

OUTREACH

THE QUARTERLY MAGAZINE FROM NORLEY METHODIST CHURCH

**MORNING WORSHIP
HOLY COMMUNION
BAPTISMS & WEDDINGS
WEBSITE**

**10.45am
ONCE A MONTH
BY ARRANGEMENT WITH THE MINISTERS
<http://www.norleymethodistchurch.org.uk>**

MINISTERS

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February 2025

Dear Friends,

I remember growing up in the sixties and seventies when space travel was the most exciting thing happening. Particularly memorable was watching the Apollo rockets being launched and of course their successful mission to land on the moon. Later the Space Shuttle came into service, and it was remarkable to see it return to Earth landing just like an aircraft. Of course, they are really a very small part of the discoveries that we as a race are finding as we continue to explore the universe.

We really do live in an exciting time and place as new discoveries and new theories come to light both on the earth and in the universe that surrounds us. For me, Psalm 8 puts that in more eloquent words than I ever could, as it says: -

LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

You have set your glory in the heavens.

When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers,
the moon and the stars, which you have set in place,
what is mankind that you are mindful of them,

As I gaze up at the stars and wonder at all their marvels, I cannot help but ask the question, so what about me? Where do I fit in and what is the meaning of life? I can't really answer that as fully as I would like, but where scientists talk about the Big Bang theory, String theory and the possibilities of things happening and evolving by chance, they don't really answer those questions either. As I wrestle with those thoughts, I cannot help but be drawn into thinking about someone or something creating all that is around us. To me that makes sense, even if that then makes me ask more questions and search for the answers. The Society of Ordained Scientists has provided a stimulating setting for me to explore these questions from a Christian perspective.

As a Christian I believe that those answers are found in the God who created the world, the universe, life, and everything within it. It makes me wonder and draws me into a space of wanting to explore more about God and what God means to me. This is not only an intellectual exercise, but it is also one that engages me as a whole person, involving body, mind and spirit. In recent years, science has considered what it does as storytelling; many different and varied stories rooted in the material world in all its wonder. Strange as this may seem, it does help!

We are now coming into Lent, a time where we remember Jesus 40 days in the wilderness, his spiritual journey of awareness and his unwavering reliance on God. It was a time for him to explore that relationship unperturbed by others and by events around him. For Jesus it was a way to discover and deepen his spiritual life in a pared back material world which was solid and real in ways he could feel, in fact I am sure all his senses were heightened by his experience.

So let us prepare ourselves to remember the sad news of Good Friday and wonder at the good news of Easter Sunday. Most of all let us allow ourselves to marvel at the world around us, be drawn into our own spiritual exploration of life and then simply discover the God who not only created all that we see but loves us as individuals, seeks a deeper personal

relationship with each of us and will never let us go. Wishing you every blessing this Lent, Holy Week and Easter.



Rejoice....

- *We are delighted to report that **Rev'd Claire Rawlinson** has accepted an invitation to be our minister from 1 September. Claire will be based at the manse in Tarvin and will be in pastoral charge of the 6 rural churches in the North Cheshire circuit.*

Congratulations to....

- ***Joanne James** and her partner **Genevieve** who have decided to get married in October. Claire our new minister will conduct a marriage blessing service in Norley Methodist Church. Joanne would be delighted to see some familiar Norley faces at the service.*
- ***Thea Hilditch** (who was 8 on 12th January), and **Clara Turnbull** (who was 6 on 17th January).*

Thank you

- *From **Jean Dunning** to you all for the lovely cards, flowers and chocolates, also a phone call from ORKNEY to celebrate her birthday.*
- ***Ruth Hosker** is making a good recovery from her broken tibia and would like to thank everyone for their best wishes as well as the lovely flowers from church. Thanks also to everyone for stepping into make Coffee Plus in January happen. This wasn't quite the start to semi-retirement that Ruth had planned but now that her mobility is much improved, holiday plans are all looking possible!*

In Our Thoughts....

