



November 'Anniversary' Newsletter 2024

Message from our Ministers...

November is a month rich with moments of remembrance. As the days shorten and the nights grow colder, this time of year offers a natural invitation to pause, reflect, and remember. For Christians, it is an opportunity to not only reflect on historical events and personal memories but also to deepen our connection with Jesus, who always remembers us.

It begins with Bonfire Night on November 5th and while Bonfire Night is often associated with fireworks and festivities, at its core it is about the remembrance of a near-disaster that actually shaped the course of British history. Following closely is Remembrance Day on November 11th, and the accompanying Remembrance Sunday. These occasions are important times of reflection, as we honour the countless men and women who sacrificed their lives in conflicts across the world. Their bravery reminds us of the cost of war and the value of peace. For Christians, Remembrance Day is also an opportunity to reflect on Jesus' words in John 15:13: "Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends." We remember the fallen by acknowledging their sacrifice, and we remember Jesus' ultimate sacrifice on the cross, which sought to bring reconciliation between God and humankind.

In many churches, including ours, November also brings Services of Remembrance for loved ones who have passed away. These gatherings are precious moments where the Christian community comes together to remember those

who have gone before us. Grief is shared, and hope is renewed in the promise of the resurrection. We are reminded that in Christ, death is not the end but the doorway to eternity. The words of 1 Thessalonians 4:13-14 offer comfort: "Brothers and sisters, we do not want you to be uninformed about those who sleep in death, so that you do not grieve like the rest of humankind, who have no hope. For we believe that Jesus died and rose again, and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him."

Amid all these moments of remembrance, we are invited to reflect on an essential truth: Jesus remembers US! He knows us intimately, even numbering the hairs on our heads (Luke 12:7). He remembers our joys, our struggles, our losses, and our hopes. In times of grief or uncertainty, we can find assurance in the fact that we are never forgotten by God. He holds us in His hands and walks with us through every season of life.

As we move through November, with its calls to remember, let's ask ourselves: Do we remember Jesus? In the busyness of life, it is easy to forget the One who never forgets us. Let this season of remembrance also be a time to refocus on Jesus, recalling His love, His sacrifice, and His presence in our lives.

May this be a precious season of remembering.

God Bless you all!

Kathryn



Safeguarding – Update!



Swan Bank is committed to safeguarding as an integral part of its life and ministry. Safeguarding is about the action the Church takes to promote a safer culture. This means we will:

- promote the welfare of children, young people and adults
- work to prevent abuse from occurring
- seek to protect and respond well to those that have been abused.

If you have any questions about any aspect of safeguarding e.g. safer recruitment policies; risk assessment; DBSs; training; incident reporting, please speak to a member of the team, who are:

- ❖ Rev Kathryn Stephens
- ❖ Rev Ruth Jeffries
- ❖ Shirley Brooks – Church Safeguarding Officer

- ❖ Sue Simcoe – Safeguarding Support
- ❖ Dave Stubbs – Safeguarding Support
- ❖ Liz Thompson – Church Administrator
- ❖ The Monitoring and Support Group

New incident reporting forms

Incident reporting forms have also been re-designed in line with those recommended by the Methodist Connexion. The form can be used for:

- First Aid Issues
- Safeguarding Issues
- General Incidents

If you witness any of the above issues or have any concerns, please complete a form and post it in the post box next to the notice board in the church reception. The forms are available in Reception, the Coffee Shop, the Stewards' Folder and the Upper Hall.

If the incident is urgent, please inform a member of the team. If no one is available or outside of office hours and the incident is urgent or an emergency, please contact the relevant service:-

Emergency social services (See our Safeguarding Poster)

or

999 for police, ambulance or fire.

November 24 - Circuit Preaching Plan

Venue	Time	3 rd November	10 th November Remembrance Services	17 th November	24 th November
Swan Bank	9.00am 10.30am 6.15pm	Stephens Stephens (All-Age) Jeffries	Brooks Stephens. Stephens/Jeffries (Memorial)	Stubbs Stubbs Jeffries	Stephens Stephens Brabbs
Potter's Church	9.30am 11.15am	Cooke Cooke	Price Price	Stephens Stephens	Jolley Jolley
Oasis Church	10.45am 6.00pm	Price	Law	Cooke	Community Sunday
Wesley Hall	10.45am	A Johnson	Tattersall	Own Arrangement	Wakelin
The Gateway	10.45am	Tattersall	Tretheway	Wakelin	Harrison
Mt Pleasant	10.45am 2:30pm	Tindale Commemorative Service	Tindale -	Andrews -	Leese -
Packmoor	11.00am	Wakelin	Harrison	Mason	Boateng
Village Church	11.00am	Jeffries	Jeffries	Jeffries	Nixon
Whitehill	10.30am 6.00pm	Dutton Sankey Evening	Wakelin Cooper (Memorial)	Cooper Q & A - Stephens	Batho Wakelin

Care for the Family



Care for the Family are holding 'A Mind of Their Own' event at The Bridge Centre in Birches Head on Tuesday 5th November. If you're a dad, mum, grandparent or anyone wanting to help children build strong emotional wellbeing, join them for this popular event.

Event information

Anxiety levels and struggles with mental health are on the rise in children and young people and unfortunately, access to support is not keeping up with this demand. As mums and dads, seeing the impact this is having on our children can be overwhelming.

But there are ways that you can make a difference and help your children build more resilience and take steps towards healthier

mental wellbeing.

A Mind of Their Own is packed with simple and effective strategies for you to use at home, helping you to better understand what's going on in your child's head. Together with Katharine Hill and Sim Dendy, we'll explore the science of the mind, and why children act and react the way they do.

