



# SWANBANK

## May Magazine 2025

### Celebrating God's Goodness This Easter Season

As a church family, we are bursting with gratitude for all that God did among us this past Holy Week and Easter. From Palm Sunday through Resurrection Sunday, we witnessed His hand at work in powerful and beautiful ways.

Our Easter services were filled with meaning, remembrance and hope. Easter Day was the most joy-filled day with the unmistakable presence of the risen Christ. We were absolutely delighted to have the 'problem' of standing room only as we welcomed so many visitors—some for the first time ever, and others returning to reconnect with church life. What a joy to see our building full of life, love, gladness and worship!

One of the greatest highlights of the season was celebrating 20 baptisms and reaffirmation of baptism—each a testimony of God's saving grace and transforming love. Watching individuals publicly declare their faith in Jesus, through baptism, was both moving and unforgettable. These moments remind us that God is still calling hearts to Himself, and the Gospel continues to change lives. We also had the immense privilege of welcoming 17 new members into our church family. These friends are bringing life and energy to our community, and we are so thankful God has drawn them here.

Thank you to every person who prayed, served, welcomed, sang, played, cooked, cleaned, made tea, decorated...and..and...and...!



So many poured themselves out during this Easter Season. Whether you were up front or behind the scenes, your faithfulness helped make this season a time of real encounter with God for many.

As we move forward from Easter, let's continue to carry this sense of wonder and celebration. Let's pray for those who visited, those who were baptized, and those just beginning their journey with Christ. And let's keep living as resurrection people—full of hope, grounded in grace, sharing Christ's love at every turn and bold in our witness.

Christ is risen - He is risen indeed—and He is moving among us.

*Kathryn*



Our Network of Care Stories (...to be continued again next month!)



Derrick and Margaret Wood

Hi, everyone.  
We are living at High Lane and have been for the last seven years. We are so thankful for the support and kindness shown to us by SwanBank. Although we don't always attend these days, we do follow online.  
Thank you for the memories and the blessings that flow from SwanBank.  
God Bless you all.

"Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever."  
1 Chronicles 16:34



Shirley and Kevin

Kevin and I have been married over 40 years now. We both worship at SwanBank and take part in many of the church's activities. On the photo you can see Kevin, Skye and me at a racing track where Kevin was able to fulfil a dream of driving again under the supervision of a racing driver. Skye was Kevin's loyal and faithful guide dog. She sadly passed away in December 2024 after a short illness and is greatly missed.

Romans 15:13: "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in faith so that you overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."

Upcoming Events

FOUNDATION SAFEGUARDING TRAINING

For ALL volunteers within the Stoke on Trent Mission circuit, who MUST renew every 4 years



Swan Bank Church, Fellowship Room  
Monday 19<sup>th</sup> May  
19:00 - 21:30pm

To book, scan the QR code or email either [officeassistance@swanbank.org.uk](mailto:officeassistance@swanbank.org.uk) or [shirley@swanbank.org.uk](mailto:shirley@swanbank.org.uk)

MOW FIRE

Camp meeting

Celebrating 218th revival Anniversary

Can we cover the hill and bring glory to God again, brothers and sisters in Christ?



 Sunday, 1 June 2025  
3pm - 5pm

 At Mow Cop Castle

Email: [mowfire@outlook.com](mailto:mowfire@outlook.com)

Find out more >>>

#Mowfire  

SWAN BANK over Easter

**Easter Extravaganza!**

Such a great day with so many of our community gathering for the SwanBank Easter Extravaganza. The place was buzzing! Great Makers Market, lots of fun stuff to do, bouncy castle, crafts, bunny hunt, face painting and food. Massive thanks to all who helped in any way to make this a success.



**Maundy Thursday Meal**

We had a great evening at our Maundy Thursday Community Meal, attended by over 80 people. A big thank you to Liz and the wonderful catering team that produced such a lovely meal. Some people (who shan't be named ) went up for seconds!



**Easter Day Sunrise on Sneyd Hill**

A beautiful Easter morning communion service was held at 6am from the top of Sneyd Hill.



**Easter Sunday Service**

What a fantastic Easter Day 10:30 service! 380 people were there to celebrate the day with 20 people being baptised with 17 becoming church members. Wonderful!



