

Keeping in Touch

Wesley Place Methodist Church, Alsager

Dear Friends,

`Who has inspired you in your journey of faith? Where do you search to confirm and strengthen your faith? When I think back it seems that it is a mixture of reading and friends that have influenced me most.

I have heard people say that the Christian faith is only for those who can't think for themselves. The answer is that many eminent scientists and scholars are committed Christians. I think primarily of C. S. Lewis. He had a 'triple first' degree at Oxford University. He was an atheist and had a strict tutor who insisted that any comments he made must be backed up with facts. He was made to examine everything in a critical way.

When he became a lecturer at university he had many debates with Christians such as J.R.R. Tolkien but was never persuaded to change his views. His was an expert on Roman, Greek and Norse mythology so when he had to read the Bible as part of his work, he was surprised that it didn't read like all the myths which he knew so well. He had to admit that the bible was different and he soon became convinced of its many truths and became in his own words "The most reluctant convert in Christendom". This changed the way he lived and how he responded to his students becoming more understanding forgiving and helpful. On more than one occasion he gave money to students to get them out of debt but said that the money had come from a university fund. He became one of the most prolific Christian writers of his time.

Many now are persuaded by the late Stephen Hawking's books and his belief that the laws of physics explain how the universe came into being. If that affects your thinking read "God and Stephen Hawking" a book by Professor John C. Lennox. He challenges Hawking's arguments with clear explanations of the latest scientific and philosophical methods and demonstrates that they make the existence of God all the more probable.

Lennox also shows that an unimaginably high number of conditions are necessary for a planet to contain life. He quotes other scientists who find it difficult to believe in God but who readily admit that having perfect conditions for life can't be a mere quirk of fate but somehow 'it seems that we are meant to be here'. Einstein said that science without religion is blind and religion without science is lame.

Wesley Place - September 2025

*7th September 10.30am
Rev'd Neal Street - Holy Communion*

*14th September
9.30am 2nd Sunday Family Brunch
10.30am Reflective Service*

21st September 10.30am - Rev'd Neal Street

28th September 10.30am - Ian White



There are books that tackle militant atheism head on. The Dawkins Delusion by Alister McGrath is one. A person who reviewed it said it made him "embarrassed to be an atheist"!

Recently I read again Eric Challoner's book "From Plough to Pulpit". Most of you will have read this and his story of God opening doors which seemed locked. It is inspiring to read how God steps in when the way seems impossible.

Many sermons and friends have influenced me, one friend in particular, suffering from terminal cancer, wrote to us and said that "I am at peace with my Christ".

I hope and pray that we all can find the inspiration and strength that we need whether in books, in church or in friends. It is there if we search and accept it.

Gordon



NEW GUILD

Faith

Fellowship

Fun

live music

lovely conversation

lively speakers

All more than welcome

The New Guild on 1 October will be led by 'Our minister, Rev'd Neal Street'

Date - Wednesday 1st October
Time - 7pm
At Wesley Place Alsager

For contact: Ian White
07850 169754
ian.alsager@gmail.com

New Guild Launched.

On 3 September New Guild set sail with 42 present and a number of others away.

Ian White explained that the overriding purpose was fellowship and fun with a strong emphasis on faith.

We remembered the long history of Guild and those who went before us. We look forward to the future together.

It was good to welcome several members of the United Reformed Church and from our own church Revd Graham and Mrs Margaret Patrick in particular.

Bronwen and Gordon Degg led us in an opening quiz after refreshments were served. Ian then shared music and stories from a wide range of musicals.

The meeting closed at 8.45pm with the singing of the New Guild Hymn - God who sets us on a journey to discover, dream and grow and then sharing in the New Guild Prayer and the Lord's Prayer

We meet next on 1 October at 7pm when the speaker will be our minister Rev'd Neal Street.

Prayers from the Wesley Place Prayer Group for 11th September

1 Thessalonians 5:16–18

“Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.”

Thankfulness and gratefulness to God for....

... for grandson's 7th birthday today and the videos and photos showing his celebrations...

... for all those involved in organising and delivering Safeguarding Training across our District...

... for words and quotations that inspire us, like Neal's notes from last Sunday's service...

... for beautiful and spectacular sunsets at this time of year...the pinky red collars that are so breathtaking and iridescent....

....for grandsons 18th birthday and the people at Soul Cafe singing to him as he was working as the barista...for the fellowship and support found in the Southampton area since moving down here....

... the brightness of the moon over the weekend...for all those at Wesley Place who continue to volunteer and support our activities... for the new Guild that was so well attended last week....

....for Peter's 80th birthday and having lovely meals out during the week to celebrate...for a lovely family barbecue over the weekend... and for all the excellent exam results announced during the summer for grandchildren and daughter in law, with champagne to toast everyone's success....

