

WESLEY METHODIST CHURCH

NEWSLETTER



NOVEMBER 2023

Website:
www.alfretonwesley.co.uk

WESLEY PREACHERS FOR NOVEMBER

10.45am

November 5 Rev Andy Fyall
November 12 Rev Robert Hurley (Remembrance)
November 19 Brian Cupples
November 26 David Hopkinson

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- Friday November 3. Friendship Club. 11am to 1.30pm.
- Saturday November 4. Wesley Film Club presents The Intern, a feel-good comedy drama, starring Robert De Niro and Anne Hathaway as a retired widower and a stylish young entrepreneur who sacrifice their personal life to stay successful in a competitive world. Admission is free. Suggested £2 donation for refreshments. 2pm.
- Sunday November 5. Morning service led by the new Chair of the District, Rev Andy Fyall. 10.45am.
- Monday November 6, Bible Study resumes. 10.30am.
- Tuesday November 7, Tuesday Fellowship. Takeaway in church at 12 noon.
- Friday November 10. Friendship Club. 11am to 1.30pm.
- Friday November 10. Possible date for meeting with circuit leadership team. 2.30pm.
- Tuesday November 14. Tuesday Fellowship. Speaker, John Whitehead. 2pm.
- Wednesday November 15. Circuit safeguarding meeting at Wesley. 7.30pm.
- Thursday November 16. Possible date for meeting with circuit leadership team. 10.30am or 2.30pm.
- Friday November 17. Friendship Club. 11am to 1.30pm.
- Friday November 17. Possible date for meeting with circuit leadership team. 2.30pm.

- Saturday November 18. Coffee morning and bring-and-buy in aid of the Salvation Army Christmas Appeal. 10am to 12 noon.
- Tuesday November 21. Tuesday Fellowship. Speaker, Rev Simon Rose. 2pm.
- Friday November 24. Friendship Club. 11am to 1.30pm.
- Tuesday November 28. Tuesday Fellowship. Speaker, Graham Reed on African missionary work. 2pm.

DISTRICT CHAIR: Wesley congregations will have the chance to meet our new district chair Rev Andy Fyall when he leads worship at our church. Mr Fyall, who was welcomed into his new role at a celebration service at Ashbourne Methodist Church a few weeks ago, will be our preacher at Wesley on Sunday morning November 5. at 10.45am. After the service there will be a further opportunity to get to know him when he joins a party of 14 from Wesley for a carvery lunch at the Village Inn at Upper Marehay, Ripley. We look forward to having a large congregation for the service - a first-time visit by a new district chairman is a rare event. Why not bring a friend along? Some of our folk will have already heard Mr Fyall preach at a service at Birchwood Church at Somercotes, when Rev Simon Rose was welcomed into our circuit.

THANKSGIVING: It was good to see members of our own church among the congregation at a service of thanksgiving for the life of former local preacher and Boys' Brigade officer Harry Smith of South Normanton. And it was also good to renew the acquaintance of former members of our old South Normanton circuit - some of whom had travelled a good distance to attend the service at Town Street church at Pinxton, in spite of widespread flooding throughout the country. Among them were the Rev Paul Hill, a local lad who attended churches in South Normanton and Selston before candidating for the ministry; local preacher and Wesley acting team member Philip Slater, who attended churches in Blackwell, South Normanton and Swanwick before moving to Staines, Middlesex, on his marriage to Caroline; and Keith Harvey, a former Boys' Brigade officer at South Normanton who took part in early Wesley dramatic productions and recently returned to the area, now attending Swanwick Methodist Church. The service was led by Revs Mick Dilley and Simon Rose.

REUNITED - Former friends Margaret Morris and Amy Garbett have been reunited - after a gap of 66 years! The pair - now both aged 90 - shared their memories of times gone by when they met again at a service here at Wesley. Margaret has been a Wesley member for some years, and Amy was staying with her niece, Sandra Bennett, who joined Wesley when Westhouses Methodist Church closed. Said Sandra: "Aunt Amy said that



she'd love to go to church with us and was so pleased to meet up with Margaret again. They both had a marvelous time. "There's nothing like chapels for bringing folk together." During her stay, Sandra and husband Brian took Amy on a ride through Westhouses, where both she and Margaret formerly lived. "She thought it was wonderful seeing the chapel which she attended and the house where she was born," said Sandra. Margaret, who moved to Westhouses on her marriage to husband Alan Morris and has lived in Alfreton since 1967, recalled that Alan's mother and Amy's mum were big friends. "In fact Amy's mother named Amy after Alan's mum," she said. Amy, who spent most of her married life in the Sutton-in-Ashfield area and now lives with her son in Sheffield, remembered talking Alan's brother Stewart for walks in his pram. The pair

were welcomed to the service by circuit superintendent minister Robert Hurley and steward David Smith, who congratulated them on their 90th birthdays. Amy (left) is pictured with Margaret. In the centre is niece Sandra.

STEWARDS: We are pleased to welcome Ann Bakewell to our team of church stewards at Wesley. Ann's appointment was agreed at a recent church council meeting, when it was also agreed that ministers and others conducting communion services would be assisted by the vestry steward on duty that day. Retired local preacher Ann formerly attended Zion church at South Normanton before joining Wesley following the closure of Zion.

CHRISTMAS APPEAL: People attending our next Saturday coffee morning will have Christmas in mind. The effort, which will include a bring-and-buy stall, will be in aid of this year's Salvation Army Christmas appeal. It will take place on Saturday November 18 from 10am until midday. Donations towards the worthy cause by anyone unable to attend the event will be gratefully received by our treasurer Stephen. Last weekend's coffee morning raised £150 for the Bible Society.