- ***Shelagh Salter** who is seriously ill. We were delighted to see Shelagh at the concert on Friday 8 looking well. Her daughter Emma was of course there with her as Emma's charity Lifted was the recipient of 50% of the takings.*
- *The family of **Aubrey Newall** following his passing on 10th November, particularly Francis his wife and their children Steven, Graham and Joanne.*

Pastoral Piece

This is my first Pastoral Piece for this magazine, having taken over from Margaret...
What an act to follow!

So I begin with a huge thank you to her for all her hard work and dedication to the role shown over many years through the love and care she shared in so many ways often quietly and without fuss.

Thank you Margaret.

Spring is on its way!..... we hope!!!

The first signs are just beginning to show themselves with snowdrops peeping through and the odd early daffodil here and there. I always think of my gran when I see daffodils... she went blind with detached retinas in retirement and came to live with us... She loved Spring... and always insisted she could see the daffodils (even if only in her mind's eye!) and would quote Wordsworth poem.. especially the last verse!

I wandered lonely as a cloud
That floats on high o'er vales and hills,
When all at once I saw a crowd,
A host, of golden daffodils;
Beside the lake, beneath the trees,
Fluttering and dancing in the breeze.

Continuous as the stars that shine
And twinkle on the milky way,
They stretched in never-ending line
Along the margin of a bay:
Ten thousand saw I at a glance,
Tossing their heads in sprightly dance.

The waves beside them danced; but they
Out-did the sparkling waves in glee:
A poet could not but be gay,
In such a jocund company:
I gazed—and gazed—but little thought
What wealth the show to me had brought:

For oft, when on my couch I lie
In vacant or in pensive mood,
They flash upon that inward eye
Which is the bliss of solitude;
And then my heart with pleasure fills,
And dances with the daffodils.

I hope yours does too! Love and Prayers, *Sue*

Carol-singing in December

This year we combined with the Anglican Benefice for 2 nights carol singing – one on Dec 18 round the Christmas tree in the church garden followed by the Tiger's Head, which by invitation was preceded by singing at the Carriers. The rain drove us inside the church instead of round the Christmas tree.

The second night, on Dec 19 organised by the Anglicans, firstly at The White Lion, Alvanley, then at the Co-op at Kingsley and then at The Hare and Hounds at Crowton. Overall, £365 (including gift aid) enabling £182.50 to be sent to the West Cheshire foodbank and also to the Runcorn foodbank. It was good to join our choral resources - we never had fewer than 20 singers - and, most importantly, present a common Christian witness to the communities of Alvanley, Crowton, Hatchmere, Kingsley and Norley as we prepared for Christmas. The Anglicans were delighted with the outcome.

Candlelit Carol Service December

This year the Carol Service was held on December 15 to avoid clashing with the Carol Service at St Johns which was held a week later.

As usual the service started at 4pm and the Church was lit solely by candles. The Rev'd Sue Levitt led the service of readings and carols, which was well attended.

The Christmas Day Service

The annual service on Christmas Day was attended by many bringing some Christmas presents – jumpers, shirts, jewelry and this year even a stetson. As is traditional the collection is sent to one of our chosen charities each year, and it is a pleasure to report that, with gift-aid added, the sum of £320 was sent to Christian Aid for the DEC Middle East Humanitarian Appeal. A letter of thanks was received for the donation.

Solar Panels Update

At the end of February, by the time this magazine is published, the solar panels will have been in service for 13 years. We have already generated 43,757Kwh of electricity over that time saving 24,000Kg of Carbon Dioxide being produced, and have been rewarded with payments of over £23,400 for doing so.

All good things eventually come to an end – but in this case not for another 12 years.

Bruce Lane

First Wednesday Walks

The December walk was organised by John and Sylvia. Meeting up at Whitegate railway station café the 12 walkers enjoyed a much appreciated coffee and



biscuits courtesy of John before heading off along the Whitegate Way (the old railway line) in the Winsford direction before retracing our steps. After completing the physical exercise for the day, we then made our way to the Hanging Gate for a well-deserved meal, where we were joined by Betty Knight, before moving on to Sylvia and John's home for mince pies, cake and coffee, so to begin our Christmas celebrations.

Words by Bruce



January's first Wednesday Walk was cancelled because of the snow, and Anthony and Heather agreed to lead the walk in February instead.

