

CHILDREN & FAMILIES...

- ❖ The next **Stay and Play** will be on Saturday 18th January, with an animals theme. There will be a bouncy castle, crafts and refreshments. Please feel free to invite anyone who you think might enjoy it, and if you're able to help on the day please let Jacque know (07412 124 310). As part of Stay and Play we have a café area, where we sell cakes. It would be lovely if there were some homemade cakes, so if anyone feels able to make a cake/buns for 18th January, that would be much appreciated.
- ❖ The next **Funday** is on Friday 21st February 10am-4pm. If you're able to help on the day (either morning, afternoon, or both) please let Jacque know. If you'd like to book-in your child (5-11yrs old), the booking link is open (but not yet externally advertised): <https://forms.gle/MG4trhgqusFvXZ2m6>
- ❖ A massive thank you to everyone who supports or is involved in the work with families and children in this church, be it a physical presence at an event, collecting supplies, prayer or another way. It wouldn't be the same without you.

PRAYER POINTS...

- ❖ For those of our church family who are ill at the moment, particularly for Louise.
- ❖ For new room hire bookings so that our income will still be on budget. Two regular users have stopped or reduced their sessions at Wesley Hall, leaving us with a shortfall.
- ❖ For the Leadership Team meeting on Monday 20th January.
- ❖ For the gospel choir concert coming up; that people will come along and would have a good time!

If you have any prayer points to include in the newsletter, please pass them on to the editor (see contact details at bottom of page).

AND FINALLY...

❖ **New Offering Envelopes**

The new offering envelopes for 2020 are now available to pick up at the back of church. People give regularly to Wesley Hall either by standing order (bank transfer) or by using the weekly offering envelopes. We are also able to claim Gift Aid on nearly all of the donations we receive, which makes your gift worth 25% more, at no extra cost to you. If you have any questions or would like to start giving to Wesley Hall, please see Matt.

❖ **Thank You from Sue Mills:**

A big 'thank you' to everyone for the cards, flowers, prayers and donations following Brian's death. £1,285 has been raised for the activity fund at Moorend Place, which will help them to provide outings, theatre trips and activities for the residents. God bless you all, Sue and family.

❖ **Photo Board**

We have a photo board at the back of church with pictures of all of our Wesley Hall church family. If you are not on the board and would like to be, please see Andrew Gray or Matt Irons. If you are not sure who they are, take a look at the board!

Dear Friends,

First, may I wish you all a very Happy New Year, and many blessings as we move into 2020, I realise that I am a little late in doing so, but the sentiment is the same. I do hope that you have all had a mostly enjoyable and peaceful Christmastime, I was sorry not to be with you, but due to personal illness that just wasn't possible.

It was my personal illness that has had a knock on effect going forward, and while we had planned to hold conversations on the God in Love Unites Us report that has been sent out to the whole of the Connexion by the Conference for consultation in January we have not had time to properly prepare for these. Therefore, I am offering two dates on Thursdays the 5th and 12th March, for us to consider the report. It covers all aspects of human relating and asks us to make some responses, which we can do both together if we wish to, and as individuals. Copies of the report will be available after church on Sunday, and can also be found online, along with some more information here:

<https://www.methodist.org.uk/about-us/the-methodist-church/marriage-and-relationships-2019/the-2019-marriage-and-relationships-report/>

Apologies because it is rather a long web-address. Alongside the report, we also have leaflets from MET (Methodist Evangelicals Together) and from Dignity and Worth (a group who affirm those in the LGBTQI community and their supporters) I would encourage you to read all of the available materials prayerfully and carefully.

The purposes of the consultation are not to change anybody's mind on any of the topics contained in the report, which include, marriage, singleness, cohabitation, divorce, and same-sex partnerships, all of which are treated with compassion and care. The questions we are being asked are about how we might live together as Methodist people with differing opinions and views.

I am very happy to talk to anybody about my own stance on all these areas of human relating, but not with a view to changing your mind, but with the desire to listen to you and respect who and where you are. I believe that this would very much be Jesus way, and that when he called people to follow him that he was calling them to a transformative journey that would be different for each one. The gospels have no one size fits all blueprint for salvation, beyond the deep call to love and to serve one another.

I do encourage you to come to this consultation meetings which will be held at Wesley Hall on Thursdays 5th March & 12th March: 7:00pm for refreshments; 7:30pm start; finish at 9:30pm.

As we prepare for this meeting let us hold one another in love and in care.

Peace and blessings

Sally

(Reverend Sally Coleman)