

# THE RECORD

AUTUMN 2023



## CHURCH ROAD METHODIST CHURCH

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The **Methodist** Church Blackpool & South Fylde Circuit  
*Making Disciples: Transforming Lives and Communities*



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*Church Road Methodist Church Registered Charity No 1134109*

## FOR THE GIFTS OF HEAVEN IN THE FIELDS OF EARTH

For the gifts of heaven in the fields of earth,  
My soul will sing to the Lord.

For the fruitful lands as they yield their worth,  
My heart gives thanks to him.

We may plough the soil, we may plant the seed,  
But God will make it grow,

And the harvest comes from the tender goodness  
Of the Father's hand.

As the trade winds blow over thirsty plains,  
My soul will sing to the Lord,

And the storm clouds pour with reviving rains,  
My heart gives thanks to Him.

Every season whispers the mystery,  
The glorious rhythm of life,

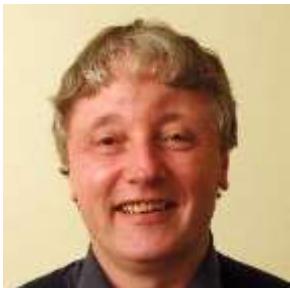
Till the harvest comes from the boundless goodness  
Of the Father's hand.

When the crops have failed and the fields are bare,  
My soul will cry to the Lord.

When the hungry know only death's despair,  
My heart will look to Him.

For the call goes out from the heart of God  
To share with those in need;

As we feed the world we reflect the goodness  
Of the Father's hand.



## **Letter from our new Minister Revd Andy Halstead**

Hi All

Just a quick introduction as I take over pastoral charge this month. My wife and I, Diane, came here last August from the Rochdale and Littleborough Circuit. I trained in Bristol and entered active ministry in 1989. I spent a few years out of full-time ministry following the break-up of my first marriage. Diane and I have between us 7 children and 7 grandchildren, some of whom live in the UK others in China, Spain and Germany.

I will have pastoral responsibility for four churches across the Fylde. As you will appreciate this presents challenges as to how we prioritise what we do and when. But trusting in God's wisdom and leading, we will seek together what is we can best do for the mission and fellowship of the churches across the Circuit.

Not having 'your' minister living on the doorstep I know for some may seem strange, but that has been my experience for many years now in Circuit life. The spread of churches and the workload carried, means we cannot always live in the ideal world. But be assured that though living in Blackpool I have always worked to the notion, that I try and give equal time to each of the churches under my pastoral care.

I am looking forward to getting to know you. If I do forget your name or get it wrong please correct me.

Every blessing

*Andy*

# WORSHIP SERVICES

## SEPTEMBER

|                            |   |
|----------------------------|---|
| <u>3<sup>rd</sup> Sep</u>  | <i>ACTIV8</i>   |
| 9.00 a.m.                  | Revd Andy Halstead  |
| <u>10<sup>th</sup> Sep</u> |   |
| 10.30 a.m.                 | Ms Julia Brooks   |
| <u>17<sup>th</sup> Sep</u> |   |
| 10.30 a.m.                 | Ms Janette Farley   |
| <u>24<sup>th</sup> Sep</u> | <b>HARVEST FESTIVAL</b>   |
| 10.30 a.m.                 | Revd Andy Halstead<br>including the celebration of Holy Communion |

## OCTOBER

|                            |   |
|----------------------------|---|
| <u>1<sup>st</sup> Oct</u>  | <i>ACTIV8</i>   |
| 9.00 a.m.                  | Revd Andy Halstead  |
| <u>8<sup>th</sup> Oct</u>  |   |
| 10.30 a.m.                 | Ms Adrienne Simpson   |
| <u>15<sup>th</sup> Oct</u> |   |
| 10.30 a.m.                 | Revd Andy Halstead  |
| <u>22<sup>nd</sup> Oct</u> |   |
| 10.30 a.m.                 | Mr David Turner   |
| <u>29<sup>th</sup> Oct</u> |   |
| 10.30 a.m.                 | Revd Stuart Wild<br>including the celebration of Holy Communion |

# WORSHIP SERVICES (cont'd)

## NOVEMBER

5<sup>th</sup> Nov

9.00 a.m.      ACTIV8:

Ms Judith Smith

12<sup>th</sup> Nov

10.30 a.m.      REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

Revd Andy Halstead

including the celebration of Holy Communion

19<sup>th</sup> Nov

10.30 a.m.      Ms Christine Pierce

26<sup>th</sup> Nov

10.30 a.m.      Mr Fred Jackson

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## ACTIV8



Our monthly informal service of early morning worship is on the first **Sunday of each month** at 9.00 a.m..

A time of warm fellowship with associated activities for children.

