

Keeping in Touch

Wesley Place Methodist Church, Alsager

Dear Friends,

I had a very confusing experience last week, I saw a quote circulating on Facebook that was attributed to the new Pope, Leo XIV. As I read it quickly I thought, 'Yes, I'm happy to forward that'. Then I read the words again and found it almost incredulous that the new Pope would say something so 'out there'. So I returned to Google and did a bit of 'research'!

Apparently Google was already aware, and there was no record of the Pope having said it. Which left me confused as to why someone had attributed words to the pope that I was so happy to share as a Christian. I deleted my post.

Dishonesty? If so why are such good sentiments dishonestly shared?

I am left still wondering. However, the words themselves stand as something I take as self evident. The gospel, the good news of Jesus is liberating. It is about the love of God that forgives us, sets us free, and enables us to be confident human beings within the grace of God to do God's work.

They are also words that get to the heart of a word that is often weaponised these days 'woke'. A word that makes some people roll their eyes and utter 'ridiculous', while to others it expresses what freedom and liberation movements have always been about - including the movement started by John the Baptist and taken over by Jesus when he said 'The Kingdom of God is upon you. Repent and believe the gospel'. It's an accurate paraphrase to say 'God's coming, wake up'!

So, by way of a long introduction, here are the words that have no evidence of ever having been said by the Pope, but with which I am happy to agree because of following Jesus.

"To be called "woke" in a world that sleeps through suffering is no insult - it is Gospel.

Woke means awakened by compassion.

Guided by truth.

Humbled by grace.

Committed to justice - not just for some but for all.

So let them mock.

Let them sneer.

We will still build the Kingdom - not with walls, but with love.

Be awake. Be loving. Be woke."

Your friend and minister

Rob.

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 recent time spent looking after baby granddaughter in Hong Kong - for her regular midday naps that enabled us to have our own naps too!

...for everyone who helped and supported the recent District Synod at Keele University Chapel...and for those who supported this event with prayers....

...for time recently spent with old friend...the time just flew by....it was as if we'd never been apart...

....and for the continued sunshine that enables us to spend time in the garden...

...for the sense of Hope that has been brought with the appointment of the new Pope Louis XIV the positive impact he seems to be having on the world already ...

...for the good news recently received that a biopsy was negative and that monitoring will continue for next 5 years

....the simple things like sunshine in the garden and the welcome recent downpour of rain that helped all our gardens to be watered after such dry weather....

....for the date of upcoming surgery being confirmed for this Saturday, and the opportunity for son to come over from Hong Kong to support us, as well as support from friends....

...for the amazing blue skies we have recently experienced during this lovely sunny weather, and the wonderful contrast of the green trees against these blue skies...

Psalms 19:

'The heavens declare the glory of God;
the skies proclaim the work of his hands.'

...for the happenstance of arriving in Alsager so that son Jon could attend the local school, and next door neighbour's friendship that enabled me to become part of Wesley Place's fellowship...sense of belonging so welcoming....

...for the happenstance of arriving in Alsager so that son Jon could attend the local school, and next door neighbour's friendship that enabled me to become part of Wesley Place's fellowship...sense of belonging so welcoming....

...for a new hose for the garden that has helped the daily watering of the plants to be so much easier....

...for time in the beautiful New Forest and seeing the new life all around as the donkeys parent their foals....

....for my computer technology working so I can hear everyone on Zoom at prayer group...

...for the blue tits that have nested in our bird box...watching them flying to and fro feeding their young and working so hard....

...for when we see God in unexpected places...in the midst of what we are doing...and the realisation that God's presence is with us always....

...for the unexpected vapour trails in the sky that make the sign of the cross, reminding us of God's presence....

Prayers for....

...for Andy who will be having his operation on Saturday 17 May..... for Agnes as she supports him and the blessing of having their son Arnold (who has travelled from Hong Kong) to support them during this time...

...for friend who is struggling with mental health issues...for wisdom that when we spend time listening and speaking into these situations that our words are a blessing and comfort....

... for upcoming time leading a session on Fairtrade for the cubs....that the Fairtrade message around ethical and just practices will resonate with these young people...

...for the people of Gaza...and for Tom Fletcher UN chief calling for the world to prevent further destruction of the people living there.....for action from all peacemakers involved to make a difference there in Gaza and for the Israeli hostages, that negotiations to free them will be successful....

All these prayers in Jesus's Name. Amen

Wesley Place Methodist Church - General Church Meeting Sunday 18th May

As we have done over the last few years our General Church Meeting will be held as part of our morning worship next week. According to our constitution, "The meeting shall be held for fellowship, for mutual counsel respecting the condition of the Local Church, including its financial affairs, for the election of church stewards and representatives and for any other purpose which the Conference may direct." 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. Following the Church Council last week we also have vacancies for Church Council Secretary and Church Treasurer. If you would be interested to offer for these posts, or nominate someone, please speak to the Minister Rob, or one of the stewards for further information. We will be following Safer Recruitment guidelines.

