



SWANBANK

September Magazine 2026

Monthly Message

Happy September!

September has always felt like a new beginning. As the summer begins to draw to a close and a new season begins, we are reminded that God is continually doing a new thing among His people. The Church's "new year" gives us a good opportunity to look ahead with hope, expectation and faith.

Last month, we said goodbye to our Minister, Ruth. We gave thanks to God for her ministry among us and for all that she shared with our church family. This month, we are excited to say hello to our new Minister, Leslie Newton.

I do want to take this opportunity to say a heartfelt thank you to a good number of you who have contributed time, energy and skills, some of you working many long hours in July, to get the Manse ready. THANK YOU SO VERY MUCH.

Leslie will be joining us in a part-time capacity, working alongside me, and us all, as together we seek to serve the church and our wider community. We are also so glad to welcome Leslie's wife, Gill and their daughter, Laura, and pray that they will all quickly feel at home and part of our church family.

As I write this, I'm realising that I'm looking forward to discovering what God has in store for us in this new season. Ministry is not simply about the work that we do — it is about joining in with what Jesus is already doing. As we listen for His voice, follow His leading and make ourselves available, we can trust the Holy Spirit to guide, equip and empower us for mission



and ministry.

There will, of course, be changes and challenges along the way, remember we never face them alone. The same Jesus who has been faithful to us in every previous season will continue to lead us, and His Spirit will give us all that we need.

Please come and show your support for Leslie, Gill and Laura at their Welcome Service on Sunday 13th September at 6.15pm. It will be a wonderful opportunity to worship together, to welcome them warmly and to pray for this new chapter in the life of our church.

So, as we begin this new season, let us do so with open hearts, willing hands and hopeful spirits. New season, new opportunities, the same faithful God.

With every blessing,

Kathryn

Men's Walking Group

Ordinarily, the men's walking group meets on the 2nd Saturday of every other month. But in September they are meeting on the 3rd Saturday instead, which means it will be on the 19th. The walk is at Bathpool Country Park meeting at the Northern Kidsgrove car park, at 2pm. Click on the link below for a Google maps location. See **Matt Nixon** for further details

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/49FjmwLM9rxyq3H9>

SWANBANK 

ONE STEP FORWARD

MEN'S WALKING GROUP

Join us on the 2nd Saturday
every other month **Usually!**
at 2pm

Come along for a wander,
a chat and a coffee

Next walk:
2pm **19th September**
Bathpool Country Park, Kidsgrove car park



Speak to Matt Nixon for details

Whitehill Macmillan Coffee Morning

10am-2pm Saturday 26th September

COFFEE AND CAKE TASTES BETTER AT

 **Whitehill**
Methodist Community Church

WHAT: Macmillan Cancer Support Coffee Morning

WHEN: Saturday 26th September 2026 10am-2pm

WHERE: Whitehill Methodist Community Church
ST7 4DS

WHY: Every coffee and cake shared helps us to be there
for someone affected by cancer.

Together we can make
sure that no one faces
Cancer alone.

**WE ARE
MACMILLAN.
CANCER SUPPORT**

September 2026 - Circuit Preaching Plan

Venue	Time	6 th September	13 th September	20 th September	27 th September
SwanBank	9.00am 10.30am 6.15pm	Stephens/Newton  Newton City Celebration	Newton Newton Stephens (Circuit Welcome Service)	Stephens Stephens (Dedication) Newton 	Newton Newton  Brabbs
Potter's Church	9.30am 11.15am	Price Price	Price Price	Hancock  Hancock 	Price (Harvest) Price (Harvest)
Oasis Church	10.45am	Davies	Nixon	Davies	Boateng
Wesley Hall	10.45am	B Barber	Own Arrangement	Cooke	Worthington
The Gateway	10.45am	Mason	Tretheway	Own Arrangement	Wakelin 
Mount Pleasant	10.45am	Tindale	Stephens	Own Arrangement	Newton 
Packmoor	11.00am	Andrews	Tindale	J Johnson	Stanyer
Village Church	11.00am	Edwards	Cooke (Harvest)	Edwards 	Own Arrangement
Whitehill	10.30am 6.00pm	Chapman Wakelin	Cooper  A Johnson	Brooks Wakelin Q & A	Cooper Cooper 

Prayer Focus - A Different Kind of Birthday Trip!

For my birthday trip to London, I was expecting the usual mix of shopping, a show, and perhaps a few visits to coffee shops. Instead, my daughter Kate and I spent much of our time enjoying the city's parks, including a special visit to the pelicans in St James's Park and a pedalo ride in Regent's Park.

What really caught our attention was how different the parks looked this year. With so little grass remaining, many areas looked more like a desert landscape dotted with oak trees than the green spaces we know and love.



