

Newsletter

January 2022

This is our monthly newsletter. The newsletter can be received by anyone who has an e-mail address. To subscribe to this service please send your e-mail address to: northstaffscircuit@hotmail.co.uk.

Dear Friends,

As I write I've just taken my Christmas cards and outside lights down and the tree will be de-trimmed later. It's Wednesday 5 January and tomorrow is twelfth night or Epiphany which marks the coming of the Wise Men, Magi, Kings to visit the new born King. Some countries wait until tomorrow to exchange their gifts, remembering the gifts of Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh which were brought to offer to Jesus. At one of the Carol Services I led we thought about the reason for the profusion of Pointsettia plants at this time of year and what the legend is behind them. Then there are the cards, the meals, mince pies, Christmas Trees and decorations, lights etc. etc. ... the list could go on and perhaps will be different for each family.

If we were really to think about all the traditions which we take part in over the Christmas period they would form a muddled pile of the secular and the religious which it would be difficult to unravel. So, what does it all mean? Do we allow ourselves the time to reflect and think about why we do the things we do. It's actually quite an important question because some things will draw us closer to the One who's Birth we celebrate, and we can glimpse more clearly the miracle of God's love for us, and some simply add to the busyness and stress of the season. As we embark on this New Year, with, as experience has shown, no idea of what it will hold, we do so in the sure and certain knowledge that God did indeed send His Son to be born into humanity, to live among us, as one of us, so that we can know He is with us in every messy, tangled, uncertain circumstance and trial of life as well as the times of joy and celebration.

Whatever 2022 has in store for you and I, our families and friends may we seek to show and share our faith in our Faithful 'Immanuel' God, who promises to never leave us and always be there beside us.

Every blessing,

Rev. Christine

North Staffordshire Circuit (11/22)

Preaching Plan

January 2022

				January				
				9	16	23	30	
				1st Sunday in Ordinary Time	2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time	3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time	4th Sunday in Ordinary Time	
Lectionary Year (C) (Principal Service)				Isaiah 43:1-7 Psalm 29 Acts 8:14-17 Luke 3:15-17,21-22	Isaiah 62:1-5 Psalm 36:5-10 1 Corinthians 12:1-11 John 2:1-11	Nehemiah 8:1-3,5-6,8-10 Psalm 19 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a Luke 4:14-21	Jeremiah 1:4-10 Psalm 71:1-6 1 Corinthians 13:1-13 Luke 4:21-30	
Please Pray For:				Bradwell	Cross Heath	Halmer End	Higherland	
Baldwins Gate (10)	LS	9.30	StF MWB	GNB	Ventom	Singleton HC CV	LA	Legge
Wolstanton (100)	LS	10.30 6.00	StF MWB		Singleton HC CV	Davies T	LA	Ventom
Cross Heath (23)	CL	11.00	StF MSB	NIV	Ventom	N Jones	Dyble T	Legge HC CV
Higherland (43)	CL	10.00 3.00	StF	MM	Dyble T	Barnett	LA	Benson
Madeley (21)	CL	10.30	H&P MSB	SoF 1234	LA	Cartwright	Legge HC CV	N Jones
Silverdale (56)	CL	11.00	StF	MM	Chadwick	Legge HC CV	Emmaus	Singleton
Audley (39)	JV	10.30 3.00	StF MWB	SoF 1&2	X Singleton HC	Ventom Diglake X	X Ventom	Barnett X
Bradwell (46)	JV	10.00	StF MWB	SoF 1&2 NIV H&P	LA	R Jones	Ventom HC CV	Cartwright
Halmer End (23)	JV	10.00 3.00	H&P MWB	SoF 1&2 GNB	Orrell	X 3.00 pm Rowley Minnie Pit	Singleton	LA
St Luke's (26)	JV	10.30	H&P MWB	SoF 123 GNB	Cartwright	Harrison T	Sutcliffe HC	Matthews

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Biblical Who's Who – the lesser known characters of the Bible and what they have to say to us today.

