

Keeping in Touch

Wesley Place Methodist Church, Alsager

Dear Friends,

It's remarkable how quickly time passes—January feels like a blur, and now we find ourselves approaching March! As the months move forward, our attention as a church naturally shifts toward the next significant events in the Christian calendar—Lent and Easter.

Next week, we are excited to host our annual Pancake Party, which has always been a



wonderful opportunity to connect with the community. If you're looking for a quiet afternoon, Wesley Place may not be the place to be on Tuesday, March 4th, from 4:00-6:00pm!

We'll have games, food, crafts, and, of course, plenty of pancakes! If you have a couple of hours to spare and would like to help, we would greatly appreciate it. This event is an excellent chance to get to know families, young people, and individuals in our community. There are various ways you can contribute, and we'd love to have you join us. And yes, the pancakes are definitely a guarantee!

*As we begin the season of Lent, it's an opportune time to pause and reflect as we prepare for Easter. Lent offers a chance to focus more intently on Jesus—His character, actions, sacrifice, and ultimately, His resurrection. In previous years, I've taken a different approach by adding something positive to my routine, such as the *40 Acts of Kindness* initiative (<https://www.stewardship.org.uk/40acts>). Each day, participants find ways to bless others or brighten someone's day, and it's been an enriching experience for those who've joined. We've introduced this challenge to our young people, and it's always well received, providing a meaningful way to engage with the season.*

Wesley Place - March 2025

2nd March 10.30am - Lesley Peake

9th March 9.30am - Rev'd Rob Hilton

2nd Sunday Family Brunch

10.30am Reflective Service in Church

16th March 10.30am - Rev'd Rob Hilton

Holy Communion in Church

23rd March 10.30am - Tim Cooke

30th March 10.30am - Helen Robertson





As we approach Easter, we're also thrilled to announce our Easter - Cross Factor Hope Journey events. This year, we will host five schools, with 180 students coming to the church to explore the story of Easter and discover the profound love of Christ through their own 'journeys'. Our Hope Journey events are a highlight for local schools, offering an interactive way for young people and staff to engage with the Easter story. Year 5 students will participate in six workshops, each one shedding light on different aspects of the Easter story— understanding more about the resurrection, recognising the symbolism of the cross, encountering a Roman Centurion, becoming part of the highs and lows of the Easter week, taking part in the Last Supper and enjoy a craft activity. This experience allows them to gain a deeper understanding of why Easter is central to our Christian faith.

Our ongoing work with young people continues to be a source of joy. It's been wonderful to see new faces at the Sparkz kids' club and the Ablaze youth group. More than just growth in numbers, it's been heartening to see young people retain and share what they've learned from the Bible. My hope is that they will continue to share these stories with their families at home. Over half term, we also organized a walk up Shutlingsloe, with seven of us enjoying a brief but rewarding hike up the Cheshire hill and back through Macclesfield Forest.



One quote that has resonated with me recently comes from John C. Maxwell: "Change is inevitable. Growth is optional." As many of you are aware, change is happening—both within Wesley Place and perhaps in your own lives. Change can be unsettling, but it's how we respond to that fear that makes all the difference. Do we allow fear to control us, or do we trust that God is already at work in these changes? Though it's a challenge, we are not alone in this journey. Jesus walks with us every step of the way, assuring us that we will never face more than we can bear. Come, Holy Spirit!

Much Love,

Jonny

The Inaugural Service.

In the last edition we set out details of the letting on a Sunday afternoon to the above Church

The inaugural service took place on 16th February and 12 of us from Wesley Place attended.

We agreed that it was extraordinary. Vibrant and inspiring worship based strongly on scriptural references. A sermon from Robert Mountford, ecumenical officer which was extremely well informed and focused on our being 'stronger together' The music was dynamic and lively. The welcome we received was exceptional.

There was an openness around finance - an encouragement of tithing- and wide publicity of the church bank details.

The sincerity of all participants was self evident.

Rob Hilton and I gave a brief welcome on behalf of Wesley Place.

This was literally just the start. We will see what collaboration can follow.

Do take the opportunity on a Sunday at 3pm to see for yourself. You too will be most welcome.

RCCG is committed to growth and is experiencing it in so many places and countries.

What a refreshing change from the downward spiral we often perceive ourselves to be in across so much of Methodism!

