

Newsletter April 2026

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 All,

April is often marked by brighter skies and signs of new life. The long reflective weeks of Lent are drawing to an end and soon we will once again mark the wonderful mysteries of Easter with glad Alleluias! In this season faith and hope call us onwards to the cross and towards an empty tomb. In this Spring season the joy of new life is shown all around us, we see lambs and flowers and green shoots, this got me wondering where we see those signs of life in our lives and in the life of our churches?

I'm often struck at my/our lack of faith and the way we often fail to embrace the new life offered to us. Instead of embracing it we all too often cling to how things have been, rather than learning from our gospel story of death leading to new life. In the record of the first Easter Jesus tells Mary not to cling to him, it might at first seem rather harsh, after all she is so excited to see her risen Lord! But Jesus is saying '*this is not the end... there is more*'. At Easter, Jesus shows a different way; shows how servanthood proclaims glory, reminds us that with God amazing things are possible, even things we dare not dream. So, as disciples today we are encouraged not to cling to how things are, or have been, not to concentrate on what has been, but to look and work for what might be. We are called onwards from death to new life. So let us not cling to what has been but embrace the new life of this season and look to what can be.

At the end of this month, I will begin my sabbatical leave and conclude my ministry here in the circuit. I'm sorry that it has been a shorter time than many would hope, but it has been a privilege to share with you on this little part of life's journey. I am confident that God will continue to be with you (and with me) in all that life holds. I am also confident that God has plenty more in store for us all and just as the Easter story is not an end, but a new beginning let us remember our Easter hope that continues to burst forth offering good news and new life.

God's peace, joy and hope be with you all!

James

*Christ is alive! Let Christian saying. The cross stands empty to the sky.
Let streets and homes with praises ring. Love drowned in death shall never die.*

*V5 Christ is alive and comes to bring good news to this and every age,
till earth and sky and ocean ring with joy, with justice, love, and praise.
Brian Wren (b1936)*

North Staffordshire Circuit (11/22)

Preaching Plan – April 2026

					April			
					5	12	19	26
					Easter Day	Easter 2	Easter 3	Easter 4
Lectionary Year (A) (Principal Service)					Acts 20:34-43 or Jeremiah 31:1-6 Psalm 118:1-2,14-24 Col. 3:1-4 or Acts 10:34-43 John 20:1-18 or Matthew 28:1-10	Acts 2:14a,22-32 Psalm 16 1 Peter 1:3-9 John 20:19-31	Acts 2:14a,36-41 Psalm 116:1-4,12-19 1 Peter 1:17-23 Luke 24:13-35	Acts 2:42-47 Psalm 23 1 Peter 2:19-25 John 10:1-10
Please Pray For:					Halmer End	Higherland	Madeley	St Luke's
Cross Heath	LS	9.00	StF	NIV	Easter Breakfast LA			
		11.00			Barnett HC	LA	Rowley	Singleton
(23)		3.00	MWB				CS Easter Offering Audley	CS @ Higherland @ 3pm
Silverdale	LS	11.00	StF	MM	Café Church LA	Chadwick	Singleton HC	Emmaus
		3.00					CS Easter Offering Audley	CS @ Higherland @ 3pm
(38)		5.00						Refuel
Wolstanton	LS	10.30	StF		Singleton HC	N Jones	LA	Kirk
(91)		3.00	MWB				CS Easter Offering Audley	CS @ Higherland @ 3pm
Audley	JV	10.30	StF	SoF 1&2	X	Ventom HC	X	Davies T
(26)		3.00	MWB	GNB	White	X	Pritchard CS Easter Offering	CS @ Higherland @ 3pm
Bradwell	JV	10.00	StF	SoF 1&2	Ventom HC	R Jones	LA	Pritchard
(30)		3.00	MWB	NIV H&P			CS Easter Offering Audley	CS @ Higherland @ 3pm
Halmer End	JV	10.30	H&P	SoF 1&2	Williams	Wakelin HC	Ventom	LA
(19)		3.00	MWB	GNB			CS Easter Offering Audley	CS @ Higherland @ 3pm
Madeley	JV	10.30	StF	SoF 1234	Strachan HC	Davies T	LA	Barnett
(22)		3.00	MWB	NIV			CS Easter Offering Audley	CS @ Higherland @ 3pm
St Luke's	JV	10.30	H&P	GNB	Parkes HC	Irvine	Harrison T	Ventom HC
(22)		3.00	MWB				CS Easter Offering Audley	CS @ Higherland @ 3PM
Higherland	JP	10.00	StF	MM	Pritchard HC	LA	Pritchard GCM	Matthews
		3.00					CS Easter Offering Audley	
(36)		6.00	MWB					Singleton/Kirk CS @ 3pm
Printed Service for this week prepared by:					Singleton	Ventom	Heap	Pritchard

