LA @ 11 am	X	Chadwick
(36)		6.00	MWB				Pritchard Carols @ 3pm	
Printed Service for this week prepared by:					Singleton	Pritchard	Ventom	Heap

Eco Tips

Celebrate a simpler and greener Christmas. As Advent begins, let us turn our gaze to the true meaning of Christmas - God with us, Emmanuel. The humble birth of a child in a stable may seem distant from the way we celebrate today, but it offers a profound reminder of simplicity. This season, let's reflect on the story that we wish our actions and choices to tell. Consider A Rocha UK's blog on journeying towards a zero-waste Christmas arocha.org.uk/journeying-towards-a-zero-waste-christmas. May our hearts and our celebrations align with the simplicity and beauty of the Christmas story.

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 but it is not a comprehensive list. As we lead into the Christmas period you may want to donate items for Christmas Day lunch.

Items we suggest include:

- Tinned meat
- Pasta sauce
- Rice
- Biscuits
- Milk
- Coffee
- Tinned vegetables
- Toiletries, including nappies
- Christmas treats

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 ADVENT REFLECTION

HOPE. PEACE. JOY. LOVE.

Wednesday 3rd December
at
7 pm
at
St Luke's Methodist Church

Made with PosterMyWall.com

New Bible Study Group

First Wednesday of every
month

2.30pm-4pm

Walstanton Methodist Church

All welcome

Audley Methodist Church

Invites all to our Christmas
Services

Sunday 30th November, 3pm, 1st Advent

Sunday 7th December, 10:30am,
Toy Service at St Luke's, Clayton

Sunday 14th December, 3pm

Sunday 21st December, 10:30am,
Carol Service



Tuesday 23rd December, 10am to 12pm
Carols at Coffee Morning

Tuesday 23rd December, 5pm Carol Singing
in Audley Village outside Style Sisters

Christmas Day, 10am

Madeley Methodist Church
Poolside, Madeley, CW3 9DX

Christmas Fayre

**Saturday 6 December
10.30am - 12pm**

Stalls: Cakes, tombola, raffle



Tea/coffee & mince pies
Children's activities



Entrance fee, suggested donation £2



Everyone Welcome

Proceeds to Church Funds



The **Methodist** Church

The Dane and Trent Circuit
Seeks a

Pastoral and Outreach Worker

Part-time (10 hours a week) £7,072 pa

The role requires a committed Christian to provide pastoral ministry in two small churches in the Congleton area, and to lead the congregations in community outreach, in collaboration with the Minister in pastoral oversight.

For further information and an application pack please email:
office@danetrentmethodist.org.uk

Applications by noon December 10th 2025
Interviews January 19th 2026

Watching and Waiting in Advent



A Quiet Day led by Revd Helen Kirk

Saturday 6 December 2025
10:00am to 3:30pm
at The Oblate Retreat Centre
Wistaston Hall, Crewe, CW2 8JS

Lunch will be provided
Retreat cost £10 per person

Please book with Rob via chester.stoke@btconnect.com
stating any special dietary requirements or access needs.

Christmas
CONCERT
Fustian
Musical Misfits
Higherland Methodist Church
6pm Saturday 6th December
Tickets £5
includes light refreshments
for tickets call Kev:
07988 532738

Higherland Church Coffee Bar
12noon on Monday 15th Dec



Everyone welcome to come and
Join in the chatter
Free snacks, cakes & drinks.

Get ready for wonderful

Christmas Services

St. Luke's Methodist Church, Clayton ST5 4BH

Celebrate with us the real meaning of Christmas

Sunday 7th December 2025 10.30am
Toy Service – Bring a gift for a child or parent unwrapped.

Sunday 14th December 2025 3pm
Nativity – Come and help us tell the story of the First Christmas

Sunday 21st December 2025 10.30am
Carol Service

Thursday 25th December
SERVICE-CHRISTMAS DAY 10.00am

Christmas
MOVIE NIGHT
AT SILVERDALE METHODIST CHURCH
We're in EARL STREET, ST5 6NF - Behind the Chippy!

Wed 17th December
Doors open @ 4:45pm
Film starts @ 5pm

Film Showing TO BE ANNOUNCED...
the Tuck Shop will be OPEN!
ENTRY = 50p EACH

Subscribe to our
YouTube
CHANNEL

@ Instagram
facebook

www.silverdalemethodistchurch.org.uk

Madeley Methodist Church
invites you to a...
Christingle Service
for all ages
Thursday 18 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

Angel Festival

Wolstanton Methodist Church



Saturday 20th Dec 10am – 4pm

Sunday 21st Dec 2pm-4pm

Come along to Wolstanton Methodist Church and discover the part played by ANGELS in the Christmas Story







SILVERDALE METHODIST CHURCH
PRESENTS OUR...



Christmas QUIZ NIGHT

20 DEC | 6:00 PM | £2 per person

We're in EARL STREET, ST5 6NF - behind the Chippy!

NO TICKET NEEDED, TURN-UP & FORM A TEAM (max. of 6 per team)
HOT DRINKS WILL BE AVAILABLE TO PURCHASE, AND THE TUCK SHOP WILL BE OPEN

Made with PosterMyWall.com www.silverdalemethodistchurch.org.uk

JOIN US FOR OUR

CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE AT WOLSTANTON METHODIST CHURCH

WITH MUSIC FROM NEWCASTLE UNDER LYME COMMUNITY ORCHESTRA AND OUR CHURCH MUSICIANS

SUNDAY 21ST DECEMBER AT 6.30PM



SILVERDALE METHODIST CHURCH

Bring your favourite gift!

Christmas Day

FAMILY SERVICE

@ **11am**

an **INTERACTIVE** celebration, lasting approx. 45 minutes



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The Methodist Conference
Telford 2026



**25th June – 1st July
2026**

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

An exciting opportunity to support
The **METHODIST** Conference

Taking place at The Telford International Centre

Please make initial contact through **YOUR** District

West Midlands info@wmmethodists.org.uk

Chester and Stoke chester.stoke@btconnect.com

Be part of the team that makes The Methodist Conference work!

**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

Chat

Activities

Free
Refreshments

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

MAGIC MOMENTS

FREE ENTRY

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.



*Be still, and
know that I
am God*

PSALM 46:10