Wednesday Walk 5th February 2025. Ten walkers completed a 6k , 3.5 mile, walk around Delamere Forest, which was postponed from January due to inclement weather. Congratulations must go to the group for completing this distance, but I think it was helped by the coffee stop at approx. half distance. The weather was a bright fine February day. We started from

Barnsbridge Gates Car Park following a route around the edge of Blakemere to the Visitor Centre & returned along the famous Gruffalo Trail, see photos.

The only downside to the day was that we were missing four of our group due to injuries incurred during the icy weather, so we wish them all a speedy recovery.



Words and Photos from Anthony

Future walks are planned for

March 5th led by Richard & Di

April 2nd led by Garry & Vaughan

May 7th led by Peter and Sheila

Hope to see you there.

Bruce

Lane

A Marvellous Musical Evening

There was hardly a vacant seat in the house when five talented musicians played to raise money for the North West Air Ambulance and 'Lifted' on February 8th.

The concert was arranged by Michael Gough and commenced with Duo Piacevole playing a mixture of classical music and modern music adapted to a classical style. The two ladies were excellent guitarists and got everyone in a peaceful, relaxed mood before the novel combination of Michael Gough (guitarist) and Daniel Axworthy (violinist) took the stage. Many of the pieces were composed by Michael for the guitar and everyone was enthralled to hear Daniel improvising accompaniments. As Daniel said 'it's never the same twice'.

This was followed by a refreshment break organised by Lesley Gough and enhanced by delicious traybakes made by Jocelyn of Cheshire Cakes.

Keith Taggart completed the evening with many well-known folk, country and americana pieces that had everyone toe or finger tapping as they sang along. Everyone went home envious of the musicians' skills.

The evening raised £1360(including gift aid) enabling £635 to be sent to the North West Air Ambulance and £725 to 'Lifted'. Congratulations to the organisers, musicians and guests for making such a memorable, happy and fun evening.

Ruth Lane



The NW Air Ambulance receiving its cheque for £635 from the proceeds of the concert plus gift aid at the café on February 18th.

Shelagh Salter's daughter, Emma, works for Lifted. See photo on page 3 [Lifted operates in the heart of the community in Wythenshawe, South Manchester. They provide social/respite and individual support for parent carers of children and adults with learning

disabilities and autism]

James Dale Memorial

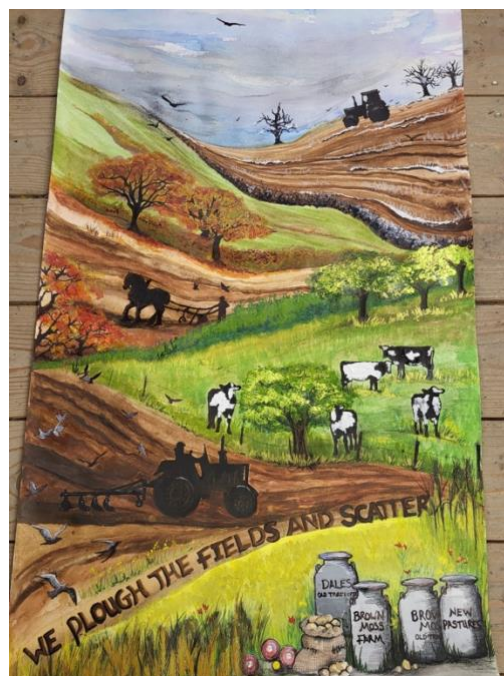
At James' funeral, the service sheet requested that any donations should be towards a Dale memorial to go in the Church. Shortly after the funeral Vicky and Hazel approached the Church to seek permission to install a family memorial. The idea was developed of a glass picture, 1 meter by 60cm, to be mounted in the church and a design was developed with Jenny, an artist with a studio in Bradley Lane, Frodsham.

The design was taken to the November Church Council and approved, and the family agreed the location with Peter Levitt to be in the entrance porch on the High Street side where it would be lit by natural daylight.

The design with the strap line 'We Plough the Fields and Scatter' shows the 4 seasons of the farming year with ploughs and tractors and of course James' cows.

