

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

One year, many moons ago, I decided that I would give up chocolate and biscuits for Lent. I went to coffee mornings and other functions and felt very 'good' when I politely refused the offer of a custard cream or a piece of chocolate cake. On one of these occasions our church Christian Aid representative, a very wise and deeply committed man, asked me what difference my actions were making, apart from perhaps helping me to lose weight! (Sadly, even that wasn't one of the results – I must have been eating more crisps instead!!). However, following his comment I asked him to explain a little about where he was coming from and, rather than 'give me a lecture', he gave me a copy of these words.

If you're going to give up something for Lent, what about giving up?  
Feeling hopeless about the debt of the poorest countries  
Tolerating nuclear weapons and arms trading  
Wasting water and other resources  
Using the car for short journeys

If you're going to do something positive for Lent, why not?  
Befriend asylum seekers and challenge racist remarks  
Make a financial commitment to support projects in developing countries  
Buy locally produced food and fairly traded products  
Spend more time with those who love you and those you love

And ever since I read them for the first time these words have guided my Lenten actions and my understanding of what the season of Lent is about. To travel through Lent isn't just about remembering the wilderness experience of Jesus, the sacrifice of giving up the comfortable and the comforting, it's also about journeying with Jesus to the Cross. Lent is the time when we are reminded about the significance of Jesus' ministry; his concern for the poor and oppressed; his willingness to reach out to those considered dirty and untouchable; his love for the unlovable and his compassion for the sick.

As I move through Lent this year I will be reflecting and meditating upon the words of Micah as a way to help me to discern what I will be giving up, what positive actions I will take, and how I can walk with Jesus on the path of love to Jerusalem and beyond - '...the Lord has told you what is good, and this is what he requires of you: to do what is right, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God.'  
*Micah 6: 8 NLT*

Lenten blessings to you all

Liz

# North Staffordshire Circuit (11/22)

## Preaching Plan

### March 2022

					March			
					6	13	20	27
					1st Sunday in Lent	2nd Sunday in Lent	3rd Sunday in Lent	4th Sunday in Lent (Mothering Sunday)
<b>Lectionary Year (C)</b>					Deuteronomy. 26:1-11	Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18	Isaiah 55:1-9	Joshua 5:9-12
(Principal Service)					Psalms 91:1-2, 9-16	Psalms 27	Psalms 63:1-8	Psalms 32
					Romans 10:8b-13	Philippians 3:17-4:1	1 Corinthians 10:1-13	2 Corinthians 5:16-21
					Luke 4:1-13	Luke 13:31-35	Luke 13:1-9	Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32
Please Pray For:					Audley	Baldwins Gate	Bradwell	Cross Heath
Baldwins Gate (10)	LS	9.30	StF	GNB	Ventom	Davies T	Singleton HC US	Legge
		6.00	MWB					
Wolstanton (99)	LS	10.30	StF		Barnett	Singleton HC	LA	Singleton
		6.00	MWB					
Cross Heath (22)	CL	8.00	StF	NIV				
		11.00	MSB		R Jones	Dyble T	Matthews	Legge HC
		6.00						
Higherland (45)	CL	10.00	StF	MM	Legge HC	Benson	Harrison T	LA
		6.00						
Madeley (19)	CL	10.30	H&P	SoF 1234	Mitchell	Legge CC	US @ Baldwins Gate	Benson
		6.00	MSB					
Silverdale (55)	CL	11.00	StF	MM	Café Church LA	Chadwick	Legge HC	Emmaus
		6.00						
Audley (40)	JV	10.30	StF	SoF 1&2	X	US @ Halmer End	X	Ventom Café
		3.00	MWB		Ventom B	X	Singleton	X
Bradwell (45)	JV	10.00	StF	SoF 1&2	Singleton HC	N Jones	LA	Barnett
		6.00	MWB	NIV H&P				
Halmer End (23)	JV	10.00	H&P	SoF 1&2	Rowley	Barnett US	Ventom HC	Cartwright
		6.00	MWB	GNB				
St Luke's (25)	JV	10.30	H&P	SoF 123	LA	Kirk HC	Orrell	N Jones
		6.00	MWB	GNB				

**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 Kidsgrave 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](mailto: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**

**Custard – Tinned/Packet**

**Shampoo**

**Shaving Gel & Razors**

**Deodorants – Gents & Ladies**

**Rice Pudding**

**Tinned Potatoes**

**Toothpaste**

**Washing Up Liquid**

**Washing Powder/Tablets**

**The Desert Waits  
(An Invitation to Lent)**

The desert waits,  
ready for those who come,  
who come obedient to the Spirit's leading;  
or who are driven,  
because they will not come any other way.

