



October Magazine 2026

Monthly Message

Dear friends

There is inevitably something both exciting and slightly daunting about arriving in a new place. There are names to learn (lots!), stories to hear and unfamiliar routines to discover—and the hope that, before too long, what feels new will begin to feel like home.

Thank you so much for helping Gill, Laura and me feel at home at SwanBank so quickly. We have been deeply grateful for your welcome and kindness, and for the amazing work on the manse. Please bear with me as I put names to faces - I hope you won't mind repeating your name several times!

I am beginning to appreciate at first hand just how much wonderful ministry and mission is happening at SwanBank, and the care and commitment so many people bring to it. There is much to learn, but already I sense what a privilege it is to become part of this church community and share in its life and work.

We would love to return some of your welcome by inviting you to the manse in Woodland Grove for an open house on **Saturday 17th October, between 10am and 4pm** (please contact the office or ring me on 07535 433178 if you don't know where it is).

Please drop in whenever suits you, to spend a little time together and get to know one another better.

In these early days here, I have been thinking about how much of Jesus' ministry happened through ordinary encounters: a conversation on a road, an invitation into a home, a meal shared around a table. These were often places where people discovered that they were known, valued and loved by God.

The life and health of a church are nurtured by these 'ordinary' acts of care: taking time to listen, showing an interest in someone's story, or noticing someone who might otherwise be overlooked. A welcome can be a small thing to offer and a very significant thing to receive.

My hope is that, together, we will keep making that welcome real - for one another and for those who have yet to find their way through our doors.

Every blessing

Leslie



My New Role at SwanBank

Hello, my name is Ellie Hibberts, and I am really excited to be entering into a new role, here at SwanBank, as the Community Engagement and Communications Worker for the next year. This is part of the Young Adults Mission Placement Scheme, which offers young people opportunities within Churches and other organisations. I feel very privileged to have the opportunity to serve and grow in my ministry at SwanBank, having grown up attending this church as a child. Outside of church, I love all things musical theatre and grew up wanting to become a professional performer! Funny how plans change...

The past couple years I have been journeying with God as I grow both in my personal faith and in discerning where God is guiding me and who he is shaping me to be within the community. I feel passionate about the importance of leading a life driven by the love of God and hope that I can play a small part this year in continuing to foster a community that cares for one another.

I already feel so grateful for the warm welcome I have received and cannot wait to get stuck into community life at SwanBank!

Ellie Hibberts



The Gospel According to You

A few weeks ago, Kathryn spoke about the life of a Christian being a letter read by those we meet as they hear what we say and observe what we do. It reminded me of something I had read many years ago and have always kept.



Lorraine Clarke

The Gospel According to You

The Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John,

Are read by more than a few,

But the one that is most read and commented on,

Is the gospel according to you.

You are writing a gospel, a chapter each day,

By the things that you do and the words that you say,

Men read what you write, whether faithless or true,

Say, what is the gospel according to you?

Do men read His truth and His love in your life?

Or has yours been too full of malice and strife?

Does your life speak of evil or does it ring true?

Say, what is the gospel according to you?

(by Arthur McPhee)

October 2026 - Circuit Preaching Plan

Venue	Time	4 th October	11 th October	18 th October	25 th October
SwanBank	9.00am 10.30am 6.15pm	Brabbs Brabbs A Johnson	Stephens  Stephens Newton	Newton Newton Stephens 	Stephens Stephens Chapman
Potter's Church	9.30am 11.15am	Zinyemba Zinyemba	Price Price	Hancock Hancock	Cooke Cooke
Oasis Church	10.45am	Wyatt	B Davies	Brabbs	Davies
Wesley Hall	10.45am	Own Arrangement	Nixon	Brooks	Wakelin 
The Gateway	10.45am	Batho	G Newton	Stephens 	Boateng
Mount Pleasant	10.45am	Stanyer	Batho	Tindale	Own Arrangement
Packmoor	11.00am	Newton 	Own Arrangement	Tretheway	Tindale
Village Church	11.00am	Stubbs	Edwards	Vaughan	Edwards 
Whitehill	10.30am 6.00pm	Dutton Wakelin	Cooper (Harvest)  Stephens	Andrews Newton Q & A	Mason Cooper 

VOLUNTEER WITH NUMBER 11

11 NUMBER
eleven

Make a difference. Cook. Connect. Change lives.



