

Keeping in Touch

Wesley Place Methodist Church, Alsager

Dear Friends,

Funny isn't it that if you study the christian faith you're told that the Church's main festival every year is Pentecost - the coming of the Holy Spirit. Second in importance is Easter - the resurrection of Jesus, and third is Christmas, the coming of Jesus to earth. Yet we of course have made Christmas the big party with our decorations, carols, and traditions, Easter has become a Spring holiday, and Pentecost is often nearly forgotten!

Our two services celebrated Pentecost this year (last week) with the story of the Moses and the burning Bush - the flames of Pentecost not devouring the bush, but being the means by which God called Moses, who took off his shoes because he was on holy ground.

Once we've celebrated Christmas, Easter and Pentecost within the year, we then seal them into the set with Trinity Sunday - this week.

Celebrating, if you like, the complete wholeness of the God we believe in.

But each time we celebrate one of these festivals, we can deepen and shape our faith. This last year has been a bit like that for me, I feel a bit like Moses, meeting God as if for the first time and having to respond. I may not have taken my shoes off, but I know for 8 years I've been standing with you on Holy Ground, and more recently I've heard the voice of God calling me to a new challenge and opportunity. You will have heard by now that I shall cease most of my duties at Wesley Place in August, and the Rev Neal Street will take up as Minister with Pastoral Responsibility at Wesley Place. Neal is well known and already much loved I'm sure, he brings a lot of experience, new energy and enthusiasm, and a freshness to our church. Like me, he has heard God's call to this ministry at this time, and the Holy Spirit has equipped him to serve in the way he has been called.

As Neal and I respond to the call of God, I hope and pray we will all again, in our different ways, find 'Christmas in our hearts' as we seek to serve Jesus embodied in human form in our world today. As we seek the Lord together, we will find, as Jesus did, healings and wonders along the way, we will find the costs of our discipleship and suffer together, but we will also find the resurrection power and life of God together too. As we celebrate the holy place that is Wesley Place we will also notice that it doesn't burn up, but God is present and speaks to us again. Then we shall know, experience, and believe again in the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Wesley Place - June 2025

1st June 10.30am - Rev'd Rob Hilton
Holy Communion & Church Anniversary

8th June 9.30am - Rev'd Rob Hilton
2nd Sunday Family Brunch

*

10.30am Reflective Worship
- Helen Robertson

15th June 10.30am - Rev'd Rob Hilton

22nd June 10.30am - Lesley Peake

29th June 10.30am - Harriet Crompton



By September, a new Lay Mission Pastor will also be in place, and a new worker for Dinner Hub as well. I believe God is blessing Wesley Place very much this year, Neal will have a quite a team of workers to pull together, with the stewards, office holders, and lovely church members who run the Ark, Dinner Hub, Monday games etc.

This Sunday we shall welcome Elias Keen by baptism, over the remaining summer months we have 3 more baptisms to come! It seems that word of scripture is coming true "day by day the Lord added to their number..." Acts 2: 47.

Your minister (for now!) and friend,
Rob

May God bless you with anger

At injustice, oppression,
And exploitation of people,
So that you may work for
Justice, freedom and peace.

May God bless you with tears,

To shed for those who suffer pain,
Rejection, hunger and war,
So that you may reach out your hand
To comfort them and
To turn their pain to joy

And may God bless you with enough foolishness

To believe that you can
Make a difference in the world,
So that you can do
What others claim cannot be done
To bring justice and kindness
To all our children and the poor.

a franciscan blessing

Amen

Winterley Methodist Brass Band



A Summer Concert

Friday 11th July
7.30pm at Winterley
Methodist Chapel

£9 including refreshments
Tickets available from band members or on the door

Enquiries: tomdanken@aol.com or 07563183033

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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.

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 18th June led by Elspeth O'Dell

Wednesday 25th June our Bee in a Bonnet service  

All Welcome. Looking forward to seeing you

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

Piece of Justice group

The group has spent the past few sessions beaver away making haberdashery bags for Tools with a Mission. This charity has been supported by Wesley Place through the hard work of Gordon Degg. Gordon has collected tools and sewing accessories for many years, and Gordon mentioned the request for bags to keep the tools safe - enter the Piece of Justice group!

This Tuesday 17th June from 6.30, Tracy Cushing from Mores' Bags is bringing her sewing machines for us to make up the bags we've been cutting out. All are welcome to come along and help - no sewing experience necessary!

Our next meeting, on Tues 15th July, we are going to walk up the Cloud, led by Aimee Standring, collecting bilberries and taking a picnic too. If you are interested in joining us, please ring Ruth on 01270 872597 to arrange to meet up. We're aiming to leave Alsager at 5pm, returning about 9pm.

Finally, we are thinking ahead to the Christmas Tree Festival, and are again calling out for knitters to help. We are planning to knit Izzy Dolls for the tree. These are simple knitted dolls to be given to children in need, particularly those affected by conflict or crisis. If you are able and willing to help, please see Ruth or Margaret Keeling for a pattern.

FUND RAISING

A BIG thank you to everyone who organised, supported or contributed to the Barnton Band Concert and the Church Anniversary Lunch held recently.