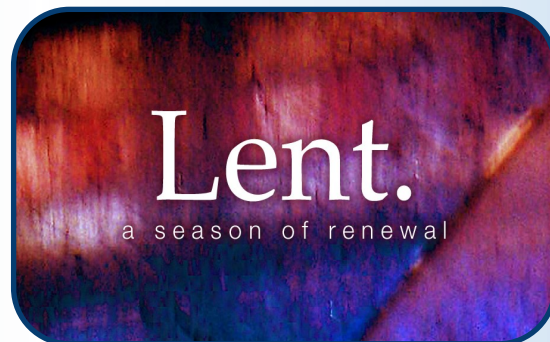
***Best wishes
Ian***

Lent Course

Please join Rev'd Rob Hilton as we explore Mark's Gospel during Lent.

There are 3 sessions at Wesley Place on Tuesday evenings on 1st, 8th and 15th April 7.30pm to 9pm.

All are welcome.



You are invited

to an evening led by Robin Perry,
District Digital Enabler
to learn about **VideoPsalm**,

VideoPsalm:
free and flexible
software for churches,
for creating worship
presentations, including
song words, Bible
passages, pictures and
video clips



Wednesday 19th March 2025, 7.15pm
At the Wesley Centre, Unity Methodist
Church, Wesley Avenue, Sandbach,
CW11 1DG

In preparation, you might like to download the software and
bring your laptop with you, so that you can try it out,
Or you can just come along and find out more first.

*This software is compatible with Windows PCs but not
Apple Macs*

World Day of Prayer Service

*The service in Alsager is at St
Mary's Church on Friday March
7th 2025 at 1.30pm.*

All are welcome!



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

'PANCAKE DAY'

Tuesday 4th March 2025
10 'til 12 noon
at

The home of Michael and Ruth Parrott
8 The Paddock, Willaston, CW5 7HJ

Pancakes, tea, coffee and biscuits

Bring and Buy
Fair Trade Stall

All proceeds to go to MWiB Projects



PEACE IS A JOURNEY

... it must be taken one step at a time.

We have travelled most of the journey towards our
sensory and accessible Community Peace Garden
and we need your help to take the final steps!

**CAN YOU HELP US RAISE
£500 TO FINISH OUR
COMMUNITY PEACE GARDEN?**

WHAT DO WE NEED?

- A SMALL RAMP FROM THE CAR PARK
- A SOLAR WATER FEATURE
- PLANTERS
- WHITE AND PURPLE FLOWERING
OR SCENTED PLANTS

Post to: Englesea Brook Chapel and Museum
Englesea Brook, Crewe, CW2 5QW

TO DONATE:

Send a cheque payable
to Englesea Brook
Chapel and Museum
marked: Peace Garden

OR via online banking -
Englesea Brook Chapel
and Museum

Sortcode: 30-12-59
Account no: 00781832
Ref: Peace Garden



Join Crewe by Farndon and Malpas Community Church on...

North Wales Pilgrims Way



Stage 5



Sunday 6th April 2025

Llansannan - Pandy Tudur (8 miles)

Starting at at Fforest Farm Alpaca's, stopping at The Gwenfrewi Project for lunch, finishing at Pandy Tudur.

Please Contact Marie for more information: 07826 090448.



The **Methodist** Church
Chester & Stoke-on-Trent District

Equality, Diversity, Inclusion (EDI) Training

As part of our striving to become a truly inclusive Methodist Church, folks in particular leadership roles need to complete the mandatory training on Equality, Diversity and Inclusion. Many have already completed this training– but for those who have not yet done so, face-to-face training is being offered on

Saturday 22 March 2025 at Tunstall Methodist Church, ST6 6EE

The day runs from 10:00am until 3:00pm and lunch will be provided
Drinks will be served from 9:30am

To register to attend, please contact Rob Glassonbury
email: chester.stoke@btconnect.com
stating any special dietary requirements and / or large-print needs

We hope this will give an opportunity for those who need to engage with the training to do so and demonstrate the continued commitment of this District to celebrating Equality, Diversity and Inclusion in our life together in community. There is currently no expectation that people will attend the training more than once.

Those who are required to attend are:

1. All Ministers (including active Supernumerary Ministers, Superintendents and District Chairs)
2. Local Preachers
3. Connexional Committee members
4. Connexional Team members
5. Circuit and District Safeguarding Officers
6. Circuit Stewards and Church Stewards
7. Lay Workers:
 - a) Lay Pastoral Workers, b) Children, Youth and Family Workers, c) Pioneers
8. Worship Leaders

Alsager Carnival 2025

THEME: KIDS TV

Wesley Place Float

This year we'd love to see even more of the church family join us for the carnival, there's loads to do!