Followed by breakfast

## SUMMER FLOWER DEDICATIONS

### JUNE

- 4<sup>th</sup> Birthday memories of Gordon Porter
- 11<sup>th</sup> Loving birthday memories of Ross Wells
- 18<sup>th</sup> Birthday memories of Michael from Valerie  
Audrey Porter - Wedding Day memories of Gordon
- 25<sup>th</sup> Loving memories of Muriel Maddocks  
Birthday memories of Arthur Nicholson  
Loving memories of Margaret Richmond, Wilfred & Dorothy Lowe

### JULY

- 2<sup>nd</sup> In loving memory of Eric and Jean Currie  
Treasured memories of Vera Pate
- 30<sup>th</sup> Treasured memories of Conrad Pate  
Treasured Wedding Anniversary and birthday memories of Derek Rigby

### AUGUST

- 6<sup>th</sup> Diana Thompson - birthday memories of a dear Mummy & Daddy
- 13<sup>th</sup> Sylvia Dibble in loving memory of Audrey and their parents
- 20<sup>th</sup> Rosemary Wells – Wedding Anniversary memories  
Fond memories of Hannah Nicholson
- 27<sup>th</sup> The birthday of Margaret Joyce Knight



Everyone is welcome to join us for our

## HARVEST FESTIVAL

**SUNDAY 24 SEPTEMBER AT 10.30 am  
including the celebration of Holy Communion**

**led by Revd Andy Halstead**

to be followed by a simple Ploughman's Lunch.

The tradition of celebrating Harvest Festival in churches as we know it today is said to have begun in 1843, when the Reverend Robert Hawker invited parishioners to a special thanksgiving service for the harvest at his church at Morwenstow in Cornwall.



“Earth provides enough to satisfy every man’s need, but not everyman’s greed”

*Mahatma Ghandi*

# **LANCASHIRE METHODIST DISTRICT**

## **BIBLE ENCOUNTER EVENT ‘Hidden Treasures’**

*‘I will give you the treasures of darkness and riches hidden in secret places,  
so that you may know that it is I, the Lord, the God of Israel, who call you by your name.’  
Isaiah 45 v. 3*

**with the President of the Methodist Conference, Revd Gill Newton**



**SUNDAY 1 OCTOBER 2023 at 3.00 p.m.**

(followed by light refreshments)

**at LYTHAM METHODIST CHURCH**

The President has taken the theme of treasures and so each church is invited to speak about a treasure from their church. It can be interpreted however you wish; it can be an object; it can be a person; an activity or maybe something else. There are projection facilities and Wi-Fi at Lytham should we need them. We need to let Stuart Wild know by the beginning of September what our treasure will be so that he can shape the order of service appropriately. Speakers will have a maximum of 3 minutes!

**Please speak to Janette asap if you have an idea and/or would like to present it. (07958100041)**



## AUDREY DENT

## JOY WOODHEAD

*"I am the resurrection and the life, saith the Lord:  
he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live:  
and whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die."*



## BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE

Names of departed loved ones may be entered in the Book of Remembrance, on the day when loved ones are especially remembered. Please complete the details on one of the slips in the Church Foyer and hand to one of the Stewards if you would like a name to be included.

## Paws for thought 8

### Romans 10 v 14 - 17

First the heat and then the rain, I think some of us will be looking forward holidaying in sunny September. Of course, it is nothing new except when we look back over the years - why did our school holidays always seem so sunny. Was it a figment of our imagination, I don't know?

As I write I am just about to hang up my 'working shoes' and retire for the very last time. My imagination has taken me to late mornings in bed, not so many phone calls, or clock watching and meetings. Instead, it has taken me to long walks with Fimber my dog and all the hobbies that have been put on hold. Imagination is a wonderful thing. For a start I know Fimber will be bouncing in at 7am on the dot, he then goes back to sleep and I am left wide awake.

Only this Sunday I was reminded of the passage from Romans 10 v 15 'How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news' ok, perhaps not all feet are beautiful but we can use our imagination. We get the gist of what Paul is saying, so, perhaps on my walks I will have time to stand and talk, time to share, time to care, not just in my imagination but in reality. Faith comes from what we hear, and what is heard comes through the word of Christ. (verse 17).

StF418

*We have a gospel to proclaim,  
good news for all throughout the earth  
the gospel of a saviour's name  
we sing his glory, tell his worth.*

(by Edward Joseph Burns)

*Did someone mention  
a walk?*



Judith Smith



## THANK YOU TO JUDITH

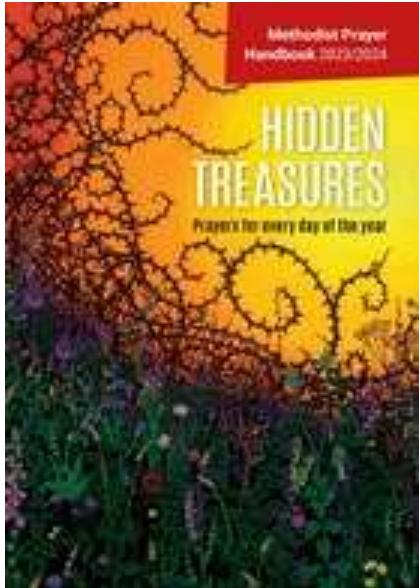
As many of you will know, Judith Smith will be retiring from her paid role as lay worker in the Blackpool and South Fylde Circuit at the end of August. During her five year appointment, she has shared in the responsibility for Church Road, The Drive and Freckleton churches, providing pastoral support and intentional faith development for the three churches.

Here at Church Road, Judith's contribution to Pastoral Care, Bible Studies, Activ8, Bumblebees and many other aspects has been considerable. Her ministry amongst us has been of great comfort to many of our congregation and her pastoral support for those now unable to come to church has been especially noteworthy. It is a measure of Judith's dedication that she has previously agreed to extend her contract twice!

