

Wesley Place Methodist Church, Alsager

The Messenger

www.wesley-place.org.uk

December, 2018

Welcome to worship today. We are pleased that you are able to join us. Whether you are visiting briefly or are new to Wesley Place we hope that you feel at home and among friends. Please introduce yourself to one of the stewards, **Janet Keen** and **Ann Hurlstone**

Sunday 2nd December 2018

10:30am Service led by Rev Rob Hilton – Holy Communion

Please join us for coffee and fellowship after the service

6:30pm Service led by Hilda White - Alternative Worship

Services in December

Sunday 9th December

10:30am Service led by Rev Rob Hilton - Toy Service

6:30pm Service led by Rev Jeremy Tresise

Sunday 16th December

10:30am Service led by Rev Rob Hilton - Nativity

4pm Cracker Family Service

Sunday 23rd December

10:30am Service led by Rev Rob Hilton

6:30pm Service led by Rev Rob Hilton - Carol Service

Monday 24th December

4pm Christingle Family Service

11:15pm Midnight Communion

Tuesday 25th December

9:30am Christmas Day Family Service

Message from our Minister

Dear Friends,

I have just put a name on a new file in my church filing cabinet! It says “Nurture”.

Since I arrived as Minister I have reflected on our church life with the stewards and at church council meetings, and one of the issues that I was struggling to see was where in the life of the church we attend to our spiritual nurture. Where do we read the Bible and explore it together, where can we support each other in prayer, and build and develop those relationships that are based on Bible reading, prayer, and care for one another? Of course all these things go on individual ways, but there was never a report on the matter to Church Council, and it never featured in any committee meeting agendas.

Now it will!

Church Council agreed with me that perhaps this was missing. Although there are a few wonderful meetings for such nurture, they are individually organised and fit for the purposes of those who choose to go (and I’m sure no-one would ever be excluded).

When Jesus commissioned his disciples he didn’t say “Go to Church for an hour on a Sunday, everything else is your choice”, he said “Go and make disciples, baptize and teach them” (Matthew 28: 19-20), and when the Methodist Church emerged, it was a movement of lay people meeting together in ‘Classes’ to read the Bible, share their spiritual growth, and nurture and support their discipleship. When we began to study ‘Holy Habits’ last Lent, we discovered that intentionality is key in growing churches - so we have decided to increase our intention of developing the Holy Habits of Biblical Teaching, Fellowship, and Prayer. Five new groups, of up to 10 or 12 in each, that should hopefully mean half the usual congregation in a nurturing group.

We will be starting 5 new groups in the new year, beginning in the week of 14th January. They will then meet fortnightly after that, on prearranged dates up to the summer, with a break for Easter, and the Summer Holidays. Most groups will meet in a home, one at church, and one in Costa. they will be hosted by one person, or a couple, and led by someone else, to spread the workload.

We will develop the habit of never having a church Council or Committee meeting in the week of a Fellowship Group, so that the groups have a priority in the life of the church, and no-one ever has to choose between their Fellowship Group and a Church business meeting.

The hope is that each group will follow the same material for Bible Study, reflection, and prayer, and to start with, this will be a resource published by the Methodist Church entitled 'Speaking of God'. One group that meets already is using that material, so they'll be able to encourage us!

I'll be giving more detail and launching the material at the Covenant Service on 6th January.

Meanwhile please consider prayerfully joining a Fellowship Group. You don't need to know the answers, just be willing to think about the questions, you don't need to know the Bible, just willing to read and think about it together, and you don't need to think of yourself as a 'good' Christian, simply one willing to keep learning and keep growing.

The leaders of these Fellowship Groups will form a new 'Committee' who will reflect on the groups and their contribution to the Church life, and give a report at Church Council. I hope my file, like the spiritual life of the church will grow and develop!

Happy Christmas, and I hope to see you at one of the many Services we have during Advent, over Christmas and the New Year.

As Charles Wesley wrote:

"Come, let us anew,
our journey pursue,
Roll round with the year,
and never stand still 'till the master appear."

