

Keeping in Touch

Wesley Place Methodist Church, Alsager

Dear Friends

One of the things my faith has come to mean to me over perhaps the last 20 years or so, is that it enables me to make sense. It gives me a framework that life's events can fit into, and I can find purpose. Even if that means living with mystery and not always knowing or understanding.

During September and into October this year, the greetings cards on our mantelpiece told a story. First came cards congratulating us on our wedding anniversary, happy memories of a happy day 35 years ago celebrating the love we had found together, a wedding service in an act of worship including communion, and a gathering for friends and family, as two young people with christian faith began our lives together. For us it wasn't just a 'church wedding', it was an act of worship, with our christian friends involved, a service we crafted to celebrate our lives begun together within, we believed, God's providence. God's purposes. I remember we used to say to each other all those years ago 'we don't know what the future holds, but we know who holds the future'.

Alongside the wedding anniversary cards began to appear 'Congratulations on the birth of your grandson'! Happy cards, celebrating with us grandparenthood, but with a prayerful and solemn overtone because Caleb was born so very early, so prayers and good wishes for us were added to the cards of congratulation. The days grew serious and concerned as we knew Caleb had a long and rough journey ahead in hospital, and needing much care. During his first week of life he showed such promise and reports were well and good. The concern grew and he needed more care, there was talk of infection and a need for surgery. Messages of support and 'thinking of you' began to come in, and then the greatest fear we'd had of course was realised when we heard he had become seriously ill, we dropped everything and went to his bedside. After just 17 days of life our beloved tiny little boy had died. The hospital corridors down which we had walked with flowers, cards, and hope became a walk of silence and sadness while others around us continued to celebrate life and birth and health.

The cards of condolence began to appear, and the range of emotions expressed on the mantelpiece encompassed almost all that humanity could express and share joy and sadness, hope and grief.

Sunday Morning Worship at Wesley Place - November

*3rd Nov 10.30 am - Rev'd Rob Hilton
Holy Communion*

*

5pm Memorial Service - Rev'd Rob Hilton

*13th Oct 9.30am - Rev'd Rob Hilton
2nd Sunday Family Brunch*

*

10.30am Remembrance Service

17th Nov 10.30am - Ian White

24th Nov 10.30am - Rev'd Carolyn Lawrance



Our faith remains the framework of meaning - the loving God to whom we expressed thanks and praise for happy marriage and family life was also, and at the same time, the loving God who holds us in our grief and pain. God's purpose - Love, is expressed as much through the sharing of grief, and supporting love of friends and family, as through memories of a wedding, family life, adventure, and achievement.

Jesus was born and brought hope to his parents and family, he lived a meaningful life and made a real difference to those who knew him, his death was tragic and caused much anger, grief, and pain. And yet in his life God was experiencing humanity, his own idea and creation, and God was expressing his love and purpose for humanity - to love and care for one another, seek justice, healing and hope, and bring meaning to the whole realm of human experience.

There are words I sometimes use at a funeral, I used them at Caleb's:

The bones of dinosaurs who walked the earth millions of years ago show evidence of cancer. Cliffs and mountains are born in volcanos and under sea beds, they rise, are folded and crushed and worn away as the sea coaxes them into erosion and decay. There have always been fault lines in creation. We are part of that, but our humanity makes us hope, and rejoice, and weep; our humanity draws us together, to support one another, hold one another, and keep walking on in hope.

I suppose it's the resurrection of Jesus which lets in the shaft of hope like the light that seared into the tomb when the stone was rolled away and the grave was empty. The story of Jesus at the heart of our faith is relevant in each and every experience of our lives. It casts light, forms a framework, and weaves meaning into our humanity. It is why we're here, it's why Wesley Place is on the High Street, it's the purpose of the community we belong to, and offer to the world we are part of.

Your cards, messages, and gentle words of compassion and care mean so much to us - thank you. None of us know what the future holds, but if we frame our life understanding that God holds it, and God holds us as we walk into that future, then we live by faith, with hope, and the ability to give thanks and rejoice through all things.

Your minister and friend,

God bless,

Rob.