As Judith retires from her position as lay worker, we offer her our sincere thanks for all her hard work and commitment to our community at Church Road. Furthermore, we are grateful that she will not be leaving us, but continuing to worship with us and remain in charge of pastoral care. She will also continue to serve as a local preacher in the circuit and we look forward to hearing further inspiration from her in the pulpit.

*Blest be the tie that binds  
our hearts in Christian love;  
the fellowship of kindred minds  
is like to that above.*

**John Fawcett (1740-1817)**



## METHODIST PRAYER HANDBOOK 2023/2024

### HIDDEN TREASURES

This year's Prayer Handbook's theme is 'Hidden Treasures', based on Isaiah 45:3, with further inspiration from Romans 8:22-29 and Psalm 139.

We talk easily about 'the light of Christ,' yet truly God is at work in the darkness, and in the most difficult of times. It can feel challenging to follow God when the way ahead seems less clear. But we believe that God's hidden treasures are present, often in the most unexpected places and unexpected people. While the prevailing narrative is decline, there is hidden potential for new growth in the Church and continuing to see God at work, even in the most marginalised of communities.

This handbook contains prayers for the Methodist Church to be the Church that God desires; and that explore how we should live out *Our Calling*, as we respond to the gospel of God's love in Christ through discipleship, worship and mission.

**If you would like a copy, please see Elaine Watts.**

*Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you*

**1 Thessalonians 5:16-18**

## CHURCH LIFE



The Church Life Group is made up of representatives from the various groups and activities taking place on our premises. We meet several times a year to share news, discuss any issues and plan activities and events both social and around the church calendar. The Group has continued to plan a series of events (mostly based around food!)

Our aim is to bring people together from both inside and outside the church for fellowship, often food and occasionally fund-raising, so that we can grow together as a church family.

On **11<sup>th</sup> June** we welcomed Rev Kevin Johnson and his wife Jane for our Church anniversary service, which was followed by a Jacob's Join lunch, many thanks to everyone who helped to make this a success.

As in previous years we served coffee and cakes for people watching the **St Anne's Carnival** procession on the **8<sup>th</sup> July**.

On **Wednesday August 16<sup>th</sup>** we held a successful afternoon tea in the



church. Visitors were provided with an excellent array of sandwiches, sausage rolls, cream scones, meringues and cakes accompanied by bottomless tea and coffee. A 'just for fun' quiz about cakes provided a conversation piece and a raffle boosted the funds.

Thanks to the generosity of both helpers and customers a total of **£466** was raised to send to Action for Children.



## Forthcoming events:

Following the harvest service on **Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> September** we will be serving a simple ploughman's lunch. Everyone is invited but to help with catering there will be a sign-up sheet at the back of Church in the weeks leading up to harvest.

As in previous years there will be a Christmas coffee morning and fayre, this will take place on **Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> November**. There will be a number of stalls, please see the separate notice to see how you can help to make this an enjoyable pre-Christmas event.

If you have any suggestions for activities or would like any further information about Church Life, please contact any member of the Church Life group.



Congratulations & Best Wishes to

**BERNARD WORSFOLD**

who celebrates his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday on 26  
September 2023

**DO YOU HAVE ANY SPECIAL FAMILY EVENTS OR CELEBRATIONS THAT YOU  
WOULD LIKE TO SHARE WITH OUR READERS?**

**PLEASE LET US KNOW VIA THE CHURCH OFFICE**

**[churchroadmethodist@gmail.com](mailto:churchroadmethodist@gmail.com)**



## BUMBLEBEES

BUMBLEBEES restarts after the summer break on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> September at our usual time 9.30a.m. - 11.30a.m. We meet in the church and the group is for babies and children 0-4 years with parent/carer.

The main aim of the group is for adults to meet and socialise with others and for the babies and toddlers to enjoy a wide selection of puzzles, craft activities and toys. These include a play house, slides, sit-in cars, building bricks, dolls, a train set, dressing-up clothes and much more.

At the end of last term, we said goodbye to several of the children who had been coming along to Bumblebees, as they are starting school this September. So, we'll have some spaces and will look forward to welcoming some new members this term.

If you, or anyone you know, is interested in joining Bumblebees, please text me on 07840 924882 to put your child's name down to reserve a place. The cost of each session is £2 for an adult plus one child (an extra £1 is payable for any additional child.) Refreshments are included.



*Lesley Turner*



## LADIES FELLOWSHIP AT THE DRIVE

Once again, The Drive ladies have invited us to join them at their meetings once a fortnight on Wednesday afternoons at 2.30 p.m. at The Drive Methodist Church. The Autumn programme is set out below:

### SEPTEMBER

- |                  |                                  |
|------------------|----------------------------------|
| 6 <sup>th</sup>  | Communion<br>Revd Janet Pybon    |
| 20 <sup>th</sup> | Fylde Coast Amnesty<br>Mike Reed |

### OCTOBER

- |                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| 4 <sup>th</sup>  | Wildlife and scenery in Namibia & South Africa<br>David Blair |
| 18 <sup>th</sup> | Canary in a cage<br>Sylvia Turner                             |

### NOVEMBER

- |                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| 1 <sup>st</sup>  | Games Afternoon   |
| 15 <sup>th</sup> | Reflections on my dancing life as a Tiller Girl<br>Bez Cooper |
| 29 <sup>th</sup> | Lancashire Memories Part 2<br>Jim O'Donnell                   |

### DECEMBER

- |                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| 6 <sup>th</sup>  | Concert by Ann Shepherd's Choir<br>followed by mince pies and a cup of tea. |
| 20 <sup>th</sup> | Christmas Party   |

For more information, please contact Elaine Watts - Tel: 722302.



