

Keeping in Touch

Wesley Place Methodist Church, Alsager

Dear Friends,

This Christmas was spent, as it has been for over the last 4 years, at my son's family home in Flitwick. My daughter in law Karen, grandson Alex and his partner Belle now live there with their dog Nelson. Karen was determined that we would, as always, celebrate with our family and friends because Jon loved having people around. Quizzes, playing games, chatting and opening presents after Christmas lunch were all part of his growing up Christmas experiences. They had a dishwasher so the Christmas Carol singing while everyone cleared up, washed and dried the dishes and put them away did not feature!

When I stayed with them over Christmas, we always attended the Christmas crib service at the small Anglican church in Flitwick on Christmas Eve. The Christmas story would be told, and the children would bring the people and animals to make the Nativity scene. We sang traditional carols and heard familiar Bible readings. It was always full and the people welcoming at the door counted us in so we would not breach health and safety rules. There were two services both equally well attended and there were always several young families. It was a lovely place to begin our celebrations. Last year Christmas was the best we could make it, but no one suggested we should go to the service. On Christmas Eve Karen and I decided to go to the 4 o'clock service. Alex and Belle were out. Karen said a new lady vicar had made quite an impression on the church congregation and we needed to go early to make sure we could get in! We walked there, the path was lit with small lanterns and lots of young families were making their way to the church door. By quarter to four the church seemed full but still families came in. Some families had grans and grandads too. There were babies, toddlers, children, teenagers and lots of parents. We moved closer together in the pews, more chairs came out and at four the service began.

Wesley Place

Jan/Feb 2025

19th January 10:30am

Ian White

26th January 10:30am

Rev'd Malcolm Lorimer

2nd February 10:30am

Rev'd Rob Hilton

9th February 09:30am

2nd Sunday Family Brunch

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Reflective Service 10:30

A makeshift puppet theatre was set up in front and big wide mouthed puppets sang inviting us to Come and Join the Celebration. The Christmas story was told by a combination of puppets, young people dressed up playing the various parts, musicians, the vicar, worship leaders and readers of

From the Editor:
Deb Wilmot

I'd like to introduce myself as the new editor. I hope you enjoy the wonderful content.

If you have any problems or would like to contribute to the next issue, please email me at:

wilmotdeb@hotmail.com

Next Issue: 2nd February 2025

Deb Wilmot

all ages. Most of the time we couldn't see all that was happening, but the atmosphere was joyous and reverent and infectious.

The young people and children were amazing. The toddlers and babies didn't get upset or fidgety. When volunteers began to pass round brown paper bags with all the elements for making Christingles in them, I was even more impressed. There were more than 100 bags (I was told later) the symbolism was explained and parents

and children put them together. Volunteers with lighted tapers appeared at the end of the pews and the light was passed from one candle to another. The church lights were dimmed and the church filled with the small family lights. It was magical. Prayers were said the last carol sung and we all exited the church onto the lantern lit path and out into the lane. What an amazing contrast.

Last year no church, a scattered sad and lost family and this year the real message of Christmas. Jesus bringing light to a dark, cold, wet world and families coming together to worship and praise God for all they had and all they were. I'm sure some of them carried sorrows, fears for their future, loss or loneliness but in that hour, on that day, all our concentration was on the miracle of what God gave to us through the birth of Jesus. May God bless us all in this new year and may we carry Jesus with us as we journey.

Polite Notice:
Jonny Newbould

Please only contact me through the following details:

Mob: 07598580545
Email: 1108lw6@gmail.com

Please avoid contact during recognised holidays.

Many thanks!
Jonny Newbould

Money Saving:

Room Use in Winter Months

In order to save on fuel bills we'll be experimenting with worship outside of 'the church' sometimes for the winter months. This isn't easy to rearrange because of the way we all use the premises on a Sunday morning. Please bear with us and be patient through the changes. It should save a noticeable amount of money.

19th Jan : Worship & Coffee in the Hall

26th Jan : Worship & Coffee in the Hall

Thank you!

Love Margaret.

MONDAY GAMES AND WEDNESDAY MORNINGS
@WESLEYPLACE

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 15th January, Lesley Peake will lead us in our short informal service.

Wednesday 22nd January the Rev'd Neal Street will lead us in a short, informal service of Holy Communion

All Welcome. Looking forward to seeing you!

**Special Afternoon Tea
with the Ukulele**

**Tuesday 25th February
at Wesley Place
2pm till 4pm**

featuring

The U3A Ukulele Band



Tickets £12 available at the church
or telephone Margaret on 07745111550
A fundraising event for Wesley Place Mission

 **Methodist Women
in Britain**

Swanwick Conference 2025

this little light of mine ...

Rev. Dr. Sonia Hicks draws on her own experience as a Black woman Presbyterian as she speaks about the difficulty of letting the light of Christ shine brightly but also challenges us not to allow that light to go out no matter what the cost.

Come and be challenged and encouraged.

Friday 4th to Sunday 6th April 2025

at The Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick, Derbyshire
with keynote speaker

Rev Dr Sonia Hicks

(President of Methodist Conference 2021-2022)

plus worship, workshops, fellowship & friendship

Cost for the weekend £200 (Bursary's & District help available)

(Booking opens mwib.org.uk 2nd January 2025)