

THE RECORD

AUTUMN 2016



CHURCH ROAD METHODIST CHURCH

The **Methodist** Church South Fylde Circuit

Making Disciples: Transforming Lives and Communities

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Church Road Methodist Church Registered Charity No 1134109

WORSHIP in SEPTEMBER

4th

- 9.00 a.m. Holy Communion at The Drive Methodist Church
9.00 a.m. ACTIV8 Café Church led by Revd Stephen N Heath
10.30 a.m. Mrs Eileen Garfitt
6.30 p.m. Circuit Service at Freckleton (No FRESH this evening)

11th

- 10.30 a.m. Revd Stephen N Heath (Holy Communion)
6.30 p.m. FRESH Café Style Worship at Fairhaven



18th

- HARVEST FESTIVAL
10.30 a.m. Revd Stephen N Heath (All Age Worship)
6.30 p.m. FRESH Café Style Worship at Fairhaven

25th

- 10.30 a.m. Revd Joan Edwell
6.30 p.m. FRESH Café Style Worship at Fairhaven



Sunday evenings at Fairhaven

FRESH CAFÉ STYLE WORSHIP - a time to explore faith through media, conversation and prayer. Drinks are available from 6.30 p.m. and worship begins at 7.00 p.m.

WORSHIP in OCTOBER

2nd

- 9.00 a.m. Holy Communion at The Drive Methodist Church
9.00 a.m. ACTIV8 Café Church
10.30 a.m. Revd Stephen N Heath
6.30 p.m.. FRESH Café Style Worship at Fairhaven



9th

- 10.30 a.m. Revd Stephen N Heath (Holy Communion)
3.30 p.m.. Circuit Service at The Drive (No FRESH this evening)

16th

- 10.30 a.m. Mrs Christine Pierce (All Age Worship)
6.30 p.m. FRESH Café Style Worship at Fairhaven

23rd

- 10.30 a.m. Mrs Pat Hirst
6.30 p.m. Circuit Service at Church Road (No FRESH this evening)

30th

- 10.30 a.m. Revd Stephen N Heath
6.30 p.m. FRESH Café Style Worship at Fairhaven



ACTIV8

Our monthly informal service of early morning worship is now on the first **Sunday of each month** at 9.00 a.m. in the south transept. A time of warm fellowship with associated activities for children.

WORSHIP in NOVEMBER

6th

9.00 a.m. Holy Communion at The Drive Methodist Church
9.00 a.m. ACTIV8 Café Church led by Revd Stephen N Heath
10.30 a.m. Revd Dr Adrian Burdon (Holy Communion)
6.30 p.m. FRESH Café Style Worship at Fairhaven

13th

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

10.30 a.m. Mr Malcolm Hancock
6.30 p.m. FRESH Café Style Worship at Fairhaven



20th

10.30 a.m. Revd Stephen N Heath (All Age Worship)
6.30 p.m. FRESH Café Style Worship at Fairhaven

27th

10.30 a.m. Mr Richard Golding
6.30 p.m. FRESH Café Style Worship at Fairhaven



*Shout joyfully to the LORD, all the earth. Serve the LORD with gladness;
Come before Him with joyful singing. Know that the LORD Himself is God;
it is He who has made us, and not we ourselves; we are His people and the
sheep of His pasture. Enter His gates with thanksgiving and His courts
with praise give thanks to Him, bless His name. For the LORD is good; His
loving kindness is everlasting and His faithfulness to all generations .*

Psalm 100:1-5.

A word from Stephen....



This last year has flown by. A number of people have asked if I am enjoying it and how I feel it has gone. Without pausing to think I can say yes I am enjoying it, but then the second question is more difficult because I have to decide what are the criteria by which I, and you, assess Ministry.

I sit here mourning the end of the most successful Olympics for a British Team. Success being measured by who was the fastest, threw longest, scored the most goals or points or showed the greatest precision and accuracy on court or in the ring resulting in gold, silver and bronze medals.

I'm not sure Ministry is as easily or objectively measured. If we were to focus on numbers we can see progress in the right direction but would we see the end of year as success or a milestone along a road or personal best, on the way to a World or Olympic record?

We know we are not in a sprint. When I was appointed, the Circuit Policy was that we should seek to demonstrate the church is sustainable and viable within three years. I would certainly see all the encouragements of this last year as milestones on the journey. There is much to celebrate for God is

certainly blessing us and calling others to join us in his work in this area.

This year we will need to address the issue of premises and reduce the liability of such a large site that has the potential to divert funds from Ministry. While some may have questioned the future for our church we know God is leading and guiding us and like the athletes who are looking forward to Tokyo we are setting out the framework for the next few years of learning how we can be better disciples and stay faithful to what God asks of us.

I am excited by the future, inspired by what God has done and will do and look forward to working with “Team Church Road” in making God known and worshipped inside and served outside the Church. Let us make sure we begin each day with prayer, use our time and talents as God coaches us and grow in grace and the knowledge of God.

