

Northgate News

*April/May
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*



***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 :-
June, July and August 2024**

Please note that it will be a 'Summer 'edition covering news and events up to September

Any special event, birthdays, anniversaries? Anything you would like to share ?

Please send any articles/contributions,
to :-

**noelle_trevor@hotmail.co.uk
Or contact me on 07962232158**



TLC

Tuesday, Laughter and Chat

Every Tuesday from 10.30am,

welcoming everyone for

refreshments and fellowship and chat!



All are very welcome.



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

Come along to enjoy fellowship and friendship
As well as baking bread from 10:30am !

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?

**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 :-

Saturday 6th April @ St Nicholas
Saturday 4th May @ St Pauls
Saturday 1st June @ Warwick Northgate

Dates for your Diary!!

6th April 10-12 noon Pre Loved Shop / Saturday coffee - Community Centre

Wednesday 1st May @ 1:30pm CHURCH COUNCIL

4th May 10-12 noon Pre Loved Shop / Saturday coffee - Community Centre

19th May 10.30 CHURCH ANNIVERSARY AND FAITH LUNCH

24th May 7:00pm Big Local Night Out (BGLO) at the Bridgehouse Theatre.
A fun night out with a variety of artists and local choirs.
Tickets at Bridgehouse Theatre Box Office - www.bridgehousetheatre.co.uk

1st June 10-12 noon Pre Loved Shop / Saturday coffee - Community Centre

9th June 10.30 ANNUAL CHURCH MEETING
followed by Church Picnic at Hill Close Gardens

Are you looking to keep fit?

Come to a

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

In the Church Hall

£7 per session (depending on numbers).

For further details please contact Elaine.

It is led by Kimberley, a professional Pilates teacher.

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.



From the Leadership team.....



I write this as we prepare to journey together through Easter week, remembering Jesus' death and resurrection; we are very grateful to Rev. Sally for leading the extra services that this entails. Our prayers are with Sally, and the other ministers in the Circuit as they prepare such important services in the life of our church. Spring is also here, although it doesn't quite feel like it yet, and we have a number of special events through spring and into summer, do look out for more details in this newsletter, the website and forthcoming notices.

Our Church Council meeting was postponed from March 13th to May 1st, at 1.30pm. We are trialling this new time and are aware that this is during the working day, please let us know if this prevents you attending the meeting. Remember that all members are eligible to serve on the Church Council, so if this is something that interests you, please let one of the leadership team know. An important agenda item this time is a discussion and vote on whether to merge with Whitnash Methodist Church, please read the article in the newsletter so that you understand the background to this important decision. (*See page 10*)

Christine Fell is standing down as a steward after over 10 years of service in this role; we are very grateful to Christine for all that she has contributed. We would like to find another steward to join the team, please consider whether this is a role that you could fulfil; talk to one of us to find out what it involves.

On Sunday April 14th Sally will be commissioning the Pastoral Visitors for another year, We do need 2 more PVs (Pastoral Visitors), in this integral part of our Church Life. Janice Witham will be very happy to explain what this entails.

15 of us enjoyed a great night of music and laughter at the Bridgehouse Theatre in February. Please note the date of the next Big Local Night Out, Friday 24th May at 7pm, and think about inviting a friend or two!

I am sure that you are all aware that the Finance Team are concerned about our ability to meet the cost of running the church over the next few years, as the number of members falls. Please consider whether you can afford to give a little more, and if you've not reviewed your standing order for a while, then now would be a good time to do so.

In the last newsletter, Martin also asked for one off donations towards our subscription to the Food Bank, this can be placed in an envelope in the normal collection, or hand to the treasurer, Trevor Wills.

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 offering the love of Jesus to the people of Warwick.

