

This is our weekly bulletin. The bulletin 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. All items for the bulletin need to be in for Wednesday morning.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Dear Friends,

Thank you for all that you have been doing to enable as safe a place as possible for worship, I realise that we have all had to adapt to a different way of working. We are though still the people called Methodists and we seek to continue to be a Christian presence especially with our local communities.

My colleagues and I thought it would be helpful to add some additional advisory notes once most restrictions are lifted on **Monday 19th July**.

Please note these notes are not mandatory but **advisory**.

These complement the Connexional and Government guidelines see

<https://www.methodist.org.uk/for-churches/property/coronavirus-guidance-for-property/>

With every blessing,
John Palmer

Advice Notes

Risk Assessments

Risk Assessments will still be required to be undertaken and updated accordingly.

Face coverings in Worship from 19th July

Whilst there are no restricted numbers for worship including weddings, funerals or baptisms it is still advised that face covering should be worn.

This would apply where there are a greater number of people present but especially to some of our smaller places of worship.

A conversation between the local minister and church stewards will need to have taken place and advised say numbers in a smaller place of worship (confined spaces) could be advised to wear face coverings for numbers over 12 people attending.

It is anticipated that some worshippers may wish to continue to wear face coverings, which is absolutely fine.

Social Distancing from 19th July

Whilst there are no social distancing rules, the risks to those deemed vulnerable need to be considered.

We recognise that some people will still feel anxious about being too near people, so we all need to understand that and some may choose to sit further away from people.

Singing from 19th July

Whilst the singing restrictions have been lifted this does not mean that we should all sing with loudness and gusto. Singing is at the heart of Methodism however we also need to consider the possible risks at the moment of spreading infection to others.

Handshaking and Hugging from 19th July

Whilst this may be a natural part of our fellowship together as our greeting each other, it is advised at the moment that we should refrain from this. If we do shake hands then before we leave the premises, we should sanitise our hands.

Cleaning & Hygiene from 19th July

On entering and exiting the building we should encourage the use of hand sanitisers.

All our churches should be safe and clean place to be in with good ventilation.

Sanitising areas that have been used or where people have been sitting or touching light switches etc.

The toilets need to be cleaned thoroughly on a very regular basis.

Holy Communion from 19th July

It is advised that those administering the elements (bread and wine) should get into a habit of sanitising their hands before offering them. Asking people to take their own cup from the communion rack/tray may help to limit the hand-to-hand risks. It is also advisable that we all use a single cup of wine rather than a shared single chalice.

Tea/Coffee after Worship from 19th July

This is allowed to be served after worship; however, we will need to think carefully how this can safely operate. It is advisable that plates of biscuits should not be put out for everyone through risk of people touching them. Rather we adopt new methods as cafes have been doing.

The emphasis will be on all of us to keep each other safe as much as possible the government keeps stressing that it is about 'personal responsibility.'

“The best of
all is, **God**
is with us”

Attributed to John Wesley

www.methodist.org.uk

North Staffordshire Circuit (11/22)

