

SMC-NEWS

THE FORTNIGHTLY NEWSLETTER OF SILVERDALE METHODIST CHURCH

ISSUE 9 - SATURDAY 3RD JULY 2021

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MISSION STATEMENT

We seek to be a place and a people of prayer, Christian love, and friendship, through which we may serve God and the community.

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WEBSITE

www.silverdalemethodistchurch.org.uk



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&



“Silverdale Methodist Church”

re-imagining Church for such a time as this

Please consider supporting us financially, either with a regular Standing Order or a One-Off Donation. Use the “Contact Us” form on our website to register your interest, and/or ensure that your “Weekly Envelope” reaches us. Any donation is always gratefully received.

If you have an e-mail address, contact Lee (Leetleighton@aol.com) and he will add you to the Distribution List, to keep you updated digitally!

WHAT'S GOING ON ... SUBJECT-TO-CHANGE!

Sat 3rd Jul, 10am = Lynn & Tina's SPONSORED WALK!

Sat 3rd Jul, 5:30pm 'til 6:30pm = delivering "Craft Pack for Worship"

Sunday 4th Jul, "WORSHIPONZOOM", 11am >>

CAFÉ CHURCH; informal & relaxed, all-age & interactive

Sun 4th Jul, 12:15pm = COFFEE & CHAT (via 'Zoom')

Sun 4th Jul, 5pm = Leadership Team private prayer-time

Tue 6th Jul, 4pm 'til 5pm = litter-picking

Tue 6th Jul, 7pm 'til 8pm = Bible Study [Rev. Christine; the Acts of the Apostles] (via 'Zoom')

Wed 7th Jul, 2:45pm 'til 3:45pm = Free Food give-away (main Car-Park)

Thu 8th Jul, 7pm = Young Adults HouseGroup – outdoors BBQ Social, at L&J's!

Fri 9th Jul >>

2:45pm 'til 3:45pm = Free Food give-away (main Car-Park)

4pm 'til 5pm = Bible Study [Rev. Christine; the Acts of the Apostles] (via 'WhyPay?')

5pm 'til 6pm = delivering Food Parcels (wk B)

Sat 10th Jul, 5:30pm 'til 6:30pm = delivering "Craft Pack for Worship"

Sunday 11th Jul, "WORSHIPONZOOM", 11am >>

preacher = Christine Chadwick

Sun 11th Jul, 12:15pm = COFFEE & CHAT (via 'Zoom')

Sun 11th Jul, 5pm = Leadership Team private prayer-time

Tue 13th Jul, 4pm 'til 5pm = litter-picking

Tue 13th Jul, 7pm 'til 8pm = Bible Study [Rev. Christine; the Acts of the Apostles] (via 'Zoom')

Wed 14th Jul, 2:45pm 'til 3:45pm = Free Food give-away (main Car-Park)

Wed 14th Jul, 7:30pm = Leadership Team mtg. (via 'Zoom')



Fri 16th Jul >>

2:45pm 'til 3:45pm = Free Food give-away (main Car-Park)

4pm 'til 5pm = Bible Study [Rev. Christine; the Acts of the Apostles] (via 'WhyPay?')

5pm 'til 6pm = delivering Food Parcels (wk A)

Sat 17th Jul, 1pm 'til 2pm = delivering "Craft Pack for Worship"

Sat 17th Jul, 3pm = Messy Church BBQ!

Sunday 18th Jul, "WORSHIPONZOOM", 11am >>

preacher = Rev. Christine Legge *

Sun 18th Jul, 12:15pm = COFFEE & CHAT (via 'Zoom')

Sun 18th Jul, 5pm = Leadership Team private prayer-time

Sun 18th Jul, 6pm = Circuit Service @ Wolstanton

Tue 20th Jul, 4pm 'til 5pm = litter-picking

Tue 20th Jul, 7pm 'til 8pm = Bible Study [Rev. Christine; the Acts of the Apostles] (via 'Zoom')



Wed 21st Jul, 2:45pm 'til 3:45pm = Free Food give-away (main Car-Park)

Thu 22nd July to Wed 1st Sept = SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

Thu 22nd Jul, 7pm = Young Adults HouseGroup – out-for-a-meal Social!

