

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

A member of a certain church, who had previously attended services regularly, stopped going. After a few weeks, the minister decided to visit him. It was a chilly evening and the minister found the man sitting at home alone, in front of a blazing fire. The man guessed the reason for the minister's visit and invited him in, showing him to a chair near the fireplace. The man sat back and waited.

The minister settled back into the chair and made himself comfortable but said absolutely nothing. They both sat in silence staring at the fire and then, after a few minutes, the minister took the fire tongs and carefully removed a brightly burning coal from the fire and placed it on the side of the hearth. Then he sat back. The two still said nothing to each other.

The host was feeling a little bemused by all this but he sat and watched as the lone coal's flame faded and eventually died away, leaving it cold and dead.

Still no words had been exchanged since the initial greeting and the pastor prepared to leave. But just before he turned towards the door he picked up the cold, dead coal and placed it back in the middle of the fire. Almost straightaway it began to glow again with the light and warmth of the coals around it.

As the minister left the man said 'I'll see you next Sunday.'

Even when things are difficult; when we don't agree with one another; or when we have to make difficult decisions the outcomes of which may not reflect our personal point of view; as God's people, as the Body of Christ, we need the warmth and the light that only comes from being together. Without the fellowship of the church family faith can grow cold, we cannot do it on our own. Through worship and prayer; through conversation and discussion; through listening and understanding the Church down the generations has largely held together. I suspect that has been the case because of the careful consideration so many have given to the advice which Paul gave to the Philippians -

'Don't be selfish; don't try to impress others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourselves. Don't look out only for your own interests, but take an interest in others, too.' And above all else 'have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had.'

It is advice that I believe we too should take to heart.

Every blessing

Liz

North Staffordshire Circuit (11/22)

Preaching Plan

November 2021

					November			
					7	14	21	28
					32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time	Remembrance Sunday	Sunday before Advent	1st Sunday in Advent
Lectionary Year (B) (Principal Service)					Ruth 3:1-5;4:13-17 Psalm 127 Hebrews 9:24-28 Mark 12:38-44	Micah 4:1-8 Psalm 46 Romans 8:31-35,37-39 John 15:9-17	2 Samuel 23:1-7 Psalm 132:1-12(13-18) Revelation 1:4b-8 John 18:33-37	Jeremiah 33:14-16 Psalm 25:1-10 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13 Luke 21:25-36
Please Pray For:					Cross Heath	Halmer End	Higherland	Madeley
Baldwins Gate (10)	LS	9.30	StF MWB	GNB	LA	N Jones	Singleton HC	US @ Madeley
Wolstanton (101)	LS	10.30 6.00	StF MWB		Singleton HC	Singleton	LA	Davies T
Cross Heath (23)	CL	11.00	StF MSB	NIV	Barnett	Legge HC	Kirk	Harrison T
Higherland (39)	CL	10.00 3.00	StF	MM	Legge HC	LA	Fitchett T	LA
Madeley (21)	CL	10.30	H&P MSB	SoF 1234	R Jones	Cartwright	Perry	Legge HC US
Silverdale (54)	CL	11.00	StF	MM	Café Church LA	Davies T	Legge HC	Emmaus
Audley (40)	JV	10.30 3.00	StF MWB	SoF 1&2	Ventom HC X	Ventom Cenotaph X	X Ventom MS	Hoe X
Bradwell (46)	JV	10.00	StF MWB	SoF 1&2 NIV H&P	X Ventom MS 3pm	LA 10.30 am	Barnett	Matthews
Halmer End (23)	JV	10.00	H&P MWB	SoF 1&2 GNB	Cartwright	LA	Mitchell	X Ventom MS 3pm
St Luke's (23)	JV	10.30	H&P MWB	SoF 123 GNB	LA	R Jones	Ventom HC	Singleton

Question of the Month – *What is the Methodist Quadrilateral?*

The Methodist Quadrilateral is a four-fold approach that

- encourages a willingness to learn more about our Christian faith
- develops an ongoing inquisitiveness in our Christian faith
- equips and enables the application of Christian faith in our everyday lives and in the issues facing the society in which we live.