The desert always waits,  
ready to let us know who we are –  
the place of self-discovery.

And whilst we fear, and rightly,  
the loneliness and emptiness and harshness,  
we forget the angels  
whom we cannot see for our blindness,  
but who come when God decides  
that we need their help;  
when we are ready  
for what they can give us.

**Ruth Burgess**

**North Staffordshire  
Methodist Circuit**

**Circuit Ash  
Wednesday  
Service**

**Wednesday, 2nd March at 7.30 pm  
at Bradwell Methodist Church**

**All are very welcome**



North Staffordshire Methodist Circuit

## Lent Study 2022 'A Challenging Lion'

Six sessions based on the life and writings of CS Lewis with specific reference to 'The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe', 'Prince Caspian' and the book/film 'Shadowlands'.

The full details of this years' Lent Study will be available in your churches but, in the meantime, you may wish to put the dates in your diary.

There will be two sessions each week, both covering the same topic. You don't have to limit yourself to the same session time – mix and match is fine!

The daytime sessions will be held at:

**Audley Methodist Church**  
Friday mornings at 10.30am on  
March 4th, 11th, 18th and 25th  
April 1st and 8th

The evening sessions will be held at:

**Wolstanton Methodist Church**  
Tuesday evenings at 7.30pm on  
March 8th, 15th, 22nd and 29th  
April 5th and 12th

Sessions will last for an hour and a half, after which refreshments will be served for those who wish to stay for a while longer.



✠ WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2022 ✠

# FRIDAY 4 MARCH

A SERVICE FOR EVERYONE

Shared service led by Madeley

Methodist and All Saints' Churches

at All Saints' Anglican Church Madeley

starts 7.30pm



sharing worship singing  
refreshments seeds candles

EVERYONE WELCOME

I know the plans I have for you

365 days a year • Informed Prayer • Prayerful Action • 24-7 • Prayer Movement • Ecumenical • Global • Women-led • 365 days a year • Informed Prayer • 24-7 • Prayerful Action • Prayer Movement • Ecumenical • Global • Women-led • 365 days a year • Women-led • Prayerful Action  
www.wwdp.org.uk Registered Charity Number 232425



## Coffee Morning & Plant Fair

with a selection of seasonal plants,  
perennials & potted bulbs and  
a Cake Stall

**Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> March**  
**10.00 am until 12 noon**

All proceeds for the **Ukraine**  
**Emergency Appeal** with All We Can &  
the Methodist Church bringing relief

See <https://www.allwecan.org.uk> for more details

[www.halmerendmethodists.org.uk](http://www.halmerendmethodists.org.uk)

## Fustian AN EVENING OF FOLK MUSIC



Higherland Methodist Church

6pm start Saturday 2nd April 2022

Tickets £5 each incl. light refreshments

Call Steph on 01782 634181

Come and enjoy an entertaining evening of folk and acoustic songs and ballads. Free tea, coffee, and cakes will be served in the interval and a song lyrics program is also included in your £5 ticket price. There will be a raffle with many good prizes to be won. The performance will start at 6pm in the Higherland Church top hall with free parking and easy access at the rear of the church via Priory Road entrance. All proceeds are for church funds and book your tickets early as numbers may be restricted - Call Steph on 01782-634181.



Baldwins Gate Methodist Church

## Coffee Fellowship

(including a talk on a visit to Iona)

Tuesday, 5<sup>th</sup> April at 10.30 am

All are very welcome



## WE ARE BACK!

So come and join the celebration. It's a very special day!

The Queens 70<sup>th</sup> year on the throne that is.

We are planning a Circuit afternoon tea to be held at Wolstanton followed by a service of thanks and celebration on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> June.

Bring friends and family – all are welcome and as a Circuit, friends and family together, let's celebrate. Details to follow.

SAVE THE DATE AND SPREAD THE WORD.