The bottom right shows some of James' activities and passions.

The memorial is now under construction for installation later in the year.



Church Calendar Spring 2025

Date	Time	Preacher	Activity
March			
2 nd	10.45am	Neville Ford	Morning worship
4 th	10.00am		Community Café in Open Door Room
5 th	10.00am		First Wednesday Walk
7 th	1.30pm		World Day of Prayer service at Main Street Community Church, Frodsham
9 th	10.45am	Revd Peter Levitt	Lent 1 – morning worship with communion
11 th	10.00am		Community Café in Open Door Room
11 th	7.30pm		Circuit Meeting at Helsby
15 th	10.00am		Coffee Plus
16 th	10.45am	Sian Davidson	Lent 2 – morning worship
18 th	10.00am		Community Café in Open Door Room
23 rd	10.45am	Rosemary Wass	Lent 3 – morning worship
25 th	10.00am		Community Café in Open Door Room
25 th	2.00pm		Pastoral Committee Meeting at Howell Croft
26 th	12.15pm		'Soup and Pud' Lunch

30 th	10.45am	Elizabeth Holmes	Lent 4 - worship
31 st	All day		Norley School Prayer Day at our church
April			
1 st	10.00am		Community Café in Open Door Room
1 st	7.00pm		Church Council
2 nd	10.00am		First Wednesday Walk
6 th	10.45am	Andrew Ellams	Morning worship
8 th	10.00am		Community Café in Open Door Room
12 th	10.00am		Coffee Plus
13 th	10.45am	Judy Ford	Lent 5 – Palm Sunday morning worship
15 th	10.00am		Community Café in Open Door Room
18 th	11.00am	Revd Peter Levitt	Good Friday worship
19 th	10.00am		Decorate the church for Easter
20 th	10.45am	Revd Sue Levitt	Easter Day - worship with communion
22 nd	10.00am		Community Café in Open Door Room
27 th	10.45am	Revd Gordon Greswell	Church Anniversary – morning worship - US with The Hurst at Norley
29 th	10.00am		Community Café in Open Door Room
30 th	12.15pm		'Soup and Pud' Lunch
May			
4 th	10.45am	John Evans	Morning worship
6 th	10.00am		Community Café in Open Door Room
6 th	7.30pm		Preachers' Business Meeting
7 th	10.00am		First Wednesday Walk
10 th	9.30am		Synod in North Staffordshire Circuit
11 th			Start of Christian Aid Week
11 th	10.45am	Revd Ken Walker	Morning worship with communion
13 th	10.00am		Community Café in Open Door Room

17 th			End of Christian Aid Week
18 th	10.45am	John Bell	Morning worship
20 th	10.00am		Community Café in Open Door Room
21 st	12.15pm		'Soup and Pud' Lunch
24 th	10.00am		Coffee Plus
25 th	10.00am	Andrew Ellams	US at The Hurst
27 th	10.00am		Community Café in Open Door Room
June			
1 st	10.45am		Morning Worship with Annual Church Meeting and Communion
4 th	10.00am		First Wednesday Walk
4 th	7.30pm		Preachers' Meeting
10 th	7.30pm		Circuit Meeting
24 th	7.00pm		Church Council Meeting

Update from the Spiritual Committee

Why not come to church during lent and prepare yourself for Easter? Hope to see you there.

The lent liturgy will be as follows

9th March – Lent 1 – a Crown of Thorns

Luke 4: 5-7, Matthew 27: 29

Lord, you were tempted by power and wealth and authority. Help us when we get our priorities wrong. Remind us again that you chose the way of the cross, and the crown of thorns you bore is indeed a sign of a very different kingship.

16th March - Lent 2 – a Royal Robe

Luke 13: 31, Luke 23: 11

Lord, you knew rejection and ridicule throughout your life. Help us when we are tempted to put others down, or when we suffer rejection ourselves. Remind us all that we are special to you, and that God loves us as we are.

23th March – Lent 3 – the Whip

Luke 13: 3, John 2: 14-15

Lord, you showed your righteous anger when men acted unfairly. Help us when we are tempted to put our own needs, our own gain, before the good of others. Remind us that your kingdom is based on justice and love. May we turn back to you and to your ways.

