



# Cole Street Methodist Church

## January 2025 Newsletter

Darby End, Netherton, Dudley, DY2 9PA

part of the Dudley &amp; Netherton Methodist Church Circuit


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### January 2025

## Welcome

Welcome to our monthly Church Newsletter.

Take a look in this edition to see what is happening in the life of Cole Street and in the wider Dudley & Netherton Circuit.

Remember to keep a check on our website and social media pages for the latest updates and news across the coming month. You are welcome to join us online via our social pages as well as at church in person.



Scan the QR code with your mobile device to visit our website

## Join us online


[www.colestreetchurch.org.uk](http://www.colestreetchurch.org.uk)

[info@colestreetchurch.org.uk](mailto:info@colestreetchurch.org.uk)

[@CSMChurch](https://www.twitter.com/CSMChurch)

[Cole Street Church](https://www.facebook.com/ColeStreetChurch)


Please consider the environment. Could you recycle your newsletter or, even better, pass it onto someone else to read?

**'A warm welcome awaits you at our Church.'**

## Regular Activities

Mondays	9:00am & 10:30am	Slimming World*
	5:30pm & 7:00pm	Slimming World*
Tuesdays	7:00pm	Body Combat*
Wednesdays	1:00pm	Toddler Group
Thursdays	10:30am	Zumba*
	7:00pm	Legs, Bums & Tums*
Fridays	6:00pm	Circuit Youth Group (check calendar)
Saturdays	10:00am	Working Party
Sundays	10:30am	Morning Worship & Sunday School
	6:00pm	Evening Circuit Service (check location)

\* = external group hiring our facilities

## Dates for your diary

- Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> January | 10:00am | Working Party – Church Tidy-up
- Friday 10<sup>th</sup> January | 6:00pm | Circuit Youth Group
- Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> January | 6:00pm | Phill Bridgewater 25 Years of Local Preaching
- Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> January | 1:00pm | Toddler Group Reopens
- Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> January | 11:00am | Ways & Means Fundraising Meeting
- Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> January | 10:30am | All-age, Café-style Worship
- Friday 24<sup>th</sup> January | 6:00pm | Circuit Youth Group
- Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> January | 10:00am | End of month Working Party



## Please remember in your prayers...

*Lillian Pallett, Marion Cooper, June Smith, Alice Parker, Graham Brain, Marion Davies, Anne Farrell, Steven (Bridgewater), Peter & Hilda Bick, Mark Wood & Emma Bailey.*

*We also pray for the family and friends of the late Angie Chand & of the late Margaret Willetts.*

Please pray for all those known to us individually who are ill or in need at this time.

## Birthdays, Celebrations & Congratulations

A very happy birthday from all the Cole Street family to the following people who are celebrating their special day during January (date in brackets):

*Vicki T-S (17<sup>th</sup>) & Maggie D (23<sup>rd</sup>).*

A very happy birthday, and may God Bless each of you.

## In this edition...

- Preaching Plan
- Flower Rota
- Cleaning
- Foodbank News
- Circuit Dates
- LPWL long service award
- Foil & Cling Film
- Cold Compresses
- Property Update
- Winter Works
- Sewer Update
- Wayside Pulpit

## View our Sunday Order of Service(s) online via our website

You will notice a 'QR' code pinned to the welcome desk when you arrive on Sundays. If you scan this graphic with your smartphone's camera, you will be able to view the order of service(s) for that Sunday and be able to follow along during the service.

