

Keeping in Touch

Wesley Place Methodist Church, Alsager

Dear Friends,

I used to have a spiritual director who said the spiritual life was like that of a dog! What she meant was that dogs live in the moment. If it's time to rest they rest, if it's time for food, they eat, if it's play time they play. Part of the skill of living a spiritual life is to live in the moment. That's why TV drama, or going to the theatre, or cinema, can be so powerful; or reading a novel or in depth history or biography. Because I listen to so much classical music on YouTube while I'm working, I get suggestions of little clips to watch, and recently there have been a lot of clips from the great film Amadeus, a film about Mozart I have loved ever since it came out. It's been great to enter again those little moments from the film that take you right back into the story.

Dramas, story, and music are so powerful because they take us into the reality of our own lives - happy times, joyful moments; challenging or tragic times. This lent, I've been sharing in several ways and places the story of the gospel of Mark. Shortest gospel and a thrilling read with a layered plot, and a constantly echoing call to join in the drama and follow Jesus.

Mark has many stories of blind people being given the gift of sight, and one of the recurring themes is people either seeing and understanding who Jesus is, or not doing. One of my favourites in the gospel is the story of the healing of blind man Bartimaeus, (in chapter 10: 46-52). He calls out to Jesus 'Son of David' meaning he did know and understand, he could 'see' who Jesus was, even as he cried out for his blindness to be cured. Jesus gave him his sight, and he followed him on the road - the next story, and so the first thing Bartimaeus saw, was Jesus riding the donkey on the road into Jerusalem, where the drama of his passion, death and resurrection as to play out.

Wesley Place - April/May 2025

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

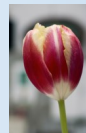
27th April 10.30am - Daniel Keen

4th May 10.30am - Rev'd Neal Street
Holy Communion

11th May - Jonny Newbould
2nd Sunday Family Brunch
10.30am Reflective Worship



Easter Cross



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



As a church we have marked some of the steps along that road this last week with our Maundy Thursday readings, and staying at the cross on Good Friday. On Easter Day we come to the story of some devoted women bringing spices to anoint a dead body of Jesus. What a dramatic moment that is - and the story doesn't go the way they expect - the body isn't there, they're told he had been raised - go back to Galilee! They were amazed and they were frightened. What a moment for the gospel story to end! We're left in the moment hanging, wondering when the sequel will come.....

What is the 'moment' of life you are living? Jesus stands with you in that experience, what does he say to you? What is he offering you? What do you ask him for?

This is the reality and the message of Easter - amazement that he is there and bringing life in all its fullness.

Happy Easter!

*Your minister and friend,
Rob*

Counters & Coffee Appeal

If you have a passion for numbers and counting or you love tea, coffee or biscuits Wesley Place definitely needs you!

Counters

We are looking for more counters to join one of the stewards on duty to count the collection after the service on a Sunday morning. It is not complicated, simple to pick up, you won't be on your own and it can be fun (plus you get a tea/coffee and biscuits delivered to you!). We currently have two excellent counters (Gwynneth & Glennis) who I am sure will be happy to answer any questions you have about becoming a counter as well.

Coffee

We also need more coffee groups to make tea and coffee and provide biscuits after the service on a Sunday morning. At the moment, we only have 3 coffee groups and ideally it would be great to have 5. If you would like to be part of a coffee group or think you could form a group, please let me know. Everything you need is in the kitchen (tea bags/coffee/mugs/tea & coffee pots/dishwasher!) all you need to do is provide the biscuits and milk and make sure you are ready to go after the service! Don't worry about putting out the chairs and tables in the hall, the stewards on duty will do this. Tea and coffee is very important to us all and this will be a much appreciated role to have!

If you would like to become a counter, or join or form a coffee group just speak to me or email me. Alicia - aliciarosewc@yahoo.com



**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



Wesley Place Sunday lunch, Sunday
1st June.

We will be holding a Sunday lunch on Sunday 1st June after the morning service. A roast dinner will be served after coffee at around 1pm. Payment will be by donation. Suggested donation for a two course lunch is £10, but we realise that not everyone can pay that, so pay what you can afford. Are you able to pay for someone else? All funds raised will go towards the continuing work of Wesley Place. All welcome. A child's meal will also be provided, either a small roast dinner or alternative. Please let either Helen Robertson or Rob Hilton know if you plan to attend so we have some idea of numbers for catering.

We look forward to welcoming you.

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.

Monday games and Wednesday
mornings @ Wesley Place.

Monday Afternoons @Wesley Place
Please join us between 2pm and 4pm for Board Games, tea/coffee, biscuits and fellowship. All welcome, looking forward to seeing you

***PLEASE NOTE NO GAMES ON BANK
HOLIDAY MONDAY 21st APRIL***

Wednesday Mornings @Wesley Place
Please join us between 11am and 1pm on Wednesday mornings for tea, coffee and fellowship and a short informal service at 11.30am.

*Wednesday 23rd April led by Elspeth O'Dell
Wednesday 30th April led by Lesley Peake*

All Welcome.

Looking forward to seeing you

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 all our ministers across the District and Circuit as they lead and support us so faithfully during Holy Week with our Easter services....

...for our own minister Rob who has been leading our reflections on Mark's Gospel during Lent and Holy Week....for the opportunity to study and reflect on the Bible together with Wesley Place friends....

...for our Wednesday lunchtime worship organised by Elspeth and Lesley, and Rev'd Neal Street who led the servicethey all make this fellowship time together so supportive and helpful in our spiritual lives...

...for time spent with 17 year old grandson who helps at the Soul Cafe and Hospice Charity Shop, and joins in at the Art Class...it is so lovely and special to spend time with him....

...for a new laptop that enables me to continue to connect with my friends and family on Zoom...