As the name suggests there are four elements to the quadrilateral.

Scripture the discovery of God's word comes through reading the Bible. That discovery can be more enlightening when different translations of the Bible are compared, when commentaries are used and when daily Bible reading notes are available. Sharing in the discovery with others as part of a house group or bible study group can present new ideas and allow for conversation which enables questions to be asked.

Tradition is the wisdom and creativity that has come from Christians over time and from different places. It includes hymns, songs, poetry, prayers, artwork and devotional material. It also includes more formally agreed teachings such as the creeds and the Methodist catechism, as well as statements and reports from the Methodist Conference.

Reason God created us with the ability to think for ourselves, to reason things out. To do this we need to be aware of different points of view and we need to be prepared to listen before carefully thinking about what we have seen and heard to draw our own conclusions.

Experience our own experience of God working in our lives is the way in which our faith deepens and we gain wisdom. Reflecting on our faith stories with other Christians enables a bigger picture to be seen of God's grace working in the world and sharing together in this way builds confidence and maturity of faith.

These 'building blocks' of faith will inevitably each have a different emphasis at different times for different people but if used together they do offer a balanced method of thinking and reflecting theologically about our faith and how we live it out in the world.

If you have a question about the life of the Methodist Church please send it in writing or by email to Rev'd Liz Singleton or to the Circuit Administrator, Michelle. We can't guarantee to be able to answer all your questions but we will do our best.

Biblical Who's Who – the lesser known characters of the Bible and what they have to say to us today.

NABAL

Nabal was a wealthy man who lived during David's rise to power. He had benefitted from the security offered by David's men which enabled Nabal's herds to graze in safety. But when David sent men to Nabal's house with a courteous request for supplies, they were rudely turned away. Even Nabal's own men were surprised at his harshness and, realising that their master's actions could only spell bad news, they warned Nabal's wife, Abigail.

The bad news they feared came in the form of 400 of David's men, armed and angry, who set out to confront Nabal. They were, however, met by Abigail who was ready with gifts and apologies. David accepted Abigail's gifts, together with her pleas to spare Nabal and his men.

Whilst all this was happening Nabal was throwing a party and getting drunk, oblivious to the risk his wife was taking on his behalf. In the morning, when he was sober, Abigail told Nabal what she had done and how close he had come to annihilation. The shock of what might have happened and the fear it instilled in him was so great that Nabal died within days.

The needs of others should always draw our attention and cause us to ask how we might be able to help. Everything we have comes from God. Dare we be self-focussed and selfish when God has given to us so freely and with such generosity?

Nabal's story can be found in 1 Samuel 25: 1 – 39

Advent Booklet ... following on from the success of the prayer walk booklet written by Rev. Joy an Advent booklet has been produced. Once this has been edited all Churches will receive two copies to circulate. Further copies will be available from Rev. Joy.

Keele Chaplaincy invite you to join them for a service of prayer and reflection during the COP26 Conference 7pm on 7th November at Keele Chapel ST5 5BG

We are pleased to have Rev Christine Pohill joining us to offer a reflection during the service, Chris an Anglican Priest member of the Iona communion and spiritual director. She has edited and written books that underline her passion both for the environment and for the spiritual journey and together with her husband John is founder of Reflections Gardens which embody this passion.