Alternatively, you can visit: [www.colestreetchurch.org.uk/order-of-service](http://www.colestreetchurch.org.uk/order-of-service)

## Preaching Plan

### January 2025

#### 05.01.25 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Christmas

10:30am - Morning Worship led by Brenda Guest including Sunday School

6:00pm - Sunday@6 at Central led by Andrew Biggs

#### 12.01.25 – 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Epiphany

10:30am - Morning Worship including Holy Communion led by Bill Jones including Sunday School

6:00pm – Evening Circuit Worship at Cole Street led by Rev. David Alford including 25 Years Local Preacher Award

#### 19.01.25 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany

10:30am – All-age, Café-style Worship led by Peter Roberts

4:00pm – Prayer for Christian Unity Service at Central

#### 26.01.25 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany

10:30am - Morning Worship led by Richard French including Sunday School

6:00pm - Evening Circuit Worship at Woodside led by Martin Rider

## Flower Rota – January 2025

January 5 | by Val Priest & Heather Trevis in memory of Jenny Newman

January 12 | by Glenda & Brian Drew in memory of Florence & Harry Townsend

January 19 | by Sandra & Terry Jewkes in memory of Lily & Jack Gwinnell

January 26 | by Jean Dunning



The flower rota for the forthcoming year (to August 2025) is available online via our website (click the 'resources' tab and then 'rotas & policies' tab). If you need to make any changes, please speak to Wendy.

## Circuit Dates

Future Circuit Dates:

- 08.01.25 – 11:00am – Circuit Prayer Meeting – venue tbc
- 12.01.25 – 6:00pm – Service including LPWL 25 Year award to Phill Bridgewater at Cole Street
- 19.01.25 – 4:00pm – Prayer for Christian Unity at Central, Dudley
- 30.01.25 – 7:00pm – CLT Meeting at Central
- 12.03.25 – 7:00pm – LPWL at St. James'
- 17.03.25 – 7:00pm – Circuit Meeting at Central

## FoodBank

We continue to collect donations towards the work of the Black Country Food Bank. Please place your physical donation into the box which can be found on the stage front.

If you prefer, you can make a monetary donation online on their Just Giving page:

[www.justgiving.com/blackcountryfoodbank](http://www.justgiving.com/blackcountryfoodbank).

Please continue to support the Food Bank if you are able. Our thanks again to Liz & Gary for transporting our donations to the office in Brierley Hill. Thank you to everyone who supports our collections.

We have had an update from the Foodbank for October to December inclusive and together we donated 108.5kgs of food and 7.1kgs of non-food meaning a total of 217 food parcels and 8 toiletry packs could be provided.

**Items in need are:** Tea bags box of 40s, 1ltr cartons of fruit juice, 1ltr bottle of cordial/squash, long life milk, tinned spaghetti, tinned veg, instant noodles, tinned chopped tomatoes & breakfast cereal.

**Non-food donations:** bars of soap, toilet roll, shower gel & roll-on deodorant.

Thank you for your continued support.



**Remember to keep in touch with what is happening round the Circuit by visiting the website:  
[www.dudleymethodist.org.uk](http://www.dudleymethodist.org.uk)**

The Dudley & Netherton Methodist Circuit is about the Methodist people of God around Dudley and Netherton.

Information about the Circuit includes:

- Information about the churches in our circuit,
- Where to find the church in our circuit,
- A calendar showing what's going on throughout the circuit in events,
- News articles about upcoming and past events,
- The preaching plan,
- And much, much more.



## The power of prayer...

Peter and Val Bratt have now come off the prayer list as their health has progressed well and they have thanked us for our prayers.

## Circuit Evening Service at Cole Street – Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2025, 6pm

Our good friend Phill Bridgewater is reaching a significant milestone in his work of local preacher achieving 25 years of preaching. At this Circuit Service at Cole Street, Phill will be recognised for his work and commitment in bringing of the Word. If you are able, please do be at Cole Street to support and congratulate Phill.

## Foil & Cling Film Fundraising

Orders for foil and cling film have now been completed for 2024 and have again contributed greatly to our fundraising. We continue to hold a small stock of both foil and cling film so if you need any, please speak to Jean Dunning who will be happy to assist.

## Cold Compresses

We now have two 'cold compresses' located in the fridge in the kitchen. These are to help in cases of first aid incidents involving a head bump. These are reusable compresses, so please ensure they are washed after use and placed back into the fridge to begin chilling again.