Eco Tips

Celebrate new life this Easter and have a go at growing something! April is the perfect time to try to grow something edible or, if you are a seasoned gardener, to encourage someone else to try. Salad leaves or herbs are a great place to start and will reduce your reliance on those oh-so-convenient supermarket salad bags. For indoor space, try 'micro-greens' (vegetable leaves harvested soon after they open) For greenhouses, try sowing salad leaf seed mixes. For outdoors, beetroot, lettuce, onion and pea plants are frost-resistant so can all be planted outside in April. As you sow, thank God for the opportunity to grow food, and pray for those communities that are facing food shortages and famine.

A Rocha UK's East Eco Tips 2026 Calendar

Can you or your church give more to Foodbank?



I am aware demands on our goodwill giving becomes greater and greater as times are hard for all. However I am appealing for help once again.

Newcastle Foodbank has given **three days food supply** to **5820 adults** and **3088 children** in the **past twelve months**, which equates to **68,992 kilogrammes of food** providing **164,267 meals**.

At the moment we have 66 organisations on our system who refer clients to us, having determined them as someone in crisis. **No one is given food without that assessment.**

£40,000 was spent on buying food in the past twelve months to supplement your generous donations. **Sadly this is not sustainable long term, hence this appeal.**

Would you consider giving one item a week to help us to help those less fortunate than ourselves?

Or, if it is more convenient to you, can you help us financially on a regular or one-off basis?

We would love to hear from you if you want to know more.

I leave you with a few ideas as to what you may be able to contribute

Items we are short of include:

Bags for life

Pasta sauce

Tinned fruit

Tinned tomatoes

Tinned vegetables

Tinned ham

Rice sachets (microwavable)