30th March – Lent 4 – the Chalice and the Bread

1 Corinthians 13: 13, John 3: 16, Luke 22: 19-20

Lord, you showed your great love for us by giving up your life. Help us when our love falls short. On this day when we celebrate the love of mothers, remind us once again of your great love for us and for all the world.

6th April - Lent 5 – a Bag of Coins

John 12: 3-4, Matthew 26: 14-15

Lord, you understood the corrupting power of money. Help us when we fail to use our worldly goods wisely and well. Remind us that you said we cannot serve God and money, and that real treasure is not to be found in what we possess.

13th April – Lent 6 – a Palm Branch, Hammer & Nails

Matthew 21: 9, Mark 15: 11-13

Lord, you remained faithful to your Father, whatever the crowds did to you. Help us when we are fickle in our relationship with you. Remind us that you are always constant, and that you will always be there for us, no matter what.

20th April – EASTER DAY – an Empty Tomb

But now the cross stands empty. We have reached the end of our journey. And we find that the tomb which held him is empty too. Because today Jesus is no longer dead, but alive.

Alleluia! Jesus Christ is risen!

He is risen indeed! Alleluia!



Come and help decorate the church for Easter
10am Saturday April 19th

Easter Services



Good Friday

11.00am Revd Peter Levitt

Easter Sunday

10.45am Revd Sue Levitt
– Communion

Everyone welcome



Church Council Meeting – Tuesday 1st April



- The next Church Council meeting will be held at the Church on Tuesday 1st April, starting at **7pm**.
- Please let Lesley Gough know if you cannot attend, or if you have any matters you would like raised as 'other business'. Thank you!

Norley Community Café Update February 2025

We are open and you are welcome!

The Open Door Café

Every Tuesday, 10am – 12 noon



Come along for...

- ✓ *A hot drink, delicious cake and biscuits (No charge – donations only if wished)*
- ✓ *Good company and friendly chat. Come on your own or come with friends – there is a warm friendly welcome for everyone!*
- ✓ *Regular 'drop ins' with local Councillor, Gillian Edwards, and our local Parish Councillors and Community Police Officer; occasional craft activities, and more...*

Since opening in September last year, our Tuesday mornings have become steadily busier! We have been pleased to welcome regular visitors as well as those who are passing by and drop in for a hot drink coffee and a chat.

Our team of friendly volunteers (from Norley Methodist Church and neighbours from in and around the village) have enjoyed meeting many people from the village and surrounding area and having some great conversations! Do come along and join us if you can!

The i-travel service now stops by the Church – please request the 'Norley Methodist Church' stop.

A member of the Places of Welcome network



Soup and pudding lunch

Wed 26th March

Wed 30th April

Wed 21st May

at 12.15pm



Everyone welcome!

(Please contact Lesley via info@norleymethodistchurch.org.uk to reserve your place)

COFFEE +

10am – 12 noon

15th March

12th April

24th May

**Come and join us for Coffee,
Cakes, Cheese Scones, quizzes
and great conversation.**



Annual Church Meeting– Sunday 1st June

The Annual Church Meeting will follow the morning service on Sunday 1st June.

Everyone who attends Norley Methodist Church is invited to attend and to be part of the discussion where we look back over the year and consider key issues for our Church, agree which external charities we will support, and elect our Stewards and Church Council members for the coming year.

Please come along and be part of the conversation!



Property Matters

The property work since the last Outreach has been about progressing the approved work for 2024/2025 agreed at the Church Council

Get the Bees nest removed from the rear of the storeroom. A local expert has been engaged to remove the bees in April once the weather has warmed up sufficiently and a time and price agreed.

Make a trench along the rear wall in the neighbour's garden well below the dampproof course and fill with gravel. Following discussions with Martin and Sophie, John and Lewis have completed this work, and with approval from the CLT have extended the trench along the outside walls of the Vestry and kitchen. The rear walls are drying out rapidly. It appears a trellis for the neighbour's plants will not be required.