These events raised £769, and £365 respectively for Church Funds.

David Crompton
Treasurer

Alsager Foodbank - summer stock request

It's nearly the school summer holidays and we are trying build up a bit of stock in readiness. Some of our shelves are a little low and we think we will have a busy few weeks on the way, so if you are wondering what you could donate, the items in the photo are those we need the most at the moment. Thanks to you all so much.



The CHURCH[†] on
Ettiley Heath

CHURCH4All

Summer Outdoor
Concert

With afternoon tea!

Saturday 12th July

Concert featuring a
variety of local talent

Bring a chair and join us between
2:00 & 4:15

Prices:
Adults £7.50
Children £3.50
All tickets include afternoon tea and entry
to the concert

The Church on Ettiley Heath
Elton Road
Sandbach
CW11 3NE
Parking available at The Rookery Tavern

Charity concert in aid of:
 

CHURCHES IN THE UK
PROVIDE HALF
THE TODDLER
AND PARENT GROUPS,
THE BIGGEST NETWORK
OF DEBT COUNSELLORS
& WILL FEED 100,000
HUNGRY PEOPLE THIS YEAR.



Butterfly Movement Service of Thanksgiving and Affirmation

Tuesday
25 November 2025
10.30 -12.30

UN Day for the Elimination
of Violence Against
Women begins the
16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM
against gender based
violence.



The service will highlight the continuing
global issue of violence against women and
girls. It will include survivor stories,
presentations from charities, and material
from young people within the Methodist
Church.

Preacher

Rev Richard Andrew
President(Elect) of
Conference

Wesley's Chapel
49 City Road
London
EC1Y 1AU



www.mwib.org.uk



Centre Community Administrator @ Nantwich Methodist Church

20 hrs / week - £13.10 / hr
Length of contract – 2.5 years

The Cheshire South Methodist Circuit is
seeking a Centre Community Administrator
for Nantwich Methodist Church to work
with the Church trustees to support their
mission plan focussed on the community
and the use of their church sites.

For more information, or an informal chat
about the post, please contact:
David Maidment: 01270 627170

Email: maidmentrail@aol.com

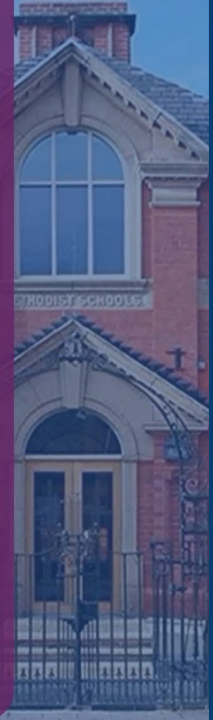
An application pack can be downloaded
from www.cheshiresouth.org.uk

Completed applications to be sent to
1108info.cheshiresouth@gmail.com

by noon on 9th July 2025

Interviews 16th July 2025

Role to begin as soon as possible.



Pay Attention Be Astonished Tell about it

Our 3rd Mary Bosanquet Lecture

will be given by **Kathy Galloway**
from the **Iona Community**

Friday 27th June, 7.30pm
in Ludlow Room 1
Telford International Conference Centre



No booking required; Light refreshments served from 7pm. This is a Fringe Event for Methodist Conference 2025.



The Community for Spiritual Formation

Friday 18th & Saturday 19th July 2025

An online overnight retreat
with Bishop Sidwell Mokgothu

Reawakening Sacramental Living

How do we lead lives that are 'outward and visible signs'
that convey God's grace to the broken world?



Rev Dr R Sidwell Mokgothu is the Bishop of the Limpopo District of the Methodist Church of Southern Africa in Pretoria. Sidwell is a passionate trainer, speaker, coach and retreat leader who has presented at international platforms. He is a former liberation struggle activist, and an ecumenical leader grounded in social justice. He is an ardent proponent of a spirituality that balances the contemplative with prophetic action. Sidwell is the co-founder and advocate of the Sedibeng Spiritual Experience, whose formation was influenced by the Academy for Spiritual Formation. He is the current chairperson of the Africa Upper Room Ministries [AURM].

Programme for the event

Friday 18th 7:00 – 8:30pm [UK time]

7pm Gathering, welcome & orientation

- Short shared silence
- Listening and Learning 1 – including questions for overnight reflection
- Night Prayer
- Disperse (participants spending time in silence if they wish/are able to do so)

Saturday 19th 9am – 1pm [UK time]

9:00am Morning Prayer

- Plenary – reflecting on the questions & theme together
- Listening and Learning 2
- An hour of silence (individually off screen)

12 noon Plenary sharing together

12.30pm Midday Prayer and close

Further Information

To register for this event please email

registrar@communitysf.org.uk

by **Monday 30th June**

Worship material will be sent by email in advance. **It is important to be present for the whole event.**

Cost: Donations to the Community are invited with a suggested minimum amount of £10.

This can be Gift Aided; forms and bank details will be shared when you register.

To find out more about the Community for Spiritual Formation please visit:

<https://www.communitysf.org.uk/>

Leadership team for this event: Sheryl Anderson, Sally Graham, Val Reid