Tinned soup

Washing up liquid

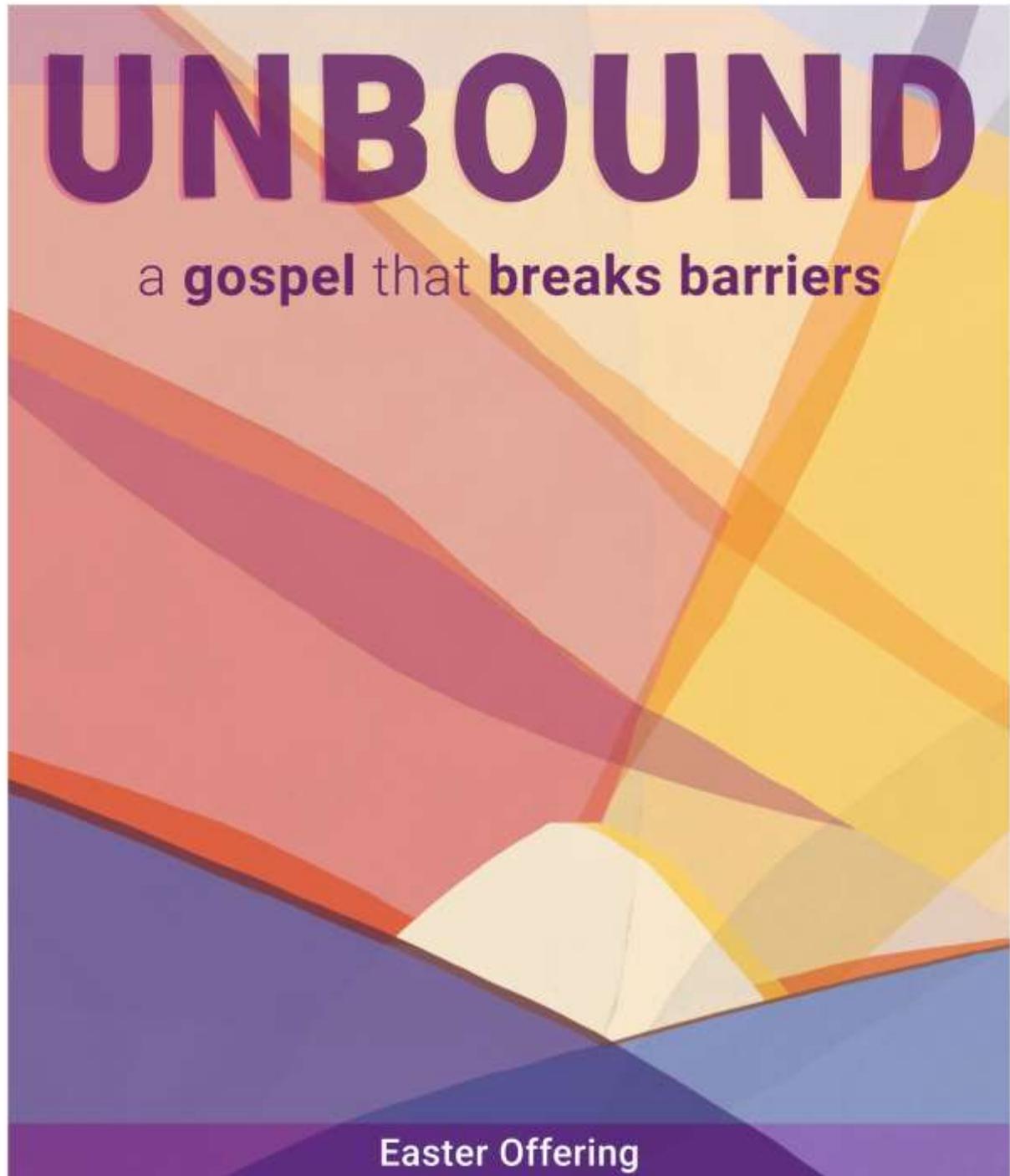
I can guarantee your contribution will be used wisely and be much appreciated.

Take care and look after yourselves too. If you would prefer contact details for our warehouse team I can supply them.

Thank you

Marion Reddish (Foodbank Volunteer) 01782 613265
marionreddish@btinternet.com

Circuit Easter Offering Service



The service will be held at:

Audley Methodist Church

on Sunday 19th April

at 3.00 pm

 **Methodist Women
in Britain**
for women, for justice, for Christ

The **Methodist** Church 

Spring Fair

Saturday 18th April 2026
10.30 am

Join us for all the fun of the fair with stalls, games, crafts and refreshments.

Cross Heath Methodist Chapel
King Street
ST5 9HQ

Free to enter

Higherland Church Coffee Bar
2pm-4pm on Monday 27th Apr

Higherland Chatterbox

Everyone welcome to come and
Join in the chatter

Free snacks, cakes & drinks.

Excited? Stuck?

Chester and Stoke-on-Trent District

ECO DAY

Save the date!
Save the planet?

Saturday 9th May 2026
10am to 3pm

at
Helsby Methodist Church, Chester Road, WA6 0AQ

hosted by Wesley Chester Eco Group with
Revd Helen Kirk, Chair of District

Dr Hamish Leese, Director of Environmental Engagement
for the Methodist Church

Further information and booking form from Rob Glassonbury at
chester.stoke@btconnect.com

Isolated? Struggling?

Spring Fayre

Saturday 9th May
10.30 - 12

Stalls include:

- Cakes
- Raffle
- Chocolate Tombola
- Plants
- Children's Activities

Entrance fee: (suggested donation £2)

Refreshments Available



Newcastle Male Voice Choir
In Concert



Wolstanton Methodist Church
ST5 OHE

📅 **Saturday 16th May • 7:30PM**

Featuring music from:
🎵 **The Church Music Group**
Soloist: **Phil Cartwright**

🎫 **Tickets: £10**

All welcome - come and enjoy an evening of wonderful choral music.

