



Keeping in Touch Wesley Place Methodist Church, Alsager

Dear Friends

As many of you are aware, I have a huge interest in the outdoors and intertwining that with my youth work role is a huge passion of mine. Since I started my role at Wesley Place Methodist Church, I have been involved with the Oakhanger Project. As this is one of the churches close by and within our Circuit, it seemed appropriate to get involved in the mission of the Oakhanger Project. The Oakhanger Project has been running for 50 years at sharing the Gospel with families through the outdoors. The project focuses heavily on watersports (kayaking and canoeing especially), but also offers other outdoor activities; hiking, climbing, team building activities and survival skills to name a few.

The Methodist Church has been hard at work over the past few years at trying to support and encourage the Oakhanger Project in its mission and purpose. As well as this, the Circuit is seeking out ministries that are finding new and innovative ways of sharing the Gospel and/or being pioneers of the faith. The Oakhanger Project certainly does that!

I had the huge privilege last year of been given the opportunity of four months secondment placement with the Oakhanger Project to support and lead the outdoor activities that took place over the Summer. Part of my time was working at Wesley Place and part of my time was with the Oakhanger Project. We were hugely blessed by supporting hundreds of people (many of those being families) by running affordable outdoor activities that those attending had a chance to take part in. Through these activities we were able to share the love of Christ, in our actions, words or just by enjoying God's creation. The Oakhanger Project has a number of strong links with local groups and organisations that use the services. Many of the activities that we run take place at Brereton Heath Nature Reserve. This is a great location for those that may have never been in a kayak or canoe to have a try, through learning, games and paddling around the lake.

To build upon the great work done last year, it has been decided to allow part of my time to be fully focused on the Oakhanger Project. So, as of April 1st, I am the activities leader at the Oakhanger Project for a year. We are hoping not only will this support the Oakhanger Project in its mission and reinforce their recent charity status, but also continue to build the links between the Project and the Circuit. We had two very wet but enjoyable taster sessions that we ran over the Easter holidays. Those that attended had a chance to try out some land-based team building activities and then paddling on the lake in either a kayak or canoe. We had a number of young people and families that attended from a variety of settings; a church group, two young people from Youth for Justice and another few from the scouts. Our hope as we run these activities and have lots of fun, that Christ's love surrounds all that we do as we stand as ambassadors for Christ.

In preparation for my slight change in role in April, I was sent with three others on a training course in North Wales. It was a very cold and windy weekend as we were plunging in a rural lake in Snowdonia. The aim of the course was to run training and assessment for us to become Paddlesport Instructors. We learnt much on the course as well as focusing on our paddling and rescues skills. On the course we had to "rescue" each other when we had capsized or get ourselves back in the boats we had fallen out of. We had an enjoyable weekend in March and learnt so much on

the course. Hopefully this knowledge can be shared with the Oakhanger Project, and we can use this to enhance and further the mission of sharing the Gospel of Christ.



We are excited to see what God does this year with the Oakhanger Project. There are opportunities for those who may want to get involved this year in volunteering. The volunteers' ages range from about 11 to those in their eighties, and they also come from a range of backgrounds. If you would like more information on what we do, please get in touch with me or the Oakhanger Project itself. We are hoping to run some activities over the summer that I will be promoting, so keep our eye out for when they are advertised!



Please pray with me for the Oakhanger Project as we look to the next season ahead of us in anticipation of what God might do. In 1 Peter 3:15 it says;

Instead, you must worship Christ as Lord of your life. And if someone asks about your hope as a believer, always be ready to explain it.

This is a challenge for all of us as believers. This isn't just a commandment for a Sunday morning but wherever you might find yourself this week.

Much Love, Jonny

MONDAY AFTERNOONS @ WESLEY PLACE

Please join us on Monday Afternoon 2pm-4pm for Board Games, tea/coffee, biscuits and fellowship. Looking forward to seeing you !

WEDNESDAY MORNINGS @WESLEY PLACE

Please join us between 11am and 1pm on Wednesday morning for tea, coffee and fellowship. There will be a short informal service at 11.30am led by Mr Ian White. All are welcome. Looking forward to seeing you! Please note there is access via the side door to the church for quiet prayer and reflection.

3GENERATE 2024
Methodist Children & Youth Assembly

4-6 October
NEC Birmingham

Tickets on sale 16th April

A weekend to remember for children and young people! Start making plans to bring a group to 3Generate 2024.

If you need help in planning your group, contact us at:
3Generate@methodistchurch.org.uk

Tune in What is God Saying What is next?

“I kept describing the weekend as a calming balm. I was so encouraged by the wide range of different young people and their views. And that the focus was on helping them tune-in with God.”

2023 Volunteer

Lichfield Cathedral
17th April to
2nd June

Threads through Creation

spectacular stitching:
eight million stitches
expressing God's love!

VOLUNTEER CHAPLAINCY ASSISTANT

KEELE UNIVERSITY
2024/5

An exciting and
challenging gap year
working with students while
exploring your Christian faith
and vocation

A 10 month role from September 2024
Accommodation on campus and a living allowance provided
Details: www.keele.ac.uk/chapel

Coach Trip to

IRONBRIDGE and SHREWSBURY

Wednesday 26 June

Depart : Alsager – Opposite Sainsbury's - 8.45 am
 Depart : Winterley Methodist Church - 9.00 am
 Coffee Stop : Ironbridge – Home of the World's First Iron Bridge
 Depart : Shrewsbury - 4.00 pm

Executive Coach Tickets - £21.00

To book please telephone: 01270 762460

**SHREWSBURY – Home of the famous Quarry Park
& birthplace of Charles Darwin**