

Psalm
Unwrapped

SWANBANK 

July Magazine 2025

Message from our Ministers...

I think one of the most powerful, yet sometimes underrated gifts we have as followers of Jesus is our story—our testimony.

Our lives are not just private moments and are more than memories, they can also be living evidence of God's grace, faithfulness, and power at work in real lives. In Psalm 107:2 we read, *"Let the redeemed of the Lord tell their story—those he redeemed from the hand of the foe."* When we speak about God's work in our lives, we give Him glory and offer others hope.

Throughout Scripture, God uses ordinary people to share extraordinary stories. From the Samaritan woman at the well (John 4) to the man born blind (John 9), personal encounters with Jesus transformed lives and became testimonies that drew others to Him. They didn't have all the answers—they simply told what Jesus had done for them. And that was enough.

As a church, we are entering a new Sunday morning series in August titled "This is My Story." Over the weeks, we will hear from members of our own church family as they share how God has moved in their lives—through seasons of joy, pain, struggle, healing, and hope. These interviews will remind us that God is still writing His story through each of us.

There's something sacred about testimony. When someone is brave enough to be



vulnerable, it invites others to see God more clearly. Stories have the power to connect, comfort and challenge us. They remind us that God is not distant or passive—He is active in our lives today.

Our prayer is that this series will deepen your faith and encourage you to reflect on your own journey with God. Maybe you've never shared your story before. Maybe you've never thought of your life as a testimony. We believe that testimonies don't just encourage others; they also deepen our own faith. They remind us, as well as others, that we're not alone, that God is at work even in the waiting, and that every story—no matter how broken—can be a testimony of hope.

We encourage you to come with open hearts, ready to listen and expecting to see God's grace and power at work among us. Let's be a church that tells our stories, honours God and strengthens one another in the process.

God be with you all.

Kathryn

Volunteering at Swan Bank



We are incredibly fortunate at Swan Bank Church to have numerous dedicated volunteers contributing to a variety of activities. Our teams include:

Stewards, Welcome team, Worship and Tech, Pastoral teams, Refreshment, Housekeeping, Property team, Local preachers, Swan Bank Kids, Midweek children's groups, Prayer team, Alpha teams, Small group hosts & pastoral link leaders, Care home ministry, Communications team, Swan Bank

Magazine team, Community Lounge, Soup Kitchen, Finance Team, Health & Safety team, Gospel Choir, Office Volunteers, First aiders and Safeguarding Team.

We aim to match volunteers with roles that align with their unique gifts and talents.

All volunteers need to fulfil the safer recruitment process, which may include a DBS check and references.

If you are interested in joining any of our teams, please contact either:

shirley@swanbank.org.uk or Liz@swanbank.org.uk

Civic Prayer Breakfast Update

Over 400 people attended this year's wonderful Civic Prayer Breakfast on Thursday 5th June. This was the exact date 100 years ago when the then King, George V, visited the Potteries and announced that it was to be given city status. There were a number of special events taking place on Centenary Day this year, but the City Council had asked that the day should begin with the Civic Prayer Breakfast.

Following a cooked breakfast, powerful worship was led by Paul Critchley and Joe Hearson together with members of the

City of S-o-T Symphony Orchestra. There was also inspirational worship from the gospel choir of St Peter's C of E Academy School. Swanbank's very own Dr Fi





Hibberts, Deputy Chief Nurse at the Royal Stoke Hospital, was interviewed about her work in the NHS as well as how she approached her role as a Christian. The keynote speaker was Robert Mountford who spoke about the

city's heritage, and the importance of community, creativity and faith.

Lloyd Cooke

July 2025 - Circuit Preaching Plan

Venue	Time	6 th July	13 th July	20 th July	27 th July
Swan Bank	9.00am 10.30am 6.15pm	Stephens Stephens/Jeffries Jeffries	Mason Stephens Brabbs	Cooke Taylor (Baptism) Stephens 	Worthington Stephens/Jeffries Taylor
Potter's Church	9.30am 11.15am	Hancock Hancock	Price Price	Hancock  Hancock 	Cooke Cooke
Oasis Church	10.45am 6.00pm	Wyatt	Cooke	Tindale	Own Arrangement
Wesley Hall	10.45am	Tattersall	Hancock 	Own Arrangement	Nixon
The Gateway	10.45am	Worthington	Tattersall	Tretheway	Mason
Mt Pleasant	10.45am	Dutton	Own Arrangement	Boateng	Tindale
Packmoor	11.00am	Tindale	Stanyer	Andrews	Own Arrangement
Village Church	11.00am	A Price	Jeffries 	Jeffries	A Johnson
Whitehill	10.30am 6.00pm	A Cooper G Cooper	Cooper  Brooks 	Batho Q & A	Shaw Cooper 

Our Church Family

The last few years, especially since Covid, Michael and myself have faced many health challenges. That meant having to give up areas of service that we loved to do. Michael also had to give up driving which was hard for him.