...for Roger playing the piano at the Palm Sunday reflective service, and the choir singing in the balcony....

...for sunshine and squirrels ☐☐ playing in the garden, the bees and the birds enjoying the blossom, and our Spring Easter mornings....

...receiving texts from friends, who are in Durham this morning, for the King and Queen's Royal Maundy Thursday service....wishing all that attend this service a very special time....

...for a wonderful time spent on a cruise with Ian during his visit to Hong Kong...for niece and husband visiting from Toronto this morning ...for upcoming Good Friday service at home church where I was baptised in Hong Kong....and visit to Taiwan to see brother....

...visiting Trentham Gardens last week with daughter and 4 grandchildren...the gardens are looking so beautiful in the sunshine and it was a lovely day out for us all....

Prayers for....

...for this special Easter time as we are reminded of Jesus's great sacrifice for us all, which enabled us to come into relationship with God...

... for those who will celebrate Easter in secret due to persecution...may they be supported by our love and prayers....

...for Colin and Graham, Bruce and Elizabeth and all their family, as they continue to grieve the loss of their dearest Heather. May God's love and the support and love of family and friends continue to comfort them as grieve this very sad and heartbreaking loss...

...for Sue Paddison, and all their family as they continue to grieve the passing of her husband Des... may Sue and all the family feel supported and surrounded by God's love at this very sad and difficult time....

All these prayers in Jesus's Name. Amen

Housekeeping Team Reminder

Details of the team are below:

Alicia Crompton	<i>Co-ordinator</i>	<i>For any Housekeeping queries or issues please speak to Alicia</i>
Amber Harvey	<i>Kitchens Contact</i>	<i>For any queries, questions or issues about the two kitchens, please speak to Amber</i>
Natasha Walker	<i>Risk Assessments</i>	<i>If you are holding an event or have any questions about risk assessments, please speak to Natasha who is in charge of risk assessments.</i>
Celia Crompton	<i>Ordering</i>	<i>If any cleaning products, janitorial supplies and/or kitchen supplies are running low please speak to Celia</i>
Ann Pask	<i>Room Booking Secretary</i>	<i>For all room booking enquiries or queries about room users please speak to Ann</i>

As always, everyone is welcome to join this team and there are plenty of other jobs (even just occasionally dusting!) so if you would like to join this team please just speak to or email Alicia aliciarosewc@yahoo.com



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



MWiB

Friday 27th June at 7.30pm



Our 3rd Mary Bosanquet Lecture will be given by

Kathy Galloway from the Iona Community

Pay Attention Be Astonished Tell About It

A Fringe event at Methodist Conference, Telford



World Federation Day

with a South American flavour

Saturday 18th October 2025

At Starbeck Methodist Church, Harrogate

See Summer newsletter for more details



Butterfly Movement Service of Affirmation & Thanksgiving

Tuesday 25th November 2025, 10.30am – 12.30pm

Wesley's Chapel, City Road, London

Swanwick Conference 2026

10th – 12th April SAVE THE DATE



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

Closing date: 28th April 2025 at 9am

Interviews: 14th May 2025

Post expected to begin: 1st July 2025



Methodist Women in Britain

Chester and Stoke on Trent District

“GLOW” PROJECT LAUNCH



Saturday 17th May

10-30am Coffee Served

11am Talk on our new project

Followed by Lunch

At

St Lukes Methodist Church

Clayton, Newcastle-under-Lyme

ST5 4BH



Everyone Welcome – Men, Ladies & Children

Donations for GLOW Project

Cheshire South Methodist Circuit Advert for Circuit Stewards
(Voluntary posts)

Recruiting New Circuit Stewards for September 2025 onwards. The role of a circuit steward is a crucial one in the life of our Circuit and the wider Methodist Church. It is also a personal vocation and part of an individual's discipleship. It is a rewarding role that enables the opportunity for faith discussions and growth, strategic thinking and some fun and joy!

Please consider if you, or someone in your church, might be called to serve the Circuit in this way? As a Circuit Steward there are exciting opportunities to plan for the future Mission and Vision of the Circuit during these times of change and transition. The Cheshire South Circuit Leadership Team (CLT) which includes circuit stewards and our ministers are a supportive, united and collaborative team. Circuit Stewards are responsible for, with our ministers, CLT and the Circuit Meeting for the spiritual and material wellbeing of the Circuit. Your gifts, wisdom and previous experience can be used as a Circuit Steward to serve our Circuit Methodist societies and churches. This is a voluntary post that may require up to a day a week of your time, varied throughout the year.

The CLT have an application and appointment process. Primary qualification and experience are:

- *An active Christian and Member of the Methodist Church*
- *Teamwork experience/skills*
- *Pastoral experience/skills*
- *Report/review writing experience/skills*
- *Commitment to ongoing learning and development*

Some of the duties and responsibilities of a Circuit Steward include:

- *A seat on the Circuit meeting, the Circuit Leadership Team (CLT) and other Circuit sub groups as required and according to your interests and gifting*
- *Planning and helping to lead the Mission and Vision of Cheshire South Circuit*
- *Together with the CLT arrange for the collection of the assessment from each church*
- *Lead the process of review and invitation of minister's appointments and preparing the welcome to new ministers and their families when they move to the Circuit.*
- *Involved in the pastoral support that supports the needs of our ministers and their families*
- *Maintaining and keeping an awareness of the mission and activities of all the churches in the Circuit, and the wider Methodist Church.*

*Enquiries about this role can be made to Geoff Dickinson, Senior Circuit Steward
1108seniorcs@gmail.com **We would welcome letters detailing expressions of interest for this role as Circuit Steward by the 16th May 2025 to our Circuit Administrator: 1108info.cheshiresouth@gmail.com***