Your Minister and Friend,

Rob

Candlelight Service of Lessons and Carols - refreshments

The Carol Service this year is on Sunday 23rd December and as usual light refreshments will be served afterwards. If you are able to provide mince pies or small cakes please sign the list on the notice board and bring your contribution on a plate ready to serve and put it on the table in the Hall before the service. Thank you

Regular activities held this month

Sunday Evening **5pm-6:30pm:** Sparkz - youth club for 6-11 years

7pm:-8:30pm: Ablaze - youth club for 12-18 years

Monday Fun every Monday 2pm-4pm

Walking Fellowship meet at Wesley Place at 9:30am 12th

Guild meet on Wednesday 12th for Christmas Lunch

Midweek prayer - Wednesday 10:30am followed by tea and biscuits

Breakfast Housegroup meet 8:45am on the first Thursday of the month

CAMEO Ladies meet 10am at Astbury Garden Centre on Thursday 13th

Action for Children Coffee Morning - Saturdays 10am-12 noon

Service at Milton House 9th December Margaret Keeling

Dates for your Diary

04 December- Worship Consultation

09 December - AM Service: Toy Service

16 December - AM Service: Nativity

16 December - 4pm Cracker Service

19 December- Can't Sing Choir Christmas Concert

22 December- Christingle Preparation Morning

23 December - 6.30pm Evening Carol Service

24 December- 4pm Christingle Family Service

11.15pm Midnight Communion

25 December- 9.30pm Christmas Day Family Service

Whats on at Wesley Place this week

Mon: 2pm-4pm: Monday fun - table top games

Tues: 7:30pm: Worship Consultation Meeting

Wed: 10.00am: Church open for prayer from 10 to 12 noon with
“Time Out” at 10:30. Led by Joyce Owen
Followed by Tea and Biscuits

Thur: 8:45am: Breakfast Housegroup - Mad, Sad or Glad
7:30pm: Choir rehearsal

Sat: 10am-12noon: Action for Children Coffee Morning

Christmas Gift Service - Sunday 9th December

We are looking forward to this important annual Service. This year Christmas gifts for all age groups are needed and Captain Susan Stubbings from Kidsgrove Salvation Army will be coming along to the Service to receive the gifts. These will be distributed in the local community and are much needed. Thank you for your continued

Wesley Place Church Family Christmas Card

Instead of putting a string of cards in church, this year we have produced one large card for all of us to write our Christmas greetings to the church family. The card will be available at the front of church for you to write in, from the beginning of December. There will also be a collection box if you would like to make a donation to the ‘Oliver Wilmot Memorial Fund’.

Christingles Preparation Morning Saturday 22nd December

Please join us in the Church Hall on Saturday 22rd December 10am-11am to prepare our Christingles for the Christmas Eve service. Families and all ages welcome welcome!!

Alsager Community Choir

conducted by Daniel Keen present their Christmas Concert in aid of Christian Aid. Saturday 8th December, 7:30pm, at St Mary's Church.

Featuring a wide variety of Christmas music performed by the choir and soloists to really get you in a festive mood.

Tickets, costing £5, from Janet Keen or on the door.

The Can't Sing Choir

are giving a Christmas Concert

on Wednesday December 19th at 7.30pm

at Wesley Place Methodist Church Alsager

Tickets £5.00 including refreshments available from choir members and

Church Stewards

Christmas Tree Celebration - The Church on Ettiley Heath

2nd to 8th December

See Notice Board for more details.

Arch - helping people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness

During Advent please consider donating tins of food in the 'Arch Box' (situated in our hallway) each week to support the work of the registered charity Arch. Arch help people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness, victims and survivors of domestic abuse, people suffering from poor mental wellbeing and people struggling to maintain their independence or their tenancy. Our donations will be taken to them for Christmas. Thank you.

Cheshire South Circuit

MWiB

Soup & Carols

at

**Ettiley Heath Methodist
Church**

Monday 3rd Dec 2018



Joy to the World!



Joy to the World!

1pm Soup 2pm Carols

Cost £5

Minister: Rob Hilton (01270) 872597 robakiddles@icloud.com - Day off Friday
Lay Worker: 07799 192626
Senior Steward Team: (01270) 878753 and (01270) 874698
Booking Secretary: (01270) 879633
Notices for Pew Leaflet and Projector:
Contact **both** Sarah Simpson (01270) 874393 or e-mail: sarahsimo28@live.co.uk
and Andrew Tyrell email: andrew@tyrells.co.uk
by **Wednesday 8pm** please.



Birthdays in December

Madison Harvey Happy 8th birthday for the 3rd

Sofia Harvey Happy 2nd for the 10th

Erica Spencer Happy 3rd for the 15th

Holly Shaw Happy 5th for the 19th

Holly Richardson Happy 8th for the 19th

Phoebe Simpkin Happy 6th for the 30th

Lots of love and best wishes

from all your friends at Wesley Place

Oakhanger Church Open Day - Saturday December 8th

Come and see our new church building!

Open 10:30 to 3.30

Soup and roll served from 12.00 til 2.00

Tea, coffee and mince pies at other times

More details from Michael Guy, 878226

Join us fir our Christmas Celebration and Carols

on Tuesday 18th December at 7:00pm
