

WESLEY METHODIST CHURCH

NEWSLETTER



JULY 2025

Website:
www.alfretonwesley.co.uk

WESLEY PREACHERS FOR JULY

10.45 AM

July 6	Rev Sue Wilkins (Holy Communion)
July 13	Mr Mel Mee
July 20	Rev Mick Dilley
July 27	Rev Robert Hurley

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- Tuesday July 1. No Tuesday Fellowship.
- Wednesday July 2. Funeral of Brian Bennett. 10am at Swanwick Crematorium. Followed by refreshments at the Post Mill Centre, South Normanton. Donations in lieu of flowers for Wesley Church.
- Thursday July 3. Funeral of Vivien Siddons. Service at Alfreton Wesley Church at 11am, followed by committal at Swanwick Crematorium at 12 noon, then refreshments at the Butcher's Arms at Oakerthorpe. Donations in lieu of flowers for Cats Protection.
- Friday July 4. Friendship Club. 11am to 1.30pm.
- Monday, July 7. Treble Clef Choir practice. 7.30pm.
- Tuesday July 8. No Tuesday Fellowship. Summer break.
- Friday July 11. Friendship Club. 11am to 1.30pm.
- Saturday July 12. Wesley Film Club presents "Instant Family," a comedy based on a true story. Mark Wahlberg and Rose Byrne play a couple who decide to start a family by adopting three children through foster care. But chaos strikes as they find themselves caring for a traumatised teenager and her two young siblings. Admission is free with a suggested £2 donation for refreshments. 2pm.
- Monday July 14. Treble Clef Choir practice. 7.30pm.
- Tuesday July 15. No fellowship meeting.
- Friday July 18. Friendship Club. 11am to 1.30pm.
- Saturday July 19. Coffee morning and bring-and-buy sale in aid of the charity Smile Train and church funds. 10am to 12 noon.
- Monday July 21. Final Treble Clef Choir practice before summer break. Practices resume in early September. 7.30pm.
- Tuesday July 22. No Tuesday Fellowship.
- Friday July 25. Friendship Club. 11am to 1.30pm.

- Monday July 28. No Treble Clef Choir practice.
- Tuesday July 29 No Fellowship meeting.

FILM: A young couple find themselves with their hands full in the latest movie to be screened at Wesley Film Club. Mark Wahlberg and Rose Byrne play the pair who decide to start a family by adopting three children through foster care. But chaos strikes as they find themselves caring for a traumatised teenager and her two young siblings. The film is showing on Saturday July 12 at 2pm. Admission is free with a suggested £2 donation for refreshments.

CHOIR: Members of the Treble Clef Ladies' Choir will be taking a well-earned summer break at the end of July. Their final practice at our Wesley church is on Monday July 21 and they will resume practices at the beginning of September. The choir took a break after their conductor Charlotte gave birth to a baby girl and members were keen to get together again. Since then the choir has sung twice at our church - at Chapel Anniversary and their own special choral evening - and on Monday they were due to entertain members of Newton OAP Club - a regular twice-yearly date. They have already accepted an invitation by the local Rotary Club to sing at a Christmas service at Swanwick Church. "When we took time off, some people thought that we'd finished," said member Denise Ball. "But we were glad to get back together again."

SAFEGUARDING: Since Wesley member Colleen Martell moved house from South Normanton to Derby, our church has been without a safeguarding officer, a vitally-important role in any church. Now our new circuit Safeguarding officer Amanda Hurley is planning to arrange a meeting with our Wesley folk to remedy the situation. If any church is without a safeguarding officer, the church council has the duty of taking over the role, and Amanda is hoping that council members, stewards and members of our congregation will come along to meet her. Amanda is hoping to meet up with members of any other churches in our circuit who have no safeguarding officer. She aims to explain the role and the need for an officer and to explain the importance of knowing whom to contact if any issues arise. Listen out for a date when a meeting is fixed and make sure it's in your diary.