MONDAY AFTERNOONS @ WESLEY PLACE

Please join us on Monday Afternoon 2pm-4pm for Board Games, tea/coffee, biscuits and fellowship.

Looking forward to seeing you !

CRAFT AND GIFT STALL AT THE CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

We would like to make the craft stall at this years Tree Festival something really special showcasing all the talent we have here at Wesley Place. If you have some hand made items you could donate please pass them to Sarah or Andy. Thank You

WEDNESDAY MORNINGS @WESLEY PLACE

Please join us between 11am and 1pm on Wednesday mornings for tea, coffee and fellowship.

Wednesday 30th October there will be a short informal service at 11.30am led by Lesley Peake .

Wednesday 6th November there will be a short, informal service of Holy Communion led by Rev'd Rob Hilton

All are welcome. Looking forward to seeing you! **Please note there is access via the side door to the church for quiet prayer and reflection**

**A GRAND RAILWAY BREAKFAST BRUNCH with
REV'D ROB HILTON**

Stories from our Superintendent about his sabbatical experience at
Churnet Valley Railway

**Saturday 2nd November
11am till 1pm**

at Wesley Place Church

Come and enjoy a great brunch time with our newly qualified
steam train 'fireman'

Breakfast Brunch will be served from 11am followed by
Rob's tales from the tracks ...

Tickets £15 available at the church or telephone Margaret on 07745111550
A fundraising event for Wesley Place Mission



Hello Wesley Place,

Just a note from the stewards team:
After recent worrying events with church property, in an effort to keep our church safe, if you would like to borrow anything from Church and take something off church premises (or if anyone approaches you about borrowing property or you see anything a bit suspicious!) please can you speak to one of the stewards who will share this with the stewards team.

This way we can make sure everything the church needs to function is on the premises at the correct time and we can keep track/record of anything that is borrowed to prevent any worry!

Thank you!

Alicia

DESPERATE NEED FOR HELP

My daughter works for a women's refuge and they are desperately short of plates and bowls, if you are sorting out or have any spares you could donate please let me know thank you Bronwen 872832.



October Taster Session



Are you wanting to do something different over October Half Term? The Oakhanger Project is running a taster session which includes water sports and team building activities. Family fun for all ages, please use the booking below.

£10
Per person

Wednesday, October 30th

11:00am-3:30pm

Brereton Heath Nature Reserve, Congleton

(Additional family members price deductions are available)

E-mail op.admin@oakhanger.org for more details or to book

COPPENHALL METHODIST
CHURCH CENTRE



Cheshire South Methodist Circuit are looking to recruit a
CHILDREN & FAMILY WORKER

8 hours/week, focussed on
Monday mornings and monthly Saturdays at
Coppenhall Methodist Church Crewe

£5,200.00 per annum



An exciting opening to continue and to develop the work of a thriving Toddler Group and monthly Messy Church, supported by a dedicated team of volunteers, making the difference to the lives of so many in the local community.

We are looking for a practising Christian, passionate to share the gospel in an enthusiastic, creative way.

For more information, please contact the Circuit Administrator on
1108info.cheshiresouth@gmail.com

Application by 12 noon 21 November 2024.

Interviews to be held 29 November 2024

Role to begin 6 January 2025

The Methodist Conference

Telford 2025



Taking place @ Telford International Centre

26th June – 2nd July 2025

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

An exciting opportunity to support

The **METHODIST** Conference

Conference Needs

Stewards/Help Desk

Collators and paper distributors

Creche

Memorial Service Chaplains

Please make initial contact with YOUR District's PA

Chester and Stoke chester.stoke@btconnect.com

Be part of the team that makes The Methodist Conference work!



**Methodist Women
in Britain**

CHESTER & STOKE-ON-TRENT DISTRICT

LOVE AND LIGHT

To be held at

Wolstanton Methodist Church

on A527, High Street, Wolstanton, ST5 0HS

On

Monday 18th November 2024

Drinks at 10am for 10.30 start.

Please bring your lunch, drinks provided

Please choose two workshops on the booking form

Suggested donation of £5 will be collected on the day.

