

Keeping in Touch Wesley Place Methodist Church, Alsager

Dear Friends

This is our big weekend!

The team have been working very hard, as ever, with some new variables this year. It promises to be another great weekend with that first foretaste of Christmas as the carnival atmosphere in the town takes off: the lights are lit, and we are open and decorated, creating that welcome, atmosphere, and festival feel that Wesley Place is so famous for. There are still a few places for volunteers to sign up, including staffing the room where children can play and create. Please give a few hours in the midst of it all if you can. Sign up sheets are on the stage in the hall.

This is the weekend when famously people queue to get into Wesley Place! With the fun fair literally just outside our entrance, and people coming in, the 'distance between pew and pavement' is for once very easily bridged with busy two way traffic.

Our Church Council have been considering our mission, and a refocus on what we're here for and why - you'll see our new mission statement printed below. The idea is that we are a bridge between the world on our doorstep, and the God who loves us and comes into the world in Jesus.

This is the bridge that's sung of in that famous song 'Sur Le Pont D'avignon' - 'on the bridge of Avignon we go out and dance'. (It's halfway across the River Rhone in France). There's a long history of half the bridge falling down, so the townspeople used the bridge for dancing and stopped crossing to the other side, the whole point of the bridge got forgotten. It's a challenging warning to the church that with our traditions and history, we get so used to 'our church', ('second home' to some of us, we love it so much) that we forget what we're actually here for.



The Christmas carols we shall sing among the trees this weekend tell of Jesus coming from heaven into our world to express the love of God. Our job as God's church is to bridge that love we know in our lives and our fellowship into the world in need of it. Our church building and its position do half the job for us, they're half the bridge into the community. We are the other half, what we do, the way we do it, and our attitudes are the bridge that allows the love of God to go all the way, and those who respond to come into our fellowship and find a home in our midst too.

The Christmas Tree Festival, the Ark, Dinner Hub, are obvious examples of the bridge being extended and working, it's the hope of Church Council that we can all be renewed in bridging faith and life. Here is the new Mission Statement, and the values we feel underlie it. We are working on a mission plan to more intentionally implement it.

So it only remains for me to thank the Christmas Tree team - Amber, Andy, Celia, Helen, Lesley, Sarah, and Tash, Roger and Harriet and all the musicians and choir gathered; and all who have

helped, supported, prepared food, and staffed the festival over the weekend - for your time, dedication and hard work. Thank You!

Your minister and friend,

Rob.

Bridging Faith and Life - Wesley Place Church Council, Autumn 2024.

At Wesley Place Methodist Church we strive to be a vibrant, welcoming and inclusive community committed to embodying the love of Christ through our shared values. We seek to create an environment where all feel valued and encouraged to participate in the journey of faith.

Our mission is to foster a dynamic environment of worship that inspires and uplifts, while actively engaging with our local community to promote kindness. We believe in the power of fellowship and learning, encouraging one another to grow in faith and understanding as we seek to live out the teachings of Jesus in our daily lives.

As we navigate the challenges and opportunities of this age, we remain dedicated to discerning God's ongoing vision for our church. Together we aim to be a beacon of hope and love.

We will strive in everything we do to live out these shared values: Inclusive, Transformational, Invitational, Kind, Accountable, Listen, Worshipping, Engaging.

Situation Vacant - Wesley Place Funeral and Wedding Steward

we have a vacancy for someone, preferably two people, to be available when we host Funerals and Weddings, the role involves liaising with the minister, musician, and funeral director, and opening the building and welcoming guests. You would work with the sound and visual technicians to make sure the service runs smoothly. Full training will be given, and on each occasion you are paid £35 for your time. Safer Recruitment guidelines apply, and the minister or a church steward would love to hear from you. Sandra Rawlinson has done the job for some years and is greatly thanked for all the work she's put in. Thank you Sandra!"

MONDAY GAMES

Please join us on Monday Afternoons 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 mornings for tea, coffee and fellowship.

Wednesday 27th November there will be a short informal service at 11.30am led by Lesley Peake.