Fri 23rd Jul >>

2:45pm 'til 3:45pm = Free Food give-away (main Car-Park)

4pm 'til 5pm = Bible Study [Rev. Christine; the Acts of the Apostles] (via 'WhyPay?')

5pm 'til 6pm = delivering Food Parcels (wk B)

Sat 24th Jul, 5:30pm 'til 6:30pm = delivering "Craft Pack for Worship"

Sunday 25th Jul, "WORSHIPONZOOM", 11am >>

preacher = Sheila Heap

Sun 25th Jul, 12:15pm = COFFEE & CHAT (via 'Zoom')

Sun 25th Jul, 5pm = Leadership Team PRAYER MEETING (@ Church!)



Tue 27th Jul, 4pm 'til 5pm = litter-picking

Tue 27th Jul, 7pm 'til 8pm = Bible Study [Rev. Christine; the Acts of the Apostles] (via 'Zoom')

The Leadership Team's Prayer Meeting, held every Sunday since Oct '20, has evolved further – they now devote the hour, 5pm to 6pm, to personal prayer, **STILL** praying for the Church, and various other matters, but instead of joining together to do it, they do it alone in their own way. They then take what God has said to them during these times to a face-to-face Prayer Meeting on the last Sunday of every month. As a result of this evolution, they would encourage **EVERYONE** to commit to praying – hopefully during the 1-hour from 5pm to 6pm every Sunday, or at some other time during the week if you can't make it then. **We need to commit to praying as a Church**, so that God can continue to guide us into the future, and plan for us, to enable us to continue to build His kingdom in the place where He has called us to serve.

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We will be running another 'Alpha Course', beginning some time in September – but we need to saturate it in prayer (there's that need for prayer again!), so that God sends the right people to it, and so that they are open to hearing Him whilst they engage in the Course. So, we are holding two 12hr Days of Prayer, specifically for 'The Alpha Course' – one on the 1st of August, and one on the 31st of August, both from 11am 'til 11pm. So we need people to commit to praying, by signing-up for certain time-slots over the two days – be it half-an-hour, 1-hour, or more, we need you to commit to praying during a certain time.

For further details, send an e-mail to Jayne at “northstaffschildrensworker@gmail.com”, or call Lee on 07403 534575. Alternatively, simply let us know what times you will be praying, again via one of the two methods – or some other way if none of those are available to you! – and we will allocate the time-slots to you. A full timetable of names will then be distributed closer to the time – until then, let us know what times you want to commit to, so that you can be included on the timetable. Finally, remember that one of God's commands to us is to pray without ceasing... .

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A copy of the “Building For The Future” document, detailing the plans for our immediate future, is included. **PLEASE DO TAKE THE TIME TO READ IT** – as we continue to re-imagine Church for such a time as this, and become the Church without walls that God is calling us to be, so that we can offer a Hybrid Church to all.

SILVERDALE METHODIST CHURCH

Earl Street, Silverdale,
Newcastle, Staffs, ST5 6NF.

Minister – Rev. Christine Legge
Children & Families Worker – Jayne Leighton

BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE

***A DOCUMENT ADOPTED BY THE LEADERSHIP TEAM ON THE 18TH OF JUNE 2021,
DETAILING, AS MUCH AS WE CAN, THE FUTURE PLANS POST-COVID***

Please remember that this is not a definitive document, it is simply meant to guide us into the future, as we continue to seek God's will for the work that He wants us to do in the place where He has called us, so that we can continue to build His kingdom here, in the village of Silverdale, brick-by-brick.

We, as the Leadership Team of Silverdale Methodist Church, have prayed with each other, and separately, talked with other, and to ourselves(!), and sought guidance from others, and each other, as we have been preparing this document for the last few months. So, we ask that you read it with the same grace by which it has been prepared – knowing that not everyone will be happy, but realising that we have tried our best to continue to offer something for everyone, no matter their age, gender, or the like.

Just a brief reminder of “where we are at”.

We have a 'Children & Families Worker' that we need to fund further into the future, and we also need to refurbish the Church Building in-order to continue, and further develop, our Outreach Programme within the Community. As a result, we need a lot of money, to enable us to do both of the aforementioned items. The very DNA of our Church has changed over the last 15 months, and as result we need to ensure that we don't just “revert back to type”, and instead prepare, as best we can, for the 'Hybrid Church' that we will need to be once we are out of COVID.