Stephen

WELCOME BACK!

We are pleased to welcome back to St.Annes the Reverends Terry and Dawn Hudson. Terry was our minister at Church Road from 2005 to 2009 before moving to Southampton. He and Dawn have now retired from the ministry and have returned to live in St.Annes. We extend our prayers and good wishes to them for a happy and fulfilling retirement here as they settle into their new home.

FLOWER DEDICATIONS

JUNE



- 5th Cherished birthday memories of Ross Wells
Loving memories of my parents, Kay and Cedric
Eyre, from Catherine
- 12th Loving birthday memories of John, from Barbara, Caroline
& Samantha
Loving anniversary memories of Michael Ball
- 19th Loving anniversary memories of Muriel and John Watts
- 26th Jean Wallace in loving memories of her parents

JULY

- 3rd Loving memories of a dear Auntie & Uncle,
from Philip and Betty Harrison
In memory of Jean and Herbert Mayes
- 10th In memory of Roy and Freda Brice
- 17th Dorothy Wake in loving memory of Desmond
Birthday memories of Glenda Thompson
- 24th In loving memory of Nancy and Harry Wrigley
Loving memories of Jean Biddulph from John
- 31st Birthday memories of Edwina, from Audrey and family



FLOWER DEDICATIONS

AUGUST

- 4th Loving birthday memories of Nan, from Len Macklin
- 21st Loving anniversary memories of Fred and Marion Holland
Fond memories of Arthur and Hannah Nicholson
- 28th Loving birthday memories of Jessie from Barbara and all the family.
-

Any contributions to Church Flowers should be sent to The Flower Secretary, Miss Elaine Watts, Flat 10 Fellborough Lodge, 195 StAnnes Road East, Lytham St Anne's, FY8 3HF. Tel: 01253 722302



Please make cheques payable to "Church Road Methodist Church Flower Fund" and include the wording for any dedication which can be inserted in the Church Record.

Thank you to everybody who arranges the flowers in Church so beautifully each week. They are – Val Ball, Irene Bennett, Monica Bissett, Sadie Bridge, Hazel Hawkins Linda Heath, Barbara Knowles, Elaine Watts, Rosemary Wells and Margaret Wrigley. After Sunday morning service the flowers are given to the sick, bereaved or someone who might appreciate them. Thanks also to Anne Mayes who is now the Treasurer.

The Church flower team is always in need of help in the following ways -

1. Arranging flowers for the Sunday morning service in vases or a pedestal, either every couple of months or on an occasional basis.

Dismantling the flowers after morning service and putting into bunches.

3. Taking the flowers out to the sick or people who have other needs. These can be collected after morning service.

If anyone can help in any of these ways please contact Elaine Watts, Tel: 722302.



LESLIE GREEN
RONALD GRUNDON
NORA HARGREAVES
IVOR MARKHAM
JOYCE MARSLAND
REV JOHN LAKIN SMITH



*For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers,
nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor
depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us
from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

Romans 8:38-39

THE REV. JOHN LAKIN SMITH: CHURCH ROAD 1969-1976

Church Road has been very blessed in the ministers who have laboured in our part of the vineyard. My family were lucky to experience the last three years of Stanley Chesworth's ministry and there must have been many who said when he moved on in 1969 that he would be a very difficult act to follow. Their fears were soon rendered groundless when John Lakin Smith, together with his wife Margaret, and daughters Carol and Julie came to live among us to continue the many former ministries that had brought renewal and development to our church's work and witness in St Annes.



**Rev. John R. Lakin
Smith**

John inherited from his immediate predecessors a lively church, numerically strong, ready for fresh challenges. Soon he was sharing with us his vision of these, encouraging us to look outwards to make our community a centre of Christian witness through practical service to our neighbourhood. It was a bold challenge, involving much sweat and toil and some opposition in the town, one local politician getting a headline when he described us as a bunch of armchair amateurs! There were many setbacks but John never lost his confidence that it could be done. And it was! The Day Care Centre; Play School; Counselling sessions; Mums and Toddlers groups; a restaurant offering ambitious menus to visiting parties—all these, and more, set up in those hectic years are proof of that.

At the heart of everything was the stimulation that came from Sunday worship. To some who remember him John will primarily be associated with service to the community but for Pearl and me, as for many others, it was his inspirational preaching for which we are most grateful. It was powerful and always relevant to the nourishment of our spiritual lives. The sadness we feel at the news of his passing is an

occasion for gratitude that we were privileged to know him as minister and friend.

Congregations up and down the Connexion will also mourn the passing, albeit full of years, of a wonderful man who exemplified all that is brightest and best in our ministry. What a joy it was for me to have a telephone conversation with him not many months ago and to hear that so familiar voice again!

An expression of his that often punctuated his wonderful sermons was “I dare to believe.” Such was the faith of one true to his calling to the ranks of Mr Wesley's preachers. We thank God for every remembrance of him. To Margaret and the family we send the support of our love and prayers.

