

## Newsletter January 2024

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,

I hope that your Christmas celebrations were truly ones of great blessing to you. Whether you were able to spend time with family or friends or whether you had Jesus only as your companion I pray that the richness, beauty and glory of the truth of Christmas shone through and you were drawn towards the Manger to gaze at the Christ child 'Immanuel - God with us'.

With that image in our thoughts we turn towards 2024 and anticipate with excitement and joy or with trembling and uncertainty what it will contain. Perhaps we're between those extremes of emotion but whatever it holds we know the One who holds us, and all of the world's events, in His hands. How much those World events will impact upon us individually we wait to see.

Some things we know - Change will happen. Some events we can plan and prepare for, others less so. For me the pages of my Full-time Ministry will be completed in the middle of the year and a new chapter will begin. The precise shape or direction of which is yet to be revealed. As with all that God has called me to over the past many years, He has journeyed with me and blessed me in every part. So, as I heard Him say in a small Retreat House in Warminster in 2001 'Step Forward in Faith'. I can do no other and I pray that each of you who read this will commit to doing the same. So that God's Kingdom will continue to grow, be a blessing to many and so that, as we pray in the words of the Lord's Prayer 'May Your Kingdom come.'

**May God Bless you all richly. Amen.**

With love from *Rev. Christine Legge*

P.S. The Bible in One Year As 2023 approached I encouraged folk to read the Bible in One Year and a programme or recommended Commentary was available to guide you through it. I know a number of people have been doing just that – well done to everyone who had a go at it and to all who have completed it (or are still doing so). My prayer was that we would each get to know God's message to us more fully as we read and reflected on the whole 66 books. If you used a commentary that will, hopefully, have further added to your understanding and delight in spending time with God each day and allowing the Holy Spirit to enlighten, inspire you and deepen your relationship with Him. There is a lot in it, why not start again and see what fresh revelations God gives to you on a second reading.

*May God continue to bless you however you spend time with Him.*

*Much love, Rev. Christine*

# North Staffordshire Circuit (11/22)

## Preaching Plan – January 2024

					January			
					7	14	21	28
					Covenant Sunday	Ordinary 2	Ordinary 3	Ordinary 4
<b>Lectionary Year (B)</b>					Genesis 1:1-5	1 Sam 3:1-10 (11-20)	Jonah 3:1-5,10	Deuteronomy 18:15-20
(Principal Service)					Psalm 29	Psalm 139:1-6,13-18	Psalm 62:5-12	Psalm 111
					Acts 19:1-7	1 Corinthians 6:12-20	1 Corinthians 7:29-31	1 Corinthians 8:1-13
					Mark 1:4-11	John 1:43-51	Mark 1:14-20	Mark 1:21-28
Please Pray For:					Madeley	St Luke's	Silverdale	Wolstanton
<b>Wolstanton</b>	LS	10.30	<b>StF</b>		CS CV	M Ventom	Davies T	Barnett
(95)		6.30	MWB					
<b>Cross Heath</b>	CL	11.00	<b>StF</b>	NIV	CS CV @ Wolstanton 10.30 am	LA	Singleton	Matthews
(24)		3.00	MSB					
<b>Higherland</b>	CL	10.00	<b>StF</b>	MM	CS CV @ Wolstanton 10.30 am	Williams	LA	Davies T
(37)		6.00						Singleton Messy Vintage
<b>Madeley</b>	CL	10.30	<b>StF</b>	SoF 1234	CS CV @ Wolstanton 10.30 am	Legge B	Ventom	R Jones
(19)		3.00	MWB	NIV				
<b>Silverdale</b>	CL	11.00	<b>StF</b>	MM	CS CV @ Wolstanton 10.30 am	Chadwick	Legge	Emmaus
(45)		5.00						Refuel
<b>Audley</b>	JV	10.30	<b>StF</b>	SoF 1&2	CS CV @ Wolstanton 10.30 am	Harrison T	X	Ventom HC Iona
(33)		3.00	MWB	GNB	X	X	Singleton	X
<b>Bradwell</b>	JV	10.00	<b>StF</b>	SoF 1&2	CS CV @ Wolstanton 10.30 am	Ventom	Kirk	Singleton
(36)		3.00	MWB	NIV H&P				
<b>Halmer End</b>	JV	10.30	H&P	SoF 1&2	CS CV @ Wolstanton 10.30 am	X	N Jones	Irvine
(23)		3.00	MWB	GNB		Ventom Minnie Pitt Service		
<b>St Luke's</b>	JV	10.30	H&P	GNB	CS CV @ Wolstanton 10.30 am	Singleton	Dyble T	Rowley
(19)		3.00	MWB					
Printed Service for this week prepared by:					Ventom	Singleton	Legge	Heap
BGMC					Wednesday 17th January, 2.30 pm - Service - K Lovatt			