Now for a look at some statistics, as at the time of writing (Friday 18th June 2021 at 17:40).

- ✓ We have supplied 1915 Food Parcels since April 2020. Over the 63 weeks since we began, this is an average of 30 per week. However, that figure doesn't show the true picture, as demand has grown significantly over the last few months – the current 10-week rolling average is 48 Food Parcels supplied per week, with the current 5-week rolling average being 50 Food Parcels supplied per week, thus highlighting the fact that the need is increasing.
- ✓ On-average, 44 people worship live with us every week on 'Zoom' – and we get people from all over the world join with us, due to the contacts from within the congregation - regularly from Spain, France, and Australia. And then within that congregation, we have a wide-range of demographic - children, those in their 20's, some in their 30's, 40's, 50's, 60's, and also those over too. Honestly, believe it or not, that is the demographic that we are attracting - regular "church goers", but actually outnumbered by those who have always been "on the fringes" but were unable to attend in-person for a no. of reasons, as they are now able to access Worship more freely because of how we do it!
- ✓ We then get an extra 31 people on-average every week accessing Worship when it is more convenient for them to do so, either via 'YouTube' or with the DVD that we distribute.

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- ✓ On-average, we deliver 13 Craft Packs for Worship every week, and have distributed a total of 416 since the 8th of November 2020 – noting that people of all ages use them to help them to engage with Worship, they don't just go to Young People, a no. of Adults have them too!
- ✓ We have supplied 300 "Kids Activity Packs" – for specifically during School Holidays, half-terms, Christmas, etc. – since COVID began.

All of this has been, and continues to be, done as we re-imagine Church – not only "for such a time as this", but also as we look to the future, and what Silverdale Methodist Church will look like in the days, weeks, months, and years to come. We, the Leadership Team, are excited about where God is leading us to as a Church, and we hope that you all are too!

And let's not forget that we have confirmed 10 new Members into the Church – not just being people already connected in lots of different ways, but also ones who God has sent to us over the last few months too – with all of them deciding to take that "next step".

So please keep praying, as the "do-ers" cannot do anything without the "pray-ers" – and most of all, keep thanking God, for where He has bought us to, and also where He is leading us to. GOD IS GOOD!

Now for a look to the future, or at least the immediate future, and where we feel that God is leading us to.

- The current Programme, the way that we do things presently, all things, will continue as it is until 31st August 2021. However, it will be added to as we see fit, and are able to, up until then – with notifications continuing via Facebook, Instagram, e-mail, our Website, and SMC-NEWS, to ensure that everyone is kept up-to-date at all times, as much as we can. Having said that, Sunday Worship will continue in its current form up until 31st August 2021, as we have previously said.
- Sunday Worship will then be as follows, from 1st September 2021 onwards..
 - o The **1st Sunday** of every month will continue to be **CAFÉ CHURCH** – **this will be an "in the building" Worship Experience.**
 - o On the **2nd Sunday** of the month, we will continue to have our good friend **Christine Chadwick** delivering the Message – **this will be a "WorshipOnZoom" Experience.**
 - o The **3rd Sunday** of the month will continue to be our Minister, **Rev. Christine Legge**, and will include Communion whenever possible – **this will be an "in the building" Worship Experience.**
 - o The **4th Sunday** of the month will be **"EMMAUS", going outside to walk & worship together, whilst considering God's creation** – a new form of Worship that will be introduced, thus helping us to engage in a different way. There will also be Prayer Stations inside the Church Building for all those unable to walk with us – but the emphasis is on being able to walk & worship as a Church Community together!
 - o Whenever there is a **5th Sunday**, this will be led by **Church Members, or a Local Preacher** – **this will be a "WorshipOnZoom" Experience.**

To go hand-in-hand with all of the above is the fact that we are also looking into the possibility of being able to live-stream all of the "in the building" Worship Experiences, so that those unable to join us can still access our Services at the time that they happen – aswell as being

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able to join via 'Zoom' too, in the usual way, and so be an actual part of the Service. All of this is in its early stages, as we evaluate all options, and consider the pro's & the con's – but our initial feelings are that it is an imperative part of moving forward as a Church, thus meaning that we would be able to offer the Hybrid Church experience, being a chance to be a part of and connect in a variety of ways, both digital and physical, that we believe all successful churches will need to do from here-on-in.

