

## Newsletter July 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](mailto:northstaffscircuit@hotmail.co.uk).

Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> June 2026

Dear Friends

Earlier this year I had to stand up in front of our District Presbyteral Synod and ask for permission to 'sit down'! Sitting down is the rather quaint Methodist expression that refers to the retirement of ministers. It stems from the fact that Methodist ministers are itinerant – whilst we are active in ministry we don't stay in one place, we 'travel'. Thus, when we retire we cease to travel and we sit down. I was grateful that my ministerial colleagues granted me the permission I had asked for! A decision that will be ratified at the Methodist Conference, which begins tomorrow.

I began my time as a probationary minister in 2000 and was ordained in 2003 at the Llandudno Conference. And it would be safe to say that the last 26 years have been quite an adventure. There have, of course, been the inevitable highs and lows – both personal and within my ministry – and I have had my times of doubt as well as absolute certainty in the God who remarkably remains faithful to me in spite of my many flaws and idiosyncrasies.

Itinerant ministry is a strange thing. You spend a period of time in one place, working with a particular group of people and churches. You get to know some people very well; a few people remain little more than a name and address on a pastoral list; and the majority of folk you engage with at various levels....sharing something (sometimes a great deal) of yourself, making yourself vulnerable, laughing with some, crying with others, but always carrying something of them with you both whilst you are with them and when you move on. The arrival of the internet and the facility to send email messages as opposed to 'hard copy' Christmas cards has greatly eased my ability to keep up with everyone whose lives have crossed mine and who I remember with great love and affection.

I have no regrets about responding to the way in which God placed a call on my life. My wonderful family have, at times, sacrificed a lot for me to be able to fulfil that call and their love and support has been invaluable. I haven't always made the right decisions (hindsight is a great thing!) but I have always made decisions based on the information available to me at the time and with a heart trying to do my best for the kingdom of God. I discovered very early on in this adventure that you have to take risks and be prepared for things to sometimes not work out, for that is the only way to truly discern what is of God and what was just a good, but human driven, idea.

So, as I move into the next stage of my adventure, I am excited about the things that God may have in store for the coming years. I will continue to pray for the life of this Circuit, it's churches and people. And I encourage you all to pray without ceasing, to step out in faith, and to know that God will never let you down.....so GO FOR IT!!

