

WESLEY METHODIST CHURCH

NEWSLETTER



JUNE 2025

Website:
www.alfretonwesley.co.uk

WESLEY PREACHERS FOR JUNE

10.45 AM

June 1 Local arrangement
June 8 Rev Robert Hurley (Whitsuntide/ Pentecost)
June 15 Jacque Dawson (Trinity Sunday) Holy Communion
June 22 Val Bacon
June 29 David Hopkinson

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- Monday June 2. Treble Clef Choir practice. 7.30pm.
- Tuesday June 3. Tuesday Fellowship. Fish and chips at 1pm.
- Friday June 6. Friendship Club. 11am to 1.30pm.
- Saturday June 7. Wesley Film Club presents "One Life," the true story of a modest humanitarian, who helped save the lives of nearly 670 children from the horrors of the holocaust at the outbreak of World War II. Anthony Hopkins has the lead role and the cast also includes Helena Bonham Carter and Jonathan Pryce. Admission is free with a suggested £2 donation for refreshments. 2pm.
- Monday June 9. Treble Clef Choir practice. 7.30pm.
- Tuesday June 10. Tuesday Fellowship. 2pm. Life's Miracles.
- Thursday June 12. Circuit Local Preachers' meeting. 1.30pm for 2pm.
- Friday June 13. Friendship Club. 11am to 1.30pm.
- Sunday June 15. Trinity Sunday and Fathers' Day.
- Monday June 16. Treble Clef Choir practice. 7.30pm.
- Tuesday June 17. Tuesday Fellowship. Speaker, Rev Robert Hurley. 2pm.
- Thursday June 19. Circuit meeting. 7.30pm. Clay Cross Methodist Church.
- Friday June 20. Friendship Club. 11am to 1.30pm.
- Saturday June 21. Coffee morning and bring-and-buy sale. 10am to 12 noon. Items for the sales table and raffle prizes would be most welcome.
- Monday June 23. Treble Clef Choir practice. 7.30pm.
- Tuesday June 24. Tuesday Fellowship. 2pm. Speaker, Emma Richards of Age UK on prevention of falls.
- Friday June 27. Friendship Club. 11am to 1.30pm.
- Monday June 30. Treble Clef Choir practice. 7.30pm.

FILM CLUB: Take along your tissues if you visit the latest movie to be shown by Wesley Film Club on Saturday June 7 at 2pm. The true story, "One Life," is set at the outbreak of World War II and tells the tale of a young stock-broker who helped rescue hundreds of predominantly Jewish children from Czechoslovakia in a race against time before the Nazi occupation closed the borders. Fifty years later, the holocaust hero is still haunted by the fate of those children he wasn't able to bring to safety. Anthony Hopkins plays the role of modest "Nicky" Winton - later Sir Nicholas - who saved the lives of nearly 670 children, and the cast also includes Helena Bonham Carter and Jonathan Pryce. Admission is free, with a suggested donation of £2 for refreshments.

THREE CHEERS (OR CHAIRS!) FOR PROPERTY MAN ALAN: If you go up in the loft today, you're sure of a big surprise. No - that's not a new verse in the Teddy Bears' Picnic. The loft in question is the upper floor at our own Wesley Church, and the surprise is the disappearance of dozens of chairs which have been stacked up there for years. Where have they gone? Alan Greenway has sold them! Alan put the chairs - wooden and black plastic ones - up for sale. Following a church inspection which takes place every five years - the "Quinquennial Survey", the inspector was happy with the church as a whole, but he was concerned that the chairs masked a doorway in the attic. There was nothing else for it. The chairs had to go. Property steward Alan advertised them on line. He even put one on his driveway at home. And each one of the chairs found a new home, raising over £400 for church funds. When traffic lights near his home were on red, vehicles came to a standstill, providing likely customers for the former church furniture. This week senior church steward David H praised Alan for his ingenuity. He said: "The chairs haven't been used for years and we were only too glad to see the back of them. The last ones to go were bought by a firm in Nottingham which rents them to outdoor activities such as shows." David also praised Alan for his work this week on the church windows, preventing them from being opened too far and then creating problems in shutting them again. Meanwhile boxes of sheet music kept in the small room opposite the vestry have also gone. The music, formerly used by the church choir, has found a new home with other choirs and a local school.

NO VOTES: For some years our church in Ellesmere Avenue has been used as a polling station for local and county elections. But this year the use came to an end, following a re-organisation in the area. However some locals still turned up, not realising the change, although their voting papers made it clear where they should cast their vote. Fortunately property steward Alan Greenway was working in the church, and was able to tell them of the alteration and to set them on their way.