COOK A MEAL FOR AROUND 20 ADULTS

Regularly, one day a week in our centre



TUESDAYS, WEDNESDAYS & THURSDAYS

10:00-1:30PM



TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

Build your skills and confidence



SUPPORTIVE TEAM

You'll be part of a friendly,
welcoming team



MAKE A MEANINGFUL DIFFERENCE

Your time and skills
really matter

SKILLS WE VALUE:

 organised  friendly  time management



Be part of
SOMETHING
MEANINGFUL

Together, we can
build a stronger,
more connected
community.

Interested?

Get in touch today!

 01782 961800
 info@number11.org.uk

Volunteers needed for Youth Group at SwanBank

We are in urgent need for a couple of extra volunteers to help at our 'Noise' Youth Group. 'Noise' is a secular group for young people in school years 3 to 6 and takes place on Thursday evenings from 5.45pm till 7.15pm. Volunteers are asked to arrive by 5.30pm if possible.



Their main role will be to engage with the young people and facilitate them having fun. No preparation or set up is required and minimal tidy up as another youth group starts straight afterwards. For more details speak to me,
Nick Jeffries.



University Hospitals
of North Midlands
NHS Trust

Winter wellbeing for all

Be kind to yourself and come along to our FREE health event for expert support and guidance on a range of health conditions and what you can do to stay well!

When:
Wednesday 14th October 2026
2:00 pm – 7:00 pm

Where:
Port Vale FC
Hamil Road, Burslem
ST6 1AW

- ☐ **FREE health checks***
- ☐ **FREE diabetic checks***
- ☐ **FREE lung screening***
- ☐ **FREE hearing checks***
- ☐ **FREE Flu and Covid vaccines***

*NHS eligibility criteria applies



Dane & Trent
Methodist
Circuit

The Dane and Trent Methodist Circuit

Seeks a

Pastoral and Outreach Worker

Full time or Job Share: £26,299 pa

The role requires a committed Christian to provide pastoral ministry in three churches in the Holmes Chapel area, and to lead the congregations in community outreach, in collaboration with the minister in pastoral oversight.

For an application pack please email:

office@danetrentmethodist.org.uk

Applications by noon 8th October 2026

Interviews 14th October 2026

For an initial conversation please contact

office@danetrentmethodist.org.uk

The Methodist Church is committed to safeguarding as an integral part of its life and ministry. Safeguarding is about the action the Church takes to promote a safer culture.

NEW WOMEN'S MINISTRY — COME AND JOIN US!

We're excited to announce the launch of our new Women's Ministry, created especially for women aged 18 and over. This is a space to connect, create, laugh, encourage and grow together—and we'd love for you to be part of it.



Throughout the year, we'll be bringing women together for a variety of fun and creative activities, including crafts, social evenings, baking, games, seasonal events, pamper evenings and much more! You don't have to come alone. We want to encourage you to invite your friends, sisters, mums, daughters, aunties, neighbours and colleagues — whether they attend church or not. Everyone is welcome.

Our hope is to create a warm, relaxed and welcoming environment where friendships can grow, conversations can happen and women can simply enjoy spending time together.

We can't wait to see what God will do through this new ministry and the friendships that will be formed along the way.

Our first meeting will be on Saturday 17th

October at 7pm and will be a paint and sip evening. More information will be in the church notices as we get closer to the date. For more information, please come and speak to me. I'll be more than happy to answer any questions you might have.

See you soon!

Beth Peake



City United Celebration - Update

On Sunday 6 September, Swanbank hosted another city-wide united celebration. There was about 250 people in the congregation making it one of the best attended celebration for some years. Rev. Adrian Stone led worship with a band from St. Mary's Trentham. A three-minute clip from the Civic Prayer Breakfast was played of S-o-T City Council CEO, Jon Rouse, encouraging Christians to be ready to do more & embrace the prophetic challenge "behold, I do a new thing". Three people were interviewed – Rev. Alan Gault (HTB church plant), Dawnie Reynolds (Ruff & Ruby) & Sharon Gombi (Prayer Walks, S-o-T) who shared the new projects that they were leading.

Lloyd Cooke

Pastoral Network of Care – Prayer Group

Both Jesus and Paul urge us as Christians to pray constantly (Luke 18:1 & Thessalonians 5:17), which I am sure we all endeavour to do. However, let me bring to your attention something that you may, or may not be aware of. Every Thursday at 9am, in the prayer chapel, a number of us meet to pray. We pray for the worship and all the activities that make up the mission of the church; we pray for those whose names have been submitted to the prayer chain; we pray for those who have asked for prayer through the Community Grocery; we pray for the Circuit, each church and its leaders. Indeed, the list is endless!

