

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 we travel through yet another Lent full of uncertainty and anxiety, with the world teetering on yet another potential catastrophe, we journey with Jesus through the wilderness. After he was baptised by his cousin John and heard God's voice affirming him "This is my Son, whom I love: with him I am well pleased" scripture records 'Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil' (Matthew 3:16- 4:2). For 40 days he was there, seeking His Father's will and direction for the tasks which awaited Him. As we spent these forty days of Lent, as war rages in Ukraine, may we too be spending them in prayer, in preparation for whatever the future holds for each one of us. But let's also remember, as a former colleague was keen to remind us, every situation is one of 'Death and Resurrection' and please also hold to the truth that whatever the future holds God is there with us. His Resurrection promise is always true 'And surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age.' **Amen.**

Rev'd Christine

God of the Purple Robe
(by Judy Dinnen)

God of the purple robe,
of the traitor's cross;
God of the torn curtain,
of wounds of time,

lead us to Easter Day,
your joy day,
turn-about time.

You are the dance in our eyes,
the smile in our hearts,
the blossom of our spring.

You are our wounds and our laughter,
light that splits open the sky,
love that astonishes.

North Staffordshire Circuit (11/22)

Preaching Plan

April 2022

					April			
					3	10	17	24
					5th Sunday in Lent	Palm Sunday	Easter Day	2nd Sunday of Easter
Lectionary Year (C)					Isaiah 43:16-21	Isaiah 50:4-9a	Acts 10:34-43 or Isaiah 65:17-25	Acts 5:27-32
(Principal Service)					Psalms 126	Psalms 31:9-16	Psalms 118:1-2,14-24	Psalms 118:14-29 or
					Philippians 3:4b-14	Philippians 2:5-11	1 Corinthians 15:19-26 or	Psalms 150
					John 12:1-8	Luke 22:14-23:56 or	Acts 10:34-43, John 20:1-18	Revelation 1:4-8
						Luke 23:1-49	or Luke 24:1-12	John 20:19-31
Please Pray For:					Halmer End	Higherland	Madeley	St Luke's
Baldwins Gate	LS	9.30	StF	GNB	R Jones	LA	Mitchell	Singleton HC
(10)		6.00	MWB					CS EO Wolstanton
Wolstanton	LS	10.30	StF		Singleton US	Davies T	Singleton HC	Dyble T
(99)		6.00	MWB					CS EO
Cross Heath	CL	8.00	StF	NIV			Legge HC	
(22)		11.00	MSB		LA	N Jones	Mitchell	Harrison T
		6.00						CS EO Wolstanton
Higherland	CL	10.00	StF	MM	Ventom HC	Dyble T	Williams	Legge GCM
(45)		6.00						CS EO Wolstanton
Madeley	CL	10.30	H&P	SoF 1234	Rowley	Legge HC	Davies T	LA
(19)		6.00	MSB					CS EO Wolstanton
Silverdale	CL	11.00	StF	MM	Café Church LA	Chadwick	Legge HC	Emmaus
(55)		6.00						CS EO Wolstanton
Audley	JV	10.30	StF	SoF 1&2	X	White	X	LA
(40)		3.00	MWB		Ventom HC	X	Ventom HC	CS EO Wolstanton 6pm
Bradwell	JV	10.00	StF	SoF 1&2	US @ Wolstanton	Ventom	M Ventom	Barnett
(45)		6.00	MWB	NIV H&P				CS EO Wolstanton
Halmer End	JV	10.00	H&P	SoF 1&2	LA	Orrell	Ventom HC	LA
(23)		6.00	MWB	GNB				CS EO Wolstanton
St Luke's	JV	10.30	H&P	SoF 123	Davies T	Matthews	LA	Ventom HC
(25)		6.00	MWB	GNB				CS EO Wolstanton

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:-

Small Jars of Coffee

Sponge Puddings

Custard – Tinned/Packet

Shampoo

Shaving Gel & Razors

Long Life Juice

Tinned Rice Pudding

Washing Powder/Tablets/Gel

Deodorants – Gents & Ladies



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!

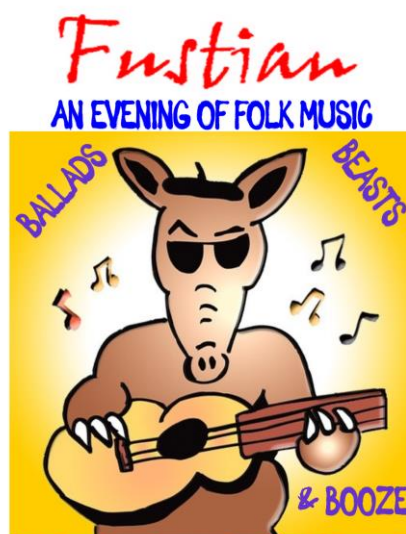
The daytime sessions will be held at:

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.



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, 5th April at 10.30 am

All are very welcome



Silverdale Methodist Church

Open Fellowship

**Monday, 11th April &
Monday 25th April
at 2.00 pm
in the Chapel.**

All are very welcome



In the final week of Jesus' life we see Jesus crying as His borrowed donkey bears Him to Jerusalem (Luke 19:41). It sees Him then naming what is wrong, in word and deed (Luke 19:42-46, 20:45-47). It sees Him asking God for something (that is not granted) (Luke 22:42). It sees Him recalling the deliverance of God (Luke 22:14-19) and, above all, expressing His confidence in the Father to the point of death (Luke 23)

It is a process of Lament, a journey that starts with despair and ends in the promise of God's presence.

For us today the practice of Lament is often forgotten yet true Lament promises to connect the realities of those bearing the weight of pain, injustice, or loss, to those who are experiencing comfort, freedom, and plenty. It connects the realities of God's absence to the promise of God's presence. It connects the universal human experience to the story of the church. It is, as it were, the Holy Saturday that connects Good Friday to Easter morning.

And so this Holy Saturday you are invited on a journey of Lament. We will explore what Lament means for us, what Lament may look like in our personal lives and what it means to Lament for the world.

No need to book just turn up Saturday, 16th April 2022, 10am-12pm at Wolstanton Methodist church. Refreshments provided.

For further information contact Karen Barnett 01782 256060



WE ARE BACK!

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

The Queens 70th 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 4th 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.

EMMAUS

"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, EMMAUS, 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)

Silver Service

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

1st Thursday = Communion Service : 3rd 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

SILVERDALE METHODIST CHURCH

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.

REJOICE



REJOICE IN THE LORD ALWAYS.

Philippians 4:4a

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