Featuring interviews with mental health professionals, Dr Rob Waller and Dr Kate Middleton, this event will expand your understanding of the unique pressures and opportunities facing young people today, so you can help your child develop an emotional resiliency that lasts.

Tickets are £11 each (concessions available) and the event runs from 7:30 to 10:00pm. For more information or to book then follow the link below,

<https://www.careforthefamily.org.uk/events/tour-events/a-mind-of-their-own/>

or telephone 029 2081 0800.

The Bridge Centre address is :- Birches Head Road, Stoke-on-Trent, ST2 8DD.



Christmas Decorations at Church



It's that time of the year again when we start planning for Christmas! **Jon Boulton** is pulling together a team to put up our church Christmas decorations and Christmas tree on Thursday 26th November (from 6pm onwards). If you are interested, then can you speak to Jon who would be very grateful for any help you can offer.

Swan Bank Choir



The Swan Bank Choir is joining with the Swan Bank Care Homes Ministry Team to sing Christmas carols in some of the care homes in Stoke-on-Trent and Newcastle. If you'd like to join us, please contact **Shirley Brooks** via the office.

Dates so far:

14th Dec 12:00pm Scotia Heights Care Home,
Scotia Road, ST6 4HA

14th Dec 2:00pm Hempstalls Hall Care Home,
Hempstalls Lane, ST5 9NR

Regular Activities at Swan Bank

Sunday

Sunday Night Young Adults – Fellowship Room,
7:30-9:00pm

Monday

Bible Study – Meeting Room 1, 10:00-11:30am

Dementia Activity Group – Coffee Lounge,
1:00-3:00pm

Gospel Choir – Fellowship Room, 7:30-9:00pm
2nd & 4th Mondays of each month

Tuesday

Little Treasures (0-4 years old)– Lower Hall,
9:30-11:00am (*term time only*)

Chatty Café – Coffee Lounge, 10:00am-12noon

Tuesday Club – Coffee Lounge, 1:30-3:30pm

Wednesday

Knit & Natter – Meeting Room 1, 10:00am-
12noon

Foodbank – Coffee Lounge, 2:00-4:00pm
(*To receive a food parcel an E-voucher will be required beforehand from a referral agency*)

Thursday

Prayer Time – Prayer Chapel, 9:00-9:30am

Younger Youth (School years 3-6) – Upper Hall,
5:45-7:15pm (*term time only*)

Youth Club (11-16 years old) – Upper Hall,
7:30-9:00pm (*term time only*)

Saturday

Messy Church (Primary school aged children) –
Lower Hall, 10:00am-12noon (*first Saturday of each month*) Breakfast included and only £1 per child!

Women's Walking Group – Rendezvous usually at Swan Bank before going to the start of the walk (*3rd Saturday of each month*). See **Liz Thompson** for details.

Contact the office on 01782 575129 for further details of all our regular activities


Whitehill
 Methodist Community Church
 ST7 4DS

Craft & Gift Fair

Saturday 2nd

November, 10am-1pm

Lots of homemade crafts from local crafters including knitted teddies, pictures, jewellery, woodcrafts and cakes

Homecooked food served in the hall


Whitehill
 Methodist Community Church
 ST7 4DS

Sankey Evening
 With

Reverend Arthur |
Wakelin



Sunday 3rd November 2024
6pm

Mental Health Online Course



Ruth is running a full 2-day mental health first aider online zoom course on the 5th and 12th November.

alongside another trainer from The Learning Network. This is a great opportunity for everyone, but especially those in any kind of pastoral ministry to gain skills and information around mental health. It includes having some idea of what to say or do in a crisis as well as recognising signs and symptoms.

The course will run between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. on both days. We are very aware that this is a long day on zoom so will ensure that there are plenty of breaks. The course is subsidised by the Methodist Church and will cost £60. This may be recouped from the District, so please don't let the cost stop your attendance.

If anyone is interested, please email **Ruth** directly on ruth@swanbank.org.uk

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

For details please email |

chester.stoke@btconnect.com

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



SWAN BANK NOTICEBOARD

Christmas Activities

Advent Bible studies Wednesday
4th, 11th and 18th December (7:15
for 7:30pm start)

Swan Bank Choir 14th December
singing in local care homes.

Family Film night – Friday 20th Dec.

Christingle services – 4pm and 6pm
on Sunday 22nd Dec.

Christmas Eve service 11:30pm on
Tuesday 24th Dec. (drinks and mince
pies from 11pm!)

*More to follow in the
December Edition!*

The Alpha Course

Alpha

Why not come and join a series of weekly conversations, exploring the basics of the Christian faith? You're invited no matter where you find yourself on your faith journey as everyone is welcome. Starting at 7pm every Wednesday in the Coffee Lounge at SwanBank. For more information contact **Liz Thompson** either by email at liz@swanbank.org.uk or telephone the office on 01782 575129. **PLEASE NOTE the course's last date is Wednesday 20th November.**

LITTLE TREASURES

Toddler Group

Tuesdays, 9.30-11am
£1 per child

SwanBank Church, ST6 2AA

We're always looking to restock our supplies of Pot Noodles and wrapped chocolate biscuits. Donations can be dropped off at the church office anytime.

Swan Bank Church, Swan Square, Burslem, ST6 2AA

Office hours:- 10am - 4pm, Tuesday - Thursday



01782 575129



admin@swanbank.org.uk



www.swanbank.org.uk

Sunday 10:30am Service, live stream links:



www.youtube.com/@SwanBank/streams



www.facebook.com/swanbank/?locale=en_GB

Future Articles

If anyone has any stories or articles to be considered for inclusion in future newsletters, please contact Shirley Brooks or Nigel Johnson directly or email :-

officeassistance@swanbank.org.uk.