OUR SYMPATHY: Wesley members are currently in mourning over the loss of two well-loved friends, who both played an active role in the life of our church.

VIVIEN SIDDONS joined our congregation about 20 years ago. She regularly attended the ladies fellowship, serving for a time as treasurer, and joined the Wesley Guild at Blackwell Methodist Church. She joined our drama group and became a pastoral visitor, continuing to make telephone contacts when unable to make personal visits, and she and her husband Geoff regularly attended our Saturday lunches. She was a life-long resident of Alfreton, living in New Street, Bishop Street and Nottingham



Road, and was a keen cat lover. She retired in 2004 after working as a care assistant at The Glebe old people's care home in Church Street, Alfreton. She leaves her husband Geoff, daughter Melanie and son David. Her funeral is to take place on Thursday (July 3), a service at Wesley Church at 11am being followed by cremation at Swanwick at 12 noon, and refreshments at the Butcher's Arms at Oakerthope. Donations in lieu of flowers are for Cats Protection. Our picture shows Viv handing over cash to a charity speaker.

BRIAN BENNETT was formerly a member of Blackwell and Westhouses Methodist Churches and became a member at Wesley when those churches closed. He was actively involved with the Tuesday Fellowship. Born in Derby and moving to Blackwell in 1979, he served 35 years as a police officer. He retired in 1988, after working in the traffic and motorway sections, and ended his service as a beat bobby, riding a pushbike. His chief interest was pigeon racing, which he had pursued from the age of 15. As a police cadet, he looked after the Chief Constable's pigeons, earning the



nickname Birdy from his colleagues on the force. He was formerly chairman of the Pinxton-based pigeon racing club until retiring through ill health. He and his wife Sandra had travelled to various parts of the world, including the USA and the Caribbean, confining holidays to the British Isles following his illness. He leaves a widow, Sandra, a son and daughter Neil and Joanne by his first marriage, and two daughters Claire and Sheena through his marriage to Sandra and four grandchildren. The funeral is to take place on Wednesday (July 2), with

cremation at Swanwick at 10am and refreshments at the Post Mill Centre at South Normanton. Donations in lieu of flowers are for Wesley Church funds.

WOT! NO HARVEST? Eagle-eyed members of our congregation will have spotted a glaring omission in the new preaching plan which was circulated at the weekend. What's missing? Our harvest festival. For many years we have celebrated the harvest on the last Saturday in September. But according to the plan it is a "normal" Sunday with our friend Mick Dilley conducting a communion service. Who's responsible? "You can blame me," says senior steward David H. "Each quarter we have to let the minister know of any "specials" to be included on the plan. I forgot to mention our harvest and minister Robert obviously didn't spot the omission." But don't worry, we shan't be losing the harvest service - to many the highlight of the year- a time of thanksgiving when we can see "all good gifts" before us. It will simply be a week late - on October 5 - the first Sunday in the next plan. So get your diaries out now and enter the new date - and make sure you come along for this very special service.

A Sense of Adventure!

When I was at theological college in Birmingham, one of the assignments we were given to do was to write a piece for use on the radio – a bit like the ‘Thought for the Day’ on Radio 4 just before 8 o’clock each morning. There were a couple of rules they gave us, make it brief, make a point and start with a story. So, here goes!

About 350 years ago there was a shipload of travellers who left the shores of Europe to make an epic journey across the Atlantic Ocean. After many months of hardship they ended up landing on the northern coast of America. The first year they were there, they established a town site right in the place where they first set foot in this new land. The next year things were progressing nicely, so they elected a town council to oversee what they were doing. In the third year, the elected town council agreed that they would start to build a road from the town stretching just about five miles into the surrounding wilderness. In the fourth year, the people threw out the town council they had elected because they thought that it was a waste of their money to build a road five miles into the wilderness on the premise of “who needs to go there anyway?”

It’s strange isn’t it, how a group of people who had the vision and foresight to be willing to travel over 3,000 miles across a great ocean and overcome great hardships to get there, weren’t prepared to travel just another few miles from where they landed. Somehow, they had lost their sense of adventure.

