



# Northgate News

February/March  
2024 Edition



For news and events at  
Warwick Methodist Church, Northgate

*Also, check out the website  
for latest news and information  
[www.warwickmethodistchurch.org.uk](http://www.warwickmethodistchurch.org.uk)*



***Be Joyful,  
Be Prayerful,  
Be Thankful***

**Rev Sally Jones**

**Minister of the Warwick, Wellesbourne and  
Whitnash Methodist Churches  
01926 740846**



The next edition of Northgate News will be for :-  
**April/ May**

Please send any articles/contributions, anything you would like to share to  
noelle\_trevor@hotmail.co.uk  
Or message me on 07962232158

**\*\*Deadline date**

**Sunday March 17th 2024**



**TLC**



**Tuesday, Laughter and Chat**

**Every Tuesday from 10.30am,**

welcoming everyone for  
refreshments and fellowship and chat!

**All are very welcome.**

**Did You Know?**

That from the beginning of November, on Tuesdays,  
we have been staying open **until 4pm** as a

**‘Warm Space’**

*Which is open for all to enjoy*

Can you help?  
To set up, help with refreshments or just be there?

Contact the stewards if you can





## BREAD CHURCH

**Bread Church meets every 2nd and 4th Tuesday**

Come along to bake bread from 10:30am

For fellowship and friendship

**A warm welcome to all**

At 12 noon join us for a lunch of soup and scones  
- all freshly made!!!

So why not come along for **either or both**

**The choice is yours**

Lunch and Fellowship are free ,  
donations welcome , but optional.



**Please do come, why not invite a friend?**

## Pray without Ceasing

There is a quiet corner by the 'Prayer Net', where there is a box  
for confidential requests for prayer.

Or you can contact the prayer circle through  
Anne 774734 or Rev Sally 740846



## From the Leadership Team .....



We hope that you all enjoyed our Christmas services, as we celebrated the birth of our Lord together. A particular highlight was the return of our “Way Ahead” service for adults with learning disabilities; it was lovely to see old friends and they all seemed to appreciate the simple telling of the Nativity story, and particularly Santa’s visit! All the services were well supported, and the Carol service in the afternoon, as dusk fell, was lovely. We thank Sally for all her hard work over the Christmas period.

As you read this, we will be approaching the period of **Lent**, and Sally is adding an Ash Wednesday service into our normal programme; do join us, the “ashing” is optional! Sally will also be leading, with Sarah Jones, a Lent Course from the Methodist church, called “Unbounded Love”. This starts on February 20<sup>th</sup> at 1.30pm. The house group is using a Lent study based on the film “Chocolat”; we are meeting on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays at 7.30pm and everyone is welcome to join either or both fellowship opportunities.

**Fellowship** is one aspect that the leadership team have been discussing as we’ve considered how we can grow as a church. There is always wonderful fellowship when we eat together, and so we’ve planned events where we can do just that. On March 16<sup>th</sup> @ 4pm we will have a Spring Tea, on May 19<sup>th</sup> a Faith Lunch, and on June 9<sup>th</sup> the Church Picnic. More details elsewhere, we hope that you will join us.

Please remember that your leadership team is elected, or appointed by the **Church Council**, on which all members are eligible to serve. The next Church Council meeting is at 2pm on March 13<sup>th</sup>, and the Annual Church meeting will be held as part of our morning’s worship on Sunday, 9<sup>th</sup> June. If you are interested in becoming more involved in this aspect of church life, then please let one of the stewards know that you would like your name put forward for the election of church representatives.

Our service to the community continues with our Community Tuesdays. **TLC and Bread Church** continue to be very well supported. The lunch on Bread Church mornings is especially popular. Our Warm Space in the afternoon has seen a small number of people attending, but we continue to offer a warm welcome with a cuppa and toast. We could do with a couple more volunteers onto the rota please, particularly for the afternoons, so please let Anne know if you can help.

**Pre-loved (previously known as Thrift Club)** is held on the first Saturday of the month, when we are also open for coffee. We have plenty of clothes for sale at very low prices, so please spread the word to anyone who might appreciate them.

We have a new programme for the **Big Local Night Out** at the Bridgehouse Theatre. This continues to offer an entertaining evening that you can invite your friends and neighbours to, at a very reasonable cost of £12 or £10 concessions. The dates are: **(starting at 7pm) 9th Feb; 24th May; 18th Oct; 14th Feb 2025.**

We have committed to running a **Holiday Club** during school holidays, building on the momentum from the success of the summer project. The numbers were smaller on the 2<sup>nd</sup> January, but we enjoyed our activities on the theme of "God's Promises". The next one is on Shrove Tuesday, in half term, when the themes will be around Pancake and Valentines days; please tell your friends and neighbours with children about it and that we start at 10.30.