Make good the bricks and mortaring at the base of the wall. Work complete including along the sides of the church near the air bricks.

The Wi-Fi once installed will be set up to run the heating. It turned out that Fusion Fibre could not supply Wi-Fi to the church and should never have accepted the order. To get an alternative quote the church had to be registered with Royal Mail (this had not been done in 1882 or ever since). Once registered, BT were able to quote at an acceptable cost (£29.95 +VAT per month) and the CLT approved the 3 year contract. The equipment has been delivered, but the installation failed on February 7 due to an incorrect routing for the supply which has been rescheduled for the 19th. It failed on the 19th again because of internal miscommunications within BT/Openreach and a further date is awaited.

Spraying the wall with water repellent clear paint and Getting the woodwork painted that was not completed in the recent external redecoration will be tackled once the bees have been removed.

Inspection of the flat roof revealed that one of the skylights needs to be replaced, and larger draining gutters are required

Bruce, John and

Lewis



Christian Aid Week – 11th-17th May 2025

No one should have to live without the hope of a better life

It's easy to feel powerless when we hear of the overwhelming challenges caused by global conflict, climate emergencies, injustice and exploitation.

Christian Aid believes that no one should have to lose their children to malnutrition or disease – when the means to save them are within our reach. No one should have to live without the hope of a better life, when there are simple and practical ways for people like Sadeq, from Afghanistan, to lift themselves out of poverty.

Sadeq was a proud shepherd before war and insecurity meant he and his family had to move to Herat. Left paralysed from a mine explosion Sadeq had little choice but to beg to feed his family.

“Other than this aid, there is no help for my family. Without it there would be no food tonight. The biggest problem my family faces is poverty and half of the Afghan population share this with us.”

Too many people throughout the world are living in extreme poverty – people like Sadeq who is no different to us, except for the circumstances of his country and the impossible odds he faces every day of his life.

If you can, donate now at:

[Believe in the Possible Appeal - CAM-007817 | Christian Aid](#)

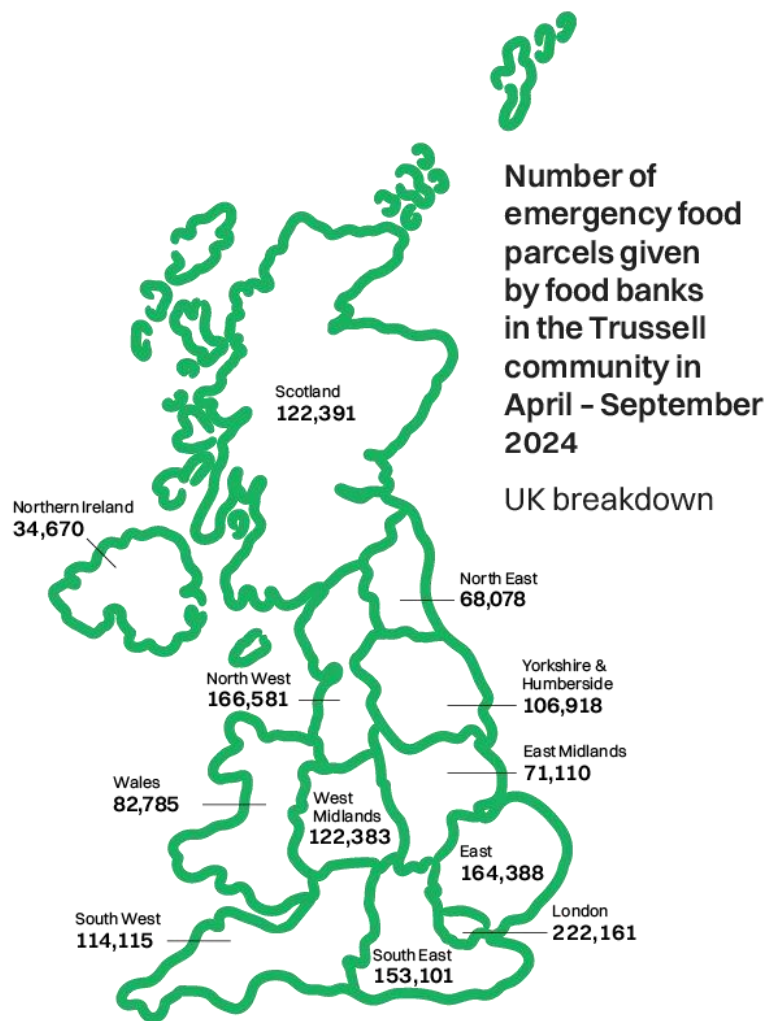
The Trussell Trust reported that more than 1.4 million emergency food parcels were distributed to people experiencing hardship between 1 April and 30 September 2024. This is 69% higher than the same period five years ago.