## **Do your bit...energy savings within church, the community hub and even our own homes!**

With ever increasing energy prices we need to all help each other by saving costs where we can. In turn many of these tips also help to reduce our Carbon Footprint also! Some simple things could be;

### **At Church Road;**

We could potentially save £100+ (£60 in the home) a year just by remembering to turn appliances off standby mode. Almost all appliances can be turned off at the plug without upsetting their programming.

Our church is obviously an old building so we naturally lose heat through draughts around doors, windows and gaps around the floor etc. It's important therefore to report any maintenance issues you spot. You can do this via the job reporting slips in the church office.

Many of our lights in the community hub are on sensors; however, in older parts of the building (and in our homes) turning your lights off when you're not using them or when you leave a room, can save you around £25+ a year on your annual energy bills.

### **At home;**

- You can save around £30 a year on your energy bill just by using your washing machine more carefully; use your washing machine on a 30-degree cycle instead of higher temperatures., you can even consider reducing your washing machine use by one run per week.

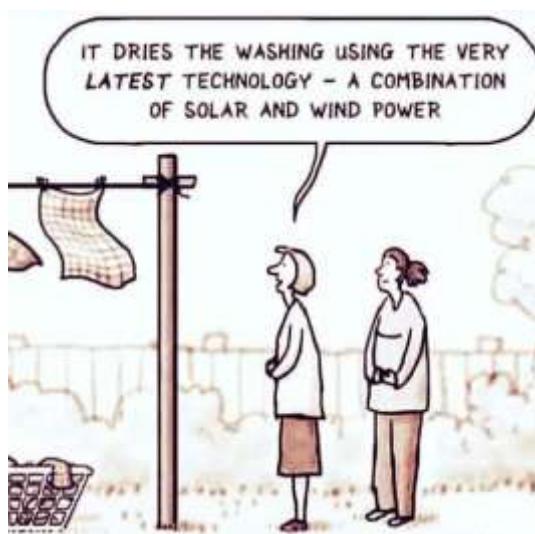
- Avoid using a tumble dryer for your clothes: dry clothes on racks inside where possible or outside in warmer weather, in turn this could save you around £60 a year.
- Keeping your shower time to just 4 minutes could save a typical household a massive £75 a year! Some of us might enjoy a long soak in the bath, but swapping just one bath a week with a 4-minute shower could save you £17 a year on your energy bills.
- Kettles are one of the most used appliances in the home but many of us will admit that we boil the kettle with more water than we're going to use. Avoiding overfilling the kettle could save yourself £12 a year.
- If you have a dishwasher only run it when it is full to reduce the amount of water you use. Reducing your dishwasher use by one run per week for a year could save you £15.
- Effective insulation of your hot water tank is important: you can benefit from increasing the insulation to a British Standard Jacket 80mm thick, this potentially can bring savings of £50+.

Working together helps support our church, community and our environmental footprint. Let's help our planet.

***Genesis 2:15 – “and the LORD God took the man, and put him into the Garden of Eden to dress [it] and to keep [it]”.***

Stats: EnergySavingTrust.org – August 2023

Marie Hawkins  
Property Steward



# TIME OUT NEWS AUTUMN 2023



*"Time Out is a faith based fellowship group for secondary school aged young people, encouraging them to explore their faith, what it means to them, how it relates to their daily lives and those of the local and worldwide community in which they live".*

This spring / summer two of our Time Out members have been competing in national and international sporting events. \*

In May, the Welsh Tae Kwan-Do Championships took place in Cardiff and one of our new members, Thomas O, took part and won a gold medal for his Sparring (Kyorugi).

In July Thomas and one of our long-standing members, Sophie H, both went



to the World Tae Kwan-Do Championships in Coventry. Thomas competed in the junior competition section and won a Gold Medal in the Tag Team Sparring and a Silver Medal for his Patterns. He is therefore a Welsh Champion in Individual Sparring and a World Champion in Tag Team Sparring for his age (14).

As a previous British Adult Green Belt Patterns Champion, Sophie competed against some stiff competition but sadly didn't place in the medals this year.

Many congratulations to them both on their perseverance, resilience and successes!

Closer to home, skills have also been developing and we were thrilled that our newest Church Rd members, Iona F and James L respectively completed training in the new church sound system and PowerPoint and have now supported both Activ8 and main church services using these skills. Our Calling in action! Well done both of you!

And finally, but by no means least, many many congratulations to Barnaby S (one of our long-standing Time Out members) who successfully completed his A levels this summer and heads off to Liverpool University in the autumn.

With his consent, we have liaised with the University chaplaincy team to enlist their support as Barnaby leaves our pastoral care at Church Road. We ask that you remember him and his family in your thoughts and prayers as he ...and they!... prepare for this new adventure.