Every blessing

Liz

# North Staffordshire Circuit (11/22)

## Preaching Plan – July 2026

					July			
					5	12	19	26
					14th Sunday in Ordinary Time	15th Sunday in Ordinary Time	16th Sunday in Ordinary Time	17th Sunday in Ordinary Time
					(Action for Children Sunday)			
<b>Lectionary Year (A)</b>					Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67	Genesis 25:19-34	Genesis 28:10-19a	Genesis 29:15-28
(Principal Service)					Psalm 45:10-17 or	Psalm 119:105-112	Psalm 139:1-12, 23-24	Psalm 105:1-11, 45b or Psalm 128
					Song of Solomon 2:8-13	Romans 8:1-11	Romans 8:12-25	Romans 8:26-39
					Romans 7:15-25a	Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23	Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43	Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52
					Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30			
Please Pray For:					Silverdale	Wolstanton	Audley	Bradwell
<b>Cross Heath</b>	LS	11.00	<b>StF</b>	NIV	Singleton B	LA	Irvine	Parke HC
<b>(23)</b>		3.00	MWB		CS 3 pm @ St Luke's		CS @ Wolstanton @ 3pm	
<b>Silverdale</b>	LS	11.00	<b>StF</b>	MM	Café Church	LA	Singleton HC	Emmaus
<b>(51)</b>		3.00			CS 3 pm @ St Luke's		CS @ Wolstanton @ 3pm	
		5.00						Refuel
<b>Wolstanton</b>	LS	10.30	<b>StF</b>		N Jones Eco Service	Singleton HC	LA	Barnett
<b>(92)</b>		3.00	MWB		CS 3 pm @ St Luke's		CS @ Wolstanton @ 3pm	
<b>Audley</b>	JV	10.30	<b>StF</b>	SoF 1&2	LA	X	Harrison T	X
<b>(26)</b>		3.00	MWB	GNB	CS 3 pm @ St Luke's	Ventom HC US	CS @ Wolstanton @ 3pm	US Halmer End
<b>Bradwell</b>	JV	10.00	<b>StF</b>	SoF 1&2	Rowley	Ventom HC	LA	N Jones
<b>(30)</b>		3.00	MWB	NIV H&P	CS 3 pm @ St Luke's		CS @ Wolstanton @ 3pm	
<b>Halmer End</b>	JV	10.30	H&P	SoF 1&2	Parke HC	US @ Audley 3 pm	Chadwick	X
<b>(19)</b>		3.00	MWB	GNB	CS 3 pm @ St Luke's		CS @ Wolstanton @ 3pm	US Leprosy LA + Speaker
<b>Madeley</b>	JV	10.30	<b>StF</b>	SoF 1234	Barnett	Barnett	Ventom HC	Matthews
<b>(23)</b>		3.00	MWB	NIV	CS 3 pm @ St Luke's		CS @ Wolstanton @ 3pm	
<b>St Luke's</b>	JV	10.30	H&P	GNB	Ventom HC	Parke	LA	Ventom HC
<b>(22)</b>		3.00	MWB		CS LP/WL Reaffirmation SVC		CS @ Wolstanton @ 3pm	
<b>Higherland</b>	JP	10.00	<b>StF</b>	MM	LA	Wakelin HC	Parke	R Jones
<b>(35)</b>		3.00			CS 3 pm @ St Luke's		CS @ Wolstanton @ 3pm	
		6.00	MWB					Café Church Parke
Printed Service for this week prepared by:					Parke	Ventom	Heap	Davies

### Eco Tips

It's Plastic Free July and this year we're thinking about laundry, a top source of microplastic pollution. Fibres from synthetic clothes (polyester, nylon, and acrylic for example) shed tiny fibres during washing and drying. These enter the sewage systems and are hard to filter out. Use a microfibre bag or ball to catch the fibres. Learn more about reducing plastic pollution in the laundry process at [plasticfreejuly.org/get-involved/what-you-can-do/plastic-free-laundry/](https://plasticfreejuly.org/get-involved/what-you-can-do/plastic-free-laundry/) and more about this year's campaign at [www.plasticfreejuly.org](https://www.plasticfreejuly.org)

. A Rocha UK's Easy 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**

**Long-life milk**

**Sponge puddings**

**Tinned tomatoes**

**Baked beans**

**Long-life juice**

**Pasta**

**Tea bags**

**Deodorant**

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



# EXPLORERS!

At Halmer End Methodist Church  
High St, ST7 8AD



Calling all Master builders!

Come and join us for building fun, 6.00 pm till 7.00 pm,

Meeting again on **MONDAY 6h July 2026!**

And then a Summer Break until September.

Suitable for Reception to Year 6 children accompanied by an adult; Year 7 and above unaccompanied, but must have parental permission.

Contact: Helen 01782 722685 or David 01782 722014

See [www.halmerendmethodists.org.uk](http://www.halmerendmethodists.org.uk) & Facebook



Drinks  
Bible Stories,



**Fustian & Musical Misfits**  
**80's SING ALONG CONCERT!**

Higherland Methodist Church  
**SATURDAY JULY 11th**  
Doors Open From 5PM • Concert Starts at 6PM

Tickets £5 Each *Incl. Light Refreshments*

For Tickets Call Kev on 07988 532738

Would you enjoy  
interesting speakers on a wide variety of topics,  
entertainers and Afternoon Teas?