Please note that there may be some months where it is needed to swap-round what format happens between weeks – this will only happen at unavoidable times, and will be kept to a minimum. And take note of the amount of times the word "continue" is used above – not a lot is actually changing, perhaps just the way that we do things, and even then only slightly!

- All Children's & Youth Work is anticipated to re-commence some time during September. However, this will only happen if it is deemed safe to all for us to do so. Please remember, however, that the programme that we offer may have to change slightly so as to suit the new landscape that we are faced with.
- All other Weekly/Regular Activities – such as, but not limited to, Bible Study, Prayer & Praise, Place Of Welcome, Silver Service & Ladies Fellowship – are in the process of being re-determined, to ensure that we can deliver them in the way that is most suitable for the "new normal" that we will find ourselves in. As a result, no definitive plans can be announced here, so as to allow us enough time to ensure that we are hearing what God is saying to us about them, ensuring that we deliver them in the most relevant guise. However, please rest assured that all finalised plans will be announced as soon as we can, and that is with regards to all Weekly/Regular Activities, be them old or new!
- With regards to the serving of Breakfast prior to an "in the building" Worship Experience, and also 'ReFuel', at which substantial refreshments were available, again we have no definitive plans that we can announce here, due to the lack of clarity with regards to the future – but also because of the fact that the Kitchen is no longer able to be used as a "working kitchen", due to the precarious state that it is now in. However, we will continue to seek God's guidance as to what to do with regards to these two Activities, as we ask for you all to do too.

Please be reminded that we cannot guarantee that the above will happen, be it all, some, or any – as we are still in the midst of a Global Pandemic, with no indication as to when we will be out of it fully, so we can only plan as best we can, and not make any promises. Also, please remember that we will need to re-visit these plans if there are Government Restrictions in-place on the 1st of September – noting particularly that the above will only happen if all Government Restrictions have been lifted by the 31st August 2021; if any are left, and still in-place, then we, as the Leadership Team, will re-visit our initial plans, and make the appropriate decisions that we need to, for the good of Silverdale Methodist Church, and of course to ensure that we can continue to build God's kingdom right here where He has called us.

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Now for some practical items that we need to make you aware of.

- Only Leadership Team members will be allowed to enter the Kitchen, meaning that it will be out-of-bounds to everyone-else. This is because of the precarious state that it is now in, and the fact that it is no longer able to be used as a “working kitchen”. A decision regarding drinks after Worship will be made prior to the first “in the building” Worship Experience in September.
- Only the Disabled Toilet will be in-use – all other Toilets will be out-of-action until further notice, again because of their precarious states, as with the Kitchen.
- The two items above will remain in-place, and continue to be the case, until such a time that the said areas have been refurbished – until then, the above instructions will continue to be implemented.
 - The Rear Entrance to the Back Passageway will no longer be in use, and the same can be said of the Back Passageway, that has also been decommissioned too – neither will be useable or accessible from here-on-in. The Back Passageway has been re-energised into a storage area for all items needing to be disposed of in the near future – and the Vestry has been re-configured to become a Storage Area for a no. of items, whilst remaining as the Vestry and a Prayer Room too!
 - The Entrance to the Side-Room in the front Hallway will no longer be in use.
 - The two items directly above are as a result of us having to utilise as many “wasted spaces” as we can, and identify potential Storage Area’s that can be used that we hadn’t thought of before, so as to be able to move forward as much as possible until such a time that we can afford to have the refurbishment completed. Decommissioning the above two doorways will have no detrimental effect on the Church, far from it – instead, reducing the amount of Entrances & Exits will not only help us with regards to Health & Safety, but also help us to look a more welcoming and friendly Church, as reducing the amount minimises the potential for confusion, as was often the case.
- The Shutters separating the Side-Room from the Main Church Room will remain open at all times – not least so as to aid ventilation within the premises, but also because it helps us to look a more welcoming and friendly Church. The only time that the shutters will be closed is at any time when there are two activities running simultaneously in the building – at all other times the shutters will remain open.
- The layout for all Services, so all “in the building” Worship Experiences, will be different – the old format of rows will disappear, and instead an informal seating arrangement set around tables will be implemented, again to help us to look a more welcoming and friendly Church. This will be the format for all “in the building” Worship Experiences from September.