## ***Caroline and Sharon***

*\*Surnames have been withheld to comply with Methodist Safeguarding procedures.  
Photograph with parental permission.*

## **AND MORE SUCCESS.....**

Oliver Squire, who has attended Church Road with his mum, Mandy Laird-Hall, has recently won the super jackpot in the World Backgammon Championship held in Monaco. Oliver has previously twice been part of the British team in the world championships, when they have won bronze and silver medals. Earlier in the year, he became a Grandmaster in Backgammon and is one of the youngest in the world. This year, Oliver has also taken part in a major backgammon summer camp in Japan at the invitation of the world's No 1 player Masayuki Mochizuki (Mochy).

All this in a university gap year, what an experience! Oliver returns to Durham University at the end of September for the final year of his maths degree. Well done Oliver and best of luck for your future studies.



## **Churches Together at St Anne's Carnival – 8<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> July**

Carnival weekend at St Anne's saw some rather mixed weather, but not enough to dampen the enthusiasm of local church members and friends who threw themselves into the happy spirit of the occasion.



The theme for this year's Carnival, was 'We do like to be beside the seaside'. Churches Together in St Anne's organised a walking float, and members of many of the churches joined in the parade – including St Thomas's, St Margaret's, St Anne's Parish, Fylde Christian Service Church, The Drive and Church Road Methodist Churches, St Alban's and Our Lady RC - along with the URC and its Junior Church, Messy Church and 'Starfishes' toddler group.

The theme allowed for much in the way of suitable Bible stories – with the miraculous catch of fish and the calming of storms being depicted with crafts and props made by the children in the weeks before the big day. A great deal of talent and imagination was evident from the preparations, and the walking float was awarded first prize by the judges in the Faith Groups & Charities section. 200 wooden fish were distributed to children watching the parade pass by.



**Rev Chris Scargill (St Thomas') and Janette Farley (Church Rd) with the Certificate**

Over the course of the weekend volunteers from the churches also helped out at the Churches Together stand in Ashton Gardens. A number of good conversations were had with visitors to the stall, donations were received for Christian Aid, children enjoyed making some crafts, numerous booklets and leaflets were taken away (along with some lollipops), information about the town's churches was shared, and prayer requests were received.



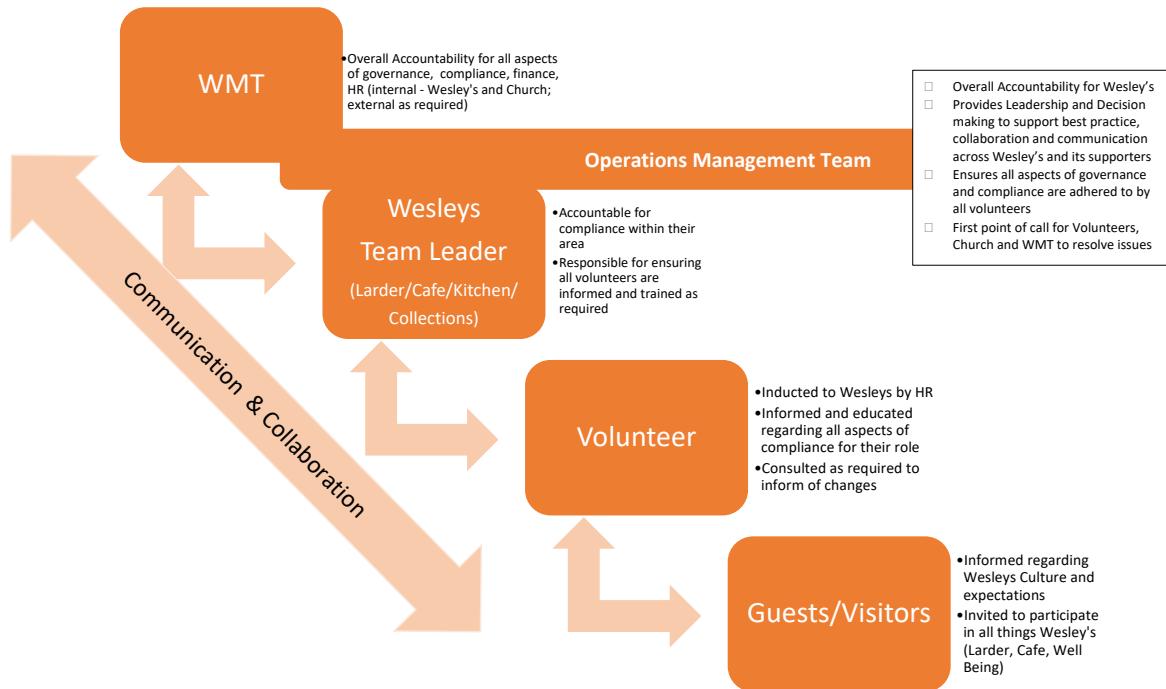
On both days proceedings were brought to a conclusion in the late afternoon, courtesy of some spectacular thunderstorms, but all agreed that it had been very worthwhile and rewarding – and not just for the 'Clifton Shield' which now has 'Churches Together 2023' engraved on it, and is doing the rounds of all the churches involved!

*By David Croall and Janette Farley*



Steve Moss and Fylde Christian Service Church's banner

## Wesley's Community Hub – Organisation overview



Wesleys Community Café & Larder update - June 2023

The above chart shows the organisation structure and accountabilities for the Café and Larder, including the Wesley's Management Team (WMT) which comprises representatives from the Church and Wesley's.