What we have experienced through all this is God's provision. We have received the help of our church family, from those who bring us to church, take us to the Tuesday Club, take us shopping and to hospital appointments, to those who send a card or make a telephone call that comes at the right moment, as well as visits from our ministers and others.

What gives us strength is God's promise that what ever we face, he is with us, and his Grace covers us. Thank you to our Church Family!

Sandra Parker



Date for your Diary

You are warmly invited to the:

Dedication of a New War Memorial

Date: Thursday 14 August 2025

Time: 12.00pm

Location: Kiln Gate Housing Development, Nile Street, Burslem
(site of the former Royal Doulton factory)



A new memorial is set to be installed in Burslem to honour the workers from the former Royal Doulton Factory and others from across the former Empire who lost their lives during wartime service.

A ground breaking ceremony in May marked the beginning of work on the war memorial with David Williams MP, Joan Walley DLL, campaigner Mike Lightfoot and staff from developers St. Modwen and Miller Homes.

For further details please contact: Mike Lightfoot

Email: classicallyenglish@btinternet.com

Tel: 07803 026213



Our New Spiritual Home

As a relative newcomer to Swanbank, it's great that the church is now a spiritual home to me, my wife Lorraine and son Jonathan. My daughter Hannah and son in-law Jake are part of the on-line congregation from their home in North Devon. It takes time to get to know people and understand what goes on in the church, but I'm left with the feeling that there's a lot of great people doing fantastic work in the name of Jesus.

For our part, Lorraine helps out at the soup kitchen which opens its doors on Monday and Thursday. I've recently started to co-lead a small group where we discuss the Bible and enjoy drinks and unhealthy snacks.

Some time ago, Peter Hancock from Potters Church, came to Swanbank with a ministry of healing. I'd had work related

back problems for years and was in some pain on the night. As we reached out to God in worship and prayer, I felt the Spirit of God come upon me. I've not had any issues since.

We are now looking forward to the baptismal service on the 6th July. Our now grown-up children, Jonathan and Hannah, have chosen to be baptised by total immersion. A great moment for us as we think back to when they were dedicated as infants. Our thanks go to so many people at Swanbank for their continued friendship and fellowship.

Ian Clarke



Prayer Focus

Father, thank you for including me in your global family and for the local community you have planted me in. I surrender my desire to be entertained in a Sunday service, and instead I ask you to help me to love the family I worship with, praying for and serving them in our shared journey to wholeness. Amen.

Janet Bagnall



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 or



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



Our Network of Care Stories

(...to be continued again next month!)



Christine Mayer

I have been at home for the last 4 years and unable to get out and about since my knee surgery.

Most of you will know John Mayer, who was my husband, a member at SwanBank and a local preacher until he died 11 years ago.

We were very active in the church in many roles but also as boys brigade leaders and part of the luncheon club team.

I have one son named David who lives between the UK and Spain.

I love watching Formula 1, quiz and antique programmes on TV.

I also enjoy tennis during the Wimbledon season.

"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."

Philippians 4:13



Pat and David Price

Due to health problems, David and Pat can't come to church at SwanBank on regular Sundays. They do try to go to Trentham church when possible. They moved house in late December 2023 and now have a beautiful self-contained "home" within their daughter and son-in-law's house at Stallington.

They love living there and enjoy the view from of the large garden, horses, and trees; but also, in Pat's words, having grandchildren around - Wonderful!

"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid."

John 14:27

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

2nd & 4th 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-12noon.

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 – (*3rd Saturday of each month*). See Liz Thompson for details.

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

What's On This Month (and a Bronze Award for The Village Church)



Circuit Service

Revd David Hardman—Methodist Liaison Officer in Jerusalem and will be joining us for an evening service on Sunday July 13th (6.30pm) at Trinity Methodist Church, Wagg Street, Congleton, CW12 4BA. David is actively working on behalf of the Methodist Church in the Middle East and will be sharing his experiences with us.

REVEREND
DAVID
HARDMAN

METHODIST LIAISON OFFICER
JERUSALEM



Vacancies in local Methodist Districts



Yet, O Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand.