David Elliston

May He support us all the day long,
till the shades lengthen
and the evening comes,
and the busy world is hushed,
and the fever of life is over,
and our work is done.

Then in His mercy may He give us
a safe lodging, and a holy rest and
peace at the last.

John Henry Newman

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.

BAPTISM

7 August 2016



I baptize you in the name
of the Father and of the Son
and of the Holy Spirit

Logan Mackenzie Hayes

Aria Celeste Whitehead

Pour out your Holy Spirit that those baptised in water may die
to sin, be raised with Christ and be born to new life
in the family of your church.

The Lord bless you and take care of you,
May the Lord be kind and gracious to you,
May the Lord look on you with favour and give you peace.

Numbers 6 verses 24-26

A NEW CHURCH YEAR AND A BIG THANK YOU

The last church year has been an exciting time at Church Road, with signs of growth in our fellowship and plenty of activities to bring our community together; just to mention a few highlights - the Passover meal, Saints Alive, Church Anniversary and Gift Day and the Street Party with the Vic.

To make all this happen, we are blessed with a range of willing helpers and as we begin a new church year, it is right that we pause a moment and say a big thank you to all those who help to organise our many activities and keep our fellowship and our premises going year on year.

And of course, there's always more to do.....if you feel that you can help in anyway, just have a word with our Minister, Stephen, or one of the Stewards.



MORNING PRAYERS

Every Monday at 10.30 a.m. Come along and join with a small group to share concerns for the world, our community and our church. This is a great opportunity to take time out from the hustle and bustle to reflect and to start the week in God's presence. All welcome.

WORSHIP ON THURSDAY

An informal act of worship with discussion and an opportunity to relate biblical teaching to everyday life

First and third Thursdays in the month at 11.00am



A weekend to initiate a wave of prayer over our nation, one life, one street, one community at a time. We believe that local people praying for their community can transform the nation.

Central to National Prayer Weekend

2016 is the heart to see people in our

local communities know and encounter God as their Father through the power of prayer.

Last year, more than 1,300 individuals, groups and churches joined in prayer to cover the nation.

We know that God can do immeasurably more than we can even imagine. So it is with great expectation that we invite you to join in during 23–25 September 2016 as we pray for our local churches and communities.

Let's not separate prayer, words and action. Let's be intentional about putting our faith into words as well as action. Let's point people to Jesus and the hope he offers. And more than ever, let's pray. Plan to join the National Week of Prayer 23-25th September – find out more at www.national-prayer-weekend.com

'I ask the God of our Master, Jesus Christ, the God of glory—to make you intelligent and discerning in knowing him personally, your eyes focused and clear, so that you can see exactly what it is he is calling you to do, grasp the immensity of this glorious way of life he has for his followers, oh, the utter extravagance of his work in us who trust him—endless energy, boundless strength!'
(Ephesians 1:18-19, The Message).

Lord, our God, your word teaches us that in showing hospitality to strangers, we may be welcoming angels into our midst; help us to make our churches and homes such places of welcome and sharing that we may discover anew the life of your kingdom, Amen

Stephen Wigley, Wales Synod Chair

DEACON DENISE'S SABBATICAL

Deacon Denise is on Sabbatical from the 10th October 2016 to the 14th January 2017. During this period Denise:-

- is freed from her normal work duties and roles in the circuit
- is going to pursue a course of study in which she hopes to produce kits that will help families to share faith in their homes.
- has time and space to reflect upon her ministry.

Normally Ministers and Deacons 'disappear' for the period of their sabbatical but Denise will be staying around St Annes as she needs to support and care for her Mum. Due to the nature of her course of study she will stay in touch with Messy Church but we are asked not to contact her during the Sabbatical period about day to day Circuit life so she is free to concentrate on her studies and reflection.

Arrangements are in place to cover her work and if you have any matters you would normally go to Denise on, then please contact Stephen instead.

You may well see Denise around please do not ignore her but ask her how things are going and assure her of our prayerful support as she makes the most of this opportunity.

Stephen

THE TREE OF LIFE

In Hebrew text, the Tree of Life is seen as an embodiment of the soul's journey back to the source. The tree's fruits are the good things given to us by God – the harvest of virtues, including love, compassion, peace and self-awareness. In the vital essence that rises through its trunk and runs through its branches, the tree harmonises all the possibilities open to human kind.

EVERYONE IS WELCOME TO JOIN US FOR

HARVEST FESTIVAL

ON SUNDAY 18 SEPTEMBER AT 10 30 AM

WITH REVD STEPHEN HEATH

HARVEST COLLECTION

ALL WE CAN (formerly Methodist Relief and Development Fund

This Harvest celebrates God's gift of water. This is an example of work supported by **All We Can** in Uganda:

Prossy is a teenager and lives in rural Uganda, and has faced many challenges. In Uganda thousands of children die every year from diarrhoea caused by unsafe water and poor sanitation. For many families water can end life, rather than sustain it.