May 2025 - Circuit Preaching Plan

Venue	Time	4 <sup>th</sup> May	11 <sup>th</sup> May	18 <sup>th</sup> May	25 <sup>th</sup> May
Swan Bank	9.00am 10.30am 6.15pm	Jeffries Jeffries Stephens	Stephens Stephens A Johnson	Brooks Stubbs Jeffries	Cooper Jeffries Jeffries
Potter's Church	9.30am 11.15am	Law Law	Price Price	P Barber -----	Price Price
Oasis Church	10.45am 6.00pm	Dalton	Nixon	Boateng	Wyatt
Wesley Hall	10.45am	Stanyer	Tattersall	Andrews	Brooks
The Gateway	10.45am	Worthington	<b>Own Arrangement</b>	Tattersall	Leese
Mt Pleasant	10.45am	Boateng	Harrison <b>Anniv. 2.30pm</b>	<b>Own Arrangement</b>	Tindale
Packmoor	11.00am	Brooks	Zinyemba	Jeffries	Mason
Village Church	11.00am	Stephens	Jeffries	Nixon	Brabbs
Whitehill	10.30am 6.00pm	Wakelin Cooper	Cooper Jeffries	Brooks Chapman Q & A	Nixon Cooper

City Celebration Update

A really encouraging City Celebration took place in the evening at Swanbank on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> April with a large congregation drawn from different churches in the city. Super worship was led by Paul Critchley and his band. There was inspiring input from Dawnie J Reynolds and the Ruff & Ruby band - Antidote, plus a message from Ali Summers, senior minister at Rising Brook Church in Stafford, on being blessed to be a blessing.

Every Blessing  
Lloyd Cooke



Follow the link to learn more about Ruff & Ruby and what they do [www.ruffandruby.com](http://www.ruffandruby.com)

## Worship and Preaching Academy

Part of the Church's responsibility is to nurture new, upcoming leaders in different areas of Church life – children's workers, pastoral workers, tech team to name just a few.

Although new volunteers in these teams often begin by shadowing other people, this is more difficult in certain parts of Church life such as preaching and worship leading. The Methodist Church has a commitment to ensure those who are leading in these specific areas have engaged with certain training, mentoring and personal assignments.

Over the last year, a group comprising of people from the Stoke-on-Trent circuit have been meeting together monthly to explore their calling as Worship Leaders or Local Preachers. We are led by Simon Sutcliffe who has served in the Methodist Church for 20 years, working historically as a minister to local congregations and currently serving as a chaplain at Keele University. He leads us through some specific teaching, activities, discussions and assignments. These cover topics such as our calling, what we understand of the Bible and aspects of theology.

The aim of these sessions is to develop us to a point where we can effectively lead areas of worship, share messages or perhaps co-ordinate whole services. Please pray for those working their way through the Worship and Preaching Academy as they begin to explore where God is leading them.

Anyone wishing to have a conversation about exploring their calling to preach or lead worship can always speak to either Kathryn or Ruth.

**Hayley Boulton**



## Regular Activities at Swan Bank

### Sunday

Sunday Services at 9am, 10:30am and 6:15pm.  
Sunday Night Young Adults – Fellowship Room, 7:30-9pm.

### Monday

Bible Study – Coffee bar, 10-11:30am.  
Hope & Hospitality, Soup Kitchen – Coffee Lounge, 10am-12noon.  
Dementia Activity Group – Coffee Lounge, 1-3pm  
Gospel Choir – Fellowship Room, 7:30-9pm  
*2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Mondays of each month.*

### Tuesday

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

### Wednesday

Knit & Natter – Meeting Room 1, 10am-12noon.  
Changes – Coffee Lounge, 10am-1pm.  
Community Lounge/Foodbank – Lower Hall, 2-4pm (*To receive a food parcel an E-voucher will be required from a referral agency*).

### Thursday

Prayer Time – Prayer Chapel, 9-9:30am.  
Hope & Hospitality, Soup Kitchen – Coffee Lounge, 10am-1pm.  
Younger Youth (School years 3-6) – Upper Hall, 5:45-7:15pm (*term time only*).  
Youth Club (11-16 years old) – Upper Hall, 7:30-9pm (*term time only*).

### Saturday

Messy Church (Primary school aged children) – Lower Hall, 10am-12noon (*first Saturday of each month*) Breakfast included and only £1 per child!  
Women's Walking Group – (*3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of each month*). See Liz Thompson for details.

**Contact the office on 01782 575129 for further details of all our regular activities**

### Monthly Prayer Focus

If we are honest, no one likes change, preferring to staying in our comfort zone.

Many old sayings are themed around “Nothing changes - without change”. Even now, personalities and influencers add their personal twists.

Albert Einstein said “The definition of insanity is doing the same thing over and over and expecting things to be different “.

If we want to cut our fuel costs – for cars – we can change our filling station, our car, or our style of driving.

At home we could change to a different energy provider, turn off rather using standby, change the way we cook food or heat our homes, ensuring insulation is current and doors and windows are closed.