Families with children were most affected, with 63% of parcels going to households with children aged 0-16. More than half a million emergency food parcels were distributed for children.

More than 277,000 people visited a food bank in the Trussell community for the first

Our shopping list

- Tinned meat / fish
- Tinned potatoes/ veg
- Tinned tomatoes
- Instant coffee
- Cuppa Soups
- Instant Noodles
- UHT fruit juice/Milk
- Instant pasta (Pasta and Sauce)
- Pasta in Sauce
- Tinned custard
- Tinned fruit
- Biscuits and small treats
- Jams and Spreads
- Coffee
- Toiletries



time between April '24 and September 24.

Your continued support for the Food Bank via monetary donations or food and other essential items is greatly appreciated. The Food Bank shopping list provides some ideas for the items which are particularly welcome.

Lesley Gough

Coffee and Flower Rotas

March – May
2025



Date		Preacher	Flowers	Coffee
March	2 nd	Neville Ford	Heather	Heather & Anthony
March	9 th	Peter Levitt - Communion	Christine	Mary & John
March	16 th	Sian Davidson	Lesley	Vaughan & Yvonne
March	23 rd	Rosemary Wass	Ruth L	Mike & Gay
March	30 th	Elizabeth Holmes	Alison	Alison & Yvonne
April	6 th	Andrew Ellams	Ruth H	Di & Richard
April	13 th	Judy Ford – Palm Sunday	Gay	Heather & Anthony
April	18 th	Peter Levitt – Good Friday	Hazel	-
April	20 th	Sue Levitt – Easter - Communion	Everyone	Mike & Gay
April	27 th	Gordon Gresswell - Church Anniversary	Beryl	Mary & John
May	4 th	John Evans	Eileen	Alison & Yvonne
May	11 th	Ken Walker - Communion	Heather	Di & Richard
May	18 th	John Bell	Ruth L	Vaughan & Yvonne
May	25 th	US at The Hurst		

Norley Church Stewards Rota

March – May 2025

Date			Preacher	Communion	Musician	Stewards		
						Vestry	Welcome	Communion
March	2 nd		Neville Ford		Jean	Lewis & John	Yvonne	
March	9 th	Lent 1	Peter Levitt	Communion	Jean	Philip & Mary	Mike & Gay	Alison & Yvonne
March	16 th	Lent 2	Sian Davidson		Lesley	Lewis & John	Alison	
March	23 rd	Lent 3	Rosemary Wass		Jean	Ruth & Bruce	Philip	
March	30 th	Lent 4	Elizabeth Holmes		Lesley	Bruce & Mary	Vaughan	
April	6 th	Lent 5	Andrew Ellams		Alan Wright	Philip & Lesley	Yvonne	
April	13 th	Palm Sunday	Judy Ford		Jean	Ruth & Lesley	Philip	
April	18 th	Good Friday at 11am	Peter Levitt		John	Ruth & Bruce	Mike & Gay	
April	20 th	Easter Day	Sue Levitt	Communion	Lesley	Ruth & Lewis	Oliver	Alison & Yvonne
April	27 th	Church Anniversary	Gordon Gresswell		John	Lewis & John	Alison	
May	4 th		John Evans		Jean	Philip & Mary	Vaughan	
May	11 th		Ken Walker	Communion	Saro	Philip & Mary	Oliver	Alison & Yvonne
May	18 th		John Bell		Jean	Bruce & Lesley	Yvonne	
May	25 th	US at The Hurst			No stewards required			