I would like to thank everyone who works so hard, often behind the scenes, to ensure that Warwick Methodist Church continues to be a vibrant fellowship taking the love of Jesus to the people of Warwick.

Anne Oliver - Senior Steward  
January 2024

## PRE LOVED SHOP



**First Saturday of each month  
10:00 - 12 noon  
In the Community Centre  
Items start from 50p**

**Refreshments**

## ALSO!

**On the first Saturday of the  
month  
COFFEE MORNING**

**10:00am till 12 noon**

**In the Community Centre**



## **SPRING FAITH TEA:**

Following the very successful and enjoyable Harvest meal, we will be holding a Spring Faith Tea in the Community Centre on **Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> March at 4pm**

Come along and enjoy another lovely afternoon.

If you are able to offer any entertainment please let Julie know (we had lots of wonderful performances last time and hope that can be repeated).

Book this date in your diary!



## **Job Vacancy!**

After many years of service George Quantrill has decided to retire as Gift Aid Secretary and we are hoping for someone to replace him. He advises that it is not a particularly onerous task and is happy to guide someone new to the role.

I understand that knowledge of Spreadsheets would be useful. if you feel this may be an area where you can help please have a word with either George or myself.

***Martin Ellis***

## *Our Letter from Rev Sally .....*



*Dear friends, my warmest greetings to you all.*

This Newsletter covers February and March, and so covers all of the period of Lent and Easter, as Easter is so early this year. (Advance notice: the clocks go forward at 2am on Easter Day, 31<sup>st</sup> March!). So naturally my thoughts have turned towards Easter as I write this Newsletter.

Last year I was writing about looking forward to Ordination and all that that day meant and involved; time has certainly sped by since then, with so much joy, gladness and blessing amidst the challenges that ministerial life brings. This year, I am very pleased to be able to tell you that, in addition to our usual services on Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Day, we will also be able to mark the beginning of Lent together on Ash Wednesday at 7pm.

As I write it is the eve of the District Ministerial Retreat: you may remember that the Birmingham District of the Methodist Church will, at some point, be merging with the Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury District, to form a new West Midlands District. So, this year, ministers from both Districts have been invited to attend the Purley Chase Centre in Atherstone (known affectionately as the Pearly Gates!) for a retreat which this year highlights the writings of one of the most astonishing Christian medieval mystics, Julian of Norwich. This woman has come to be known as Julian due to the fact that she lived as an anchoress, a name for a female religious recluse, in St. Julian's Church in Norwich. We do not know her actual name. The intensely spiritual life that she led was shaped by visions she experienced when gravely ill and close to death, aged 31, and she wrote the fruits of her meditations, her 'Revelations of Divine Love', in short form around 1373 and in longer form twenty years later. Her writings emerge from a time when the population of Norwich was being ravaged by the Black Death – some estimates place the numbers of people who died as high as 70%\*. Her visions are extraordinary, Perhaps one of her most famous is that of the hazelnut:-

**"The Spirit showed me a tiny thing the size of a hazelnut, as round as a ball and so small I could hold it in the palm of my hand. I looked at it in my mind's eye and wondered, "What is this?" The answer came to me: "This is everything that has been made. This is all Creation." It was so small that I marvelled it could endure; such a tiny thing seemed likely to simply fall into nothingness. Again the answer came to my thoughts: "It lasts, and it will always last, because God loves it."**

*Continued next page.....*



Of course, these days we know so much more about the universe we are such a tiny part of, so Julian's vision, given at a time when such scientific knowledge was unattainable, seems even more remarkable.

Another of Julian's phrases that has become well-known is:

**Love was the meaning  
in everything God had shown me.**

As we approach Lent and Easter, this is a wonderful phrase on which to base our thoughts. Everything we will pray, read, sing, reflect on and experience this Easter is about God's love for us. Love underpins the Easter Story. On Ash Wednesday we acknowledge that we have not loved as God has loved us. Through Lent we are encouraged to take up something that reveals more of God's love to us, or enables us to reveal more of that love to others.

**You are warmly invited to join Sarah and myself (the S Joneses of the world unite!) on Tuesdays at 1.30pm at Church when we will be leading a Lent Course titled 'Unbounded Love', based on Charles Wesley's amazing hymn 'Love Divine'. This will take place on February 20<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>, and March 5<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>.**

On Maundy Thursday we remember Jesus' exquisite act of love as he washed the feet of the disciples, and on Good Friday his cruel death, the ultimate sacrifice for us, the ultimate act of love, which restores our relationship with God. On Easter Day we celebrate that love reigns, love defeats death. We remember that love is the meaning in everything God shows us.