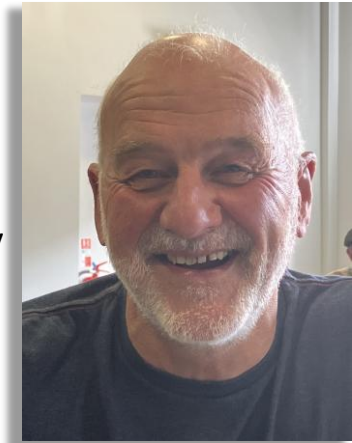
If we experience health problem, our doctor may suggest a different lifestyle, change our diet, reducing sugar, fat, alcohol intakes and even smaller portion sizes to reverse any weight gains.

We may start exercising, walking rather than sitting or driving, running instead of walking and maybe even joining and attending a gym!

Changes are also needed in our spiritual journey. We can't meet and invite Jesus into our lives, then to continue to live our former lifestyle. Jesus made his sacrifice for us, to put right our wrongdoings, so we feel compelled to do things differently. Our friends and families should see a change in us, our language, actions and

spending habits, as we try to reflect Jesus in our own situations.

At Swan Bank on Easter Sunday, 20 people publicly committed to change as they were baptised, reaffirmed or became members.



In all aspects of our lives change is inevitable, so to grow our relationship with God we have to change. Have a think about your life.

C S Lewis said:

*“Isn't it funny how day to day nothing changes, but when we look back everything is different “*

#### Prayer

*Father,*

*Please show us the areas in our lives that we need to change. Some maybe obvious, others more subtle or secretive. Please forgive us when we are reluctant to let go of the things we consider to be part of us. Make changes that allow us to accept your spiritual gifts, wisdom, knowledge, faith, healing, prophecy, miracles and tongues etc. Please help those around us see the change in us and be encouraged to welcome you into their lives as their friend and Saviour.*

*Amen*

**Dave Howe**

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

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



**01782 575129**



[admin@swanbank.org.uk](mailto:admin@swanbank.org.uk)



[www.swanbank.org.uk](http://www.swanbank.org.uk)

Sunday 10:30am Service, live stream links:



[www.youtube.com/@SwanBank/streams](http://www.youtube.com/@SwanBank/streams)



[www.facebook.com/swanbank/?locale=en\\_GB](http://www.facebook.com/swanbank/?locale=en_GB)

#### Future Articles

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

[officeassistance@swanbank.org.uk](mailto:officeassistance@swanbank.org.uk).

SWAN BANK NOTICEBOARD

**Whitehill Methodist  
Community Church**  
Mid-Week Services

Whitehill Road, Kidsgrove, ST7 4DS  
Every Wednesday commencing at 10.15am  
7<sup>th</sup> May Judith Dutton  
14<sup>th</sup> May David Bowers  
21<sup>st</sup> May Hilary Tretheway  
28<sup>th</sup> May TBA

**Soup Kitchen Request**

As you know the Soup Kitchen is engaging with people in need around the local area. Some carry all their possessions in carrier bags and have asked if they could have something sturdier.



Is it possible you have a spare bag-for-life in your cupboard that you don't need? Or do you have any old rucksacks (large or small) that you no longer use? If you do, then please let one of the Soup Kitchen team have them or simply drop them off at the office. Many thanks



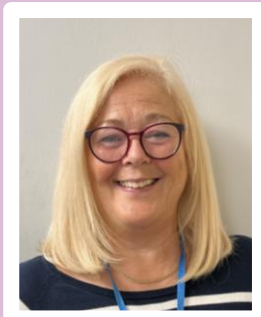
**Keith Stubbs** and the SK team.



**Pastoral Network of Care**

Do you enjoy chatting to people and making friends? How about joining our Pastoral Sunday team? We have small groups, who chat to other church members on a weekly basis and just keep an eye on each other. It's impossible for the Ministers and Staff to talk to everyone, so our Network of Care, does just that and informs the Pastoral Coordinator or Ministers of any issues e.g. health, illness, hospital appointments or big celebrations etc.

Have a chat with **Janet Bagnall**, to find out more!



**Church Events**

If there are any church groups or events (at Swan Bank or even wider afield) that you would like advertising on the noticeboard, then please contact either **Shirley** or **Nigel**



The Village Choir presents

**A POST-WAR  
PARTY PARADE!**

featuring songs from the 1940's to the 2020's



**Friday 9<sup>th</sup> May**  
**7pm-9pm**  
at  
**The Village Church**  
Outclough Road, Brindley  
Ford, ST8 7QD

**Tickets £5**

Available from choir members or by emailing [thevillagechurch1@gmail.com](mailto:thevillagechurch1@gmail.com)