## Working Party

We continue to meet to help clean & maintain our church on Saturdays at 10am. It is a great time of fellowship as well as 'getting jobs done' and always includes a warm drink (or juice!) and a chocolate or biscuit (or three!).

Any help at any of the working parties will be very much appreciated. For more info, speak to our Property Secretary: David Moss.

The next dedicated working party will focus on high-level dusting and window cleaning which will be held on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> January 2025 at 10:00am. Any help would be greatly appreciated.

## Church Cleaning – We need your help!

Our church building gets used every day of the week for most weeks of the year which is fantastic. And while this generates funds to help us financially and allows people to come into the building throughout the week rather than just a Sunday, it does mean that church needs to be cleaned and maintained more. We need your help to make sure that church is clean and ready for Sundays and for the community to use through the week. We do have a great team of folks who meet on a Saturday at 10am however some weeks, with other commitments, workload or due to health, we have had some recent weeks where only 2 or 3 people have been available to prep the church for Sunday. This means, on some weeks, cleaning is very much reduced to prioritise sorting the church ready for Sunday. We are reluctant to hire cleaning companies due to the cost which this would bring so we are seeking extra volunteers who could help on occasional Saturdays at 10am to help with cleaning. There is no expectation, contract, or commitment, just a warm welcome in the company of others to complete practical jobs to continue and further our work for God's kingdom. If you feel called to help, or for more info, please speak to David Moss.

## Property Update - Sewers

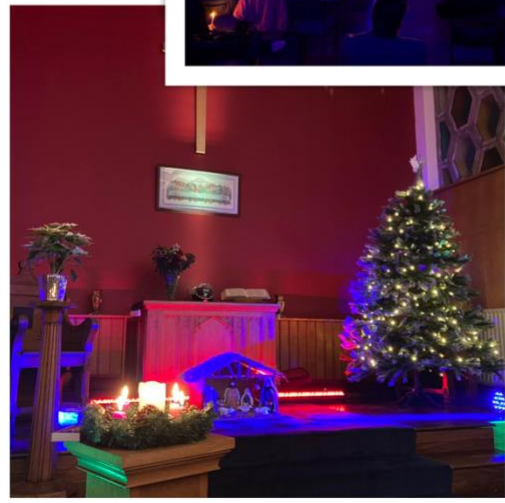
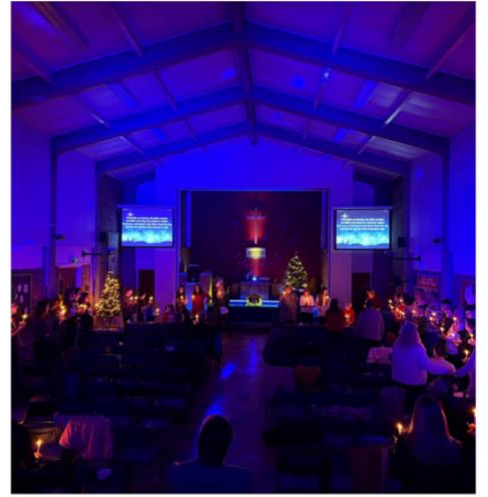
We have been informed by Severn Trent that work to replace the blocked sewer under the road of Cole Street is due to take place from the 10<sup>th</sup> February 2025. This will include the full closure of the main road and therefore keep an eye on our social pages or website for any further updates in terms of access etc.. In the meantime, Severn Trent are mitigating the issue by visiting our site weekly to clear the sewage drains and for this we thank them. If you notice any issues while using the church site, please inform David, our Property Secretary, as soon as possible. Thank you.

## Property Update – Winter Work

Our thanks to Gary & David who have completed the following work during the New Year period: the re-screeding of worn & cracked areas of floors in the Main Hall, Main Entrance, Vestibule, Passageway and Guild Room, securing of fixed assets in the ladies toilets, modifications to the vents in the Minister's Vestry to reduce draughts and filling of pot holes on the car park. Thanks chaps!