The sickness was caused by the water she drank. The water used at school and at home was drawn from an unprotected well. When it rained branches, dirt, litter, animal dung and anything else lying around, would end up in the water. The well was 2km away; it took over 2 hours to collect the water. Some children from the class would make that trip 4 times a day. They spent more time walking than learning.

Through our local partner, Voluntary Action for Development (VAD), All We Can works with communities to build new water facilities and improve sanitation. With the help of students, teachers and parents, and All We Can supporters, 2 water tanks and separate boys and girls latrines have been built at Prossy's school. All funds raised from this vital appeal will improve the lives of children like Prossy.

Envelopes will be available in church during the Harvest period for your donation. All your gifts will help to support **All We Can** in work like this amongst the world's poorest communities.

We plough the fields and scatter

We plough the fields, and scatter
the good seed on the land,
but it is fed and watered
by God's almighty hand ;
he sends the snow in winter,
the warmth to swell the grain,
the breezes and the sunshine,
and soft, refreshing rain.



*All good gifts around us
are sent from heaven above ;
then thank the Lord, O thank the Lord,
for all his love.*

He only is the maker
of all things near and far ;
he paints the wayside flower,
he lights the evening star ;
the winds and waves obey him,
by him the birds are fed ;
much more to us, his children,
he gives our daily bread.

We thank you then, O Father,
for all things bright and good :
the seed-time and the harvest,
our life, our health, our food.
Accept the gifts we offer
for all your love imparts,
and, what you most desire,
our humble, thankful hearts.

This must be one of our most popular harvest hymns, which many of us will remember singing from our childhood. It evokes images of the sunlit English countryside in the time of Thomas Hardy, in the simple days before agricultural mechanisation and mass production of food.

But in fact, this hymn was originally a German poem written by the poet and journalist Matthias Claudias. He was the son of a Lutheran pastor living near Lubeck in northern Germany and went on to become editor of several newspapers. He also wrote poetry and was a contemporary and friend of the famous German poet Goethe.

We plough the fields and scatter first appeared in a play he wrote in 1782 about a harvest thanksgiving in a north German village. It was based on a peasants' song which he had heard sung by local farmers. The poem was translated into English and adapted as a hymn in 1862 by Jane Montgomery Campbell, who was proficient in German and at the time was translating a number of German hymns into English.

The hymn reminds us that God provides for our need, but also the creator of the beauty of the countryside. Moreover, the words remind us of the importance of thankfulness.

In 1969, the future poet laureate and campaigner John Betjeman parodied the hymn as a protest against modern farming methods and relaxed planning legislation. Each year, Harvest continues to challenge us to consider our stewardship of the countryside and the resources that God has entrusted to us.

We spray the fields and scatter
The poison on the ground
So that no wicked wild flowers
Upon our farm be found.
We like whatever helps us
To line our purse with pence;
The twenty-four-hour broiler-house
And neat electric fence.

*All concrete sheds around us
And Jaguars in the yard,
The telly lounge and deep-freeze
Are ours from working hard.*



A Time for Everything

For everything there is a season,
a time for every activity under heaven.
A time to be born and a time to die.
A time to plant and a time to harvest.
A time to kill and a time to heal.
A time to tear down and a time to build up.
A time to cry and a time to laugh.
A time to grieve and a time to dance.
A time to scatter stones and a time to gather stones.
A time to embrace and a time to turn away.
A time to search and a time to quit searching.
A time to keep and a time to throw away.
A time to tear and a time to mend.
A time to be quiet and a time to speak.
A time to love and a time to hate.
A time for war and a time for peace.

Ecclesiastes 3

Good actions bring about a rich harvest, not just in the immediate intended consequences, but also in more far reaching effects that can never be wholly perceived. For example, if you resolve that from now on you will respond to all situations, whether easy or difficult, with consideration for others and generosity of spirit, your behaviour might inspire someone else to do the same, The harvest of virtue is always more abundant than it appears

From the Mind Body & Spirit Companion

The Difference

I woke up early one morning and rushed right into the day;
I had so much to accomplish, I didn't have time to pray.

Problems just tumbled about me and grew heavier with each task;
Why doesn't God help me, I wondered; He answered, "You didn't ask."

I wanted to see joy and beauty, but the day toiled on, grey and bleak;
I wondered why God didn't show me - He said, "But you didn't seek."

I tried to come into God's presence; I used all my keys at the lock;
God gently and lovingly chided, "My child, you didn't knock."

I woke up early this morning and paused before entering the day;
I had so much to accomplish that I had to take time to pray.

Grace Naessens

PROOF OF A CHANGED LIFE

William Barclay, the well-known Christian writer, used to tell of a workman who had been a reprobate and a drunkard, but who became converted to follow Jesus.

His workmates used to make fun of him and say, "Surely a sensible man like you can't believe in the miracles that the Bible tells about. You cannot, for instance, believe that this Jesus of yours turned water into wine."

"Whether he turned water into wine or not," said the man, "I do not know; but in my own house I have seen him turn beer into furniture."

