



SWANBANK

May Newsletter 2024

Message from our Ministers...

Psalm 8:2 has given us the now infamous phrase... 'from the mouths of babes and infants...' Sometimes the most complicated of subjects can be totally stripped of its difficulties by the simple, yet often profoundly deep words of a child. I wonder if you've ever experienced this?

A few years back, we had to explain to the girls that a Great Aunt (known as Granny) was unable to visit, as had been the plan, because of the death of a cat that she cared for, but had belonged to their Nanna. Nanna died before they were born, but we have a picture of her centrally in the house and we talk often of how she is in heaven with Jesus now. When I explained to our eldest that Granny was sad because Nanna's cat had died, trying hard to avoid the complexities of ongoing grief, she simply piped up, "It's ok, because Nanna can look after her cat in heaven now can't she?" My lovely girl managed to cut through grief to find a reason to be joyful.

There is a verse from the book of Ecclesiastes, interpreted in the Jerusalem Bible, as: "God made people simple; our complex problems are of our own devising" (Eccl. 7:29 alt.). I am often reminded by this that Jesus said, that unless we become like children, we will



never enter the kingdom of heaven (Matt 18:3). Naturally, there is much wisdom to be gained through age and experience, but just maybe, many of our challenges would become ever more surmountable if we approached them with the humility and innocence of a child.

The whole of that Psalm verse says, ***'Out of the mouth of babies and infants, you have established strength because of your foes, to still the enemy and the avenger.'***

What a wonderful reminder that God can use what we perceive to be weak and powerless, as His strength. May God grant us a child-like heart as we look at the world around us, that our cynicism and greed would be overtaken by awe and wonder, and we would recognise our weakness as His strength.

Ruth



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Performance of the Symphonia Verbum Orchestra at Swan Bank



Swan Bank Church will host Stoke's only professional symphony orchestra, The Symphonia Verbum Orchestra's 'Relaxed Performance' is on **Friday 21st June at 2pm**. Conducted by **Joe Hearson**, the SVO's Artistic Director, this concert will feature a mixture of classical music and arrangements of popular tunes. The event is particularly suited to those living with dementia, adults with learning needs and children but anyone can attend.

The concert will be informal, with lights left on, doors left open, and a separate chill-out space provided for anybody who wishes to take a break from the performance. Doors will open at 1.15pm for those who may wish to come early to get used to the space before the concert begins. None of the perceived 'rules' of orchestral concerts will apply; audience members are encouraged to sing or even dance along to the tunes they know and love, and there will be an opportunity to meet the orchestral musicians after the concert, which will last approximately one hour. Tea, coffee and biscuits will be available before, during and after the performance.

The SVO is offering free tickets, although donations will be gratefully received to further the orchestra's work in the city which, in addition to regular concerts includes educational workshops in schools and other community programmes. For tickets or more information, visit www.svo.org.uk or call **07938 579926**. Tickets will also be available on the door.

Swan Bank Centre Manager Vacancy

We are excited about this brand-new opportunity for someone to join our staff team here at Swan Bank. If you're great with people, a brilliant organiser and passionate about the life and the mission of the church here in Burslem, then we'd love to hear from you!



Centre Manager Post and Circuit Administrator

37.5 hours per week
£29,000 per annum.

For more information then please follow the link below or contact the office on **01782 575129**.
<https://www.swanbank.org.uk/vacancies>

Thought for the Day

You are Highly Valued!

I recently heard a lady share her thoughts on how valuable we are to God.

As Christians we know that Jesus died for us and sometimes this truth can become so familiar to us that we lose something of how wonderful it is, and the cost of the sacrifice made for us.

She shared how she was selling her house and after the estate agent had viewed the property, she asked him: 'What do you think the value of the house is?'

He replied: 'The value of something is whatever someone is willing to pay for it'.

The Cross demonstrates the value God puts on us. It reminds us that He paid the highest price possible by giving the life of His son to show how valuable we are to Him.