You will find a warm welcome at

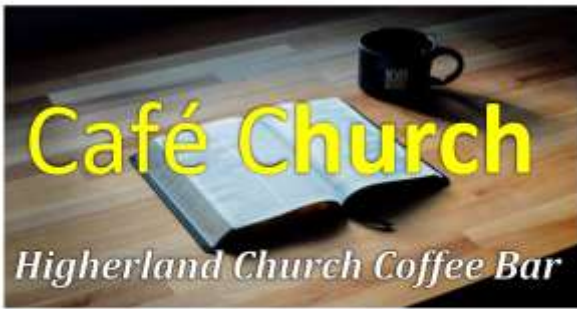
**'ELDERBERRIES'**

We meet fortnightly on Mondays from 2.30 pm  
at Wolstanton Methodist Church

Please look at our programme below to see what is  
planned for the summer:

- 13th July: 'My Music' With Justine Eardley
- 27th July: 'Keeping You Safe' With PC Simon Street - Staffordshire Police
- 10th August: ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
- 24th August: 'Midlands Air Ambulance' with Sally McMahon

A donation of £3 is invited towards costs.



# Café Church

Higherland Church Coffee Bar

*Friendly Chatter & discussion,  
Welcoming Smiles & a good laugh,  
Songs, poems, thoughts & Prayers  
Drinks & biscuits.*

**Come along @ 6pm**

**Sunday 26th July**

## Leprosy Mission Service at Halmer End Methodist Church

On Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> July at 3.00 pm

Speaker: Hannah Masih

You are invited to this special time of worship with friends from Audley Methodist and Halmer End coming together to learn more about the work being done in Jesus' Name with people suffering Leprosy



Diagnosing and treating leprosy

Caring for disabled people

Fighting stigma and advocating for change

Pioneering research



Higherland Church Coffee Bar  
2pm-4pm on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> July



Everyone welcome to come and

**Join in the chatter**

*Free snacks, cakes & drinks.*



**UCB's Vision Statement:** Changing Lives for Good by the Power of God's Word

### Prayerline's Vision

UCB Prayerline offers a positive experience of remote prayer ministry which involves praying with and praying for callers (with signposting when necessary to appropriate specialist ministry/service providers). UCB Prayerline also offers a praying for service via requests submitted by the website, digital messaging and postal prayers.

### History

The service was established in 1995. The listening line developed into what we now call *UCB Prayerline* in 2003, with prayer and the Word of God as the basis. Forces Prayerline started in 2008; this is a number exclusively for members of the armed forces, their families and veterans.

### Some statistics

- During 2025 – 77,173 calls, 65,534 calls answered
- Voicemail (Outside of operating hours) 5,327
- Current phone operators (volunteers) – 124
- Web email 12,106 prayer requests
- SC Prayer requests (Call back service) 6080 prayers
- Postal 3,522 prayers

### Post Covid lockdown

Pre lockdown, there were 27 satellite groups based in church buildings supported by 252 phone operators. They used analogue landlines. With church buildings closing in March 2020, we moved to home-based working. Volunteers now use either their own mobiles/phone or SIP Phones provided by UCB, using Internet technology. An externally lead strategic review undertaken during autumn 2022 confirmed the strategy of continuing this style of remote working.

### Prayerline recruitment Initiative

Due to other national Christian phone services reducing their operating hours, we are experiencing greater demand in terms of the number of calls. Since lockdown, the calls have become more complex and the need for the service is far greater.

UCB Prayerline is looking to partner with church leaders, to form a team from their congregations and for each person to cover a two-hour shift once a week on a regular basis. For churches where there no possibility of such a team, church leaders to support individuals, who in turn would join a "remote hub" i.e. covering a shift with people from around the country.

### UCB will provide:

- Comprehensive training to equip
- Operational guidelines
- Ongoing oversight and support

### Opening hours

- Monday to Friday 09:00 – 22:00
- Saturday 10:00 – 14:00

### Enquiries to:

[Prayerlinerecruitment@ucb.co.uk](mailto:Prayerlinerecruitment@ucb.co.uk)

Prayerline Web page [www.ucb.co.uk/pray](http://www.ucb.co.uk/pray)

## MEET THE VOLUNTEERS

Each time someone calls UCB Prayerline, they speak to one of our dedicated volunteers. We asked two of these volunteers, Pauline and David, a few questions about what it's like to answer these calls.