STEPHANAS

Stephanas and his family were among the first to come to Christ when Paul arrived in Corinth. The first mention of Stephanas comes in the first chapter of 1 Corinthians (1 Corinthians 1: 16). He isn't mentioned again until the very last chapter of 1 Corinthians (1 Corinthians 16: 15 -18). Two mentions – beginning and end – yet what has been going on in between these times was obviously significant because in chapter 16 Paul asks the Corinthians to give Stephanas a pat on the back. To Paul this man was a hero who had 'served with devotion' and 'been a wonderful encouragement'. Paul was refreshed by the way Stephanas was living out of his faith. This was the kind of person who said what he said and did what he did to serve others and, in doing so, served God.

Think of those you know who quietly serve God and in doing so offer encouragement and spiritual refreshment to others. Consider those who have encouraged you, and how. And then consider who you can encourage – a timely word, written or spoken can be refreshing. Encouragement is a gift we can all afford to give.

Stephanas' story can be found in 1 Corinthians 1: 16 & 1 Corinthians 16: 15 – 18



‘Never stop praying’ 1 Thessalonians 5:17

Paul’s instruction to the church at Thessalonica to ‘never stop praying’ led me to think about how, as a Circuit, we might be praying together even when we are unable to be in the same place at the same time. In a previous appointment the Circuit in which I was serving had a Circuit Prayer Diary which was used to encourage a daily time of prayer focused on the life of the worldwide and national church as well as Circuit and community life. I would like to offer this same resource to the North Staffordshire Circuit and, as such, during January a Circuit Prayer Diary for use during the current Connexional year will be made available at each of the Circuit churches. It is hoped that you will find this a helpful resource and that it can become a regular part of the worship life of the Circuit.

The prayer diary is linked to a daily prayer and Bible verse which will be posted on the Circuit Facebook page – North Staffordshire Methodist Circuit.

Feedback regarding both these resources would be welcome.

Liz

Foodbank – please click on this link [here](#).

Thank you to everyone across the circuit who gives regularly to Foodbank through their church. Foodbank remains open through these troubled times and demand for food is high. Can I please ask you to all keep on giving by taking your donations to your nearest Foodbank.



Clayton St Luke’s host a session
on Tuesday morning. 10.00am – 12 noon
All Saints, Madeley host a session
on a Wednesday Morning. 10.30 am - 12.30 pm
The Bethel Centre Silverdale 2.00 pm – 4.00pm

Chesterton Pentecostal church on:
Thursday Morning. 10.00 -12.00 noon
Newcastle Congregational church on:
Thursday afternoon. 2.00 pm – 4.00pm
St Thomas church Kidsgrove on:
Friday afternoon 1.00 pm – 3.00 pm

or you can take your contribution to our warehouse on the Parkhouse estate on a Monday afternoon or Wednesday morning ... please give us a ring if you want details of how to get there, it is on the Aspire work complex.

Your gifts large or small are very much appreciated and are a lifeline to those sadly more vulnerable than ourselves.

*Please give us a ring if you want to drop your gift off at our house!
Carol and Marion Reddish TEL 01782 613265*

If you would like to make a monetary donation to Newcastle Staffs Foodbank you can contact the Trustee/Treasurer Michael Heap for details: -

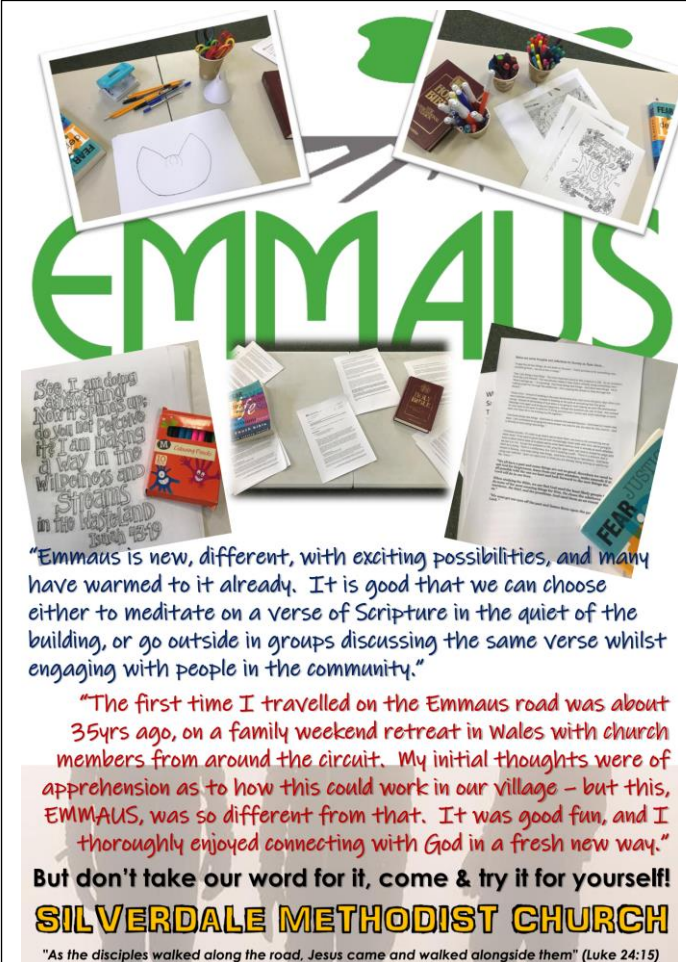
01782 639882 or email him on accounts@newcastlestaffs.foodbank.org.uk.