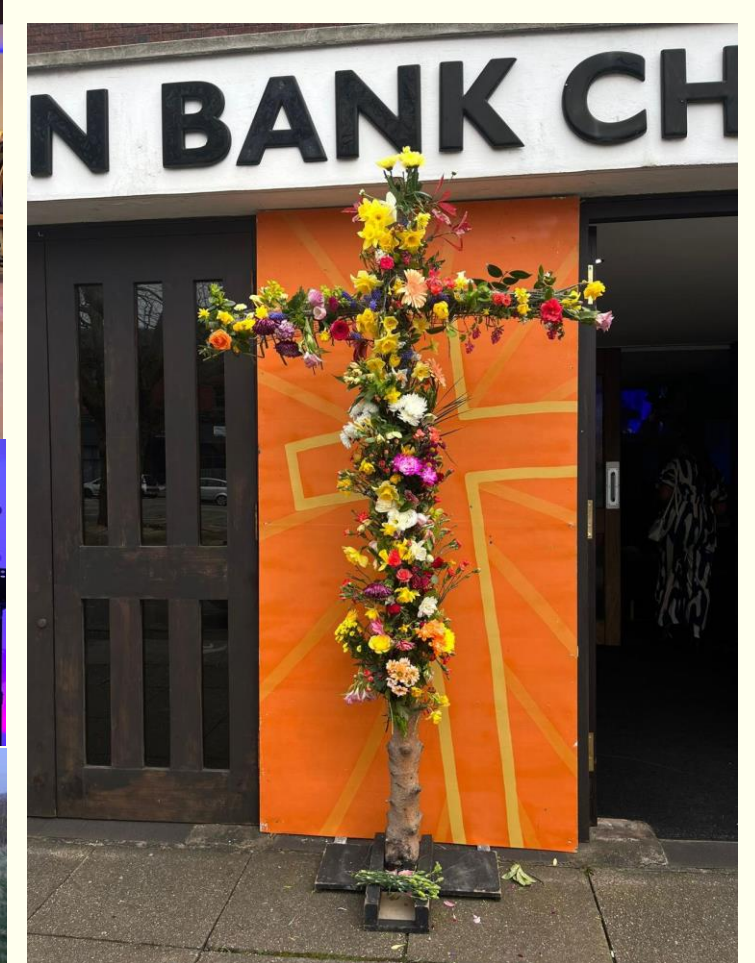
Lorraine Clarke



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Easter at Swan Bank (& Sneyd Hill!)





May - Circuit Preaching Plan

Venue	Time	5 th May	12 th May	19 th May Pentecost	26 th May Trinity Sunday
Swan Bank	9.00am 10.30am 6.15pm	Stephens/Wakelin Stephens/Wakelin 🏆 Stephens	Taylor Taylor Stephens 🏆	Stephens 🏆 Stephens Jeffries	Jeffries Jeffries Stephens
Potter's Church	9.30am 11.15am	Law Law	Price Price	Jolley Jolley	Hancock Hancock
Oasis Church	10.45am 6.00pm	Jeffries	Boateng	Cooke	Community Sunday
Wesley Hall	10.45am	Wakelin 🏆	Own Arrangement	Boateng	Tattersall
The Gateway	10.45am	Tattersall	Jeffries 🏆	Andrews	Cooke
Mt Pleasant	10.45am	Cooke	Leese	J Johnson	Wakelin 🏆
Packmoor	11.00am	Tindale	Tideswell	Wilshaw	Brooks
Village Church	11.00am	Own Arrangement	Stephens	Jeffries 🏆	Brabbs
Whitehill	10.30am 6.00pm	Tretheway Bowers	Cooper 🏆 Wakelin	Batho Q & A Brooks	Nixon Cooper 🏆

Tom's London Marathon!

On Sunday 21st April, Tom Hall successfully completed the London Marathon (in 3 hours and 50 minutes!) to raise money for Crohn's & Colitis UK. He also achieved the Guinness World Record as the fastest emoji - dressing as a poo!