Anne Oliver - Senior Steward

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



| | | |
|-------------------|--------------------|-----------|
| Sunday 7th April | Mr Andrew Metcalfe | |
| Sunday 14th April | Rev Sally Jones | |
| Sunday 21st April | Mrs Jill Lloyd | |
| Sunday 28th April | Rev Iain Ballard | Communion |
| Sunday 5th May | Ms Gail Bullivant | |
| Sunday 12th May | Local Arrangement | |
| Sunday 19th May | Rev Sally Jones | Communion |

CHURCH ANNIVERSARY

Join us after the service for the Church Picnic
at Hill Close Gardens

| | | |
|-----------------|------------------|--|
| Sunday 26th May | Rev Mark Rowland | |
|-----------------|------------------|--|

Check out up to date news and events on our Church website
www.warwickmethodistchurch.org.uk

An email is sent out every Friday evening to all who
subscribe, which gives details of all up to date events
Interested?



Contact Noelle and Trevor for more details

Our Letter from Rev Sally

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

You will see from Anne's letter that something which is very much on our minds as a Leadership Team at the moment is the proposed merger with Whitnash Methodist Church. Anne's letter sets out the background to this, but I do encourage you to have conversations with myself or one of the Leadership team if there is something you are not sure of. The aim is to try and ease some of the administrative burden for the Whitnash stewards in order to free them up to carry out the missional work that will lead to growth. I must reassure people that Whitnash is financially self-sufficient and there is no understanding that Warwick will support Whitnash financially. However, something we could do is to support them administratively. This model has already been implemented at Stratford-Henley and is in the process of being put into action at Dale Street with Cubbington, albeit in a slightly different way.

Please will you pray and think about this, so that when we come to Church Council on May 1st we are able to discuss the matter with care and insight. But be ready for when God answers that prayer! I say this because I would like to recount something that happened at the last Whitnash Messy Church event.

Numbers have been rather quiet at Messy Church for a few months now, with around 8 children attending, and for some time the Messy Church team have been praying for increased interest from the local community. (In fact, most times I drive into Whitnash, I am praying 'What is it that you want us to do here, God?'). Then, on the Wednesday before the last Messy Church, (they take place on a Saturday), Graeme and I had visited the local primary school and taken the assemblies, and given out some flyers that Thrive had had printed for us. To cut a wonderful story short, we had the most children and parents that we have ever had! We went way past our usual cut-off of 20 children. The booked-in children exceeded that number and people were turning up on the morning asking to come. There was a flurry of early morning activity as we all checked that we had enough resources for our activities and enough food for lunch – as 42 people received lunch that day!

I have been pondering on all this since it happened, and asking myself several questions, including: Do we pray expecting God to answer? So when God answers, should we be surprised? And when God answers, are we ready? We weren't really ready at Whitnash for God to answer in quite that way! But the Bible says 'Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you'. 'You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart'. 'If you believe, you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer'. 'Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God'.

Continued next page.....



Matthew, Jeremiah, Paul and many other biblical writers understood that the sincere prayer offered in love and faith will be answered. Of course, the answer may not always be the one we are wanting or expecting, but we place our prayers into the great wisdom and love of God.

Philip Yancey writes:

'I pray in astonished belief that God desires an ongoing relationship. I pray in trust that the act of prayer is God's designated way of closing the vast gulf between infinity and me. I pray in order to put myself in the stream of God's healing work on earth. I pray as I breathe - because I can't help it. Prayer is hardly a perfect form of communication, for I, an imperfect, material being who lives on an imperfect, material planet am reaching out for a perfect, spiritual Being. Some prayers go unanswered, a sense of God's presence ebbs and flows, and often I sense more mystery than resolution. Nevertheless I keep at it, believing with Paul that, 'Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.'

So let's keep praying, friends, with expectation and readiness.

This prayer is by Gill Bailey, a perfect prayer post-Easter. It's titled simply '**Thank You**':

Jesus, you were always special.

You turned this world's values upside down.

Not for you the 'look-after-number-one' message of our age,

but 'look after them', you said, and you did.

Not for you the 'hold on to what you have' advice we're given,

but 'give your all', you said, and you did.

Not me first, but you first;

'not my will, but your will', you said.

Not for you a gentle, easy birth.