.... for opportunity to meet up as prayer group again after the summer break...for family and eldest grandson aged 14 years now taller 'than me'...and 4 year old grandchild just starting school, who has just learnt to ride a bike and swim without arm bands...and grandparent duties as we have opportunities to look after grandchildren to support them and their parents....

... for getting back into our usual routines after the summer break and holidays...the harvest moon so bright and beautiful....the promise brought by the autumn season with berries on the trees and golden sunshine...the service last Sunday focused on our dreams for Wesley Place....

Prayers for....

.... for Rob and all the family as they mourn the loss of his mum May, may they all feel supported and blessed during this time of sadness and reflection....

....for Rob as begins his new role as Assistant District Chair, may he feel supported and blessed....

...for Neal as he begins his ministry among us here at Wesley Place, may he and Mary feel supported and blessed....

....for all the churches in Alsager as they support our young peoplefor RE teachers as they teach a new generation about faith for Jonny and other church lay workers who are restarting our youth groups....

....for John, Lay Mission Pastor and Sarah, New Places New People lay worker at the Dinner Hub, as they begin their time at Wesley Place....

....for Elsie as she recovers from her recent operation and Alison, family and friends as they support her during this time of recovery....

....for Liz and Bruce Liddle who have both been admitted this last week to Leighton Hospital

All these prayers in Jesus's Name. Amen

Wesley Place Methodist Church, Alsager

Toilet Block Refurbishment and Remodelling Project

Following receipt of approval from Methodist Church Property Consent Giving Body I am pleased to confirm the Toilet **Block Refurbishment and Remodelling Works** are due to commence **Monday 15th September** for a period of approximately 4/5 weeks.

During this time available toilet facilities will be limited to the one disabled toilet situated in the entrance foyer at the side of the Church Building.

Further, during the works there will be no access to the creche room off the main Hall or the corridor to the toilets including coat pegs so that the contractor's working area is isolated from ongoing Church activities.

We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause and would be grateful for your forbearance during the contract period.

If you do have any queries in the meantime, please speak to me as I am overseeing the project.

David Crompton - cromptondm@aol.com / 07787 538144

Harvest 2025

Just a brief note for everyone on our Harvest celebrations this year, our Harvest Service is still very much going ahead the first Sunday in October but we will be postponing the social event side of things until after the toilet renovation is completed - so watch this space! The church will be open for anyone who wants to help to decorate on the 4th October between 10am and 12 noon (you can drop in on Action for Children coffee in the same visit!). All very much welcome - we look forward to seeing you!

Harriet

MONDAY AFTERNOONS@WESLEY PLACE

Please join us on Monday afternoons 2pm to 4pm for Board Games, fellowship and refreshments. We look forward to seeing you!!

WEDNESDAY MORNINGS@WESLEY PLACE

Please join us on Wednesday mornings between 11am to 1pm for fellowship, refreshments and a short informal service at 11.30am led by:
Wednesday 24th September - B in Bonnet
Wednesday 1st October - Holy communion led by Rev'd Neal Street
Wednesday 8th October - Elsbeth O'Dell
Wednesday 15th October - Ian White

All welcome Looking forward to seeing you

The Methodist Conference
Telford 2026



25th June – 1st July 2026

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

An exciting opportunity to support
The **METHODIST** Conference
Taking place at The Telford International Centre

Please make initial contact through **YOUR** District

West Midlands info@wmmethodists.org.uk

Chester and Stoke chester.stoke@btconnect.com

**Be part of the team that makes The
Methodist Conference work!**

Recycling

Spectacles can be taken to Specsavers where they are passed on, dismantled and all parts recycled.

Tablet blister packs can be recycled at Boots in Crewe and possibly other branches.

Boots also recycle many hard to recycle beauty, health, wellness and make-up packaging, lipstick tubes etc..

If you wish, you can register and claim Boots Advantage points to get a little money back.

Contact me please for questions regarding the donations of unwanted tools.

Gordon



Dates for your Diary

We are pleased to confirm the **Christmas Tree Festival** is going ahead again this year and will open on **Friday 21st to Monday 24th November.**

David & Celia Crompton

JOIN US AT



**DISTRICT YOUTH
WEEKEND AWAY
17 - 19 APRIL 2026
WHITEMOOR LAKES,
LICHFIELD**

Open to those in school years 7-11. Tickets only £20 per person.

Please keep an eye out for further details including how to book.

Any questions? Email: nick@swanbank.org.uk

One World...
where we share tastes, traditions, stories and crafts from
cultures around the world.



One World 2025
Saturday 4th October
Alsager Civic 9.30am - 12.30pm