- **Wesley's Management Team** comprises representatives from the Church and Wesley's, with external representations as required. This team has overall responsibility for all aspects of governance, compliance and HR issues.
- **Wesley's Team Leader** is responsible for the Operations Management Team and has overall accountability for Wesley's, providing leadership and decision making to support best practice, collaboration and communication across Wesley's and its supporters. The Team Leader ensures all aspects of governance and compliance are adhered to by all

volunteers and is the first point of contact for volunteers. The Team Leader is also responsible for ensuring all volunteers are fully informed and trained as required.

- **Volunteers** are inducted to Wesley's by HR, informed and trained in all aspect of compliance for their role and consulted as required to inform of changes.
- **Guests and Visitors** are informed about Wesley's culture and expectations and invited to participate in all Wesley's activities, the Larder, Café and well-being activities.

Both the café and larder are as popular as ever, serving around 80 breakfasts and three course lunches to those in need of nourishment, company or a warm hub. Due to the cost of living crisis, we are supporting more and more people.

In the current cost of living challenging times there is the potential for numbers to increase significantly and the Wesley's Management Team is looking at options on how to meet this increased demand, which could result in a varied (reduced) menu or different opening times.

We are currently working with the local Soroptimist team to engage and involve them more in the café, larder and well-being programme. This is in addition to accepting the funding they have once again provided.

The volunteer team continue to be amazing and definitely work as a "team" whether that is for food collections, manning the larder, preparing the food or fronting the café. If you would like to join the team, or know anyone who might be interested, please pop into the larder or café and fill in a volunteer form which will then be processed by our HR lead and you will be offered a trial session.

**A request has been issued via social media for more tinned foods, soups, beans, spaghetti, tinned meats, tinned fish, tinned veg, cereal, tea, coffee, sugar, long life milk, toiletries. If you are able to support this request, please drop your donation into the larder any weekday morning.**

*Thank you to all those who support the work of Wesley's  
Liz Bartholomew*



Lancashire  
Adult Learning

## Microwave Cooking for Beginners

FREE 6 week course

Thursday 14th September to 19th October  
10:00am - 12:30pm

Free  
Course!

Wesley's at the Community Hub,  
Church Road Methodist Church  
Junction of Church Road and St Albans Road  
St Annes on Sea  
FY8 3NQ,

Many cooking methods burn away important nutrients but foods cooked in a microwave retain their nutritional value better than any other cooking method and the quick cooking time makes it cost efficient! This short course will show you just how versatile your microwave is as you discover the amazing range of healthy recipes you can make from fresh ingredients to create hearty, healthy, budget conscious meals such as a warming casserole or exotic noodle dish. Please bring tupperware to take some cooked food home in.

For further details and to book a place on this free course, please contact Liz on 07860 282469 or contact her by email on [lizbart05@gmail.com](mailto:lizbart05@gmail.com)



[admin.lal@nelsongroup.ac.uk](mailto:admin.lal@nelsongroup.ac.uk)



[www.lal.ac.uk](http://www.lal.ac.uk)



0333 003 1717

# HARVEST THANKSGIVING

*A time to reflect on God's world*

Harvest is one of the special times in the church year marking the annual gathering of crops. Traditionally, Harvest is the time when the church is decorated to celebrate the fruits of God's creation.

It's a relatively recent addition to the church calendar, originating in Victorian times when the local church and community would be drawn together to celebrate all that God had provided. In the USA, the Thanksgiving Holiday also celebrates the blessings of the year and is a time of family festivities.

But Harvest Festival also resonates with more contemporary concerns. It's a time to remind ourselves about our responsibilities as stewards of God's world, challenging us to think about environmental concerns and the impact of climate change on our food supply.

It's also a time to remember those who struggle to put healthy food on their tables, especially at the moment with the seemingly ever-increasing cost of living. It's a time for us to think about the work of Wesley's, our local foodbanks and all the other organisations that support those in need.



**Harvest is a time for gratitude and thanksgiving, recognising God's generous love in creation and also a time to think about compassion and justice for all.**

*"As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will never cease."*

Genesis 8:22

## HAVE YOU NOTICED THE TAPESTRY IN THE SOUTH TRANSEPT?



This tapestry was made by a team of dedicated ladies of the church almost thirty years ago during the ministry of the Revd David Winwood. The work was intended as a visual prayer for world peace and to highlight Church Road's wider connections across the world. At the time, some former members who had emigrated to Australia were in regular contact with us through the Record – represented by the kangaroo in the bottom left of the tapestry – and one of the ladies helping to make the tapestry had family connections in Hong Kong – hence the Chinese symbol for peace in the top left.

Today, as the world seems to become smaller, even more of our congregation have connections across the world through family and friends – Australia, Canada, India, United States, South Africa, Switzerland, Sweden and .....see the earlier letter from our new minister, Revd Andy Halstead..... China, Spain and Germany! And maybe there are others! Advances in communication technology in the last thirty years now make it so much easier for families and friends to stay in touch.

Genealogical sites such as Ancestry also make it possible to find family across the world that we didn't always know of, as Anne Mayes discovered.....

### **My Family Down Under**

When I joined Ancestry in February 2012, I had no idea where to begin my family history search so I perused the rather baffling form on the screen and idly typed in my father's name. Imagine my surprise when the list of possible links on the right-hand side of the page had my Uncle Jack's name at the top of it!

