

SWANBANK



Summer Newsletter

Message from Kathryn...

Dear Church Family,

Welcome to our latest SwanBank Newsletter!

As you will know, the Government continues to lift Covid restrictions and as a consequence we are making some more decisions about how we gather together for worship. We are really excited to announce that, from the first Sunday in September, we will be restarting our 10.30am service. Though please don't forget, for those who want to meet before then, there are currently two opportunities to do so each Sunday at our 9am and 6.15pm services.

I'm so glad that from next week we will be able to sing together too, which will be such a blessing - I don't know about you, but I have missed singing so much!

We hope our first 10.30am gathering on 5th September will be a deeply moving time as we gather safely, but all together. I hope for all who are able, you will join us to 'raise the roof' as we come to God together.

Much work has been going on through this season, putting plans and systems in place. One of those areas of work, which I'd like to highlight here, has been around what we have called our Network of Care. You will know that Janet Bagnall is our Pastoral Coordinator and she and I are working closely with a new Pastoral Steering Group as we seek to try and care for one another in the church and local community. In order for us to do this as well as possible, we need to see this as a whole church calling. To that end I'd like to ask you to pray about whether you can offer some time (even if it's an hour a month) to help us in our care. If you feel you can, or you'd like to chat this through, then please get in touch with Janet at janet@swanbank.org.uk or call the office on 01782 575129.

For your information, usual office hours are Tuesday-Thursday 10am-4pm however, through August that will be Wednesday-Thursday.

Please can I ask you to pray for our church as we move forward, that God will lead us in his ways as we share his love with our community, neighbours, friends and family.

God Bless,

Kathryn

SwanBank Church

5 Swan Square, Burslem, ST6 2AA

01782 575129 | admin@swanbank.org.uk

Office Opening Hours: Tuesday-Thursday, 10am-4pm

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Teatime@SwanBank

Teatime@SwanBank is a lottery funded, weekly community meal that we are launching at SwanBank in September. This idea came from one of our staff members during the pandemic. Since then, a team of people have been working towards researching what is already available in our town and what is needed. It turns out that this would be hugely beneficial to a significant number of families in our local community.

It will be a referral only event for families, in the hope that we can have a positive impact on local family life by feeding them in body, mind, and spirit through providing a nutritious meal for the family, various courses for the adults and activities for the children.

This is quite a big pilot project that will run from September to July, involving a total of 30 families throughout the year, and it's a great opportunity for us to create long lasting relationships with the local community. This is also a great opportunity for members of our congregation to get involved with the life of the church throughout the week.

For this to work well, we will be reliant on the help of volunteers, but we are trusting God that He will provide for this. If this is something you feel God is calling you to then there are many positions available that need to be filled.

If you would like to volunteer from September or would like more information about Teatime@SwanBank, you can ring the SwanBank office on 01782 575129 or email georgina.boden@hotmail.com.

Georgina Boden

Walking with Micah

Walking with Micah is a brand new initiative being run by the Methodist Church to encourage the Methodist Church to be more of a justice-seeking church. This is a two year project that will seek to challenge areas of injustice in our society, listen to the voice of Methodist people about what the important issues of today are, and to help individuals and churches to speak and act for justice.

You can visit the [Methodist Church website](#) to find out more, and to fill in a short questionnaire to help shape this exciting new venture.

Coffee Machine Fundraiser

We are excited about being able to reopen the Coffee Lounge in the next couple of months, both to welcome back our customers and to begin our work to make the Coffee Lounge a missional hub. To do that, we are in a position where we need to purchase a new coffee machine.

If you are able to make a contribution towards the purchase of a coffee machine, you can do so by getting in touch with the office, or by visiting www.swanbank.org.uk/give and selecting the 'Coffee Machine Fundraiser' fund.

New Team Member!

A few weeks ago, we were able to announce a new person who would be joining our team here at SwanBank. We are delighted to be welcoming Rev. Ruth Jeffries to join our staff team in September.

Ruth has been minister on the Wirral and most recently has been the Superintendent of the Market Drayton Circuit. She is married to Nick and has two daughters, Abby (10) and Lucy (9). Please do pray for them as a family during this time of transition.

Ruth will be working with us and with The Village Church in Brindley Ford, and will be starting in September.