For more details: newcastlemalevoicechoir.org.uk



Audley Together

at **Audley Methodist Church**

Saturday 20th June
10:30am to 2pm

a **Community Fundraising Event** -
further details to follow!!

Save the Date!



WOLSTANTON METHODIST CHURCH

PLANT SALE

CRAFT STALLS AND REFRESHMENTS

SATURDAY 23RD MAY
10AM - 12.30PM

Are you, or someone you know, looking for a group to join or an activity to take part in, there may be something happening at Wolstanton Methodist Church that will suit?



Every other Monday 2.30-4pm: Elderberries a church social group for older people normally with a speaker always with refreshments

1st Monday of the month 2-4pm: Trefoil Guild a social meeting for people connected with Girl Guiding

Monday 5.30pm- 8.30pm: [Workout with Mika](#) three different exercise classes from hula hoop fitness to boxing to rock music workoutwithmika@gmail.com

Monday 6.30-7.30pm Pilates with Nicola nicolajherd@hotmail.com

Tuesday 9.30am-10.30am Baby Signing and Tiny Talk for young babies under 1 year nicolaausterberry@tinytalk.co.uk

Tuesday 10am - 11am: [YogaJules.Stoke](#) yogajules.stoke@gmail.com

Tuesday 7.30pm-9pm: Church Music Group

1st Wednesday of the month Bible Study 2.30pm -4pm

Wednesday 10.30am-12.30pm: Community coffee morning - open to all

Wednesday 6-7.30: Brownies

Wednesday 7.30pm-9.30pm: [NULCO Newcastle under Lyme Community Orchestra](#) music rehearsals for shows and concerts secretary@nulco.co.uk

1st Wednesday of the month 7.30pm Sugar craft – fondant decorations for cake.

Thursday 10am -11am: [Tots of fun](#) music and play for little ones under 4 totoffunuk@gmail.com

Thursday 11.45am-12.45am Tots of Fun new mums social with coffee and cake for young babies and new mums totoffunuk@gmail.com

Thursday 7.30pm-9.30pm Jazz Orchestra / Flute ensemble alternative weeks

Thursday 6pm 7 6.45pm: Dog obedience classes darwins-dog-grooming.square.site

Friday 9.30am-11.30am Tots of Fun Playgroup totoffunuk@gmail.com

Saturday 9am-10.15am: Spanish lessons for children delia.alvarez@kidslingo.co.uk

**Book Swap
at
Bradwell Methodist Church**

There is a new free book swap library outside Bradwell Methodist Church. Please take a look and if you have any unwanted books please pop them in.



**Coffee Morning's at
Audley Methodist
Church**

Refreshments, in a
welcoming
"WARM SPACE"
await you

Join us
every
Tuesday
10am to
midday



Coffee Morning

10.30am – 12.30pm

Every Wednesday at
Wolstanton
Methodist Church



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



Warm Space



Elevenses

On Wednesdays at 11am



Everyone Welcome

There's nothing like a good cuppa coffee and a friend like you to share it with!



Let's catch up!

WHY NOT CATCH UP WITH FRIENDS OLD AND NEW

BRADWELL METHODIST CHURCH
THURSDAY'S 10 - 12




 Christian Resources for Life
 @ Methodist Book Centre
 Support your local, independent
 Christian bookshop



In Store

Online



www.crfl.co.uk
 Gitana Street, Hanley, ST1 1DY
 01782 212146

MAGIC MOMENTS
St. Luke's Methodist Church
Severn Drive
Clayton
ST5 4BH

FREE ENTRY



Crafts
 Activities
 Quiz
 Bingo
 Games
 Tea, Coffee & Biscuits
 Stories

10.00am - 12.00 noon, last Thursday of every month.

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 Joannette Hodges on 01782 634766 or look on our Facebook page.



But God demonstrates his *love*
for us in this: while we were still sinners,
Christ died for us.

Romans 5:8