The Easter Story helps us to say with confidence some other words that Julian wrote:

**All shall be well,  
and all shall be well,  
and all manner of thing shall be well.**

Whatever difficulties life brings, and we all know only too well how challenging this life can be, our hope rests in the love God shows us, the love we can experience each day. Christ's death and resurrection, which during Lent and Easter we are all invited to become part of, teaches us that all **shall** be well. I pray we will all be able to experience the love and the security that Julian knew when she wrote these words.



To close, a prayer by Ruth Burgess .....



Bless to us, O God,  
the fragility of snowdrops,  
the blossoming of orchards,  
the dancing of bees.

Bless to us, O God,  
the smudge of ashes,  
the Lenten journey,  
the blazing Easter fire.

Bless and silence us with wonder,  
O God of hope and justice.  
Gift us with courage.  
Warm and quicken us with love.

**AMEN**

*May our life together continue to be blessed, this Easter season, and beyond.*

*With my love,  
Sally*

*\*For more information on the life of Julian of Norwich, visit the Friends of Julian of Norwich website <https://julianofnorwich.org/pages/who-is-julian-of-norwich>  
All quotes taken from **Hazelnuts of Grace: Selections from Julian of Norwich**, Anamchara Books. Kindle Edition.*



## Finance

Following the finance update in the recent newsletter, there has not been a flood of ideas passed to us regarding the raising of additional finance, which is needed to cover the ongoing running costs of the Church.

In asking you to give this matter your prayerful consideration, can I share with you one of the matters brought to our attention?

Since the inception of the food bank, a donation/ contribution of £500 has been made, each year, out of church funds. Several friends have indicated that they would like this to continue and if you would like to contribute, please do so by placing an envelope marked Food Bank with cash or cheque in the collection plate on a Sunday morning. If cash, please place a note in the envelope with your name so that we can claim a refund of tax, if applicable.

*Many thanks. Martin Ellis*

### Warwick District Foodbank

The foodbank is an outreach and relief project run by 15 of the Churches across Warwick, Kenilworth and Leamington. Our Church is an enthusiastic member of the 15.

With 6 distribution sites across the 3 towns and a warehouse it distributed food to over 500 people each month during 2023.

For the last 9 years our Church has had someone on the board of trustees of the foodbank. Christine Fell served for 3 years followed by me for 6 years.

Under the constitution someone can only serve for a maximum of 6 years before standing down. Therefore, I will be standing down at the AGM in May.

It would be great if there is someone from our Church who would like to serve God and our community by being a foodbank trustee. It is a very fulfilling role that I will be sad to leave.

I would be very happy to have a chat with anyone who is interested.

David Witham



## THE ATHEIST AND THE BEAR

An atheist was taking a walk through the woods. 'What majestic trees! What powerful rivers! What beautiful animals!' he said to himself. As he continued walking alongside the river he heard a rustling in the bushes. Turning to look, he saw a seven foot grizzly charging towards him. He ran as fast as he could up the path. Looking over his shoulder he saw that the bear was closing in on him. His heart was pumping frantically and he tried to run even faster. He tripped and fell to the ground. He rolled over to pick himself up but saw the bear raising his paw to take a swipe at him. At that instant the atheist cried out: 'Oh my God! ....'

Time stopped.  
The bear froze.  
The forest was silent.

It was then that a bright light shone upon the man and a voice came out of the sky saying: 'You deny my existence for all these years, teach others I don't exist and even credit creation to a cosmic accident. Do you expect me to help you out of this predicament? Am I to count you as a believer?'

The atheist looked directly into the light. 'It would be hypocritical of me to suddenly ask you to treat me as a Christian now, but perhaps, could you make the **BEAR** a Christian?'

'Very well,' said the voice. The light went out, and the sounds of the forest resumed.

And then the bear lowered his paw, bowed his head and spoke: 'Lord, bless this food which I am about to receive and for which I am truly thankful,

Amen.'



**MY MUM AS A MUM:  
YOU GET WHAT YOU'RE GIVEN. IF YOU  
DON'T LIKE IT, LEAVE IT.**

**MY MUM AS A GRANDMOTHER:  
WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE, SWEETIE?  
IS THAT CUT INTO HEARTS OR STARS?**

**Please hold in your prayers .....**



Our housebound friends, for those alone,  
In care homes  
for those who are bereaved, for those in poor health,  
anticipating or recovering from surgery,  
sick, troubled in spirit,  
moving house  
and making life changing decisions.

