

SWANBANK

September Newsletter



Message from the Minister...

Dear friends,

What a glorious welcome you've offered to us as a family as we've arrived in the Stoke-on-Trent Mission Circuit. Thank you so very much for making each of us feel at home so very quickly. I have no doubt, after only a week, that I'm going to deeply enjoy my work here, but equally, I expect to face some real challenges, not least in getting to learn some of the 'Stokie' nuances!!



My 11 years of ministry has been interesting, from my initial 5 years on the Wirral, 18 months of which was on maternity leave, to my last 6 years as the Superintendent of the Market Drayton Circuit. My early years as a teacher have obviously left an impact, as I have found myself always being drawn back towards school in some ways, whilst never actually achieving it! Latterly, that was in my responding to a call I felt to school chaplaincy. Last October, I successfully applied for a school chaplaincy job in a Methodist independent school, and so we had been planning to move to that appointment. Sadly, that position fell through which left us needing to leave an appointment as it had already been filled, but with none to go to.

But, God is good. I know this because within 3 weeks by His grace and the wonderful and hard work of some human hands, this appointment became not only possible, but something that I believe to be absolutely the 'right' thing. Now that isn't to say that the other was wrong, but rather an acknowledgement of the absolute truth of the scriptures that we know and love about God's plans, and God working for our good and never for our ill.

Out of what was, quite honestly a deeply upsetting situation, He has brought about something that is better than we could have asked or imagined. And isn't that just the truth of God's story? He has never promised to shield us from the pain and challenges of this world, but He has always reminded us of His faithfulness in it all. Which is why my motto during these past few months, even in the midst of deep uncertainty for us as a whole family has been... "It's ok. God's got this."

We look forward to getting to know you and working with you all as we share God's amazing story and piece by piece, heart by heart, life by life, building God's Kingdom right where we are.

Blessings,

Ruth

SwanBank Church

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

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Summer Newsletter



Thank You Weekend

We are really excited about our Thank You weekend, happening on Saturday 16th - Sunday 17th October. We have a whole weekend of events and services planned to help us say thank you to God for all that he continues to do in and through the life of our church.

Saturday 16th October

Prayer Breakfast - 9.30am

Family Car Treasure Hunt - 2.30pm

Bring & Share Tea - 5pm

Big SwanBank Family Quiz Extravaganza - 6pm

Sunday 17th October

Special services at 9am, 10.30am & 6.15pm

We'll be giving you more details about all those events, and the other ways you can get involved with the weekend in the next few weeks!

Coffee Lounge Update

It's the moment you've all been waiting for, The COFFEE LOUNGE is RE-OPENING on MONDAY 13th SEPTEMBER! It has been a very long time coming and I know a lot of you have missed it.

Our opening times will be Monday-Thursday, 10am-2pm. There will be no booking system so feel free to just walk in and sit with whoever you like. We will continue to take your details for Track and Trace, just in case.

We are very grateful to be able to reopen after this pandemic and so would love it if as many of you as possible could come and show your support as we try to get back on our feet.

We are still and always in need of reliable volunteers, so if you think you have some spare time during the week, any time you can give is appreciated. We'll even throw in a free lunch!

Georgina Boden

Children & Families Update

It is incredible that the church has reopened! I am super excited to welcome the children and families back into the church. Our Babies and Toddler Group (Little Treasures) will reopen on Tuesday 21st September at 9.30am - 11am. For just £1 per child, which includes, crafts, snacks and song and story time, also not forgetting adults who will be able to have bottomless, tea, coffee and toast.

Messy Church returns, and we would love to welcome you on the Saturday 2nd October at 9.30am to meet for breakfast. This is for families with children aged 0 - 11 years, you will have the opportunity to join in with worship, crafts, games and lunch will be served towards the end of the session.

I am so looking forward to meeting with you and if you have any questions please contact me on 01782 575129 or alice@swanbank.org.uk.

Circuit Ladies Fellowship

Join the group every other Tuesday at 7.30pm starting from September 14th at Whitehill Methodist Community Church.

Come along and enjoy fellowship, friendship, sharing in a time of learning about God's word and also a time to eat cake and have a cuppa.

Everyone welcome, for more information contact Siobhane Yates on 01782 775497.

Foodbank

Our Foodbank Team here in church would like to thank you for your support through these challenging times.

We have a wonderful, faithful group of volunteers who are here on a Wednesday providing emergency food for families and we have noticed an increase in families requiring help. Also our Monday & Wednesday team of drivers who collect from the supermarket, this enables church to provide emergency food for those who can't access Foodbank.

We thank God for all he provides to enable us to continue his work and for your continued support