As William Barclay commented, "No one can argue against the proof of a changed life. It is our weakness that too often we have tried to talk men into Christianity instead of, in our own lives, showing them Christ. "A saint," as someone said, "is someone in whom Christ lives again."



Support and friendship
for families

VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED

to help in the Homestart shop
in St.Albans Road

If you have some time to spare and would like to help, please email Pat Naylor, the scheme manager, for more details and an application pack:
patnaylor@homestartbfw.org.uk or phone 01253 728688

If you want to see what the work involves, why not drop in at the shop?



MHA COFFEE MORNING

to be held at

The Drive Methodist Church

on Saturday 12 November at 10.00 a.m.

Please put the date in your diary and come along to support us

Doubt is not always a sign that a man is wrong; it may be a sign that he is thinking.

Oswald Chambers, Scottish Evangelist



GRAND CHRISTMAS FAYRE & TABLE TOP SALE



in aid of Church Funds.
on Saturday 26 November

We will be pleased to hear from anyone who can help with this event in anyway and particularly with any of the following:

- ☒ Knitted items or fancy gifts for the CHRISTMAS Stall
(see Val, Sadie or Shirley)
- ☒ Cakes, mince pies etc for refreshments/cake stall
- ☒ Help with running stalls
- ☒ Tombola Prizes
- ☒ Christmas Lucky Dip for children
- ☒ Volunteers to serve refreshments and clear tables etc.
- ☒ Help to put out tables before and clear away afterwards.

More details will be announced in the weekly notices nearer the time. In November we will be taking bookings from anyone who would like to book a Table Top.

Any extra suggestions or offers of help will be gratefully received! Many thanks from Valerie Ball, Margaret and Stuart Wrigley, Irene Harrison and Lesley Turner

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS PAGE

Remaining on the theme of Christmas, although it is still many weeks away, this is just a reminder that once again we will be having a Christmas Greetings page in the next issue of the Record. If you wish to send greetings to church friends in his way and give a donation to church funds instead of sending Christmas cards, please hand your gift to the Editor, Audrey Frodsham, by early November.

LADIES' FELLOWSHIP NEWS

LADIES' FELLOWSHIP OPENING MEETING **WEDNESDAY 5 OCTOBER 2016 AT 2 15 PM**

Traditionally this is when we celebrate President Val's afternoon with tea and cakes being served. This is the start of an interesting session with a variety of speakers etc. If you have not been to Ladies' Fellowship before why not try it. If you are not able to come every week then just come when you can. We meet in the Church Parlour in the Centre most times. so please use the Centre door on St Albans Road. Please note the first meeting will be in Church. All ladies welcome.

AUTUMN PROGRAMME

Until 28 September, continuing to meet at Ashton Gardens Café between 3 00 pm and 4 00 pm on Wednesday afternoons. All ladies welcome.

October

5 Oct	Blackpool Salvation Army Fellowship Band (in Church)
12 Oct	Rev Stephen Heath
19 Oct	Vic's Big Walk at 70
26 Oct	Visit to The Drive

November

2 Nov	Rev Brian Mayne
9 Nov	Red Cross
16 Nov	N-Vision – Judith Harrison.
23 Nov	Fun with Antiques
30 Nov	The History of Ashton Gardens

For more information about Ladies' Fellowship, please contact Elaine Watts – Tel: 722302.

A million gifts to celebrate the Queen's birthday



Churches throughout the country who celebrated the Queen's 90th birthday in June by distributing copies of *The Servant Queen and the King She Serves* have made it Britain's most popular book this year. Nearly one million copies were ordered in the space of five months.

The 64-page gift book, with a foreword by Her Majesty The Queen, was published by HOPE, Bible Society and the London Institute for Contemporary Christianity, and uses the Queen's own words to draw out the central role of her trust in Jesus Christ.

As Roy Crowne, HOPE's executive director, explains: "*The Servant Queen* has opened up lots of conversations about the Queen, her service to nation and Commonwealth, and the example of Jesus Christ which motivates Christians worldwide to serve people in their villages, towns and cities."

Over 80 copies of the book were distributed through our church. Following the Street Party, a copy of the book was given to each household on St Albans Road in the Party area as well as the Landlord of the Victoria Pub.

"Since you get more joy out of giving joy to others, you should put a good deal of thought into the happiness that you are able to give."

JOINT PUBLIC ISSUES TEAM CONFERENCE STATEMENT POST REFERENDUM

The 2016 Annual Conference of the Methodist Church passed a resolution containing the following text:

The United Kingdom, as a result of the referendum on 23 June 2016, has voted to leave the European Union. In this time of very significant change and uncertainty there is a need for leadership which seeks the common good and encourages people to work together, to respect one another and to uphold the dignity of all.

The Methodist Conference believes that the British Isles are enriched by diversity and celebrates the contribution made by those who have come from other parts of the world.