Provisional Quarterly Preaching Plan

July 2021

					July		August
					18	25	1
					16th Sunday in Ordinary Time	17th Sunday in Ordinary Time	18th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Lectionary Year (B) (Principal Service)					2 Sam. 7:1-14a	2 Sam. 11:1-15	2 Sam. 11:26-12:13a
					Psalm 89:20-37	Psalm 14	Psalm 51:1-12
					Ephesians 2:11-22	Ephesians 3:14-21	Ephesians 4:1-16
					Mark 6:30-34,53-56	John 6:1-21	John 6:24-35
Please Pray For:					St Luke's	Silverdale	Wolstanton
Baldwins Gate (10)	JPa	9.30	StF	GNB	Palmer HC	X	Rowley
			MWB		CS @ Wolstanton 6pm		
Wolstanton (102)	JPa	10.30	StF		Benson	LA	Dyble T
		6.00	MWB		CS		
Cross Heath (23)	CL	11.00	StF	NIV	Orrell	Legge HC	Mitchell
			MSB		CS @ Wolstanton 6pm		
Higherland (39)	CL	10.00	StF	MM	LA	Matthews	Fitchett T
		3.00			CS @ Wolstanton 6pm		
Madeley (21)	CL	10.30	H&P	SoF 1234	Mitchell	X	Legge HC
			MSB		CS @ Wolstanton 6pm		
Silverdale (56)	CL	11.00	StF	MM	Legge Service Via Zoom	Heap	Café Church LA
					CS @ Wolstanton 6pm	Service Via Zoom	Service Via Zoom
Audley (41)	JV	10.30	StF	SoF 1&2	Ventom HC	X	LA
		3.00	MWB		CS @ Wolstanton 6pm	Legge	X
Bradwell (46)	JV	10.00	StF	SoF 1&2	Harrison T	Mitchell	Ventom HC
			MWB	NIV H&P	CS @ Wolstanton 6pm		
Halmer End (23)	JV	10.00	H&P	SoF 1&2	Cartwright	Ventom HC	N Jones
			MWB	GNB	CS @ Wolstanton 6pm		
St Luke's (15)	JT	10.30	H&P	SoF 123	LA	Benson	Taylor
			MWB	GNB	CS @ Wolstanton 6pm		

Silverdale & Madeley Zoom Services

To access Silverdale's Zoom Services please see the details on page 6 and for Madeley Zoom Services please contact Paul Forrester via email: paoloforrester@btinternet.com for access details.

Dear Friends,

The Methodist Conference met recently and made a number of major decisions.

After much careful consideration, the Conference voted in principle to allow same sex marriages to be conducted in Methodist Churches.

This now means that each Church Council probably this autumn will be required to vote on whether their church will agree to same sex marriage. We await further guidance on this from Connexion.

I have attached a letter on this subject from the President & Vice President of The Methodist Conference. This may be read out in worship but will require a brief explanation prior to reading it out.

Every blessing,
John



The Methodist Church 

The Revd Sonia Hicks and Mrs Barbara Easton
President and Vice President of the Conference

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1 July 2021

Dear Friends

We wished to take this opportunity to write to you after the Conference voted on the resolutions contained in the marriage and relationships report.

We very much appreciate that these decisions will stir up many different emotions for our siblings across the Connexion. There will be some who will be deeply hurt and others who will rejoice by what has been decided.

Our Presidential theme this year is God's Table: An Invitation for All, and God's invitation is for every single one of us. The Methodist Church has held tension for many years and as a Church and a family, we must do all we can to live with contradictory convictions.

This work was first reflected on back in 1992 and we have been on this journey together since that point. During the past years we have continued to listen to and to pray for each other and remaining true to what God is saying to us. We must remember in all this, to continue to hold each other in prayer, and to support each other as we find a way forward, respecting our differences.

It is perhaps helpful to remember that there are other issues, some of them discussed at the Conference, on which we hold differing and sometimes strong opinions. We live with them and we do not allow them to impair our communion with each other. We respect each other's consciences, we exercise judgment in when to speak and when to be silent, and we hold one another in prayer. We do all this not for our own sake but for the sake of Christ and the sake of the world which urgently needs to know the power of Christ's reconciling love.

Our prayer for you, beloved siblings, is that in joy or sorrow, in pain or excitement, we might continue to live within that reconciling love.



The Revd Sonia Hicks
President of the Conference



Mrs Barbara Easton
Vice-President of the Conference



Same-sex marriages - From Methodist Church House

In deciding in principle that same-sex marriages can be conducted by Methodist ministers and take place in Methodist churches, the Conference has acknowledged that there are two different understandings of marriage held by members of the Church. Some affirm that marriage can be between any two persons, others that marriage can only be between a man and a woman. Our Standing Orders and draft liturgies now reflect both positions.

Behind this decision are decades of study and reflection in which we have been reminded that whilst all Methodists would say that the Bible is authoritative, there are different understandings of what that means.

Those who wrote the report on which the Conference based its decision drew on Biblical scholarship and other sources of theological reflection and recognized that the opinions expressed were deeply and sincerely held and that all are seeking to be faithful to what they understand God to be saying to God's Church. The Conference recognized our ability to live with these sometimes contradictory convictions and voted in the confidence that we could continue to learn from one another. The full press release can be found here: <https://www.methodist.org.uk/about-us/news/latest-news/all-news/conference-confirms-resolutions-on-marriage-and-relationships/>

Conference Business Digest - A report for local churches about the business of the 2021 Methodist Conference.