### Can you tell us a little about yourself?

P: My name is Pauline and I have been married for over 50 years. We have been blessed with four children and six grandchildren. My husband is retired now, so together we help with looking after our newest grandson. We walk our little dog every day, rain or shine.

D: My name is David, I am retired and my wife Sandy and I have just celebrated our Golden Wedding Anniversary. We have four children, and grandchildren and great-grandchildren. I tend to dabble a bit in various things, but my wife would say gardening was my main interest. How did you get involved with Prayerline and how long have you been volunteering?

### How did you get involved with Prayerline and how long have you been volunteering?

P: I have been healed and changed by prayer so, it was natural to want to pray for people, and one day I felt led to fill in the form to become a Prayerline volunteer. I have been on the team since September 2020.

D: I became a Prayerline volunteer in July 2013 because of a flyer from Saltbox Christian Centre, where I worked part-time. Prayer has always been a focus for me, and I felt led to serve Prayerline by the Lord. What training and support do you get from UCB?

### What training and support do you get from UCB?

P: I had an interview and some training from the Prayerline team online. They are all lovely, caring and very supportive. They prayed for me before and after my shift until I was happy to continue in confidence. I was given a manual to read, and there is always someone to support and pray for me. We have monthly Zoom calls to meet as a team and worship together

### What do you get asked to pray about most often?

P: I think now the thing I most often get asked to pray about is for peace because many people are living in fear, and a lot ask for prayer for direction in these unprecedented times we find ourselves in. What does an average day look like as you prepare to start volunteering?

### What does an average day look like as you prepare to start volunteering?

D: I volunteer for two hours every Wednesday and Friday afternoon. After breakfast I sit and talk with my Heavenly Father for a while and then help out around the house or tinker in the garden. My wife and I try to take a walk if the weather is kind, returning about 1pm for some lunch. Then about 1:45pm I settle down in my office and prepare to start the session. What encourages you to stay on the phone even when what you're hearing is challenging or upsetting?

### What encourages you to stay on the phone even when what you're hearing is challenging?

D: Every call is a cry to the Lord for help. He never says, 'Go away' or 'Time's up' or 'Don't bother me'. When the call is upsetting, it just causes me to cry out to the Lord in agreement with the caller. What's the best thing about volunteering with Prayerline?

### What's the best thing about volunteering with Prayerline?

P: It is a great privilege to be available to show the love of God and to help those hurting to be encouraged. It is laying our lives down for others and hopefully blessing God and bringing glory to His name. What would you say to someone who has been thinking about calling but isn't sure?

### What would you say to someone who has been thinking about calling but isn't sure?

P: Be brave and try it. We are here to help; we believe that nothing is too difficult for God. D: Call, God is waiting to meet your need because He loves you.

**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

1<sup>st</sup> 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](mailto:workoutwithmika@gmail.com)

Monday 6.30-7.30pm Pilates with Nicola [nicolajherd@hotmail.com](mailto:nicolajherd@hotmail.com)

Tuesday 9.30am-10.30am Baby Signing and Tiny Talk for young babies under 1 year [nicolaausterberry@tinytalk.co.uk](mailto:nicolaausterberry@tinytalk.co.uk)

Tuesday 10am - 11am: [Yoga Jules, Stoke](#) [yogajules.stoke@gmail.com](mailto:yogajules.stoke@gmail.com)

Tuesday 7.30pm-9pm: Church Music Group

1<sup>st</sup> 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](mailto:secretary@nulco.co.uk)

1<sup>st</sup> 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://darwins-dog-grooming.square.site)

Friday 9.30am-11.30am Tots of Fun Playgroup [totoffunuk@gmail.com](mailto:totoffunuk@gmail.com)

Saturday 9am-10.15am: Spanish lessons for children [delia.alvarez@kidslingo.co.uk](mailto: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](http://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.

LIFE IS NOT ABOUT  
WAITING FOR THE  
STORM TO PASS,  
IT IS ABOUT  
LEARNING  
TO DANCE IN  
THE RAIN. ANON

GOD IS OUR REFUGE  
AND STRENGTH  
(PSALM 46:1A)