HILDA WHITE 'OPEN HOUSE'

Friends of Hilda, may be interested to know that having settled in really well back in Hong Kong she is visiting the UK for two weeks in late May. She hopes to be at morning worship on 25 May.

On the afternoon of Wednesday 28th Judith and I are hosting an open house for her and she would be delighted to see Wesley Place friends for tea, coffee and cakes. Please drop in between 2 and 5. Car sharing would be helpful.

Our address is [2 Sandylands Crescent, Lawton Heath End ST7 3DS](#).

Best wishes
Ian

STEPPING OUT FROM MOW

Heritage Weekend

Saturday, May 31st
11-3.30pm
at Englesea Brook,
CW2 5QW

plus Sunday, June 1st
3-5pm
"Fire" Service at Mow Cop
Castle



SATURDAY'S SPEAKERS:

- Rev Jimi Kaci
 - Rev David Leese
 - Forum Theatre
- Performance 'A Tale of Two Missions' by Elizabeth Morris

Come and discover how Primitive Methodism impacted those beyond our shores and what that legacy means for today

**THIS IS A
FREE EVENT.
LUNCH
PROVIDED**

Tickets are free, but please register with Eventbrite for catering purposes:

<https://tinyurl.com/2a6onzyd>
or scan the QR code



DONATIONS WELCOME



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 sign on the notice board in the foyer if you are wanting to come along —Thankyou

ENGLESEA BROOK PROUDLY PRESENTS...

A DAY OF DRAMA!

Are you aged between 9 and 12 years?

Do you love stories?

Then come along to our drama workshop and explore 'The Tale of Old Booty' through performance.

A tale of intrepid sailors, a fiery volcano, mystery, and the search for truth!

Led by an experienced drama practitioner, we will recreate the story in the chapel space, using skills, props and costumes and show it to our grown-ups at the end of the day!



Wednesday 28th May 2025
10am - 2pm

Performance: 2-2.45pm
£10 per child (siblings £5)

Limited places. Bring a packed lunch

Book your place:
learning@englesea-brook.org.uk
brook.org.uk



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 26th MAY

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 21st May led by Rev'd Neal Street.

Wednesday 28th May. Service with open discussion

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

From the Editor: **Deb Wilmot**

I have changed the font of the message as it was proving difficult for some to read.

If you have any problems receiving this email please email me on:

wilmotdeb@hotmail.com

Please note this poster below has a new contact number to ring.
01270 762 460

Coach Trip to



COVENTRY

A city of heritage and inspiration



Wednesday 25 June 2025

Depart: **Alsager** – Opposite St Mary's Church - 8.45 am
Depart: **Winterley Methodist Church** - 9.00 am
Depart: **Coventry** - 4.00 pm

Coach Tickets - £24 Bookings: 01270 762460

Cathedral & Shopping Precincts
Herbert Art Gallery & Museum
Coventry Transport Museum



The **Methodist Church**
Chester & Stoke-on-Trent District

The Chester & Stoke-on-Trent District of the Methodist Church is seeking a

Pioneer for "New Places for New People"
Based at The Haven (Crewe)
and The Dinner Hub (Alsager)
18½ hours per week for £18,500

Length of contract: 6 years

The Chester & Stoke-on-Trent District of the Methodist Church is seeking a Pioneer in the New Places for New People initiative to work in partnership with The Haven and Dinner Hub to nurture faith development and explore growing church communities. We are looking for a Christian pioneer to journey with us and lead us into deeper relationships with God and those around us.

For an initial conversation about this post, please contact Revd Rob Hilton before 20 June 2025.

For more information and an application form please email chester.stoke@btconnect.com

Applications by Noon on Friday 20 June 2025
Interviews Wednesday 9 July 2025
Post to begin Monday 1 September 2025

PENGUIN BOOKS

ARNOLD BENNETT

Anna
of the Five
Towns



ARNOLD BENNETT
by Bert Thomas

Complete 2/- Unabridged

ENGLESEA BROOK BOOK CLUB

Thursday 12th June, 3-4.30pm

Join us at Englesea Brook or online via Zoom to chat about why you love (or don't love) a good book (or not, as the case may be). Every book will have a Methodist, possibly Primitive Methodist, connection. Anna Of The Five Towns (1902) by local author Arnold Bennett is set in what is now Stoke-On-Trent. 'The Five Towns Stories will enable Primitive Methodists to understand the habits, customs and peculiarities of the people, in whose neighbourhood our Church was born' said the Primitive Methodist Magazine in 1912. Get reading, and join us on 12th June for great cake and conversation. Tell us what you think.

This is a free event.
(Donations welcome)



Book
Club



Englesea
Brook
Chapel &
Museum

www.engleseabrook.org.uk. Registered Charity No. 1132237

Housekeeping Team Reminder

Details of the team are below:

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

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)