

Newsletter

May 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.

Dear Friends

As I write this many people around the world are mourning the death of Pope Francis. He was someone I admired for his humility and his commitment to sharing the love of Jesus with some of the poorest and most marginalised in this world. Many things have been written about him over the past few days but one story that has stayed with me is that of the prayer that Pope Francis's grandmother taught him when he was a young boy – 'Jesus, make my heart more like yours.'

Pat Marsh described what that prayer might look like if we were to actually live out those words.

Arms Outstretched

With arms outstretched
you gave yourself,
the whole of yourself.

Man on the gallows,
bowed and bloodied,
you gave yourself
for me.

With arms wide open
calling me,
inviting me,
you stand before me still

challenging me,
inspiring me,
to live my life,
the whole of my life,
to live my life
for you.

With open hands

just as I am

I come.

Having a 'Jesus' heart influences the words we use, the actions we take, and makes a difference to the world around us. Having a 'Jesus' heart is another way of describing evangelism. Evangelism is all about sharing our faith and we don't do that simply through words but through the very way in which we live our lives. Through the summer months the Circuit will be offering the opportunity to explore what that might look like for us as individuals and as churches. 'Everyone an Evangelist' is a course that helps those taking part to share their faith in an authentic way with more confidence. It helps us to discover more about ourselves as disciples of Jesus and offers us the skills we might need to talk about what we believe.

And all we have to do is to come, just as we are, with open hands and to commit ourselves to pray those words of Pope Francis's grandmother 'Jesus, make my heart more like yours.'

Eastertide blessings

Liz

Details of the 'Everyone an Evangelist' course can be found later in this newsletter.

North Staffordshire Circuit (11/22)

Preaching Plan – May 2025

					May			
					4	11	18	25
					3rd Sunday of Easter	4th Sunday of Easter (Christian Aid Week)	5th Sunday of Easter	Aldersgate Sunday
Lectionary Year (C)					Acts 9:1-6 (7-20)	Acts 9:36-43	Acts 11:1-18	Acts 16:9-15
(Principal Service)					Psalm 30	Psalm 23	Psalm 148	Psalm 67
					Revelation 5:11-14	Revelation 7:9-17	Revelation 21:1-6	Revelation 21:10,22-22:5
					John 21:1-19	John 10:22-30	John 13:31-35	John 14:23-29 or John 5:1-9
Please Pray For:					Higherland	Madeley	St Luke's	Silverdale
Cross Heath	LS	9.00	StF	NIV				
		11.00			LA	Singleton HC	R Jones CA	Pritchard
(23)		3.00	MSB		CS EO Audley 3 pm			
Silverdale	LS	11.00	StF	MM	Café Church	Compassion' Celebration LA	Singleton HC	Emmaus
(40)		5.00			CS EO Audley 3 pm			Refuel
Wolstanton	LS	10.30	StF		Singleton	Chadwick	LA	Barnett HC
(85)		3.00	MWB		CS EO Audley 3 pm			
Audley	JV	10.30	StF	SoF 1&2	X	Cooper HC US	X	LA
(27)		3.00	MWB	GNB	CS EO	X	B Harrison T	X
Bradwell	JV	10.00	StF	SoF 1&2	Chambers HC	US @ Audley	Willis	Matthews T
(33)		3.00	MWB	NIV H&P	CS EO Audley 3 pm			
Halmer End	JV	10.30	H&P	SoF 1&2	R Jones	US @ Audley	LA	Irvine
(23)		3.00	MWB	GNB	CS EO Audley 3 pm			
Madeley	JV	10.30	StF	SoF 1234	Chadwick	US @ Audley	LA	Singleton HC
(23)		3.00	MWB	NIV	CS EO Audley 3 pm			
St Luke's	JV	10.30	H&P	GNB	Davies T	US @ Audley	LA	E Perry HC
(23)		3.00	MWB		CS EO Audley 3 pm			
Higherland	JP	10.00	StF	MM	Willis HC	Pritchard	N Jones	Chadwick
(36)		6.00	MWB		CS EO Audley 3 pm			Pritchard Café Church
Printed Service for this week prepared by:					Singleton	Pritchard	Heap	Singleton
Baldwins Gate	JP				Wednesday 21st May, 2.30 pm - Rev'd James Pritchard			

Eco Tips

Support pollinators ... nothing says Spring like the buzz of a bee! But bees are declining because of habitat loss, climate change and agricultural intensification. Tuesday 20 May is World Bee Day, so look around to see how you can improve habitats for bees and other pollinators - even small efforts make a difference. Read more about bees, butterflies and habitats that support them such as wildflowers, in our Target 25 resources at arocha.org.uk/what-we-do/target-25 and pray for the rejuvenation of these crucial pollinators.

Foodbank – please click on this link [here](#).

Thank you to everyone across the Circuit who gives regularly to Foodbank through their church. Foodbank remains open through these troubled times and demand for food is high. Can I please ask you to all keep on giving by taking your donations to your nearest Foodbank.



Clayton St Luke's host a session
on Tuesday morning. 10.00am – 12 noon

All Saints, Madeley host a session
on a Monday morning. 11.00 am - 12.30 pm

Cornerstone, High Street, Knutton, ST5 6BX
On Wednesday afternoon 2.00 pm – 4.00pm

Chesterton Pentecostal church
on Thursday Morning. 10.00 -12.00 noon

Newcastle Congregational church
on Thursday afternoon. 2.00 pm – 4.00pm

St Thomas church Kidsgrove
on Friday afternoon 1.00 pm – 3.00 pm

or you can take your contribution to our warehouse on Unit 18 Brock Way, Silverdale, ST5 6AZ (Opposite the Post Office Sorting Office). on a Monday afternoon or Wednesday morning .