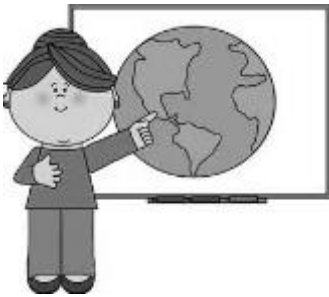
The Christian tradition calls for respect, tolerance, love of neighbour and hospitality to the stranger. All bear the responsibility of speaking and acting for healing, reconciliation, and mutual respect.

The Methodist Conference abhors and deeply regrets those actions and words which incite hatred and lead to the victimisation of groups within society and notes with concern that such actions and words have been normalised in recent public discourse. Believing that racism is a denial of the gospel and that to stay silent when others are abused is to collude with those who seek to promote hatred and division, the Methodist Conference calls:

- on the Methodist people to challenge racism and discrimination
- for a political debate which neither demonises any nor leaves the vulnerable (the foreigner, the immigrant and refugee) in danger of victimisation.

- on political leaders to work together for the good of the whole community putting the needs of the nation before party politics.
- on all those in positions of power and authority to hear the voices of those who have been marginalised and alienated and to respond to them in ways which offer real hope for the future.

This statement was read out in all Methodist Churches on Sunday 10th July. In the uncertain days and complex negotiations ahead with our European neighbours, all Methodists are urged to stand up against hatred and prejudice and to pray for healing in our society and a just and reasonable outcome for all.



ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE.

One of the ways in which vulnerable newcomers can be supported is through help in improving their language skills and in learning more of our culture.

Do you know anybody (neighbour, colleague, friend?) who would like help to improve their written or spoken English?

If so, please tell them about the FREE lessons at the Catholic Parish Centre on St. Alban's Road FY8 1XD opposite the YMCA. All of the tutors are volunteers and we welcome people of ALL NATIONALITIES.

Lessons are relaxed and informal. They take place on Monday afternoons 1:30-3pm and Monday evenings 7pm-8.30pm.

We work in small groups so we can include all levels, including beginners. Term begins again on Sept 12th. NEW STUDENTS are very welcome and can just come along to the lessons.

For any further information speak to Anne Mayes, Margaret Russell or Lesley Turner (Or text Lesley on [07840924882](tel:07840924882))

TAKING FORWARD OUR MINISTRY



PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE CHURCH PREMISES

Since the Day Centre moved from Church Road and Orange terminated their contract for the use of the tower, Church Road has been considering its financial position alongside the viability of the Church Buildings. The Church Council subsequently resolved to focus development on the Church building and agreed to place a request for permission to sell or lease all or part of the site on the Methodist Consent Process.

Discussions were held with a number of developers to identify possible schemes for social housing on part of the site, but only one finally expressed any interest in pursuing opportunities further. The Church Council meeting on the 15th March 2016, therefore, appointed a Group to work with the Minister in responding to the interest being shown in the part of the Church site with a view to improving facilities and assisting the Church become sustainable.

In recent years we have struggled to attract new users. Feedback suggests the condition of the premises and the furnishings have been factors and, in some cases, we were not able to meet the quality standards required.

With the loss of income from the Day Centre the policy has been to carry out essential maintenance only. Consequently, the premises are tired and would need significant investment to attract new users. It is anticipated the above would require an investment of around £100,000 - funds that we do not have and there is no guarantee we would

increase bookings. This does not include improvements or reconfiguring the premises to adapt them for new uses.

Conversations have therefore continued with the interested Developer and Outline Plans produced which suggest there is a viable project which could:-

- 1) Enable all existing Church Groups to continue in appropriate spaces.
- 2) Enable the Church to carry out the work while retaining some capital reserves in addition to the General Fund.
- 3) Assist the Church in reducing its annual deficit and not being as dependent on external lettings to cover the costs of the building.
- 4) Build on the purposes for which money was invested in the Church, Parlour and Kitchen.

Initial plans have been on display in the church in August and are available for inspection. These show the disposal of the land currently occupied by the post 1950's building for social housing, the retention of the Restaurant, Parlour and Kitchen, together with new building around the link to provide new reception facilities, meeting space and office accommodation. The church would be adapted to build on the recent flexible space in order to accommodate a wider range of activities, whilst preserving an area of sacred space. Initial costings indicate that, with the sale of land and with local authority contributions for the developer through a planning agreement for social housing, the overall project would be financially viable for the church. The next stage is to work up a fully costed scheme.

At this stage no decision has been made and the only commitment made by the Church Council so far has been to actively consider the scheme and to authorise the commissioning of a valuation of the church site and appointing a solicitor to advise on legal matters as and when required.

The proposed development will be considered further at a special church council meeting on Tuesday 13 September.

FUNDRAISING

To meet our agreed budget for the next Methodist year and to help us take forward our agenda for community engagement, a challenging target of £5,000 has been set for fundraising. A fundraising committee has been established and it is hoped that a range of activities will be organised during the course of the year to help meet this target. Some of the events will be aimed at a wider audience beyond the immediate church congregation and we will be encouraging everyone to involve friends, family, neighbours and colleagues in supporting these.

