

# Keeping in Touch

## Wesley Place Methodist Church, Alsager



Dear Friends,

*'Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord' Ephesians 5:19 Dear Friends What is music? 'A pattern of sounds made by musical instruments, voices, or computers, or a combination of these, intended to give pleasure to people listening to it'. Cambridge Dictionary You may agree or not with that definition, but music has been in the lives of humans for a long time. Antler flutes have been found in caves. In Old Testament times music was an integral part of worship. In 1Chronicles 16:4-7 it tells us 'He (David) appointed Levites to minister before the Ark of the Lord, to make petition, to give thanks and to praise the Lord, the King of Israel .....they were to play lyres and harps. Asaph was to sound the cymbals.....the priests were to blow the trumpets regularly before The Ark of the Covenant of God' It must have made quite a joyous and loud cacophony of sound! And of course don't let us forget Psalms full of poetry and songs. Each year during Lent I like to follow a daily course from a book or online. This year I have been following the Methodist course called 'Soul Food'. Everyday a reflection is sent along with a practical task like a recipe, or a craft. On Fridays, a song and reflection on that song are sent and these have really captured my imagination. There have been 4 so far: 'Feeling Good' by Nina Simone, 'I'll be Your Shelter' by the Housemartins, 'Lazy Sunny Afternoon' by The Kinks and 'Where the Light Gets in', by Ben Barnes. All 4 songs are followed by a reflection and I have found these very interesting so I thought I might share with you a song that I have always found, 'soul foody' if you like over the years. It has certainly been, over a few years, in that it was first released in 1971! So here goes. 'You've got a Friend' by James Taylor. The words of this song speak volumes to me. Written and sung originally by Carol King, it is the version by James Taylor that I like best. With a simple guitar accompaniment, the words of the song seem almost directed solely to the listener. 'When you're down and troubled and you need a helping hand, and nothing is going right. Close your eyes and think of me and soon I will be there to brighten up even your darkest hour'. 'Just call out my name and you know wherever I am, I'll come running....'*

### Wesley Place - April 2025

6th April 10.30am - Rev'd Arthur Wakelin

13th April 9.30am - Rev'd Rob Hilton  
Palm Sunday Family Brunch  
10.30am Palm Sunday Worship

20th April 10.30am - Rev'd Rob Hilton  
Easter Worship & Holy Communion

27th April 10.30am - Daniel Keen



*Although not a hymn nor a worship song, I find these words pretty much how I see Jesus in my life. He is to put it simply, my friend.*

*Always there when I call upon him, and even when I don't. He absorbs my joy, my anger and my sadness. How ever, I present myself to him, he comes running and it doesn't matter when I call Winter, Spring, Summer or Fall, all you have to is call, and I'll be there. You've got a friend', And that is it, Jesus is always there. A comforting thought that provides food for my soul. Music is a medium through which the composer can express him or herself but it can also appeal to the listener, helping him or her to understand and express their emotions too. The old phrase that a picture paints a thousand words also speaks for music in that in the words of Hans Christian Andersen: 'Where words fail music speaks.' If we regard songs and hymns as poetry set to music, then together they can express our thoughts and emotions in a very powerful way. I find music can alter my mood, make me smile or even make me sad (I try to avoid these!) but we have to remember that sadness is a part of life and has to be faced and life is not always as straightforward as we would like it to be. Music and song can bring us comfort in these times. So have a think about any songs, pieces of music, hymns that you are particularly fond of. How do they make you feel and how do they reflect on your faith? Finally I leave you with this quotation upon which to ponder 'Beautiful music is the art of the prophets that can calm the agitations of the soul; it is one of the most magnificent and delightful presents God has given us'. (Martin Luther).*

*Blessings to you all  
Lesley*



### *Holy Week at Wesley Place*

*13th April 9.30am - Rev'd Rob Hilton  
Palm Sunday Family Brunch  
10.30am Palm Sunday Worship*