The fully report can be found here: <https://www.methodist.org.uk/media/22445/conf-2021-business-digest.pdf>

North Staffordshire Circuit Notices **Please Also See These Important Notices:**

Official Guidance

Guidance

COVID-19: guidance for the safe use of places of worship Updated 16th June 2021

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-for-the-safe-use-of-places-of-worship-during-the-pandemic-from-4-july/covid-19-guidance-for-the-safe-use-of-places-of-worship-from-2-december>

Coronavirus Guidance for Property

New Guidance and New Format – **Updated** 13th July 2021 [here](#).

TMCP have produced a helpful article regarding the legal requirements for **Test & Trace** and **QR codes**, read more [here](#).

TMCP - Data Protection Annual Checklist

Checklist summarising the specific practical steps Managing Trustees must take in order to reaffirm their ongoing duties and liabilities under the Data Protection Act 2018 and the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR). Click on this link [here](#).

Property Matters **July 2021** click on this link [here](#).

Dear Friends

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your love and support over the years. If anyone would like to attend my welcome service it is on Sunday, 5th September at 6pm, please ask Michelle for further details.

I will continue to pray for all of you including your new superintendent Revd Liz Singleton who shall be living in the Thistleberry manse.

Every blessing,

John

Are you MISSING SUNDAY WORSHIP?
Do you HAVE access to technology?
YOU'RE INVITED TO

Join Us for
**SUNDAY
WORSHIP**

LIVE
powered by
zoom

Send an e-mail to "Leetleighton@aol.com" asking for the "invite", and he will add you to the Distribution List.
**Check our website for more details,
www.silverdalemethodistchurch.org.uk**

SILVERDALE METHODIST CHURCH
RE-IMAGINING CHURCH FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS

Watch us on **Can't join live?**

 **YouTube**

 **Subscribe** to our Youtube channel!

Search for "Silverdale Methodist Church" and you'll find us on there – with all of our Services available to watch on "catch-up"

Foodbank – 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 Wednesday Morning. 10.30 am - 12.30 pm
The Bethel Centre Silverdale 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 the Parkhouse estate
on a Monday afternoon or Wednesday morning ... please give us a ring if you
want details of how to get there, it is on the Aspire work complex.

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 Michael Heap for details: -
01782 639882 or email him on accounts@newcastlestaffs.foodbank.org.uk.
If you would like to Gift Aid your donation please visit the website or contact
Michael Heap for details.

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

Sponge Puddings

Tinned Fruit

Deodorants for Men & Women

Shampoo

Shaving Gel

(Click on any of these links below from The Methodist Church also the Circuit has added more links)

For general guidance and resources for the coronavirus pandemic click on this link [here](#).

For Methodist News Updates from Connexion

15th July 2021 edition is available by clicking on this link [here](#).

Worship during the pandemic

Suggestions for worship opportunities and how to help others in worship can be found Click on this link [here](#) including service sheets to be printed at home.

For those Methodists feeling the loss of communion, a short act of spiritual communion

Click on this link [here](#)

A selection of streamed Methodist services are taking place online. The list of services, produced with current guidelines in place.

click on this link [here](#).



Telephone - Dial-a-Prayer

A FREE phone service to hear prayers and news from the Methodist Church has been launched.

Listen to a prayer: 0808 281 2514

Listen to news: 0808 281 2478

Content is updated weekly on Thursday evening.

Click on this link [here](#).



Daily Prayers from the Methodist Prayer Handbook

Click on this link [here](#).

Spiritual sustenance in isolation

During this time of 'lockdown' a special page on The Methodist Church website signposts you to resources to help nourish your spiritual life.

Click [here](#).



Regular updates will be given on social media pages and on the Methodist Church website.

Click on this link [here](#).

Blessed are those who
TRUST in the LORD,
whose confidence
is in him.

Jeremiah 17:7