You may not find that surprising but, to me, it was amazing as Uncle Jack emigrated to Australia in 1950 as a “£10 Pom” and the family lost contact with him after Christmas 1954. I knew it must be my Uncle Jack as he was named after his uncle who was killed in France in 1918. Born in 1919, Uncle Jack was John James Jones Jeffrey. With that name it couldn’t be anyone else!

There was a small private family tree attached to the entry and I was told I might be allowed to see it if I communicated with the creator of the tree via Ancestry. I sent an email and subsequently discovered that the family tree had been created by my first cousin, Leanne (Uncle Jack’s daughter), when she completed a free 2-week trial on Ancestry a couple of years earlier. She didn’t take up membership and had forgotten all about the trial so it was quite a shock for her to receive such an email. What a coincidence that I picked up on her little family tree! The connection Ancestry made between us was that my father, Jack’s elder brother, was named after his father, and Leanne had our grandfather’s name on the family tree.

After a while we began to email each other directly and I discovered that Leanne didn’t know of her family in England. Having thought she had no living relatives after her parents died, I was able to tell her that she had six first cousins!

When Uncle Jack died, he left Leanne an envelope containing papers and photographs of people she didn’t know. She says that, being sentimental, she kept everything so she was able to scan the photos and send them to me. There were pictures of grandparents, aunts, uncles and cousins – including one of me as a baby, sitting on the grass at a family picnic in my home village in Northumberland!

We moved on to contact by telephone and we still talk to each other nearly every week, having developed a close relationship after all these years. We got on so well that John and I decided to take a trip to Melbourne in November 2012 to meet Leanne, her husband, John, and daughter, Sarah, before exploring Victoria and then flying on to Sydney. We had several days

out with them while we were in Melbourne and found our relationship was warm and easy.

We have visited Australia several times since and, although we spend most of our time independently and plot routes to new places and well-loved favourite haunts in Victoria, Leanne and John keep finding new places to explore with us. They have been surprised how much there is to appreciate in their native state and it is lovely for us to be taken by a local family to places off the usual tourist trail.

It has been a wonderful and emotional journey finding Leanne and her family, and filling in some details of Uncle Jack's life for the family over here. All because of those two minutes on my first day on Ancestry!

*Anne Mayes*



**DO YOU HAVE ANY INTERESTING FAMILY CONNECTIONS ACROSS THE WORLD? WHY NOT SHARE THEM WITH US IN THE RECORD?**

## "HE AIN'T HEAVY, HE'S MY BROTHER"

The road is long  
With many a winding turn  
That leads us to who knows where?  
Who knows where?  
But I'm strong  
Strong enough to carry him  
He ain't heavy, he's my brother

So on we go  
His welfare is my concern  
No burden is he to bear  
We'll get there  
For I know  
He would not encumber me  
He ain't heavy, he's my brother

If I'm laden at all  
I'm laden with sadness  
That everyone's heart  
Isn't filled with the gladness  
Of love for one another

It's a long, long road  
From which there is no return  
While we're on the way to there  
Why not share?  
And the load  
Doesn't weigh me down at all  
He ain't heavy, he's my brother

He's my brother  
He ain't heavy, he's my brother

## **“HE AIN’T HEAVY, HE’S MY BROTHER”**

Originally written by American songwriters Bob Russell and Bobby Scott, this song became a big hit in 1969 for the British group, the Hollies and has since become a classic, popular all over the world. The title of the song is attributed to a story told in 1884 by James Wells, Moderator of the United Free Church of Scotland, in which he tells of a little girl carrying her baby brother. Seeing her struggling, someone had asked her if she was tired. With surprise she had replied, 'He's na heavy. He's mi brither "

The words of the song are about unconditional love, solidarity and empathy and provide a universal message that we all have a responsibility to help our fellows in need. Although from the secular world of popular music, the lyrics have a powerful spiritual dimension. The concept of service and sacrifice is a central theme in many religious traditions and these words emphasise the idea that we are all interdependent and that we have a responsibility to help one another.

Today, the world seems to be coming more divided and unequal, with contrasts of wealth and poverty, conflicting political ideas and tensions created by the worldwide plight of refugees. "He ain't heavy, he's my brother" is a powerful reminder that we are all connected and that we all have a responsibility to help one another. With the challenges of the 21st century, this message seems to be more important than ever.

*If I'm laden at all  
I'm laden with sadness  
That everyone's heart  
Isn't filled with the gladness  
Of love for one another*

“Carry each other’s burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.”  
*Galatians 6:2*



## MERCY SHIPS

Mercy Ships is a global, faith-based international development organisation that deploys hospital ships to some of the poorest countries in the world, delivering vital, free healthcare to people in desperate need.

As well as completing thousands of urgent operations onboard their floating hospitals, the *Africa Mercy* and the *Global Mercy*, Mercy Ships volunteers also work closely with host nations to improve the way healthcare is delivered across the country, by training and mentoring local medical staff, and renovating hospitals and clinics.

Founded in Switzerland in 1978, Mercy Ships has worked in more than 55 countries, providing services valued at more than £1.3 billion. By improving healthcare delivery in every country it visits, Mercy Ships is working to eradicate the diseases of poverty and effectively do itself out of a job. Mercy Ships follows the model of Jesus by “bringing hope and healing to the forgotten poor”, helping people of all faiths and none.