### Green Tips

**Prepare now and give a bird a home in 2024** - It might seem to be a strange time to be thinking about bird boxes, but this is the season in which many of our resident birds slowly begin the process of looking for nest sites for next year. Therefore, it is a really good idea to get as many new boxes up as you can, before the end of the autumn season, as it will make it more likely for boxes to be used next spring.

**Create clean air** - You can never have enough house plants. Certain plants are best for certain rooms: Mother-in-law's tongue gives off oxygen at night, which makes it best suited to the bedroom. Peace lilies and boston ferns thrive in rooms with high humidity and can reduce the mould spores in the air, making them ideal for bathrooms; weeping figs have been found to be the best plant for removing formaldehyde released from carpets and furniture, making them good for living areas.

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**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  
Cornerstone, High Street, Knutton, ST5 6BX  
On Wednesday afternoon 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 Paul A Roberts for details: -  
tel: 0300 102 9088 or email him on [accounts@newcastlestaffs.foodbank.org.uk](mailto:accounts@newcastlestaffs.foodbank.org.uk).

If you would like to Gift Aid your donation please visit the website or contact Paul A Roberts for details.

People can also contact [info@newcastlestaffs.foodbank.org.uk](mailto:info@newcastlestaffs.foodbank.org.uk) for details to donate food or money donations.

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

**Tinned Fish**

**Long Life Juice**

**Long Life Milk**

**Small Coffee**

**Tinned Fruit**

**Tinned Ham, Pork, Corned Beef**

**Tea Bags**

**Tinned Vegetables**

**Sponge Puddings**

**All Toiletries**

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## A COVENANT WITH GOD

**Circuit Covenant Service**  
**Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> January 10.30am**  
**Wolstanton Methodist Church**

An opportunity to step into 2024 together  
as we renew our covenant relationship with God.

There will be a choice of worship experience:

In the main church worship area there will be a more **traditional service** which will include hymns and a sermon, as well as Holy Communion.

the informal & relaxed,  
all-age & interactive  
Family Of God Worship  
Together Experience  
otherwise known as..

café  
**CHURCH**

The **creative and reflection** option for worship in the hall and will be that opportunity to reflect on what the 'Covenant Prayer' means within a general theme of making promises. There will be a Bible story in Godly Play style, music to develop the theme and plenty of time to respond to God through the mediums of drawing, doodling and journaling. We will conclude our time together by sharing Holy Communion together.

Choose which worship style appeals most to you  
or perhaps try something new!  
For planning purposes it would be helpful to know roughly how many people might be attending the different worship experiences – numbers can be sent to the Circuit Administrator.

If transport is required churches are invited to book a taxi for those who need one (sharing where possible) and to forward the expenses to the Circuit Administrator.

Refreshments will be served after the service.

**THIS WILL BE THE ONLY PLANNED SERVICE IN THE CIRCUIT ON THIS MORNING**

### Godly Play as Bible Study

Story is one of the most ancient forms of knowing. It is the way our Christian heritage has been passed down to us. And story forms the foundation of Godly Play. It invites you to sit as part of a circle and listen as the stories of the Bible are told through word and action. It allows you to immerse yourself in the stories as an act of meditation and prayer and ultimately to encounter God. As the stories are told you sit and listen and at the end of the storytelling you are invited to consider a number of 'I wonder questions'. Questions posed by the storyteller that ask you to reflect on what you have heard. Questions like:

I wonder what part of the story was most important to you?

Or

I wonder where you are in the story?

Or

I wonder if there is a part of the story we can leave out and still have all the story we need?

There are no right or wrong answers to any of the questions, they are a means by which you are invited to wonder deeply about the story and what it says to you. Then when the story is put away there is time to respond to all that you have heard and wondered about. It may be that you want to re-read the story again for yourself, paint, draw, model or write a response - the choice is entirely yours.

At the end of the response time we gather back together for refreshments before drawing our time together to an end.

If this is something you think you might like to try then our next Godly play session will take place on **Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> January 1.00-2.00 pm** and repeated **6.30-7.30 pm** (please note that this time both sessions are taking place on **Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> January** and both sessions will be held at **Wolstanton Methodist Church**. Come and see, wonder, and reflect deeply about stories you thought you knew.