More details of upcoming events will be publicised in the weekly notices, on our noticeboards and through other media.

We have ambitious plans for the future at Church Road, offering support and activities reaching out to the local community. We hope that in working towards this, we will have the wholehearted support of our own congregation and the support of many others outside.

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Thank you to everyone who supports and helps with the stall in any way. The stall sells food, also green cleaning products and greeting cards. The stall is normally on the last Sunday in the month at the rear of Church.



Every product you buy from Traidcraft gives skilled farmers the power to cultivate a better future for themselves, their families and their community.

The new autumn/winter catalogue will shortly be available. If anyone would like one please ask Elaine Watts or get one from the next stall.

If anyone would be willing to help with the Sunday stall occasionally please let Elaine know.

REFLECTIONS ON THE SUMMER

This article was to have been about the sense of bereavement I have felt since I switched on the television on the morning of 24th June. I was going to write of how sad I was that a small majority of my countrymen had voted to turn their backs on our European friends at a time when I believe that the nations of Europe should be working ever more closely together for our common good and security.

But we live in times of greater political turmoil than I can recall, and politics in the United Kingdom is so fluid at the moment that anything I was going to write could soon be hopelessly out of date by the time you read it in September. Therefore, I've decided to counter my despair-and, as the song says, to "accentuate the positive" aspects of our summer.

We've had a wonderful holiday in Provence, celebrated a family Golden Wedding in County Durham and explored Beamish Open Air Museum – a wonderful attraction. We've walked around Loweswater in glorious sunshine and taken the circular path from Ullswater to Aira Force, superbly maintained by the National Trust. We've visited the stunning Museum of Liverpool at the revitalised Pier Head and Salford Quays, where the spectacular Imperial War Museum North is presenting a highly-informative and interesting exhibition, "Fashion on the Ration".

Now, as I am completing this article, we continue to be heartened by the magnificent performance of Team GB in Rio.

At Church Road we've had an amazingly encouraging Gift Day and celebrated the Queen's ninetieth birthday magnificently with the neighbouring community. We are seeing our congregations grow and we have exciting plans for our future development.

So, while we pray for a just outcome in the uncertain future of our nation, we can go forward in certain hope of a bright future for our Church, making disciples, transforming lives and ministering to our neighbourhood.

John Mayes

T.E.A.C.H. ten years on.



It is now ten years since Jean and Arthur Taylor's daughter Elizabeth and her husband John Ochieng first built a home in Western Kenya for children who had lost both parents to AIDS and had no-one in the family who could look after them.

Elizabeth has recently sent us news of some of their success stories:

Helga (26) who has suffered a lot due to a blood disease that keeps threatening her life, has started a job as a cashier.

Faustin (24) is looking for jobs as he has now finished an accountancy course.

Penina is now in Form 3. Her hard work and good results have resulted in her being chosen to go to a National School (a bit like our old grammar schools). She has managed this even though she suffers from hearing and eye problems.

Some of our children have moved on, got married and as they do so we have taken on new children. Trisha (5) is our youngest. She loves

animals and dressing up. Beryle, who is in Form 1, is excelling in sports. She plays football and has entered a few local tournaments. We rented a piece of farm land last year and planted maize which has done well.

Hospital visits in the past have some years been very expensive, so we now pay for health insurance.

Once again we would like to send a big thank-you to all who have supported T.E.A.C.H. over the last ten years. Without your help some of these uplifting achievements would not have happened.

Jean & Arthur Taylor



Our “Messy Church” is a Bible based activity session with crafts, stories, worship and games, followed by a meal. We are now holding sessions on a monthly basis.

All children who come must be accompanied by an adult who is also invited to share in the activities.

17th September

15th October

19th November

4.00 p.m. to 6.00 p.m, including a meal

If you would like further information about Messy Church
please contact Revd Stephen Heath

United Nations Day

24 October



United Nations Day on 24 October marks the anniversary of the creation of the United Nations in 1945.

The **United Nations (UN)** replaced largely the ineffective League of Nations in the aftermath of the Second World War. Its aims are to promote international co-operation and seek to avoid another similar conflict. At its founding, the UN had 51 member states; there are now 193.

The organization is financed by contributions from its member states. Its objectives include maintaining international peace and security, promoting human rights, fostering social and economic development, protecting the environment, and providing humanitarian aid in cases of famine, natural disaster, and armed conflict.

The first meeting of the United Nations General Assembly took place in the Methodist Central Hall in Westminster in 1946 and in return for the use of the hall, the Assembly voted to fund the repainting of the walls of the hall in a light blue! . Whilst the hall was being used by the UN General Assembly, the worshipping congregation relocated to the Coliseum Theatre near Trafalgar Square, now the home of the English National Opera.

The headquarters of the United Nations is now in New York and further main offices are situated in Geneva, Nairobi, and Vienna.