So often, we are the same aren’t we? We start off doing something with great enthusiasm and intention and then for one reason or another we fall by the wayside and sometimes just can’t be bothered – we have a nice comfortable life and that’s enough, we get stuck in a rut. But, is it enough? If we stop when we feel that we have reached our comfort zone – then how will we ever improve? We’re not given things just presented to us on a plate anymore. We have to work at things and have a sense of adventure to inspire us to look forward and seek to achieve new horizons. And moreover, we must have faith to achieve anything.

In Luke's gospel, there is a story of how Jesus is asked to go to a Roman centurion's house in order to heal one of this man's servants. The people implore him to go, as here was a man who had been a good friend to them and someone who it was best to keep on the right side of. But before Jesus can get to the man's house, his friends are sent to tell Jesus not to come – "I am not worthy to ever hope for you to come to my house" says the Centurion, "but just say the word and I know that my servant will be healed". Jesus was amazed at such faith. Here was a Roman soldier showing more faith in this radical Jewish prophet, than all the Jewish people Jesus had met. Jesus was never one to baulk his fancy and he tells the Jews around him just how it is, "I tell you, I have not found such great faith even in Israel."

This Roman centurion was willing to go the extra mile for his servant whom he valued. He was willing to step out in faith and go to Jesus and ask for his help. He wasn't afraid to do whatever it took to ensure that his servant was made well. And it paid off – Jesus healed the servant. Stepping out in faith bore fruit for the centurion.

We need to have a sense of adventure to seek out the way of doing things not just for ourselves, but for those around us and for God. That's what being a Christian is all about – not waiting for things to happen to us, but rather to go out and make things happen – not for our own sake, but for the glory of God.

So let's not be like the travellers who crossed the sea and said "no further", let's be more like the centurion who said to Jesus, "Just say the word and all will be made well". Then perhaps we can get that great sense of adventure back into our Christian lives.

Robert.

PETER: One of our three circuit ministers, the Rev Peter Taylor, will be leaving us next year. His decision was announced in a letter from the circuit stewards. The letter says that Peter's decision not to seek re-invitation was made after much prayerful consideration and family discussion. He will be leaving the circuit in August next year but will not know where he will be

moving to until the end of this year. The letter says: "While we are very sad that Peter, Sam and the family will be leaving us, we fully support Peter in his decision that the future of his ministry will be elsewhere and we ask that you all hold the family in your prayers." The letter also asks for prayers for the circuit leadership team as they deliberate on the circuit's future. Although Peter has been with us for some time, we have seen little of him in our pulpit at Wesley as the base of his ministry has been in the Ashfield section of the circuit.

CHARITY: A charity which has transformed the lives of millions of children born with cleft palates has been chosen to benefit from our next coffee morning. Smile Train - the world's largest cleft-organisation - claims that every three minutes another baby is born struggling to breathe, speak and eat due to a cleft. Said a spokesman: "Over the past 25-plus years we have transformed the lives of more than two million children and we aim to greatly expand our reach over the next five years, putting more children than ever before on track to a better future. We have supported safe and quality cleft care and will continue to do so until every child in need with a cleft has access to the care they deserve". Smile Train is the latest deserving charity that we have been able to support thanks to our monthly coffee-mornings, which also provide cash backing for the work of our church. The next coffee morning will be on Saturday July 19 from 10am to mid-day, offering the usual coffee and cakes, stalls, bring-and-buy and a raffle.

THE FRIENDSHIP CLUB commemorated the D Day landings at their meeting on June 6 with a good old sing a long of all songs which were popular during World War II. Lead by Lisa & Peter who run "Singing for Wellbeing" a weekly group that meet in Ripley on a Wednesday and is open to all who love to sing. This was followed by a light lunch of quiche, salad and a selection of desserts. Pictured are Sue Musson, Lilian Nopey and Ros Helliwell.