## Wayside Pulpit Project

As you may have noticed, the Wayside Pulpit (the large external noticeboard by the perimeter fence traffic lights) has succumbed to the New Year storm after being weakened by Storm Darragh and has fallen from the supports. The frame was very much life-expired prior to this and needed replacement. Our thanks again to Gary and David for salvaging the glass (which survived!) and various fittings from the car park. It is now a case of seeking volunteers to help build a new board ready for installation. We already have a new back-board for the structure and now it is a case of transferring parts from the old to the new. If you would like to help on this project, please speak to Gary or David Moss.



## Ways & Means Committee – Fundraising Group

The annual meeting of the Ways & Means Committee to discuss fundraising ideas for 2025 are meeting on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> January at 11:00am. 2024 was another bumper year of fundraising for Cole Street and this is really helping us to continue our work and worship in Darby End and the surrounding areas. For the second year running, with everyone working together, we were able to raise around £4000 for church funds. Although it is called a ‘committee’, the meeting is open to all and everyone is welcome to attend – particularly if you have some good ideas for fundraising or social events for 2025! Tea, coffee and biscuits provided if that helps!

## Snow & Ice risk – take care

With cold weather setting in, please be reminded to be cautious when moving around the site at Cole Street particularly if there is lying snow or frozen spells. Please be particularly cautious on the gradient on the rear car park and also on pathways around the building. Remember to keep a check on our social channels and website where we will post any amendments to services, meetings or events held at Cole Street in periods of inclement weather.



## Photocopier

To better comply with GDPR regulation and to better monitor usage across departments, the photocopier is now set up with log-in accounts. David M has emailed out to those with accounts created containing usernames and passwords and the Stewards have access to a communal account. If you require access to an account for the photocopier, and you haven’t yet been notified, please speak to David M.



## Our Mission Statement

The calling of the church is to respond to the gospel of God's love in church and in the following ways:

- through worship, increasing the awareness of God's presence and to celebrate God's love,
- through learning and caring to help people grow as Christians,
- through service by being a good neighbour to people and to challenge injustice,
- and through evangelism by making more followers of God.

We also seek to support the other churches within the Dudley & Netherton Circuit and seek to manage our financial and material resources in a responsible manner, ensuring the fabric of the building is appropriately maintained to afford a safe place in the heart of our community.

We seek to ensure a warm and sincere welcome to new individuals attending church and to provide an environment in which we achieve active Christian worship. Daily, we strive to demonstrate the love of God by forging closer and continued links with the local community and by working collaboratively with other denominations to proclaim the good news of God, our Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

## Church Contacts

Cole Street, Netherton, Dudley, West Midlands, DY2 9PA

website: [www.colestreetchurch.org.uk](http://www.colestreetchurch.org.uk) email: [info@colestreetchurch.org.uk](mailto:info@colestreetchurch.org.uk)

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### Minister including Pastoral Oversight of Cole Street

Rev. David Alford

Tel: 01384 869010

Mobile: 07913 062176

### Church Stewards & Associate Church Stewards

Mr. G. Moss, Mrs. G. Waters, Mrs. W. Goodwin, Mrs. H. Kiteley, Mr. D. Moss, Mrs. S. Jewkes, Mrs. R. Faulkner

### Church Council Secretary

Mrs. G. Waters

### Church Treasurers

Mrs. E. Ralph, Mrs. S. Holyoake

### Property Steward & Secretary

Mr. D. Moss

email: [property@colestreetchurch.org.uk](mailto:property@colestreetchurch.org.uk)

### Pastoral Secretary

Mrs. J. Dunning

### Cole Street Safeguarding Officer

Ms. C. Priest

### Notices Secretary

Mr. D. Moss

email: [notices@colestreetchurch.org.uk](mailto:notices@colestreetchurch.org.uk)

### Communion Stewards

Mrs. H. Kiteley, Mrs. J. Sheppard

Please send any items for consideration for the February 2025 Newsletter by email to David Moss by Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2025. email: [notices@colestreetchurch.org.uk](mailto:notices@colestreetchurch.org.uk)