The impact of the prolonged dry weather was impossible to ignore. Even before *Jesus Christ Superstar* began, the theatre was filled with the sound of severe weather alerts arriving on audience members' phones.

Before leaving Stoke-on-Trent, I had seen reports of the devastating fires in Sandyford and Stourbridge, where homes were destroyed and lives disrupted. One firefighter summed up the

situation poignantly when he said he had "never prayed for rain so much."

As we hold those affected in our thoughts and prayers, let us pray:

"Gracious and loving God,

We pray for everyone affected by wildfires. Be close to those who have lost homes, pets, possessions, and a sense of security. Bring comfort, strength, and hope to all who are facing loss and uncertainty.

We thank You for firefighters, emergency workers, medical staff, volunteers, and all who are helping others in times of crisis. Protect them, strengthen them, and bless them in their service.

Help us to show Your love through practical care, generosity, and compassion for our neighbours in need.

We place all who suffer into Your hands, trusting in the hope we have in Jesus Christ, who walks with us through every trial." Amen

Shirley Brooks



SwanBank Kids Registration

TO HELP US TO KEEP YOUR CHILD SAFE AND TO PROVIDE THE BEST EXPERIENCE WE CAN, PLEASE SCAN THE QR CODE AND REGISTER THEIR DETAILS WITH US



SCAN ME!

These details will be securely held, according to our data policy which you can find on the website www.swanbank.org.uk

Targeted Vaccinations at The Chatty Café



The Targeted Vaccination Team are coming to Swanbank's Chatty Café on Tuesday 20th October (10am until 12 noon). The eligibility for vaccinations are,

Covid - anyone over 75 or those who are immunosuppressed.

Flu - those over 65, clinically vulnerable, frontline health & social care workers and carers.

For more information contact **Christine Mynett** from Saltbox's CareLink team on 01782 810320.



Community Grocery News

Summer 2026 has been a really busy time in the Grocery. I would like to say a big thank you to all the local businesses that have supported us, making this summer an opportunity for our families to make some lasting memories. We have given away free tickets to Dimensions, Westport Lake Café, Just Kidding, Trentham Monkey Forest, Odeon Stoke, Tenpin Bowling, The Ski Centre and the Gym at the Wallace Centre to name but a few.

We have also been working with the Literacy Trust. They donated over 200 reading books for children and adults which we gave out with every shop during the summer holidays.



Sunday 16th August was Grocery Sunday. Thank you to everyone at Swan Bank who supported by donating Cereal, Biscuits and Cakes.

Thank you to the congregation at Whitehill Methodist Church for their continued support with food donations, and a monetary donation from the Ladies Fellowship.



During August I also attended a free 'family fun day and tales in the park', talking to parents about the Grocery and SwanBank.

In the Grocery we now have a prayer point, where customers can fill in a prayer request. That prayer request is then shared at the weekly prayer meeting on a Thursday morning.

Upcoming events

During September and October, I will be sharing about the work of the Grocery with the congregations at Oasis, Potters and the Ladies Fellowship at Whitehill. The work continues to grow and develop. Thank you for all your love and continued support, please pray for the work of the Grocery, the team and myself.

Nan Hulse



Stories from the Grocery.

"To Nan and all the great team at the Community Grocery. I would like to say a big thank you to all concerned who run the Grocery, it is such a welcoming and fantastic place to shop. There is such a variety of things to buy from, fresh vegetables and fruit, bakery items, fridge and freezer essentials, tinned food, cleaning products and lovely treats that normally don't come into your budget (chocolate, sweets, and biscuits). Everyone in the team is so friendly and helpful and really works hard to keep the Grocery running smoothly. It is a fantastic place for everyone on a budget to get healthy and affordable food at an extremely reduced price compared to supermarkets. Thank you so much and keep up the excellent work! Every one of the team is so appreciated by so many people."

"I really enjoyed doing the three-week cookery course. Meeting new people, learning new recipes and learning more knowledge about nutrition values and healthy eating. The group have been brilliant at bringing in new ideas and we have all worked so well together."

I'm currently off work with anxiety and depression, finding some days really hard, yet I have looked forward to these three weeks, feeling very comfy and relaxed. Howard had brought great ideas and knowledge in a relaxed atmosphere. Thank you to all who have put this course together."

"Burslem Community Grocery is a massive blessing to my family. Thank you to Nan, you are truly God sent to us. Thank you to all the team and volunteers. Each time I step into the Grocery, the warm, peaceful atmosphere of gospel music and the welcoming smile from the staff especially Nan means a lot to me and my family. Keep up the good work, with love."