Silverdale Methodist Church

## Open Fellowship

Monday, 11<sup>th</sup> April &  
Monday 25<sup>th</sup> April  
at 2.00 pm  
in the Chapel.

All are very welcome

A blue and white abstract background with geometric shapes and a watercolor-like texture.

**Silver Service**

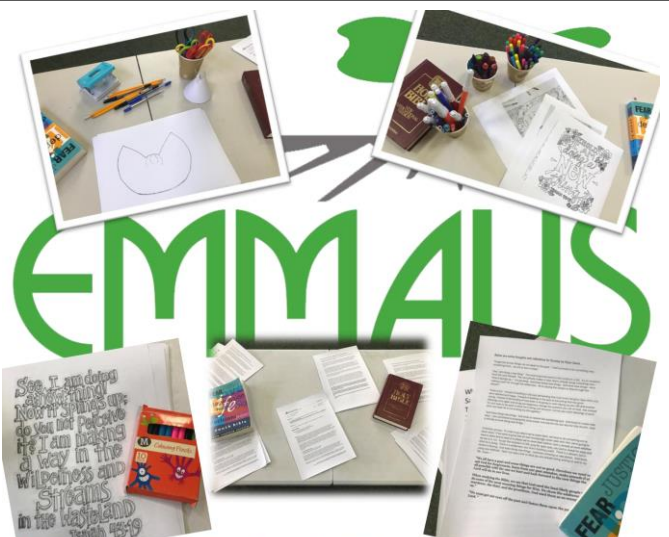
..on the 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays of every month..  
..beginning at 11:30am..

1<sup>st</sup> Thursday = Communion Service : 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday = Activity Service

at Silverdale Methodist Church,  
Earl Street (behind the Chip Shop!)  
ST5 6NF

Find us on FaceBook: "Silverdale Methodist Church"  
Visit our website: [www.silverdalemethodistchurch.org.uk](http://www.silverdalemethodistchurch.org.uk)

**SILVERDALE METHODIST CHURCH**



"Emmaus is new, different, with exciting possibilities, and many have warmed to it already. It is good that we can choose either to meditate on a verse of Scripture in the quiet of the building, or go outside in groups discussing the same verse whilst engaging with people in the community."

"The first time I travelled on the Emmaus road was about 35yrs ago, on a family weekend retreat in Wales with church members from around the circuit. My initial thoughts were of apprehension as to how this could work in our village – but this, EMMMAUS, was so different from that. It was good fun, and I thoroughly enjoyed connecting with God in a fresh new way."

**But don't take our word for it, come & try it for yourself!**

**SILVERDALE METHODIST CHURCH**

"As the disciples walked along the road, Jesus came and walked alongside them" (Luke 24:15)

## **CLIMATE AND JUSTICE – IT'S A PERSONAL THING**

**Climate change and justice for all have been around for a long, long time but how far are we as a Circuit in engaging with them?**

**There are 17 goals currently listed for us to be thinking about and aiming towards in some capacity or another if we want as a Circuit to take seriously our place in the fight for social justice and put a stop to climate change and all its ramifications.**

**They are:**

**No poverty  
Zero hunger  
Good health and well being  
Quality education  
Gender equality  
Clean water and sanitation  
Affordable and clean energy  
Decent work and economic growth  
Industry, innovation and infrastructure  
Reduced inequalities  
Sustainable cities and communities  
Climate action  
Life below water  
Life on land  
Peace, justice and strong institutions  
Partnership for the goals**

**They may seem insurmountable, but we can do our bit. And with that in mind we are proposing to launch a social justice and climate group that aims to look at each area, see where we are now, celebrate what we are currently doing and look to what our further engagement can be in the future.**

**That will involve looking at our carbon footprint, doing an environmental lifestyle audit for each church, providing information so you can make your own decisions and choices in all of the areas. Can we look to re-establish ourselves as a Fairtrade Circuit, plant trees for the Queens Platinum celebrations? These are just a few quick ideas and proposals.**

**Ultimately, we would like to bring a lot of that together and hold a justice and climate day for the Circuit where we can really explore the issues and perhaps draw up a plan for a way forward.**

**If you are interested in joining the group please contact either John Machin on 01270 820117 or Karen Barnett on 01782 256060. Otherwise watch this space for more information and wait for the knock on the door of your churches as we seek to explore together.**



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)

