

Wesley Place Methodist Church,
Lawton Road, Alsager

The Messenger

www.wesley-place.org.uk

January, 2018

Message from our Minister

Dear Friends,

Happy New Year! A traditional, and genuine greeting. I hope there will be lots of good news this year, no trips to the doctor to receive bad news or something to worry about, no sad news from family and friends, but holidays to rejoice over, remember and celebrate, birthdays to enjoy and dance about, worship that's meaningful and inspiring, shopping trips with lots of bargains, and daily happenings to make you smile, good stuff on the tele, and a few films worth watching to make you feel good.

But we all know, that at times it might not be a happy year, there will be sad times, occasionally tragic moments, and many days just trudging through the same old routine.

Happiness is something that often depends on life's circumstances, things make us happy or sad as we react to them, some people are more cheerful than others, but happiness is subjective.

I was struck by the line in a Christmas carol that's still ringing in my heart - 'Joyful and triumphant' from 'O come all ye faithful'. Joy is different from happiness, it resides deep within us, and like the rock the boat is anchored too, despite the wind and waves, it remains a stable constant. A friend of mine once painted an abstract picture entitled 'Joy'. It was a dark blue canvas with splashes of black, and off from the centre was a bright white rectangle of light that despite all the darkness on the canvas shone out dominating the picture meaning the darkness never wholly got to you.

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He said he was trying to paint that experience as a Christian of Joy - it comes from God and is always there, so you can know both joy and unhappiness at the same time.

So, although I hope and pray it will be a Happy New Year, I also hope and pray that even when unhappiness comes our way, there will still be joy deep within. As another hymn sung well at Christmas says 'Joy to the world'!

Your minister and friend,
Rob

Services in January

Sunday 7th January:

10:30am Service led Rev Rob Hilton - Covenant Service

6:30pm Service led by Dr Malcolm Crook

Sunday 14th January

10:30am Service led by the Stewards

6:30pm Service led by Rev Rob Hilton - Holy Communion

Sunday 21st January

10:30am Service led by Dr Michael Guy

6:30pm Service held at URC

Sunday 28th January

10:30am Service led by Mrs Susan Taylor

6:30pm Service led by Mr Ian White

Lent Course 2018

This year we'll be considering Andrew Roberts' book Holy Habits an up to date and re-thought out approach to Discipleship. Rob will facilitate discussion on the adventure, aims, and nature of discipleship with inspirational input, Biblical reading, and conversation. If you want to buy or borrow the book and read each chapter to prepare for yourselves, let the Stewards know and we can acquire some books, though this isn't necessary.

Each session will last no more than 2 hours and will be run on Mondays - either at 10.30am at Costa or 7.30pm at Church. Please sign up to attend on the sheets in front of Church and on the noticeboard by the vestry, and show your commitment. 5 sessions starting Monday 26th February, then weekly until the last session Monday 26th March.

This course will explore the Nature of Discipleship, the first 5 sessions of the book. A further 10 sessions remain for those who may decide later to continue the study and explore the Nurture of Discipleship.

Minister: Rob Hilton robakiddles@icloud.com - Day off Friday

Lay Leader: Mrs Bronwen Degg, (01270) 872832 - Day off Wednesday

Lay Worker: Jonathan Newbould

Senior Steward Team:

Issy Brislen - brislen.isabel2@gmail.com (01270) 878753

Janet Keen - janetkeen4@yahoo.co.uk (01270) 874698

Booking Secretary: Ann Pask (01270) 879633

Notices for next week: Please see Sarah Simpson 07718140733 or e-mail sarahsimo28@live.co.uk by Thursday 8pm please.

Church e-mail address - Wesley.Place@tesco.net

Wesley Place facebook page - Wesley Place church

If you miss a copy of the pew leaflet or would like to see photos of what has been happening here at Wesley Place you can find them on the Wesley Place website - www.wesley-place.org.uk

Visit the Circuit website (www.cheshiresouth.org.uk)

for the Circuit news letter and forthcoming events.

A paper copy of the weekly news letter is available to read on the Circuit notice