If you would like to Gift Aid your donation please visit the website or contact Michael Heap for details.

At the present time Foodbank are short of the following items:-

Shampoo
Shaving Gel & Foam
Shower Gel
Deodorants for Men & Women

Toothpaste
Washing Up Liquid
Washing Powder/Tablets/Pods
Toilet Rolls



EMMAUS

"Emmaus is new, different, with exciting possibilities, and many have warmed to it already. It is good that we can choose either to meditate on a verse of Scripture in the quiet of the building, or go outside in groups discussing the same verse whilst engaging with people in the community."

"The first time I travelled on the Emmaus road was about 35yrs ago, on a family weekend retreat in Wales with church members from around the circuit. My initial thoughts were of apprehension as to how this could work in our village – but this, EMMAUS, was so different from that. It was good fun, and I thoroughly enjoyed connecting with God in a fresh new way."

But don't take our word for it, come & try it for yourself!

SILVERDALE METHODIST CHURCH

"As the disciples walked along the road, Jesus came and walked alongside them" (Luke 24:15)

Baldwins Gate Methodist Church

Coffee Fellowship

Tuesday, 11th January at 10.30 am

All Welcome.



**Minnie Pit Disaster
of 12th January
1918**

Commemorative Service

Halmer End Methodist Church

**On Sunday 16th January
2022 at 3.00 pm**

Preacher: Mr. David Rowley

Please wear a face covering

**Donations will be gratefully accepted for work at
the Heritage Site by the Minnie Pit Centenary**

Commemoration Group

All are welcome

www.halmerendmethodists.org.uk and
on Facebook



Diglake Colliery Disaster 1895 - Memorial Service

Sunday 16th January 2022 at 10.30 am

A service in Audley Methodist Church and Cemetery.

A procession of miners lamps carried by local school children.

Music by a quartet of Audley Brass musicians.

Supported by Mayor of Newcastle and guests.

Large display of vintage miners lamps.

We have a duty to remember the 77 men and boys

who died in this disaster 127 years ago.

EVERYONE IS INVITED.



**SILVER
SERVICE**

Mid-Week Worship

at Silverdale Methodist Church

11.30 am - 12.30 pm

1st Thursday - Holy Communion

3rd Thursday - Worship with Activity

Light Refreshments

Upcoming Dates:

20th January

3rd February

All are very welcome

- why not bring a neighbour or friend?



North Staffordshire Methodist Circuit

Lent Study 2022

'A Challenging Lion'

Six sessions based on the life and writings of CS Lewis with specific reference to 'The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe', 'Prince Caspian' and the book/film 'Shadowlands'.

The full details of this years' Lent Study will be available in your churches but, in the meantime, you may wish to put the dates in your diary.

There will be two sessions each week, both covering the same topic. You don't have to limit yourself to the same session time – mix and match is fine!

The daytime sessions will be held at:

Audley Methodist Church
Friday mornings at 10.30am on
March 4th, 11th, 18th and 25th
April 1st and 8th

The evening sessions will be held at:

Wolstanton Methodist Church
Tuesday evenings at 7.30pm on
March 8th, 15th, 22nd and 29th
April 5th and 12th

Sessions will last for an hour and a half, after which refreshments will be served for those who wish to stay for a while longer.

Jesus said

I am the way

John 14:6