Isaiah ch 64, v 8

The Potteries Mission Circuit of the Methodist Church in Stoke-on-Trent is seeking to appoint three

Lay Pastors

Half time (20 hours a week), £14,144 pa

Each Lay Pastor will provide pastoral ministry in two churches in the circuit, leading the congregations in discipleship and outreach, in partnership with the minister in pastoral charge

For an application pack please email:

office@potteriesmission.co.uk (away till 9th June)

jenny.dyer@methodist.org.uk (before that)

Applications by noon on 3rd July, interviews 10th July

For an initial conversation please contact Revd Joe Adams on 07985 417000

Centre Community Administrator
@ Nantwich Methodist Church

20 hrs / week - £13.10 / hr
Length of contract – 2.5 years

The Cheshire South Methodist Circuit is seeking a Centre Community Administrator for Nantwich Methodist Church to work with the Church trustees to support their mission plan focussed on the community and the use of their church sites.

For more information, or an informal chat about the post, please contact:

David Maidment: 01270 627170

Email: maidmentrail@aol.com

An application pack can be downloaded from www.cheshiresouth.org.uk

Completed applications to be sent to 1108info.cheshiresouth@gmail.com

by noon on 9th July 2025

Interviews 16th July 2025

Role to begin as soon as possible.



For more information follow the links – <https://potteriesmission.co.uk/lay-pastor-vacancy/> and <https://www.chesterandstokemethodists.org/opportunities>

SWAN BANK NOTICEBOARD

Colour Splash 25
(23rd – 25th July)

Spaces are filling up quickly (Yr 3-4 are already full) so please see Nick or the Office to book. It would be a great help if you are free to volunteer as well, even if for just 1 or 2 sessions (but you must be at least 18). Also, can you please save us any cardboard boxes, both large and small.

Safeguarding Training

All volunteers at Swan Bank need to complete safeguarding training every 4 years. The next available date is Friday 11th July from 7pm to 9:30pm. Please contact **Shirley Brooks** to book on the session or speak to her if you're unsure when you last attended the training. Alternatively, to book please use the QR code below.



Also, Shirley would love to know the names of any new volunteers that may have joined a group that you run.

shirley@swanbank.org.uk

A Big Thank You

The eagle-eyed amongst you may have noticed that some areas of the church have recently had a big tidy up and other areas redecorated. Lots of things have also been maintained. A big thank you to all those involved in the vital behind-the-scenes work and what a wonderful job you have done!

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

2nd July - Sue Simcoe

9th July - Rev Ruth Jeffries

16th July - Ann Worthington

23rd July - Pastor Alison Price

30th July - Hilary Tretheway

Whitehill Road, Kidsgrove, ST7 4DS
commencing at 10.15am

Soup Kitchen Request

Since the Soup Kitchen has been opening twice a week, our supplies of clothing has started to run low. In particular, men's jogging bottoms, hoodies and T-shirts (sizes small, medium

and large). If you have any spare of these items, then that would be a great help. We are always on the lookout for spare rucksacks as well.

Could you leave any donated items with the office. Many thanks, Soup Kitchen team.

**Church Events or Articles for the Magazine**

If there are any church groups or events (at Swan Bank or even further afield) that you would like advertising on the noticeboard or if you have articles to be considered for the Magazine, then please contact either

Shirley Brooks or Nigel Johnson





Psalm 23 – Wordsearch

Psalm 23

E	N	S	N	P	A	S	T	U	R	E	S	C	L
L	O	D	E	T	N	A	W	E	E	N	S	E	I
U	H	N	F	S	P	S	S	T	T	N	L	O	F
F	A	D	S	D	R	O	L	W	D	S	U	W	E
T	A	R	P	S	P	C	T	G	E	A	O	G	A
S	W	E	I	E	R	U	S	R	D	D	R	O	S
E	A	H	R	P	G	P	T	E	H	S	E	R	F
R	T	P	I	T	N	D	L	E	T	D	F	I	E
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L	W	O	L	L	O	F	D	P	G	S	P	E	H
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S	O	N	S	S	E	N	D	O	O	G	D	O	D

HEAD
 DWELL
 LIFE
 FRESH
 CUP
 DAYS
 GOODNESS
 REPOSE
 SHEPHERD
 ANOINTED
 RESTFUL
 FOES
 GREEN
 WATERS
 PASTURES
 FOLLOW
 NOTHING
 LORD
 SPIRIT
 WANT

Play this puzzle online at : <https://thewordsearch.com/puzzle/1120869/>

Editors Note. As I was pulling together this month's Magazine, I thought it was interesting to note that each of the five independent pieces submitted by members of the congregation talk about the importance of community, church family or working together. Maybe God is trying to tell us something!

Nigel