Not for you a gentle, easy life.

Not for you a gentle, easy death.

Your life was never easy;

your death far from it.

But through your suffering we are free,
free to live and love right here and now,
free to live your way,
free to give, to share,
free to count all who inhabit this earth with us
as friends and neighbours,
free to be your people,
and to remember that they are your people too.
Because of what you have done,
one day, round some distant corner,
we and all who believe
will spend eternity with you.

So thank you, Jesus,
thank you for coming to us,
thank you for dying for us,
thank you for rising and living again.
Thank you that in you there is always hope.
Thank you, Jesus –
just thank you!

May God bless you, those whom you love, and those you are called to love in God's name,

With my love and prayers,

Sally



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

Proposed merger between Warwick and Whitnash Methodist Churches.

At the Church Council meeting on May 1st (1.30pm), we will be discussing and voting on a proposal to merge the two churches, and I want to give members some background to this discussion.

Whitnash has 6 active members and 14 members on paper, which means that its future is uncertain. Once a church has less than 12 members for four consecutive quarters, it has no choice but to merge with another church, or cease to meet. The active members at Whitnash are very keen to continue to provide a Methodist presence in the town and have plenty of ideas such as a Food Pantry, Community Garden, and developing links to Whitnash Primary School. Graeme Russell, our Church and Community Missioner, is involved with several projects there.

There are fortnightly services on a Sunday, and the Parade services every couple of months have about 40 attending. Whitnash MC has a regular organist. Messy Church is held once a month, with a regular 8-10 children. The last Messy Church followed Graeme Russell's and Rev Sally's Assemblies a few days before – see Sally's letter to find out what happened here! Coffee mornings are held usually monthly on a Saturday morning. Warm Hub is held weekly on Thursday from 11.30-1.30.

The church hall is well used, with five uniformed organisation groups on four evenings, Keep Fit on 4 mornings a week, and youth organisation THRIVE hiring the office and occasionally using the church. There is a potential for a before and after School Club from September. These lettings should cover costs.

A merger would result in a merging of committees, such as Finance and Property, and one Church Council for the new church. This would help to relieve the pressure on the minister who has to attend all these meetings at two churches, and free up the stewards at Whitnash to do more Mission and Outreach work.

BENEFITS:

To Whitnash – they can stay open and continue God's work in the town with renewed energy.

To Warwick – helping the wider mission of the church.

To the Minister – reducing the number of meetings that need to be attended, and streamlining the management of the two churches.

This model has been encouraged by the Circuit Superintendent, as a way to free up the time of both lay and ordained people in order to actively work towards church growth. This model has also been found to be successful in other Circuits. What is envisaged are 'multi-site' churches who share a trustee body, thus reducing the number of Managing Trustee bodies but maintaining where possible the number of worshipping communities.

This process can be completed by two or more churches merging together to form a new Local Church (either on one site or multi-sited).

Proposed merger continued.....

Henley has already merged with Stratford, and Cubbington is in the process of merging with Dale Street. We are not pursuing a merger with Wellesbourne.

The leadership team hopes that members will support this proposal when it comes to a vote on May 1st. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to talk to one of the leadership team. In the meantime, your prayers for all those involved would be appreciated.

Anne Oliver - Senior Steward

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

10:00– 12 Noon

In the Community Centre



Our time of prayer

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.



*Lord, thank you for the promise of your peace
As companion in this life, staying with me
Regardless of circumstance,
in wind and storm, in calm and plenty
Your peace enfolds
And holds me still.
Amen*

Lord, our prayers to you are like a tree, branches spreading in all directions.

Sometimes moving wildly in strong winds, as our thoughts and concerns swirl toward :-

Family and friends - their joys, their worries

People we meet - their troubles, their joys.

To the wider world, where news can break the heart,
so much we cannot take it in,
what can we do - is praying enough?



There are days when the branches of our tree are calm and still.

And, as we thank you for what we have, find that the troubles that touch us both personally and in the wider world seem far away, unreal.