THE FRIENDSHIP CLUB enjoyed a lovely and thought provoking day at the National Memorial Arboretum. Arriving in glorious sunshine the visit took place during the week of the VE Day commemorations. A beautiful and inspiring place, the 150 acres of the arboretum form a living landscape, a home to more than 400 memorials waiting to be discovered. Tales of bravery shown in the most extraordinary of times, selfless service and sacrifice, camaraderie and

care are represented by the memorials. From the Armed Forces and Emergency Services to civilian organisations that supported our nation in times of need, people from all walks of life are represented by the memorials, with designs that are rich in symbolism reflecting those they remember. We arrived in time for some members to take part in the daily service of remembrance which included a 2



minute silence. There was also a period of time to walk to some of the

memorials close to the entrance and on site café before we enjoyed a 2 course lunch followed by a 50 minute land train ride which included a running commentary around the arboretum. This left us with enough



time to fit in an afternoon cup of tea before returning to Alfreton. If you have never been to the Arboretum it's well worth visiting and at just over half an hour's drive away it's practically on the doorstep.



Family history

The head of a prominent family in Boston in the USA, was retiring after a long and distinguished career in publishing, and his family wondered what to give him as a gift to mark the occasion. After much discussion they agreed to present him with a history of the family, that being one of his lifetime interests. The family employed a well-known biographer to do the research and write the story. The book was to be printed at a private press.

The biographer interviewed members of the family, consulted old records and letters, and started to shape all the information into a readable story. The daughter of the family, whose idea the whole venture was, shared a worry with the biographer: "It's my great-uncle George," she said. "He was the black sheep of the family and no one ever speaks about him. He died in the electric chair after he had been found guilty of murder. If you're going to write an accurate history, you can't miss him out. Maybe you could minimise the embarrassment."

The biographer assured his worried client that he would take care of great-uncle George and still write an accurate history of the family. When the book was finally printed, she was relieved to read: *"Uncle George occupied a chair of applied electronics at a famous government institution. He was attached to his position by the strongest of ties, and his death came as a real shock."*

Writing up family history could present problems for all of us; creative writing might appear an appealing option when we come to certain names. When Matthew writes his Gospel he displays no interest in the biographical details of the apostles. The same is true of the other evangelists. The twelve apostles, the first members of the Christian family, appear in the Gospels as little more than a list of names. Apart from Judas, the only four who stand out among the Twelve are the two sets of brothers, Peter and Andrew, James and John.

In the New Testament story of the early Church Andrew disappears from the scene; James is martyred in the early 40s AD; John is identified as the beloved disciple in the Fourth Gospel. Peter is the only member of the Twelve about whom we have any significant knowledge. The apostles were

chosen by Jesus to be witnesses. Their experience of Jesus who walked the road with them was unique in the history of the Church.

But the Church moves on in the life of faith; each community must give birth to its own apostles. Today, that role falls to us in the church – anyone who is a follower of Jesus. We are the ones called upon to live out our lives showing the Gospel in action. We are the ones who can now share our faith with others. We have inherited a church from those apostles who have gone before us. We must now ensure that we have a legacy to leave for those who come after us. How strong that legacy is depends on us. Let us commit ourselves to this work and write our place into the history of God's church where we are.

Every blessing,

Robert.

BEWARE - BAG THIEVES STRIKE: Wesley folk are being urged to be on their guard after a spate of handbag-snatch thefts in the Alfreton area.

In one instance, a woman victim struggled with the thief, but failed to prevent him getting away with her bag. The warning was given to members of the mainly-female Friendship Club, but it was pointed out that men who carried a bag also needed to be on the alert. The woman who tried to prevent the thief getting away refused to let go of her bag and she and the thief struggled on the ground before the man eventually escaped. Any victims are advised to contact the police with a description of any would-be thieves.

FUND-RAISING: Generous Wesley folk have dug deep into their pockets to support fund-raising efforts during the past month. Saturday's coffee morning for Christian Aid made £320 and the previous month's effort raised £260 for church funds. A sum of £130 was raised towards the Myanmar earthquake appeal and our Easter Offering total made £65. We extend our grateful thanks to everyone for their kindness. Proceeds for the next coffee morning will be shared between the Valley Cids who are celebrating 25 years of work in local schools and church funds.

PAT'S FIVE-MINUTE CLAIM TO FAME: Wesley supporter Pat Bradford spoke this week of her "five minutes of fame" - when she was invited to



cut the birthday ribbon at one of Alfreton's most popular stores. Pat, who regularly attends our coffee mornings and film shows, was asked to take part in the 35th birthday celebrations at GJ's hardware store in Mansfield Road. "I thought they were joking when they asked me," said Pat. "And I was in two minds over whether to accept or not. "But I was chosen because my mum was

their very first customer and it was a very nice gesture to be asked. I did it in my mum's honour." Mum, Rose was walking down Mansfield Road with a couple of friends when they saw that the shop was preparing for its opening. "Nosey-like they tapped on the window and said: 'Are you open?' and they said: 'No, but you can come in.'" Pat regularly shops at the store, which has been labelled "Alfreton's tardis" because the size of the interior is so deceiving. "When they asked me 'Would I do them a favour?' I thought they were asking me to put in a few hours for them," said Pat. "But I'm glad I took part. We had a wonderful time and I was treated like royalty. There was a special birthday cake and local schoolboys came along and sang "Happy Birthday."