The service forms part of a programme of events and activities taking place in Keele Chapel from 6th-28th November. With Appetite and ArtsKeele we are excited to be bringing Luke Jerram's GAIA to Keele Chapel at Keele University. The artwork, which measures six metres in diameter, features 120dpi (Dots Per Inch) detailed NASA imagery of the Earth's surface. GAIA provides the opportunity to see our planet on this scale, floating in three-dimensions. The installation creates a sense of the Overview Effect, something astronauts often experience as they look down on the Earth from space. In light of the current COVID-19 pandemic, GAIA may give the viewer a new perspective of our place on the planet, reminding us how precious it is and that we all have a responsibility to protect it for future generations. A specially made surround sound composition by BAFTA award winning Composer Dan Jones is played alongside the sculpture. For details of visiting times and events please see the [Appetite Website](#)

The service will also be livestreamed so the following link is available for anyone who may wish to join in that way. <https://tinyurl.com/KeeleChapelCop26Service>

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 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

Sugar

Shower Gel

Deodorants for Men & Women

Long Life Milk

Tinned Cold Meat – Ham, Pork, Corned Beef

Tinned Fruit

Biscuits

Chocolates & Sweets

Shampoo

Shaving Gel & Foam

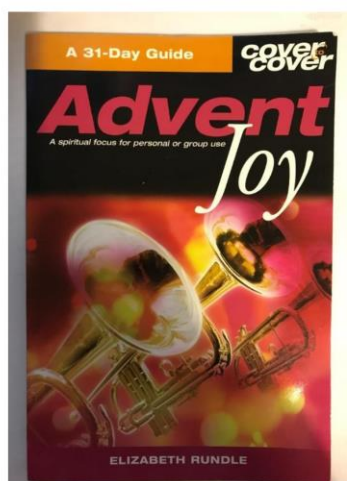
Washing Powder/Tablets/Pods

Washing Up Liquid

Jam

Long Life Juice

Mashed Potatoes



December 2021

Advent Joy By Elizabeth Rundle

The Advent material begins on 1 December and
We will gather to share our thoughts as follows:

Friday afternoons from 3 November 4pm via WhyPay

'WhyPay' sessions: Fridays from 4 - 5pm

Dial: 0333 0164 757

Room number: 17002853 #

PIN: 5731#

OR

Tuesday evenings

from 7 November 7pm via Zoom –

Drop me an email so I can send your invitation to you

**If you want a copy of the overview or the
Book/photocopy please let me know and I'll
arrange to get it to you.**

Rev. Christine Legge, 01782 631918 christine1.moushan@gmail.com.uk

SILVER SERVICE

Mid-week worship

At Silverdale Methodist Church

11.30 am - 12.30 ..

1st Thursday - Holy Communion

3rd Thursday - Worship with Activity

Light refreshments

Upcoming dates:

18 November,

2 December, 16 December

All are very welcome

– why not bring a neighbour or friend?

AUDLEY METHODIST CHURCH

invite you to our

Memorial Service

Sunday 21st
November
at 3pm

All welcome to this special service
to remember your loved ones



Invite you to our

Christmas Fayre

On Saturday November 27th

11.00 am until 1.30 pm

Various Stalls

Christmas Gifts, Cakes, Toiletries,
Books, White Elephant, Tombola

Light lunches served

All proceeds to Church Funds

www.halmerendmethodists.org.uk or on Facebook



Fustian
Christmas Concert

Higherland Methodist Church

6pm start Saturday 4th December 2021

Tickets £5 each incl. light refreshments

Call Steph on 01782 634181

Book early as seats are limited



Cross Heath Methodist Church
Christmas Mince Pie
Coffee Morning

with homemade cakes, preserves
and craft stall

Saturday, 4th December
at 11.00 am

All welcome. Tickets £2.50 available
beforehand or admission on the door.



Join us this Christmas at
Audley Methodist Church

** Carol Service - Sunday 19th December at 3pm*

** Carols in Audley Village (Margaret's Garden)*

Thursday 23rd December - 5pm - Bring a torch!

** Christmas Eve Storytime & Craft - 3pm*

** Christmas Day at Halmer End Methodist Church -
9:30am*

LIFE IS NOT ABOUT
WAITING FOR THE
STORM TO PASS,
IT IS ABOUT
LEARNING
TO DANCE IN
THE RAIN. ANON

GOD IS OUR REFUGE
AND STRENGTH
(PSALM 46:1A)