*It is not only amidst our joys and hopes  
but also in our grief and anguish, Lord,  
that you are with us.  
Sustain us today in your love.      Amen*

.....

*We give thanks for each of our loved ones whom we remember,  
For all the ways in which their lives touched ours,  
For the difficult as well as the good times,  
For the ways in which their lives and their love continue to be  
with us.*

*In our sadness and our thanksgiving,  
We will remember them.*



**Amen**

## CHURCHES TOGETHER IN WARWICK

### Prayer Breakfasts



Prayer breakfasts are open to all and take place on the first **Saturday** of each month at **8am** for 30 minutes of reflection and prayer, followed by a simple breakfast. They are led and hosted by each church in turn making them different each month.

**All are very welcome**

**Next Prayer Breakfasts are on :-**

March 2nd @ St Michaels - prayers by St Mary's

April 6th @ St Nicholas - prayers by St Michaels

**Jesus didn't say "I am finished".  
He said "It is finished".  
He was just getting started**



#### **Looking for Hand made cards for all occasions?**

Jane Betts makes cards for birthdays, Thank You cards, Blank for your own messages, all occasions. Interested? Speak to her at church, she also goes to Bread Church and TLC on Tuesdays.

#### **Are you looking to keep fit?**

**Come to a  
Pilates Class on Wednesday mornings  
10:00am - 11am**

#### **In the Community Centre**

**£7 per session (depending on numbers).**

For further details please contact Elaine.  
It is led by Kimberley, a professional Pilates teacher.

## Dates for your diary !!

Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> February 10am -2pm - Remembering Weekend, the church is open for quiet reflection and prayer.

Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> February 10.30 am - Remembering Service, the church will stay open until 1pm.

13<sup>th</sup> February Holiday Club 10.30 - 12.30

14<sup>th</sup> February 7pm Ash Wednesday service

20<sup>th</sup> February 1.30pm Lent Course "Unbounded Love" (and following Tuesdays)

2<sup>nd</sup> March 10-12 Pre-loved (Thrift Club) / Saturday coffee

13<sup>th</sup> March 2pm Church Council

16<sup>th</sup> March 4pm Spring Tea: bring food to share and a party piece  
if you have one!

28<sup>th</sup> March 7.30pm Maundy Communion service

29<sup>th</sup> March 11am Good Friday service followed by Walk of Witness and  
service in Warwick Square @ 12:15

31<sup>st</sup> March Easter Day Holy Communion service

6<sup>th</sup> April 10-12 Pre-loved (Thrift Club) / Saturday coffee

4<sup>th</sup> May 10-12 Pre-loved (Thrift Club) / Saturday coffee

19<sup>th</sup> May 10.30 Church Anniversary and Faith Lunch after church

1<sup>st</sup> June 10-12 Pre-loved (Thrift Club) / Saturday coffee

9<sup>th</sup> June 10.30 Annual Church meeting followed by the Church Picnic at  
Hill Close Gardens.

## Forthcoming Services

All services **are at 10:30am unless otherwise stated**

*All are welcome, please join us for Coffee, Tea and fellowship  
In the Hall after the services*



February 11th      Rev Sally Jones

February 18th      Rev Richard Wilde

February 25th      Rev Bob Jones      **Holy Communion**

*\*\*At the time of going to press, details of preachers for services during  
March and April were not available.*

**Do check out all up to date news and events on the  
website**

**[www.warwickmethodistchurch.org.uk](http://www.warwickmethodistchurch.org.uk)**

An email is sent out every Friday evening to all who  
subscribe, (83 subscribers so far !!)



giving details of all up to date events.

Interested?

See Noelle and Trevor for more details



**STOP PRESS!!**

For all you football fans!

Klopp's replacement has been announced.  
It's his brother, KLIPPERTY.





## *Promises*

If a promise is simply just words  
Lacking candour, truth or care,  
To be uttered as flippant assurance  
When the truth is just too hard to bear,

A statement delivered so glibly  
Leaving each with nothing to gain  
Well, such avowal, lacking truth and commitment  
Can only bring heartache and pain.

But a promise of solemn assurance  
Sent deep from within the heart  
Is profound, reflective, and heartening  
Giving space to make a new start.

Jesus' promise to all who listen,  
Is a covenant so divine,  
Beyond humble human conception  
Mortals find it hard to define.

Put simply, Jesus' promise to all  
Is forgiveness of sins here on earth.  
Just repent and accept Him as Saviour  
And experience the joy of rebirth.

***Hank Redway***