The countries that Mercy Ships serve lie on the lower third of the World Health Organisation’s Human Development Index, where access to safe, affordable and timely surgery is extremely limited. As a result, countless people suffer and die from “diseases of poverty” that can easily be cured.

Act Justly, *Love Mercy*, Walk Humbly. Micah 6:8

More information can be found on the website [www.mercyships.org](http://www.mercyships.org)

*Elaine Watts*



**Service of Remembrance & Holy Communion  
Sunday 12 November at 10.30 a.m.  
led by Revd Andy Halstead**

Remembrance Sunday is the day on which we traditionally remember all those who have given their lives for the peace and freedom that we enjoy today. On this day at the eleventh hour, people across the nation will pause to reflect on the sacrifices made by our brave service men and women in both past and present fields of armed conflict.



They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:  
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.  
At the going down of the sun and in the morning  
We will remember them.

They mingle not with their laughing comrades again;  
They sit no more at familiar tables of home;  
They have no lot in our labour of the day-time;  
They sleep beyond England's foam.

As the stars that shall be bright when we are dust,  
Moving in marches upon the heavenly plain;  
As the stars that are starry in the time of our darkness,  
To the end, to the end, they remain.

*From “For the Fallen” by Lawrence Binyon (1869-1943)*



## CHRISTMAS FAIR

### SATURDAY 18 NOVEMBER



As the nights draw in a bit and you may be spending more time indoors, perhaps having a bit of a clear out, please keep in mind the \_ We are looking for jewellery, books, complete jigsaws and board games, all in EXCELLENT re-sellable condition. Please store these safely and we will organise a drop off event nearer the time!

#### **There are many other ways you can help us:**



Are you a sewer, card maker, knitter, candle maker .....? We are looking for people willing to contribute items to a QUALITY hand made goods stall. Items do not have to be Christmas themed as items can be for use throughout the year, not just Christmas!



Are you a good cook or baker .....? We are looking for people to contribute cakes to the cake stall on the day, but also volunteers to produce some TASTY preserves that can expand the traditional cake stall into a home produce stall!



Are you a gardener that can plant up and present hyacinth type pots / gift baskets suitable for sale at this time of year for a FABULOUS new plant stall?



EXCITING chocolate tombola, lucky dip, games, refreshments and gift stall are also planned as per usual!

#### If you are able to contribute in any way please contact:

Linda Butcher

(crafts, jewellery),

Barbara Knowles / Lesley Turner

(books, jigsaws, games)

Judith Smith

(plants)

Catherine Irving

(home produce)

We look forward to sharing the fruits of our collective labour as we join together for festive fellowship on November 18<sup>th</sup> !

*The Church Life Committee*



## PLEASE REMEMBER

*Don't just throw stuff away! We can help others by the simple act of recycling.*

### OLD SPECTACLES

These can be recycled for re-use by volunteer optometrists offering eye examinations in developing countries.



### USED POSTAGE STAMPS

These can be sold to raise money for the local branch of Guide Dogs for the Blind.



### USED OR UNUSED POSTCARDS

These can be sold to raise money for the charity MAF (Mission Aviation Fellowship).



**Please leave items in the box above the bookcase at the back of the church, for us to pass on for charitable recycling.**

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### SHOPPING ON-LINE?

### PLEASE REMEMBER TO SUPPORT US THROUGH



Whenever you buy anything online - from your weekly shop to your annual holiday - you could be collecting free donations for Church Road Methodist Church, with over 3,000 shops and sites on board ready to make a donation. It won't cost you a penny extra!

Go to <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/churcrdmETHODIST/>

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### CHRISTMAS GREETINGS PAGE

As usual, we will be having a Christmas Greetings page in the next edition of the Record, which will be published at the beginning of December. If you wish to greet your church friends in his way, please give your name and donation to Monica Bissett by **SUNDAY 19 NOVEMBER**.

Money raised will help to support church funds.



# CHURCH DIARY

**WESLEY's CAFÉ:** Every TUESDAY and THURSDAY 10.00am to 1.30pm.

**BUMBLEBEEs:** Every TUESDAY, 9.30 a.m. to 11.30 a.m. for 0-4's with parents and carers. Contact Lesley Turner

**MOVEMENT TO MUSIC:** Every WEDNESDAY, two sessions from 9.15am to 10.15am and 10.45am to 11.45am. Contact Monica Bissett

**TIME OUT** at 7.00 p.m. every THIRD SUNDAY of each month. An informal faith-based group for young people 12+. Contact Caroline Livesey or Sharon Hird

**ACTIV8 INFORMAL STYLE WORSHIP** on the first SUNDAY of each month. at 9.00a.m. followed by breakfast together

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**THANK YOU** to all those who have contributed to this edition of The Record. We aim to keep you up to date with what's going on in the church and to offer other items of interest. Contributions from members of the congregation are always gratefully received and will help to keep our magazine relevant and interesting. Please let us know if you have any special family news or celebrations that you would like to share with our readers.

*Stuart Wrigley, Editor*

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The Christmas and New Year edition of the Record will be published at the beginning of December. The deadline for contributions will be

**Sunday 19 November 2023**

Please send articles to the Church Office, by email if possible.  
[churchroadmethodist@gmail.com](mailto:churchroadmethodist@gmail.com)