May I encourage you, if you are able to come and pray with us, it would be lovely to have you with us. Likewise, if you know that there is a need for prayer, please do let us know via the church office.

Every blessing,

Arthur Wakelin



The work of the Community Grocery

Hi, it's me again, Ellie! I am now about 3 weeks into my new position here at SwanBank. As part of my role, I have had the opportunity to work closely with Nan, supporting the Community Grocery and learning more about how it provides for so many people in our local



community. As a young person who has just moved into the area, using the grocery for my weekly shop has helped me save money, and I find comfort in knowing that when I shop, I am supporting a company that supports others.

As many of you will already know, the

Community Grocery was broken into again in September. However, despite the disappointment of lost stock and damage done to the building, we have been overwhelmed by the support shown both online and in person. I believe that when problems arise, this is when the true heart of community is revealed and we want to take this opportunity to thank YOU for your kindness and prayers. Thankfully, Nan and the team were able to clean and sort out the shop quickly, therefore the Grocery is now back up and running as usual. While we are expressing our gratitude for the support shown, we also want to take the time to thank those that have shown their support through donations, in particular the team over at Brooke Medical Centre who brought in a large donation recently.

Galatians 6:2 says, *'Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ'*. As Christians, I think serving in our communities should be something that we prioritise, and we hope that as a church we demonstrate this. I wonder where you can recognise examples of service

and partnership within your local communities.

As I begin to settle into community life here at SwanBank, I can see so many examples of people 'bearing one another's burdens'. Did you know that the Community Grocery works closely with the Soup Kitchen as they provide food for the Monday and Thursday breakfasts and are both able to signpost vulnerable individuals to receive the right support.

A prime example of this is of a young woman who came into our Church recently. The individual said that she was struggling having recently become homeless. Following a discussion on how we could best support her, we were able to give access to a phone to reach out to the right services. We also helped her to sign up to receive a parcel from the Foodbank which is hosted here every Wednesday afternoon, as well as directing her to our Soup Kitchen where she was able to have a hot breakfast, a shower, and do a shop at the Community Grocery afterwards. Not only were we able to support her physical needs, but we also demonstrated love and care, helping her to feel both at ease in such an uprooted time of her life, as well as helping her to feel less isolated as we demonstrated the power of community. This individual is only one of many that the Community Grocery has been able to support through the kindness of volunteers and those that provide funding and donations.

Following this, I think it is important to mention that the Community Grocery is especially seeking support at the moment as they are reliant on funding to be able to continue to serve some of the most vulnerable people in our community. You can do this financially, through donations, or simply through doing your weekly shop at the Community Grocery.

Ellie Hibberts



Remembering David Bales, 1947-2026



I would just like to say a big thank you to our church family for all the prayers and support we received during David's illness. It made a real difference to us to know that we were being prayed for every day, especially on the

bad days when things were not going well. There were days of despair when only prayer helped us through. We relied on God's strength and the hope we have in our Saviour Jesus Christ.

David remained strong in his faith to the very end, and we really felt our prayers were answered when a bed became available at the Dougie Mac. They

were able to control his pain and make him comfortable so that his family could give him the love and support he needed and deserved. He is now at peace. The donations to the Dougie Mac amounted to £550.

A special thank you to Ann for all the wonderful cards sent on behalf of our church family. They all seemed to arrive when we needed them most and, I want to express my gratitude to all my friends for the personal phone calls offering support and encouragement. Thank you, Kathryn, for your loving concern and the visits to our home which enabled us to have communion. It was a real blessing to us. With every blessing,

Gail Bales

Night Shelter in Chapel Lane

Unfortunately, the night shelter on Chapel Lane has now closed. We at Swanbank, are currently exploring several options to see if this facility can remain open. One possibility could include the shelter opening over the winter when the temperature drops to 0°C and below, (know as Severe Weather Emergency Protocol). We are after a steer to see who would be interested in joining a team of volunteers to open the shelter for those nights when severe weather is forecast. This would only run from November to the end of March. Please can you contact me directly or leave a message via the office if you would be interested in finding out more about this.

Liz Thompson



Men's Fellowship – Restart

The Men's Fellowship has restarted! If you missed the curry night in September don't worry as there's another one on Friday 9th October at 7:30pm! Watch the church notices or speak to **Stewart Chapman** (tel. 07552 949990) for details of the next venue. There is also a Prayer Breakfast planned for Saturday 28th November at 8am in the Coffee Lounge.