Finally, to confirm that we, the Leadership Team, have taken the decision to increase the contract of our Children & Families Worker to that of a full-time contract, taking effect from the 1st of September 2021. That is not to say that we have suddenly had an influx of money – instead, it means that we are stepping out in faith, and putting our trust in our Great Big God to

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provide going-forward, as we are sure that this is all part of His plan for Silverdale Methodist Church.

For most people, all they ever see are the external walls of the church. People pass by a church every day, but few will enter to find-out more about God. Could it be that our church walls are one of the greatest hindrances to the gospel today? Even the dictionary states as its first definition of the word, “church”, that it is “a place of public Christian worship”. Sure, we worship God in our building, but, according to the Bible, “church” is all about people, not about buildings. That is why our “walls have to come down”. The only way we can lead people to Christ is to come out of the four walls of the building and stop hiding from the world. It may take some time for people to be interested in the God we serve, but if we keep demonstrating the difference He makes in our life, their curiosity will be awakened, and they will want to come and see for themselves – but only if they can see us! Our church walls must cease to be walls of division and exclusion. A CHURCH WITHOUT WALLS is an expanding community, one that enlarges their hearts to embrace those who do not yet share our faith. The surprising thing is that when we do, people are interested. The world is waiting to know who we are and what we have to offer them. The old ways of “doing church” are fading away – at least as being the only ways. Being a CHURCH WITHOUT WALLS means going out into the Neighbourhood, and into Cyberspace; it means getting ever-better about using social networking in-order to connect our geographically diverse congregation. It doesn't mean that we get rid of the building, no – instead, it means that we bring it, and ourselves, up-to-date, so that the building from where we base the Church is suitable to house the Outreach Programmes that we deliver, and we are amenable and sympathetic to the needs of those that God sends to us – and more!

In every walk of life, the COVID-19 pandemic has presented challenges and opportunities like never before. For Christian ministry, it has forced us to get out of our buildings and find God in the wild. On-line and live-streamed church services have often been the trend, and luxury, of well-resourced and tech-savvy churches. Then, in one swift movement, the Pandemic did what it took decades to do for churches and websites – it moved all churches into a new standard for communication and church services on-line. Even as some congregations are beginning to meet together again, not everyone will feel comfortable or be able to join in-person. Pre-pandemic, most regular church attendees had the luxury to choose whether to attend in-person or sleep-in on a Sunday morning – but that wasn't true for everyone. While some might be counting the days until things go “back to normal”, virtual engagement has been an unexpected gift for one important group. On-line platforms have allowed people with disabilities, immune-compromised systems, or alternative work schedules to attend and participate in spiritual and social activities that previously did not always accommodate their needs. With unexpected benefits like these, we should be cheering-on statistics like the ‘Barna Study’ report that 72% of churches will be offering both in-person and on-line options for the foreseeable future. Just like church websites, the option to participate in church virtually is about to become standard – hopefully for good. Hybrid Church ministry should be the new normal – it's a “both/and” mindset of including people both virtually and in-person. The new Sunday morning for the average local church will mean setting-up the musicians AND setting-up

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the live-stream – it will be turning around in your seat to welcome a new family in Church AND greeting first-time visitors on-line – it will be welcoming someone on the platform to give an announcement AND live-streaming someone in to read Scripture. The church has always been bigger than a building. One thing is crystal clear, when church buildings “closed”, the church certainly didn’t, and in the process, we believe that we have learned something new about being church.

So a thank you to one-and-all for reading this document – we know it was quite a read, but we wanted to give you all as much information as possible, so that there is no confusion anywhere. And now a final reminder for us to continue to think creatively, and stay connected, because we are stronger together – as we continue to re-imagine Church for such a time as this, and become the Church without walls that God is calling us to be, so that we can offer a Hybrid Church to all.

PHILIPPIANS 4:6

“Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.”

JEREMIAH 29:11

For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

YOURS IN CHRIST.

Rev. Christine, John, Jayne, Chris B., Elizabeth, Irene, Lee & Ryan