

Keeping in Touch

Wesley Place Methodist Church, Alsager

Dear Friends

Following my message in the Wesley Place Messenger in February I received an email inviting me to join a rota for providing articles for the Messenger. My immediate reaction was,

What? Not another rota!

I remember a former minister asking me why Wesley Place has so many rotas. I answered that it was the routinisation of charisma, and he nodded. I love the term 'routinisation of charisma'. It is totally obscure for those not familiar with it, but full of meaning for those who are. Routinisation of charisma (I love saying it!) is a technical term which describes a practice that originated for a good reason but over time people forget why it was there in the first place. The practice continues as tradition, but no longer fulfils its original purpose. Here is an example:

When Beryl and I first arrived at Wesley Place in 1977 a steward would ring people during the week and invite them to take the collection the following Sunday. Their names would be printed in the pew leaflet and announced from the pulpit. Beryl and I were asked to take the collection three weeks after we arrived. This practice was a way of helping the large congregation (of three hundred) to get to know each other. Over time the task of the steward became more time consuming as more and more people dropped the practice of attending church every Sunday. To save the time of the steward a rota was produced, and people were asked to swap with another person on the rota if they were not available. I remember that once I was down to take the collection when I was taking the service! After time, people would swap but not tell the steward, so that the names on the pew leaflet did not necessarily correspond with the people actually taking the collection. Eventually the names disappeared from the pew leaflet because there was no point in it. The practice continues but fails to serve its original purpose. That is the routinisation of charisma.

This leads me on to asking, What is the Messenger for? Is it just something we do, or does it have a purpose? Is the Messenger there to educate, inform, entertain the reader, or encourage them to come to church, or to help them become better Christians. Or is it all of them?

I would like to see spontaneity driving articles. There are things happening in the church which I know little about. I would like to know more about what is going on and how our various

Sunday Morning Worship at Wesley Place - May

*5th May 10.30am - Holy Communion
and General Church Meeting
Rev'd Rob Hilton*

*12th May
9.30am 2nd Sunday Family Brunch
with Rev'd Rob Hilton
10.30am Reflective Service*

19th May 10.30am - Rev'd Rob Hilton

26th May 10.30am - Dr Geoff Dickinson



groups are doing. Information seems to come via the grapevine, but I am not really tuned into the Wesley Place grapevine. I get information sometimes from various people, including members of other churches. If your group is going well, facing challenges or would like new members, please tell us about them. Articles do not have to be long; it should be possible to have more than one article a week. Then the Messenger could become a living thing, owned by the members.

Sometimes I get the idea that people think that everything needs to be organised from above. Why? The Messenger could become a magazine owned by the members.

Michael Guy, dunnockm@gmail.com

GENERAL CHURCH MEETING

This is planned to take place as part of our Morning Worship on Sunday 5th 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 2023 meeting and the recent church council report from the enabling team are on the notice board.

The Wesley Place TCC Report and Network Report will also be discussed at the General Church Meeting so our response and ways forward can be agreed, Copies of the reports are available to read or can be requested by email.

WEDNESDAY MORNINGS @WESLEY PLACE

Please join us between 11am and 1pm on Wednesday morning for tea, coffee and fellowship. There will be a short informal service at 11.30am led by Lesley Peake. 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.**

Alsager Foodbank

As with many other Foodbanks in the surrounding areas we are seeing more people referred to us than in other years. Also donations are down, due to everyone feeling the pinch. If any of you can manage to donate any of the items below we would be so grateful. Our collection points are at Alsager Asda, Sainsbury's Spar, The Meeting Place Coffee Shop, Cedars Medical Centre. There is also a collection cage by our side entrance.



**AN EVENING WITH
ERIC 'BUSKER' NEWTON**
Stories from the Jogging Jazzer
Saturday 1st June 6pm till 9pm
at Wesley Place Church

Come and enjoy a great evening
with this iconic local character

Jacket potatoes with a choice of fillings
and salad followed by
home made cake, tea and coffee
served at 6.15pm

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



**Plants, Cakes
& Coffee Morning**

Saturday 11 May 2024
10am to 12 noon

Wesley Place Methodist Church
Alsager

Alsager Ladies Lifeboat Guild



The RNLI is the charity that saves lives at sea

The Royal National Lifeboat Institution, a charity registered in England and Wales (209092), Scotland (SC297788), the Republic of Ireland (CHI 2676 and 20033242), the Bahamas (company 748), the Isle of Man (5108 and 0063291), the Bailiwick of Guernsey and Jersey, of West Quay Road, Poole, Dorset, BH15 1HE



Photo: RNLI/Nigel Milard



Methodist Children & Youth Assembly

4-6 October
NEC Birmingham

**Tickets on
sale 16th April**

A weekend to remember for children
and young people! Start making plans
to bring a group to 3Generate 2024.