Wednesday 4th December the service will be led by Mrs Elspeth O'Dell

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

Advent and Christmas Services

1st December 10.30am
Holy Communion and Gift Service
Rev'd Jenny Henshall

8th December - 9.30am
2nd Sunday Branch - Rev'd Rob Hilton
10.30am Reflective Service

15th December 10.30am - Rev'd Rob Hilton

22nd December 10.30am - Ian White
5pm - Carol Service - Rev'd Rob Hilton

Christmas Eve Christingle Service - 4:00pm - Rev'd Rob Hilton

Christmas Day 25th - 9.30am
Christmas Family Communion
Rev'd Rob Hilton

29th December - 10.30am
St Mary's Church, Alsager

Wesley Place Methodist Church, Lawton Road, Alsager, ST7 2RU

Church Family News

We've heard with sadness of one of our oldest members, Bernard Maskery, his funeral will take place at Wesley Place on Tuesday 3rd Dec at 2pm, followed by refreshments in the Church Hall. Donations will be for Action for Children. Our love and prayers go with his daughter Rosemary and family, and Carol, who cared so much for him.

Annual Christmas Gift Service
Sunday 1st December at 10.30am

We are looking forward to this annual Christmas event and supporting the work of the Salvation Army again this year by bringing gifts for their Christmas Present Appeal. Gifts for children of all ages from 0 to 16 are needed, some helpful ideas are listed below in their suggested gift list.

All gifts should be donated unwrapped to help with ease of distribution.

Suggested gift ideas:

- 0-3 years: dolls, teddy bears, cot mobiles, baby clothes, bath toys, CDs of suitable music and nursery rhymes, puzzles
 - 3-5: dolls and action figures, cars, lorries, DVDs and CDs (music and nursery rhymes), colouring sets, pencils, crayons, books, puzzles
 - 5-9: educational games & toys, stationery (colouring sets, pencils, crayons, school sets), CDs & family friendly DVDs, books, puzzles, wordsearch, crosswords
 - 9-12: games and toys, stationery, DVDs, books, t-shirts, hair accessories, gloves, scarves, hats
 - 13-16: books, make-up and toiletries (please try to ensure non-allergic ingredients if possible), gloves, scarves, hats, t-shirts, hair accessories and gift vouchers.
- Thank you all for your continued generosity!



Christmas Tree Festival
@ Wesley Place

22nd-25th November

Friday 2-7:30pm
carols round the trees @6:30

Saturday 10am-4pm
childrens crafts available

Sunday 2-8pm
Morning service at 10:30am

Monday 10am-1pm

Mini market with refreshments crafts, gifts, cakes and more
Children's crafts Saturday and Sunday

www.wesley-place.org.uk

Thank You

Many thanks to all those who donated China for the refuge where my daughter Nicola works she was delighted with the response but says no more for the time being they now have plenty.
So many many thanks Bronwen

A Christmas Carol

by Charles Dickens.

Performed by Elizabeth Morris.

7pm-8.30pm, Friday 13th December

Tickets £8 each, £3 for students, under 14s free.
Seasonal refreshments included.

Pay at the door. Parking available. Seating is limited so please email or phone to book tickets:
learning@engleseabrook.org.uk / 01270 820836

Englesea Brook Chapel and Museum, Englesea Brook Lane, CW2 5QW



ENGLESEA BROOK CHAPEL AND MUSEUM

INVITE YOU TO A

CAROL SERVICE

3PM SUNDAY 15TH DECEMBER 2024

A service of carols, readings and sketches in the beautiful and atmospheric setting of the Englesea Brook Chapel, to be followed by seasonal refreshments.

Free entry, parking available

Englesea Brook Chapel and Museum, Englesea Brook Lane, CW2 5QW
www.engleseabrook.org.uk



Scan to find us on Google Maps



THE HAVEN ON NORTH STREET

CHRISTMAS FAYRE

SATURDAY 30TH
NOVEMBER 11:00-2:00

JOIN US FOR CHRISTMAS CRAFT STALLS, RAFFLE, TOMBOLA & DELICIOUS TREATS