PUZZLE: Last month we set you a teaser. We published a picture of the actors who took part in our production of the Roger Jones musical Jerusalem Joy. All but one of the cast members could be easily identified. But the name of one of the back-row team remained a mystery. His head swathed in bandages and only his eyes showing made putting a name to the mystery man a difficult task. Brian Hemm, Keith Harvey and Gordon Radford were names suggested by people who failed to realise that choir members were not included in the picture. The correct solution was supplied by Gillian and Alan Greenway, who announced: "That's our James!" A visit by son James confirmed that they were right. Jerusalem Joy was one of our early productions - well over 20 years ago, and sadly John Turner (Jesus), Alan Greenway and Sunday school pupil Bradley are the only other cast members pictured still surviving.



Remembering

We have arrived at that time of year again when we spend some time in remembering. The month of November starts with 'All Saints Day' when we can think about those who have gone before us into glory – the saints of old as well as those who have been close to us in our earthly journey. It's a time for remembering the memories we have of them and realising the part that they have paid in our lives.

We don't get too far into the month when we arrive at Bonfire Night. This is a time for remembering the early act of rebellion when Guy Fawkes attempted to kill the king by blowing up the Houses of Parliament. Robert Catesby the instigator and planner of what has come to be known as the 'Gunpowder Plot' felt so disgruntled by the way that the country was going and what he saw as the persecution of the Catholic church, that his only recourse was to turn to violence to overthrow the ruling classes.

Then of course, we have the very important time of remembrance that centres around the 11th. There will be many individual, local, national and international times of remembrance as the country thinks about those people whose lives were given in times of war. Along with the act of remembrance will be the memories that so many of us have of those members of both military and civilian organisations that sacrificed so much for the freedom of the world. War and times of fighting have plagued the world throughout all of its history with so many lives lost because of humanity's inability to live alongside itself.

Remembrance and memories are important. They enable us to see the errors of our ways and give us the opportunity to learn from our mistakes. Unfortunately, that's not always the case and, as a consequence, year on year, we have to remember more and more lives lost in acts of war and terrorism.

But in these times, we can, indeed must, hold on to hope – hope for the future, hope for humankind, hope for all of us. Without hope, then where would we be? The end of the month leads us nicely into the time of Advent – a real time of hope. Advent is not just the run up to Christmas, with all

the ever-increasing hype surrounding the festive season inspired by commercial pressures to buy the latest gadget, or stock the freezer with the most elaborate of foodstuffs, or to spend a small fortune on gifts for loved ones. It's a time to remember that this was the moment we celebrate something fantastic, something that was and still is, life-changing, that instant when new hope came into the world in the form of God's son, Jesus Christ.

So this month, the month for remembering, let's not forget that what's yet to start in the next few weeks is the celebration of something that was world-changing and history-making and get ready to celebrate the birth of the Saviour of the world, Jesus. In a very short time, the countdown to the remembrance of what has to be the most important event in the history of the world and its people, will begin and we must not miss it!

As the shops keep on reminding us, Christmas is just around the corner, let's use these weeks between now and then as our time of getting ready for this big event – not just materially, but more importantly, spiritually. Let us remember the place Jesus has had in our lives up to now and get ready to welcome him in afresh ready for the future that lies before us.

Every blessing to you all,

Rev Robert.

ALL WE CAN: A donation of £180 has been sent to the charity All We Can - a figure made up of £100 from our annual harvest appeal and an £80 grant from the church. All We Can was formerly known as the Methodist Relief and Development Fund, springing into action to provide aid on the occasion of disasters in various parts of the world. Tinned foodstuffs given by our congregation were shared between Alfreton's food bank and the town's Loaves and Fishes project. We extend our thanks to all who gave. And we were glad to welcome back Maggie Davidson of Heage to lead our harvest service. Maggie was due to have conducted our Mothering Sunday service a couple of years ago but the service was cancelled in view of the covid pandemic.

BIBLE: Our popular Bible Study group will be back in November, after a break in October. The session will take place on Monday November 6 at 10.30 am, when minister Robert will continue with the series based on St Paul's letter to the Galatians. The Good News is that you can still join! Newcomers will be most welcome.

FILM CLUB: Retirement isn't all it's cracked up to be. Just ask Robert De Niro. In *The Intern*, the feel-good comedy drama showing at our next film session, he plays a widowed seventy-year-old who's bored with life. Seizing an opportunity to get back in the game, he becomes a senior intern on an online fashion site, but only then discovers that he and the stylish young entrepreneur who runs the site (Anne Hathaway) will both have to sacrifice their personal lives to stay successful in the competitive world of fashion. The film is showing on Saturday November 4 at 2pm. Admission is free with a suggested £2 donation for refreshments.

CHRISTMAS TREES: Christmas is coming, and organisers of our annual Christmas tree festival are already making plans for this year's event. The festival was launched last year, providing a stunning spectacular that brought in hosts of visitors and created a record Sunday morning service attendance. This year's festival will take place on Saturday and Sunday December 2 and 3, and the theme will be children's books. The Sunday service will be led by the Rev Simon Rose, a member of our circuit ministerial team. Anyone willing to take part in decorating a tree please see David or Caroline.

CONVERSATIONS: Members of our circuit leadership team are currently visiting local churches meeting congregations to discuss any issues which they or the team wish to raise. The team have already visited Wesley once and plan to return before Christmas. On their last visit the team were impressed by our various church activities - but surprised at the low turnout by our members. We have suggested four possible dates for the next visit. They are November 10 at 2.30pm, November 16 at 10.30am or 2.30pm and November 17 at 2.30pm. Put them in your diary and listen out for the chosen date. Let's make it a well-attended occasion this time around.