Tom said,

"As someone with Crohn's disease, I'm really grateful for the chance to run as part of the charity team and I would be super grateful if you would consider donating and supporting me through the link below. I have a big target to hit so your generosity is much appreciated!"

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/tomhall789>





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LITTLE TREASURES

Baby and Toddler Group

Tea, Toast, Snack,
Song and Story time and Crafts

Tuesdays - 09:30-11:00
(Term time only)

£1 ENTRY

At Swanbank Church, Burslem

Contact: nick@swanbank.org.uk
01782 575129

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Messy Church

On the first Saturday of every month
with Breakfast from 10 am
At SwanBank Church, Burslem

For more information contact
nick@swanbank.org.uk

Regular Activities at Swan Bank

Sunday

Sunday Night Young Adults – Fellowship Room,
7:30-9:00pm

Monday

Prayer Time – Meeting Room 1, 9:00-9:30am
Bible Study – Meeting Room 1, 10:00-11:30am
Gospel Choir – Main Church, 7:30-9:00pm
2nd & 4th Mondays of each month

Tuesday

Little Treasures (0-4 years old) – Lower Hall,
9:30-11:00am (*term time only*)
Chatty Café – Coffee Lounge, 10:00am-12noon
Tuesday Club – Coffee Lounge, 1:30-3:30pm

Wednesday

Knit & Natter – Coffee Lounge, 10:00am-
12noon
Foodbank – Coffee Lounge, 2:00-4:00pm (*To
receive a food parcel an E-voucher will be
required beforehand from a referral agency*)

Thursday

Younger Youth (School years 3-6) – Upper Hall,
5:45-7:15pm (*term time only*)
Youth Club (11-16 years old) – Upper Hall,
7:30-9:00pm (*term time only*)

Saturday

Messy Church (Primary aged children) – Lower
Hall, 10:00am-12noon (*first Saturday of each
month*) Breakfast included and only £1 per
child!

Women's Walking Group – Rendezvous usually
at Swan Bank before going to the start of the
walk (*3rd Saturday of each month*). See **Liz
Thompson** for details.



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What's on at Church

Family Quiz and Supper night
Saturday 18th May 5:30-7:30pm
*(please note the change of time
 from that previously advertised.)*

Follow the link below, scan the QR
 code or contact the office to book.

[https://swanbank.churchsuite.com
 /events/18gof9g1](https://swanbank.churchsuite.com/events/18gof9g1)

Performance of the Symphonia Verbum
 Orchestra at Swan Bank **on 21st June**



SVO Symphonia
 Verbum
 Orchestra

Presents its first

Relaxed Concert

Join the SVO in an informal afternoon concert
 featuring a mixture of well-known classical music
 and arrangements of popular songs.

All tickets are
 completely
free for
 everyone!

FRIDAY 21 JUNE 2024
 2PM AT
SWAN BANK CHURCH
 BURSLEM, ST6 2AA

cover

www.svo.org.uk  symphonia_verbum_orchestra
 SymphoniaVerbum  @SymphoniaVerbum

For more information, and to purchase tickets, please visit
www.svo.org.uk or call 07938 579 926. Alternatively, tickets
 can be booked directly through the TicketSource website.





**THE SWANBANK
 QUIZ
 NIGHT**
 And Supper

**Saturday
 18th May**
 At
 Swanbank
 Church
 5:30pm - 7:30pm
 £5 adults,
 £2.50 children
 2 courses
 Suggested donation,
 pay what you can

Fancy showing off
 your general
 knowledge skills
 and having a night
 off making tea?

Then gather your
 family and friends
 and join us for
 Swanbank's family
 quizzzy quiz and
 slap up supper!

For more information, speak
 to Ruth or Kathryn
 To book, scan the QR code



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For tickets or more information, visit
www.svo.org.uk or call 07938 579926.
 Tickets will also be available on the door.