But they are still there. As are my prayers.

And as I sit, and reflect, I put my trust in you to show me the way.

Amen

GALLERY



Many congratulations to Bethany and Finn on the occasion of their wedding on the 8th March.

Bethany is the daughter of Gael and Steve , granddaughter to Christine and John.

I am sure they will have many photos of this special day to share with you!!



Birthday Greetings!!

Our love and best wishes to Norma Richards and to John Baskerville who have recently been celebrating their 90th Birthday!!



Happy Birthday to Barbara Meddoms whose 80th birthday was on 9th March!

Our love and congratulations and hope you all had a great time on your special day.

World Day of Prayer 2024

"I beg you, bear with one another in love"

On Friday 1st March, friends from the Warwick churches joined us at Northgate for the annual service to celebrate the World Day of Prayer. This year the service and supporting resources had been prepared by an ecumenical group of Christian women from Palestine. In the words of WDP, "the land in which Jesus was born, ministered and died, and where the Christian faith began and is rooted".

The service itself began with a presentation of images from Palestine and accompanying information about the history, geography, culture and the role of women, Christianity and interfaith issues in the region. The WDP countries are selected years in advance, and the materials prepared well before the year of the service, yet every year the chosen theme seems to become strikingly relevant as the year unfolds. For 2024 the theme was from Ephesians 4 v1 "I beg you, bear with one another in love". In light of the current situation in the region and distressing reports and images in the news, this text was particularly poignant.

During the service we had readings, hymns, prayers for peace and stories of Palestinian women witnessing to the power of bearing together in love, presented by Rev Sally and CTW members. Everyone had been given a bookmark featuring the words "Put peace into each other's hands and like a treasure hold it" from the Fred Kaan hymn. As the peace was being shared, these bookmarks were exchanged, and then the hymn was sung, creating a moving sequence. Rev Sally had invited Chris Foy from St Nicholas' Church to play the organ for us and we enthusiastically sang the well-known hymns and the newly composed songs.

After the service most people joined us for a lunch in the community centre where soups prepared by Susan and by Trevor were much enjoyed in the time of fellowship. The display of photographs and produce from Palestine which had been in church for the service was brought into the hall and the Palestinian cakes prepared by Edward from St Paul's, and the oranges were shared with the meal.

We are grateful to the local World Day of Prayer team for organising the materials, and to Rev Sally for her guidance and leading the service (and preparing all the bookmarks!). Many thanks also to Ken for managing the sound, Susan and Trevor for the super soups, to all who helped us with the setting up and clearing away and to everyone who came along on the day. There was much to reflect on from the service - if you would like to see a copy of the service booklet which has lots of extra information including background notes and bible reflection, please speak to Liz and Cynthia, or find out more at www.wwdp.org.uk

The World Day of Prayer takes place on the first Friday in March, so that's Friday 7th March 2025. Next year's Warwick CTW service will be at St Mary Immaculate Church and the theme will be "I made you wonderful", prepared by women from the Cook Islands. Why not put it in your diary now?

Prayer from the service booklet 2024


God of Unity, you bear with us in all of our difficulties. When we are struggling to get along with one another in love, you are willing and able to help us.
We ask you to free us from our sins so that we can release one another from the tensions and conflicts that create disunity.

Heal your church wherever we are divided, that we may know how to bring the good news of your grace and love into the world by knowing how to behave with everyone we meet.

We ask this in the name of Jesus, our Lord and example, who knew each person needed to be loved.

Amen

Liz Reid



***Put peace into each other's hands
and like a treasure hold it***

Fred Kaan

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Bring your own
phone or laptop
OR we have
devices you can
borrow during
sessions!
(subject to availability)



WARWICK METHODIST CHURCH
Barrack St, Warwick CV34 4TH

TUESDAYS, 1.30pm – 3.30pm

**FREE sessions for six weeks
starting 26th March 2024**

**Call 07308 160649 to book your
place, or drop in any Tuesday!**