Planning - Designing - Building - Decorating - Joining on the float - walking alongside on the day

If you want to join pop me a message

Amber: 07848150114

Saturday 7TH JUNE

Dinner Hub Opportunities

Dinner Hub is our thriving and much appreciated outreach on a Thursday afternoon. Local families enjoy the welcome, food, and fellowship provided, and say how much they feel a part of Wesley Place. There's a dedicated team who prepare the room, prepare and serve the food, chat to diners; and wash up, clearing the premises afterwards for youth club that follows. Could you offer an hour or two to join the team? Training can be given, encouragement in Food Hygiene certification if you want it. A sense of tired satisfaction is guaranteed! Please speak to Helen Robertson, Tash Walker, Rob, Andy or Sarah, if you want to know more or come along and see.

Caring for our property, Resourcing our Mission

Church Council are in the process of appointing a new small team to oversee our buildings and property at Wesley Place: This is a time to review how we best resource our Mission and Worship as a church. If you would like to offer some time, expertise if you have any, or knowledge of local businesses worth remembering for work, please let Rob or Alicia Crompton know.

A prayer of adoration

You are the One, the Holy One,
who looks on all you have made, with love.
You gaze at me, and your faithful kindness
overwhelms me.

I fall silent before you, my words stalling,
as my heart breaks open and pours out my thanks,
my delight in you.

The more I gaze back at you,
the more I see through your eyes;
I am born again in your devotion to your creation.

Let my words fall before you,
but grant me the words and the acts of love
you long for me to have for your world. Amen.

**Kerry Tankard, District Chair, Yorkshire West
District**

Worship at New Milton House

As part of an ecumenical Rota, Rob leads a short act of worship with the residents of New Milton House in Alsager, sometimes one or two of our own church members are present and appreciate a chat as well as the worship. They're at 1.30pm in the dining room after lunch. If you could spare an hour in the middle of Sunday to take Wesley Place to New Milton House, Rob would love your company! It's his turn on the following dates: 23rd Feb, 16th March, 27th April.



Methodist Women in Britain

For women, for justice, for Christ

**COULD YOU JOIN OUR TEAM?
ARE YOU LOOKING FOR A NEW CHALLENGE?
HAVE YOU THE SKILLS WE NEED TO FURTHER
DEVELOP METHODIST WOMEN IN BRITAIN, TAKING
US FORWARD AS A VIBRANT, ACTIVE CHARITY?**

We are looking for a new CoChair from September 2025

*As CoChair you will be a representative for
Methodist Women in Britain, and the Methodist
Church. There will be an opportunity to have an
overseas visit during your term of office and the
role brings many wide-ranging opportunities to
engage with people both inside and outside the
Methodist Church.*

*Prior experience of Methodist Women in Britain is
valuable but not essential, as you will be able to
shadow one of our present CoChairs before you
take up office in September 2025.*

*You will need to be comfortable with public
speaking and have good communication,
organisational and IT skills, with some experience
of chairing meetings and leading worship an
advantage.*

This is a volunteer position with all reasonable
expenses reimbursed.

Contact cochairs.mwib@gmail.com for an
informal chat about the role

Completed application forms to:

communications.mwib@gmail.com

**CLOSING DATE: Monday 14th April @
12noon**

Thank you.....

*to everyone who baked cakes,
bought tickets and came to our
“Afternoon Tea with the Ukelele.”
We had a lovely time.*

*A great team of helpers made
everything run smoothly. The U3A
Ukelele Band dressed the part and
entertained us well. After expenses
our profits were £425.70.*

Margaret and Sandra

**Monday games and Wednesday
mornings
@ Wesley Place.**

**Monday Afternoons @Wesley
Place:**

*Please join us between 2pm and
4pm for Board Games, tea/coffee,
biscuits and fellowship. All
welcome, looking forward to
seeing you*

**Wednesday Mornings @Wesley
Place:**

*Please join us between 11am and
1pm on Wednesday mornings for
tea, coffee and fellowship and a
short informal service at 11.30am.*

Wednesday 5th March: the Rev'd
Rob Hilton will lead us in a short,
informal service of Holy
Communion.

Wednesday, 12th March: Lesley
Peake will lead us in a short
informal service.

**All Welcome. Looking forward to
seeing you.**

Lord, we lift Ukraine into Your hands.
Bring peace to this land torn by war.
Protect soldiers defending their homes, give
them strength and courage, and guide the
government with wisdom and integrity.
Comfort prisoners of war—may they not be forgotten
but treated with mercy.
Heal the wounded, strengthen the weary, and provide
for those who have lost everything.
Keep civilians safe from harm, shelter the displaced, and
bring relief to the suffering.
Soften hearts, open doors for reconciliation, and let justice
prevail. Fill Ukraine with hope, faith, and restoration.
We trust in Your power, Lord.
In Jesus' name, we pray.
Amen.