There will be a short service after lunch, followed by tea and cake



**Methodist Women
in Britain**

CHESTER & STOKE-ON-TRENT DISTRICT

LOVE AND LIGHT

To be held at

The Heath Methodist Church

Vista Road, Runcorn WA7 4PB

On

Monday 25th November 2024

Drinks at 10am for 10.30 start.

Please bring your lunch, drinks provided

Please choose two workshops on the booking form

Suggested donation of £5 will be collected on the day.

There will be a short service after lunch, followed by tea and cake





HOLLY FAIR

SATURDAY 2nd NOVEMBER

From 11am to 2pm

Wells Green Methodist Church

Brookland Avenue, Wistaston

TOYS : BOOKS : COSTUME JEWELLERY : CAKES : CRAFTS
 CHRISTMAS GIFT STALL : CHRISTMAS HAMPER
 RAFFLE : THE COLOUR STALL RED, GREEN & GOLD :
 A TOMBOLA STALL

And FATHER CHRISTMAS will be there to greet you!

**Please come and sample our
excellent refreshments**




Gift Aid charity Ref: 8127411

Join Us for our

YOUTH BONFIRE & Firework Display

Bonfire, Firework Display (quiet pet-friendly fireworks), games, snacks and fun!
 Open to any young people aged 11-16

£3 (Suggested Donation)



THURSDAY, 7TH NOVEMBER 2024
 7:30-9 PM

Oakhanger Church Centre, Butterton Lane, CW1 5UU





Winterley Methodist Church & Community Hall
 Crewe Road CW11 4RP



BAND

17 November 2024

at 6.30 pm

Service led by
 Rev'd Carolyn Lawrance - Band President

Selection of music by the
 Winterley Methodist Brass Band
 & Trainer Band

Come on and celebrate....
 86 years of music making





Are you at risk of abuse?

GET HELP NOW.



YOU ARE NOT ALONE:

 **CREWE**
TOWN COUNCIL

 **WHITE RIBBON**
END MEN'S VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

www.crewetowncouncil.gov.uk/local-information/white-ribbon/
www.whiteribbon.org.uk





❤️🙏 Prayers from the Prayer Group this week: ❤️🙏

(Prayers are from last week)

'O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures for ever.'

1 Chronicles 16:34

Thankfulness and gratefulness to God for....

....for the autumn sunshine and wonderful colours as we visit gardens with friends, and spend time appreciating the way our trees and plants change their colours during autumn.....

....for Peter's 'surprise' when he received an 'welfare award' for all the work he does for the Rotary Club....

....for Sandra's niece who has had a successful operation, and that the results she is awaiting will be encouraging....

....for family visits during half term from daughter and the grandchildren...having a house full until midweek and enjoying their company....

....for the Wesley Place walking group yesterday which Richard was able to attend and enjoy... and the time to appreciate the autumnal colours walking in the Biddulph Valley Way...

....the autumnal colours in our gardens....the dramatic skies early this morning....the beech trees displaying their golden leaves...and the way the seasons change

....gratefulness for long standing friends and long coffee times together....

....discovering an acupuncturist in the Southampton area - another Hilda! - that helped to reduce shoulder pain....for birthday meal together with the family and a forthcoming Afternoon Tea treat....

....for the recent sunny weather and time in the garden sweeping up the golden leaves from a beech tree....

Prayers for....

....for the Hilton family as they mourn the loss of their grandson Caleb, and attending his funeral this week(Thursday).....

....our Wesley Place friends currently in hospital...for all the nurses, doctors and nhs staff caring for them at this time...for Charlotte Lorimer our Chaplain who supports them and Christianne our pastoral visitor....

....for Colin's sister Kate in a care home as she continues to be supported by the care home staff, and for family and friends who visit hermay they feel supported during this difficult time....

....all those involved in the planning, preparation and organisation of the Wesley Christmas Tree Festival, for those planning and hosting the craft activities event this Friday....and all those 'working behind the scenes' that enable this wonderful church and community event to happen.....

....continued prayers for Margaret's daughter Emma....

All these prayers in Jesus' name.

Amen ❤️👍