**Minnie Pit Disaster:**  
**12<sup>th</sup> January 1918**

## Commemorative Service

**Halmer End Methodist Church**

**On Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> January**  
**2023 at 3.00 pm**

**Preacher: Rev. Joy Ventom**

Offerings given during this service will be for Church Funds and the Minnie Pit Centenary Commemoration Group for work at the Heritage Site.

Additional car parking space will be available at Riley's Store Car Park by kind permission. Entry off the High Street above the Post Office & Store.

**All are welcome**

[www.halmerendmethodists.org.uk](http://www.halmerendmethodists.org.uk) and on Facebook





**Baldwins Gate Methodist  
Community**

(Baldwins Gate, Newcastle, Staffs, ST5 5DA)

**Mid-Week Service**  
on the third Wednesday of each  
month at 2.30 pm

**17<sup>th</sup> January 2024 – Service –  
Mr Kev Lovatt**

**21<sup>st</sup> February 2024 –  
Holy Communion –  
Rev Christine Legge**

**Please come and join us.  
All are very welcome.**

WORKING AT HOME AND WANT A CHANGE  
OF ENVIRONMENT? THEN TRY OUR..

**CO-WORKING**  
*Spaces*

FREE REFRESHMENTS  
RELAXING SPACE

..in the former Methodist Building,  
BALDWINS GATE, Newcastle, ST5 5DA

AS WE CONSIDER WHAT TO DO,  
WE'VE ARRANGED A TRIAL SESSION..

**W E D 7<sup>th</sup> F E B ' 2 4**  
**9 a m ' t i l 1 p m**

**THIS TRIAL IS FREE!**

COME FOR AS LONG OR AS LITTLE YOU  
WANT - YOUR FEEDBACK WILL BE VERY  
IMPORTANT TO HOW WE MOVE FORWARD.

GOT ANY QUESTIONS? CALL US on 01782 812648,  
or EMAIL US at northstaffscircuit@hotmail.co.uk

Join us at  
Audley Methodist Church



Future Dates:

Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> February 2024

Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2024

Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> May 2024

Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> July 2024

10:30am to 12:30pm

for more details contact:

Rev. Joy 01782 720267 joy.ventom@methodist.org.uk  
Sarah (office) 01782 722755 audleymethodist@btconnect.com

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of the Potteries

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[swanbank.org.uk](https://swanbank.org.uk)

See website for further  
details and application pack

We are looking for a  
**Young People &  
Families Evangelist**

to join our team as we build on  
the growing work of our church.

We are looking for someone  
with an outward focus, who is  
confident to build relationships  
and share the love of Jesus in  
and around the community of  
Burslem.

FT post  
(37.5 hrs per week)  
£25k

Applications close on  
15<sup>th</sup> January 2024



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**Madeley Methodist Church**  
**invites you to join us at our**



**Warm Space**  
**Elevenses**



**On Wednesdays at 11am**



**Activities**

**Everyone Welcome**



10.30am - 12.30pm, last Thursday of every month, starting Thursday 27th October.

Fun, explore together in lots of creative, interactive and fun ways.  
A great opportunity to enjoy some time together.

For more information please contact Phil or Jeanette Hodges  
on 01782 634766 or look on our Facebook page.

**Silver  
Service**

**..on the 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays of every month..  
..beginning at 11:30am..**

**1<sup>st</sup> Thursday = Communion Service : 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday = Activity Service**

**at Silverdale Methodist Church,  
Earl Street (behind the Chip Shop!)  
ST5 6NF**

Find us on Facebook: "Silverdale Methodist Church"  
Visit our website: [www.silverdalemethodistchurch.org.uk](http://www.silverdalemethodistchurch.org.uk)

**SILVERDALE METHODIST CHURCH**



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WITH FRIENDS OLD  
AND NEW**

**BRADWELL METHODIST  
CHURCH  
THURSDAY'S 10 - 12**



**SILVERDALE  
METHODIST  
CHURCH**



**REFUEL**

worship & the word  
**FOLLOWED by FOOD!**

Join with us on the **LAST SUNDAY OF  
EVERY MONTH**, at **5PM**, for 1-hour of..

**PRAISE &  
WORSHIP**

..and then stay to share food together.

all-age & interactive, informal & relaxed – a Worship Experience for all



YOU ARE MY REFUGE  
AND MY SHIELD;

I have put  
my **HOPE**  
in your  
word.



Psalm  
119:114