Your gifts large or small are very much appreciated and are a lifeline to those sadly more vulnerable than ourselves.

Please give us a ring if you want to drop your gift off at our house!

Carol and Marion Reddish TEL 01782 613265

If you would like to make a monetary donation to Newcastle Staffs Foodbank you can contact the Trustee/Treasurer Paul A Roberts for details: -

tel: 0300 102 9088 or email him on

accounts@newcastlestaffs.foodbank.org.uk.

If you would like to Gift Aid your donation please visit the website or contact Paul A Roberts for details.

People can also contact info@newcastlestaffs.foodbank.org.uk for details to donate food or money donations.

At the present time Foodbank are short of the following items:-

Tinned Tomatoes

Tinned Spaghetti

Tinned Fruit

Tinned Veg

Rice

Jam

Noodles

Cereal

Biscuits

Pasta Sauce

Education for All Hope for All



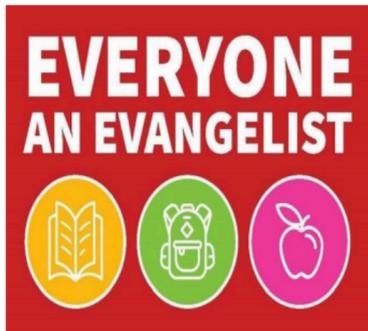
Education transforms lives and communities. Open God's promise of hope for all people and support the World Mission Fund this Easter.

The service will be held at Audley Methodist
Church

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

on Sunday 4th May starting at 3.00 p.m.

 **The Methodist Church**



A programme from the Methodist Church that will equip us to share our faith in authentic ways that consists of a half day introduction, a six week course and a practical “have a go” project to be done together over the summer. It sounds scary but it's not. It's an exciting opportunity to learn just how easy it is.

Saturday 24th May 2025 10am – 12noon
Wolstanton Methodist Church
INTRODUCTION DAY

LIFE ON THE FRONTLINE COURSE

THURSDAY EVENINGS 7.30 -9pm
St. Luke's Methodist Church

5th, 12th, 19th and 26th June
3rd and 10th July

FRIDAY MORNINGS 10.30am – 12 noon
Wolstanton Methodist Church

6th, 13th, 20th and 27th June
4th and 11th July

Saturday 19th July 2025 10am – 12noon
Wolstanton Methodist Church
GATHERING DAY TO REVIEW LIFE ON THE FRONTLINE
AND PLAN SUMMER PROJECTS

Saturday 6th Sept 2025 10am – 12noon
Wolstanton Methodist Church
FAITHFULNESS & FRUITFULNESS – A CELEBRATION

To sign up for this exciting opportunity please contact Michelle in the Circuit Office
01782 612648 northstaffscircuit@hotmail.co.uk

Godly Play as Bible Study

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, 5th May at 6.30 pm** at **Wolstanton Methodist Church**. Come and see, wonder, and reflect deeply about stories you thought you knew.

Karen Barnett



Madeley Methodist Church (CW3 9DX)
invites you to a
Spring Fayre
on
Saturday 10th May
10.30am - 12pm
Cakes - Tombola - Raffle - Plants - Crafts - Refreshments
Everyone Welcome
PROCEEDS TO CHURCH FUNDS



Wolstanton Methodist Church
Spring plant & craft sale
Saturday May 17th
10am - 12pm



 **Methodist Women in Britain**
Chester and Stoke on Trent District
“GLOW” PROJECT LAUNCH
 **Saturday 17th May**
10-30am Coffee Served
11am Talk on our new project
Followed by Lunch
At
St Lukes Methodist Church
Clayton, Newcastle-under-Lyme
ST5 4BH

Everyone Welcome – Men, Ladies & Children
Donations for GLOW Project

Higherland Church Coffee Bar

2pm-4pm Monday 19th May



Everyone welcome to come and

Join in the chatter

Free snacks, cakes & drinks.

Baldwins Gate

Methodist Community

(Baldwins Gate, Newcastle, Staffs, ST5 5DA)

Mid-Week Service

on the third Wednesday of each
month at 2.30 pm

Wednesday, 21st May 2025 –
Rev'd James Pritchard

Please come and join us.
All are very welcome.

Café Church

Higherland Church Coffee Bar

Friendly Chatter & discussion,

Welcoming smiles & a good laugh,

Songs, poems, thoughts & Prayers

Drinks & biscuits.

Come along @ 6pm

Sunday 25th May

Bradwell Methodist Church

—75th ANNIVERSARY—



Sat 14th June 10am-3.30pm
Photo's & Archives on Display

Sunday
10am

Anniversary
Service led by Rev.
John Taylor

We look forward to welcoming you!

AMERICAN MEAL AND QUIZ NIGHT



Friday 4th July

(American Independence Day)

7:00pm

Cross Heath Methodist Church

**Come and enjoy hotdogs, burgers,
doughnuts, Coca Cola and other
Americian delights, followed by one of
our famous quizzes**



Book your place: 01782 614436

£8 per person

Book Swop at Bradwell Methodist Church

There is a new free book swop library outside
Bradwell Methodist Church. Please take a look
and if you have any unwanted books please pop
them in.



Fustian & Musical Misfits SING-ALONG



Higherland Methodist Church

6pm - Saturday 12th July

Tickets £5 Each, Incl. light refreshments

Call Kev: 07988 532 738

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



**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 Jeanette Hodges
on 01782 634766 or look on our Facebook page.

REJOICE



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REJOICE IN THE LORD ALWAYS.

Philippians 4:4a