*15th April 7.30pm - Rev'd Rob Hilton  
Holy Week Reflections on Mark's Gospel*

*17th April 7.30pm - Rev'd Rob Hilton  
Holy Communion & Tenebrae Service*

*18th April 10am - Rev'd Rob Hilton  
Good Friday Worship*

*20th April 10.30am - Rev'd Rob Hilton  
Easter Worship & Holy Communion*

### **GENERAL CHURCH MEETING**

*- This is planned to take place as part of our Morning Worship on Sunday 18th May at 10.30am. It is our opportunity to appoint the representatives to the church council, the stewards and hear a financial statement from the treasurer. The minutes of the 2024 meeting and the recent reports to the church council on church life and mission are on the notice board.*

*Message from Rob:*

*As we near the end of Lent, Holy Week will soon be upon us and then Easter comes with all its joy and celebration. Some years ago, long before coming to Alsager, I was talking to a church steward about Easter and she was delighting in the spring time and holidays to come. She asked if I was going anywhere nice for Easter! I looked at her and smiled (we got on very well) and then she realised what she'd said - as I recounted how many services and acts of devotion I was leading before taking a couple of services on Easter Day itself - then I would relax!*

*As well as the Easter holiday, and the spring weather to enjoy, at Wesley Place this year we're encouraged to remind ourselves of the whole story of Jesus life and his journey towards Jerusalem to his death and resurrection. I'm hoping we will read through the gospel of Mark together over the next couple of weeks. Mark's version of the gospel is short, full of action, and moves at quite a pace, with purpose and a plot that takes us with Jesus into Jerusalem and the heart of the conflict he had caused, and which was to cost him his life.*

*These few weeks of coming close to Easter are a good opportunity to journey through that story again. What does our faith mean to us? Where are we on the journey of faith? What passions do we hold dear and what do they mean to us? How determined are we, or willing are we to meet Jesus again, or afresh, and bring our lives to him as he leads us into the adventure of new life?*

*I am leading Bible Studies for Lent on the theme of Mark's gospel for Englesea Brook Chapel and Museum, they're a bit more in depth than our sessions will be but you might like to join them on Zoom, or perhaps watch the recordings of them on Youtube. You can find details here:*

<https://engleseabrook.org.uk/lent-and-advent-study-sessions/>

*Otherwise why not come along to Wesley Place on Tuesdays 8th and 15th April at 7.30 pm, and Maundy Thursday 18th, at 7.30 pm including communion, and a reflective service for Good Friday at 10am.*

*Meet Jesus, join the adventure, journey into a mystery that isn't always what it appears to be.*

*See you soon,  
God bless,  
Rob*



### **Easter Cross**



*Don't forget to bring your Spring Flowers on Easter Sunday, so we can all decorate our Wesley Place Easter Cross.*

***Monday games and Wednesday mornings  
@ Wesley Place.***

***Monday Afternoons @WesleyPlace:***

*Please join us between 2pm and 4pm for Board Games, tea/coffee, biscuits and fellowship.*

*All welcome, looking forward to seeing you.*

***Wednesday Mornings @Wesley Place:***

*Please join us between 11am and 1pm on Wednesday mornings for tea, coffee and fellowship with a short informal service at 11.30am led by:*

*Wednesday, 9th April: Rev'd Rob Hilton will lead us in a short, informal service of Holy Communion.*

*Wednesday 16th April Rev'd Neal Street.*

***All Welcome.***

***Looking forward to seeing you.***

***Wanted urgently!***

*Cotton, wool, buttons, zips and any other haberdashery and dress making materials to go with the over 100 sewing and knitting machines sent to Africa each year by Tools With A Mission.*

*They enable women and men to earn a living to feed and educate their families.*

*Thank you, Gordon*



**Barnton Silver Band  
Concert**

with  
Musical Director Daniel Keen

at  
**Wesley Place Church**  
**Saturday 31st May**  
**7.30pm**

**Tickets £10** including refreshments  
available at the church  
or telephone Margaret on 07745111550  
*A fundraising event for Wesley Place Mission*



*Prayers from the Wesley Place Prayer Group this week....*

*'O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures  
for ever.'*

*1 Chronicles 16:34*

*Thankfulness and gratefulness to God for.....*

*... for the New People and New Places projects that are being supported by the Methodist Connexion, and developing across our District....especially our Dinner Hub at Wesley Place, the Haven at Crewe and Temple Street in Fenton....*