If you need help in planning your group,
contact us at:
3Generate@methodistchurch.org.uk



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“I kept describing the weekend as a calming balm. I was so encouraged by the wide range of different young people and their views. And that the focus was on helping them tune-in with God.”

2023 Volunteer

 **Prayers from the Prayer Group this week:** 

I will give you the treasures of darkness and riches hidden in secret places, so that you may know that it is I, the Lord, the God of Israel, who call you by your name... Isaiah 45:3

Thankfulness and gratefulness to God for....

....for the sunshine on the first day of May and being able to put the washing out at last

....for the Bible Fellowship group meeting for the first time after Easter and enjoying the company and Bible discussions with fellow church friends....

...for the Springlike weather and seeing the hedges, trees and flowers beginning to emerge in all their fresh colours....

....for the WP Zoom Prayer Group where we can share time and fellowship together...

....for a recent trip to Yorkshire to visit family and the train journey there....lots of platform changes, some points delays and travelling through the beautiful and sometimes flooded countryside....thanks to the railway company in helping us to get there eventually....

... for visit from eldest daughter and eldest grandchild last Friday who also travelled to Alsager by train....for recent holiday with old friends for Richard....

....for 'surviving' the recent thunderstorms in the Southampton area....for a recent 'Song of Praise' service at local Methodist Church where a personal favourite hymn was chosen by someone else: 'Hush was the evening hymn...'the joy of being able to sing this hymn again....

...for the blessing of friends and family and the privilege of being invited to a wedding and being part of the family celebrations

....for the local wildlife and seeing a fox on the embankment....watching a bird carefully pecking out the fat from of a coconut feeder....

....for the beautiful plants and flowers now growing around an old tree stump...

....for what's to come and new beginnings....

...for Bronwen and Gordon who are celebrating their 27th Wedding Anniversary on 7th May....

...for our Adventurers leaders who support our young people on Sundays and the lovely way the children were able to join in the Lord's Prayer at last Sunday's service....

Prayers for....

...Bronwen and Gordon who both currently have serious health conditions, may they both feel supported by their medical teams, and their family and friends....

....continued prayers for Margaret's daughter Emma who is still waiting for her next treatment appointment to be confirmed....time is running out as it needs to take place before it is too late...

...for Ruth Hilton and all the family as they continue to grieve the loss of her mum Joyce....

....for the General Church meeting this Sunday at Wesley Place....all those involved in church council in their various roles, our church stewards and all those that help to move our mission forward 'behind the scenes'....

....for all ministers entering the Stationing and Invitation process in our Circuit at this time...

All these prayers in Jesus' name.

Amen  

International Worship



You are cordially invited to partake in an international Pentecost Sunday gathering at Mow Cop Methodist Church, a historic revival site, to worship together in unity and celebrate the different cultures of God's family.

Weather permitting, worship will be held outside. Parking available at Mow Cop Community Church and St Thomas Church Car park.

To greatly enhance the experience for us all, we would encourage you to come in your national outfit if possible. There will also be international food to share.

"...and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb". - Revelation 7:9

Pentecost Sunday
19th May 2024 at 3pm
Mow Cop Methodist Church,
Woodcock Lane,
Mow Cop,
Stoke-on-Trent
ST7 3NH

For more information email:
Rev. Yanyan Case
yanyan.case@methodist.org.uk

Coach Trip to



IRONBRIDGE and SHREWSBURY



Wednesday 26 June

Depart : **Alsager** – Opposite Sainsbury's - 8.45 am

Depart : **Winterley Methodist Church** - 9.00 am

Coffee Stop : **Ironbridge** – Home of the World's First Iron Bridge

Depart : **Shrewsbury** - 4.00 pm

Executive Coach Tickets - £21.00

To book please telephone: 01270 762460

**SHREWSBURY – Home of the famous Quarry Park
& birthplace of Charles Darwin**

Are you interested in walking with Crewe by
Farndon Methodist Chapel, a friendly bunch
of locals taking on....

North Wales Pilgrims Way

STAGE 2

Llanasa to Tremeirchion
(8.4 Miles)

SUNDAY 19th May 2024

Starting 10.30am

Raising Sponsorship for Maggie's (Cancer Support Charity)

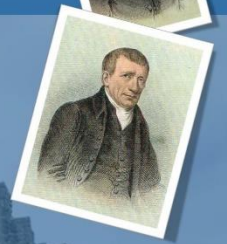
IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO KNOW MORE PLEASE

CONTACT MARIE 07826 090448



Explore the History of Primitive Methodism

HERITAGE DAY



10am - Noon
Guest speakers, choir and hymn singing

Noon - 2pm
Lunch break with guided tour, DVD and conversation

2 - 4pm
Different guest speakers, choir and hymn singing

10 am - 4pm Saturday 11th May 2024
Mow Cop Methodist Church, Woodcock Lane, Mow Cop,
Stoke-on-Trent
ST7 3NH

For more information email Rev. Yanyan Case
yanyan.case@methodist.org.uk