Kitchen Appeal

Our kitchen is at the heart of so much community life at SwanBank, but our ovens and equipment

are beginning to struggle after years of use. We're raising funds for a new commercial oven and updated equipment so we can continue serving meals, building friendships and supporting those who need it most. If you'd like to support the project, we'd be so grateful for any donation. And if donating isn't possible right now, sharing this fundraiser with others would also help us reach more people. Thank you for your support.



<https://gofund.me/59825cc38>

Nan's Roller Coaster Challenge

On 23rd October, Nan will be attempting to ride at least 6 of Alton Towers biggest rides to raise money for Burslem Community Grocery!

Want to support Nan's challenge? The Sponsor form is available in the Community Grocery!

The Rides

 TH13TEEN	 Smiler
 Rita	 Oblivian
 Nemesis	 Wicker Man



SWANBANK 

SATURDAY **17** OCTOBER

10AM - 4PM

Open House

MEET LESLIE & GILL

Leslie and Gill Newton would love to welcome you to their new home at the Woodland Grove Manse.

Drop in anytime between 10am and 4pm for a chat and a cuppa



Need the house number?
Contact Leslie on: 07535 433 178.



SWANBANK 

The Hidden Treasure and the Pearl

Come join us on
Saturday 3rd October
at SwanBank Church

As we have fun exploring the story of
"The Hidden Treasure and the Pearl"
Through messy crafts, games, songs and stories.

Breakfast and lunch included
With breakfast served from 10am

For more info contact:
nick@swanbank.org.uk

SWANBANK 

Dementia Activity Group

Support for those on the
dementia journey

Every Monday
1-3pm

SwanBank, Burslem
In the Coffee Lounge

A welcoming space for coffee,
chat, fun and dementia friendly
activities.

Please come with a family
member, friend or carer.

For more information, contact the office on
01782 575129 or simply come along.

Prayer Focus

Artificial Intelligence (AI) seems to be the topic everyone is talking about on the news. We hear arguments from all sides and occasionally hear someone who seems to speak about it with common sense only to be challenged by others in the panel saying they are wrong. Who do we trust?

There is no doubt AI has its place for good, like - medical science & research, health care, education, language translation, virtual assistance, agriculture and many more. However, we are also hearing how it's not all good & needs to be 'slowed down'. So many who work in the industry of IT must be in turmoil. It sometimes feels as if we live in a world of David and Goliath. As I read in the UCB's "Word for Today", David and Goliath represent many of the battles we face on a regular basis, good over evil. Whatever the situation we can rest on God's word

I'm so thankful I have a Saviour in whom I put my trust and know I can go to Him with my doubts and fears. I know 'HE' will be the one to slow me down when needed.

The conductor at the 'Last Night of the Proms', Maestro- Sakari Oramo also mentioned AI using a light-hearted quip: To him AI means 'Authentic Integrity'.

I liked that and pray that all those deciding what will be right will indeed use integrity.

"Father, we pray that you will be at the centre for all those who are in power within our world today.

We come to you when we need calm in our lives and to slow down and when we feel things are beyond our understanding and feel overwhelmed. You are our Lord and Saviour, help us to share that with others in our daily lives.

Amen"

Sue Woodward

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 – Fellowship Room, 7:30-9pm 2nd & 4th Mondays of each month.

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) - 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.
One Step Forward (Men's Walking Group) – (2pm on 2nd Saturday of every other month). See Matt Nixon for details. Next walk is planned to be in **November**.

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 10th October** (10am till 12 noon). All are welcome!

**SCAN ME!**

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

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

Mid-Week Service

The Stoke-on-Trent Mission Circuit hold a mid-week service at **Whitehill Methodist Community Church** (Whitehill Road, Kidsgrove, ST7 4DS) every Wednesday starting at 10:15am.

7th Oct. - Rev. Peter Hancock
14th Oct. - Pastor Alison Price
21st Oct. - Chris Mason
28th Oct. - Nan Hulse
 All are welcome!

John Hibberts's Book of Remembrance

We are creating a book of remembrance for John which is being organised by Jane Sheeran. Please leave you memories or anecdotes with Kathryn or Jane either handwritten or via email (janesheeran@hotmail.co.uk). With your permission we will also be including some of your special memories of him in future editions of the Magazine. He was such a special man, and we will all miss him.

SwanBank's Birthday Celebration

Please add a date to your diary for the Birthday Celebration event on **Saturday 14th November** from 6pm-8pm. More details to follow later.

**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



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

Issue No. 36



Somewhere to make a note or two!