*....for workmen and women that carry out work in our homes in such a helpful and effective way....*

*....for our close families that support us and gave us beautiful flowers last Sunday for Mother's Day...*

*....for the beautiful Spring sunshine that we have all been able to enjoy over this last week...*

*...for 'chance encounters' that God makes possible, so that we can get in touch with those we haven't seen for a while....and enables us to take opportunities to support them with a listening ear, or just being there for them...*

*....for waking in the morning and being ready for the day so we can meet together in fellowship at the Zoom Prayer Group....*

*....for our nightly routines as we go to bed each night...reading about God, saying prayers....and reading books that bring us so much pleasure....*

*....for friend in Basingstoke Hospital who had sepsis who is now out of hospital, may his recovery continue so that he can get 'back to normal' .....*

*....for Soul Cafe Karaoke that enabled a gentleman to sing so well that he was encouraged to join a local choir, and now has opportunities to make new friends...*

*....for Mother's Day flowers received and the lovely gift of a mug that included a beautiful family photo and the memories from that day ....*

*...for the Adventurers Leaders Alison and Dot that encouraged the children to create such lovely Mother's Day cards....the Adventurers children that gave them out to the mums during the service ...and the generosity of the gifted potted flowers that were also shared with the mums....*

Prayers for....

...for Colin McKie and family and the Liddle family including Graham, Bruce and Liz, following the devastating news about Heather's illness, who is now on end of life care....may they all feel supported and comforted by the love of God and support of others at this heartbreaking and challenging time....

...for Margaret's daughter Emma who has recently been assessed and is now able to receive full care and support at home from the NHS....

...for the family and friends of Judy Lea who died in a car accident in Alsager last Friday....that they may be comforted at this devastating and heartbreaking time....

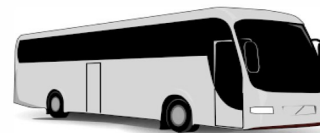
..... for Andrew and Rachel, son and daughter of Mary Allen, as they continue to grieve her loss...may they be comforted and feel supported with their own health issues during this time...

...for Coral, who has recently left Dennis Round Court ....may her friends be able to find out where her new placement is, so their support for her can continue....

All these prayers in Jesus's Name. Amen

**Winterley Methodist Church**  
have organised another coach  
trip on 23rd April to  
Bridgenorth with a pick up in  
Alsager. Please telephone  
01270 584900 to book your  
tickets.

Please see poster for more info



Coach Trip To

**BRIDGNORTH**  
**Shropshire**

*"The finest view in all my kingdom"*  
- King Charles 1

**Wednesday 23 April**

Depart: Alsager – Opposite Sainsbury's - 8.45 am  
Depart: Winterley Methodist Church - 9.00 am  
Depart: Bridgenorth - 4.00 pm

**Coach Tickets - £22 Bookings: 01270 584900**

**BRIDGNORTH – Terminus of the Severn Valley Railway**

**+ Victorian cliff railway from  
High Town to Low Town**

Book early to avoid disappointment





Winterley Methodist Church CW11 4RP

Please join us for our

# ***SONGS of PRAISE for EASTER***



**SUNDAY 4 MAY 6.30 pm**



with

**Winterley Methodist  
Brass Band Ensemble**

Led by Rev Carolyn Lawrance - Band President



## Church and Community Engagement Leader

St. Andrews Methodist and the Gathering Church at Cheddleton are seeking to appoint an enthusiastic, dedicated *Church and Community Engagement Leader* to join our team and help us to make a meaningful impact in our church and community.

- 37 hours per week worked flexibly including Sunday afternoons
- Salary £29,072 pa
- 4-year fixed term contract
- Ongoing training & support, locally and across the Chester and Stoke-on-Trent District
- 6% employer's pension
- 31 days leave inc. bank holidays & weekdays between Christmas and New Year's Day

For an information pack, please contact:  
[admin@staffmoorlandsmethodists.org.uk](mailto:admin@staffmoorlandsmethodists.org.uk)

Closing date: 28<sup>th</sup> April 2025 at 9am

Interviews: 14<sup>th</sup> May 2025

Post expected to begin: 1<sup>st</sup> July 2025

**thegathering**