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SWAN BANK NOTICEBOARD

There are lots of on-line learning opportunities available from the Methodist Church. If you are interested in knowing more then please follow the link below.
www.methodist.org.uk/media/29680/learning-network-brochure-feb2023.pdf

Save the Date – ColourSplash
 This year's ColourSplash (Reception to Year 6 children) will be from **24th to 26th July**. It will have a beach theme, so the suspicion is there will be plenty of water involved!
 The sign-up form is available at:
[Colour Splash 2024 · ChurchSuite Forms](#)
 or contact **Nick Jefferies**.


We're looking to restock our supplies of **Pot Noodles** and **biscuits** to provide homeless people with something to eat and a hot drink and biscuit. Donations can be dropped off at the church office anytime.

The next Women's Walking Group date is on the **18th May**. Meeting up at 11am at Swan Bank before travelling on to the start of the walk. Please see **Liz Thompson** for details.

What's on further afield...

Annual Civic Prayer Breakfast is at the Kings Hall, Stoke **7:30am on Friday 10th May**. We have tickets available in the **Swan Bank office** or call **07825 745142** or email:- email@saltbox.org.uk

2024 STOKE-ON-TRENT ANNUAL CIVIC PRAYER BREAKFAST



Friday 10th May 7.30 - 10.00am **KINGS HALL, STOKE**

"Seek the welfare of the city and pray to the Lord on its behalf"


Tickets still only £10.00
Includes full English breakfast

By Card
Call 07825 745142


By Cheque
Send to: Saltbox, Bemersley House, Gitana Street, Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent, ST1 1DY

In Person
Buy from: Methodist Book Centre, Gitana Street, Hanley, ST1 1DY

General enquiries
email@saltbox.org.uk



Guest Speaker
Rt Revd Jan MacFarlane
Assistant Bishop & Interim Dean of Lichfield Cathedral



Interview
Jonathan Bellamy
Chair of Stoke-on-Trent Business Improvement District





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What's on at Mow Cop Methodist Church?.....Lots!

Explore the History of Primitive Methodism at Mow Cop Methodist Church.

10am-4pm Saturday 11th May

email:- yanyan.case@methodist.org.uk

International Worship at Mow Cop Methodist Church at 3:00pm on Sunday 19th May

Explore the History of Primitive Methodism

HERITAGE DAY



10am - Noon
Guest speakers, choir and hymn singing

Noon - 2pm
Lunch break with guided tour, DVD and conversation

2 - 4pm
Different guest speakers, choir and hymn singing

10 am - 4pm Saturday 11th May 2024
Mow Cop Methodist Church, Woodcock Lane, Mow Cop,
Stoke-on-Trent
ST7 3NH

For more information email Rev. Yanyan Case
yanyan.case@methodist.org.uk

International Worship



You are cordially invited to partake in an international Pentecost Sunday gathering at Mow Cop Methodist Church, a historic revival site, to worship together in unity and celebrate the different cultures of God's family.

Weather permitting, worship will be held outside. Parking available at Mow Cop Community Church and St Thomas Church Car park.

To greatly enhance the experience for us all, we would encourage you to come in your national outfit if possible. There will also be international food to share.

"...and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb". - Revelation 7:9


Pentecost Sunday
19th May 2024 at 3pm
Mow Cop Methodist Church,
Woodcock Lane,
Mow Cop,
Stoke-on-Trent
ST7 3NH

For more information email:
Rev. Yanyan Case
yanyan.case@methodist.org.uk

Swan Bank Church, Swan Square, Burslem, ST6 2AA

Office hours:- 10am - 4pm, Tuesday - Thursday


 01782 575129

 admin@swanbank.org.uk

 www.swanbank.org.uk

Sunday 10:30am Service, live stream links:

 www.youtube.com/@SwanBank/streams

 www.facebook.com/swanbank/?locale=en_GB

Future Articles

If anyone has any stories or articles to be considered for inclusion in future newsletters, please contact Shirley Brooks or Nigel Johnson directly or email :-

officeassistance@swanbank.org.uk.