Whitehill Methodist Community Church -Weekly Café

Footsteps Cafe every Monday 10am-1pm



SwanBank Praying Together 7pm Wednesday 2nd September

SwanBank Praying Together

We're gathering as a whole church to pray for our church's life and mission. We really hope all who are able will join us in seeking God's direction as we offer the new church year into God's care and keeping.

**Wednesday 2nd September
7pm for refreshments,
for a 7:30pm start.
SwanBank Church**

Circuit Welcome Service at SwanBank Sunday 13th September at 6:15pm

Circuit Service

FOR

The New Year

SUNDAY 13TH SEPTEMBER • 6.15PM

Join us as we come together as a Circuit to worship God, pray for our pastors and ministers, and welcome those beginning new appointments at the start of a new Methodist year.

A Special Welcome to

Rev'd Leslie Newton
SwanBank

Rev'd Sue Edwards
The Village Church

Praying for our Circuit Team

Gareth - Oasis
Glynis - Whitehill

Kathryn - SwanBank
Ali - Potters

Brian - Wesley Hall & The Gateway
Lynn - Packmoor & Mount Pleasant



SwanBank Church
Burslem, Stoke on Trent
ST6 2AA



Free parking is available
on Chapel Lane and the
Chapel Lane carpark



Regular Activities at SwanBank

Sunday

Sunday Services at 9am, 10:30am and 6:15pm.

Sunday Night Young Adults – Fellowship Rm, 8-9pm.

Monday

Bible Study – Coffee Bar, 10-11:30am.

Hope & Hospitality, Soup Kitchen – Coffee Lounge, 10am -12noon.

Dementia Activity Group – Coffee Lounge, 1-3pm.

SwanBank Community Choir –

TAKING A BREAK IN SEPTEMBER

Tuesday

Little Treasures (0-4 year olds) – Lower Hall, 9:30 -11am (*term time only*).

Chatty Café – Coffee Lounge, 10am -12noon.

Tuesday Club – Coffee Lounge, 1:30 -3:30pm.

Wednesday

Friends in Fellowship – Fellowship Rm, 10 -12noon

Community Lounge/Foodbank – Lower Hall, 2-4pm

The Edge (School years 7-11) – 7 -8:30pm (*term time only*). See Nick Jeffries for details

Thursday

Prayer Time – Prayer Chapel, 9 -9:30am.

Hope & Hospitality, Soup Kitchen – Coffee Lounge, 10am -12noon.

Younger Youth 'NOISE' (School years 3-6) – Upper Hall, 5:45 -7:15pm (*term time only*). See Nick

Youth Club 'PULSE' (School years 7-11) – Upper Hall, 7:30-9pm (*term time only*). See Nick for details

Saturday

Messy Church (Primary school aged children) –

TAKING A BREAK IN SEPTEMBER!

Women's Walking Group – (*3rd Saturday of each month*). See Liz Thompson for details.

One Step Forward (Men's Walking Group) – (2pm on *2nd Saturday every other month*). See Matt Nixon for details.

STOP PRESS - The next walk is actually on Saturday 19th September (not the 12th).

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

SWANBANK NOTICEBOARD

Gateway Coffee Mornings

The next Gateway Coffee Morning at Goldenhill is on **Saturday 12th September** (10am till 12 noon). All are welcome!



JAM JARS and FRUIT!



The Pastoral Team are asking for clean jam jars please. They need them to make chutney for the 'At Home' and TLC groups. Also, if anyone has extra apples, plums or rhubarb they're willing to donate then please bring them to the church office. Thank you!

Answers to last month's Brain Teasers

Q: I'm orange, I wear a green hat, and I sound like a parrot. What am I? **A CARROT!**

Q: A tree doubled in height each year until it reached its maximum height over the course of ten years. How many years did it take for the tree to reach half its maximum height? **9 YEARS**

Q: It belongs to you, but other people use it more than you do. What is it? **Your Name**

Q: What building has the most stories? **Libraries (sorry about that one!)**

Q: The day before yesterday I was 21, and next year I will be 24. When is my birthday? **31st December (speaking on 1st January)**

Apologies if any drove you mad! 🤔

To those avid readers out there!

If anyone would like to do a small review about a book they have read, then please have a chat with **Shirley** or **Nigel** to see if we can include it in future editions of the magazine.



Don't forget – there's a chance to meet our new minister!

At the 6:15pm Circuit Welcome Service on Sunday 13th September we will be welcoming our new minister **Leslie Newton**, alongside his wife Gill and daughter Laura to SwanBank. Please come along if you are able and take the chance to say hello!



Church Events or Articles for the Magazine

If there are any church groups or events (at SwanBank or even further afield) that you would like advertising on the noticeboard or if you have articles for the Magazine, then please contact either **Shirley Brooks** or **Nigel Johnson**



Past issues can be also found at <https://www.swanbank.org.uk/newsletter/>

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

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



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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

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