PACIFIC GROVE:

A METHODIST RETREAT IN CALIFORNIA

Monterey is a city on the Californian coast, about three hours' drive south of San Francisco. Originally settled by the Spanish, by the nineteenth century it had grown into a working town and centre of the sardine packing industry, which prospered until the 1950's. John Steinbeck, the American author, lived in the area and captured something of the wild living of the city's heyday in the antics of the characters in his novel, *Cannery Row*.



But just along the coast from Monterey is the genteel resort of Pacific Grove. Pacific Grove, so named from its coastal location in groves of pine trees, owes its origins to the Methodist Episcopal Church in San Francisco. They wanted to establish a summer resort in northern California where “good Christian families could find an annual respite for restoring their spiritual and physical vitality” The pine forest south of Monterey was suggested by a Methodist minister who had sought recuperation there by sleeping in a hammock under the trees and living primarily on fish, game and sea air. His recovery was described as miraculous and Pacific Grove was subsequently established in 1875 as a seaside Christian resort for religious retreats of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

In the 19th century, with the rush for gold and the movement of people westward in search of their fortunes, the overcrowded towns of California grew ever more lawless, with rampant banditry, drinking, gambling, prostitution and violence. This Methodist retreat at Pacific Grove was to be a refuge from the temptations of the cities and the general wild living of gold rush California, It was enclosed with a high fence and a gate, which was locked at night to prevent the "intrusion of interlopers".

To start with, Pacific Grove Retreat was principally a summer resort, with only a few residents remaining throughout the winter. However, more permanent development started to take place in the 1880's, and the founding fathers were concerned that the coming of the railroad would adversely affect the morals and tone of the new Pacific Grove Retreat. They were as determined as ever to retain the pious nature of the community

Accordingly, more restrictive by-laws were introduced, including a prohibition against walking to the beach in a bathing costume, forbidding the sale or use of any intoxicating liquors and the conduct of any card games or gambling. Other covenants prohibited profane or obscene language and all loud and boisterous talking which would disturb the harmony and good order of the community. Over the years, these rules were strengthened further, including the prohibition of bathing and swimming on Sunday. Dancing was prohibited altogether. A curfew was enacted which prohibited any person under eighteen from being on the streets after 8.00 p.m. in the evening and the shades in all houses had to be kept up until 10 p.m., at which time they were to be lowered and the lights extinguished.



Although over the years, the local restrictive covenants and by-laws became more relaxed, Pacific Grove remained a dry town until 1976. Nowadays, such restrictions would be unacceptable, but in their day, many people were thankful to be able to live somewhere protected

from the excesses of much of the surrounding area.

Today, Pacific Grove is a pleasant residential town and resort at the start of a 17 mile drive around the spectacular Californian coast of the Monterey Peninsula. It still retains an aura of Victorian sedateness in contrast to the more lively surroundings of neighbouring Monterey. Although now more tolerant and liberal, the town still retains its fine legacy of the pioneering Methodists of the 19th century.

Stuart Wrigley

OUR GIFTS

“I’ve naught to give, dear Lord” I said and sighed in deep dismay. “My knees are bent, my legs won’t go and my sticks are in the way”
The master turned and quickly said, “No, but you can **PRAY**”.

“I’ve naught to send, dear Lord”, I said “to folks who dread the night,
who toss in pain and weariness just longing for light”
The master smiled and kindly said, “No but you can **WRITE**”.

“I’ve naught to help, dear Lord” I said “the lame dogs over stiles,
upholding them upon life’s way or go the second mile”
The Master turned and gently said, “No but you can **SMILE**”.

“I’ve naught to cheer, dear Lord”, I said “ or bid folks’ cares take wing.
Restore the joy of yesteryear that youth and health can bring”.
The Master kindly said, “No but you can **SING**”.

I bowed my head in shame and said, “These humble gifts I pray - accept them Lord and grant me grace to show them on life’s way”.

Contributed by Catherine Peak

Dear Lord, may we use these gifts that we have been given to bring joy and happiness to the lives of others.

Amen

DIARY DATES

SEPTEMBER

Tuesday	6 th	7.30pm	Circuit Leadership Group
Tuesday	13 th	7.30pm	Special Church Council
Saturday	17 th	4.00pm	Messy Church
Sunday	18 th	10.30am	HARVEST FESTIVAL
Monday	26 th	7.30pm	Safeguarding training
Tuesday	27 th	7.30pm	Resources Committee

OCTOBER

Tuesday	4 th	7.30pm	Church Life Committee
Saturday	15 th	4.00pm	Messy Church
Tuesday	18 th	7.30pm	Church Council

NOVEMBER

Saturday	12 th	10.00am	MHA Coffee Morning at The Drive
Saturday	12 th	7.30pm	LSA Choral Society Concert
Sunday	13 th	10.30am	REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY
Saturday	19 th	4.00pm	Messy Church
Sunday	20 th	10.30am	TOY/GIFT SERVICE
Saturday	26 th	10.00am	Christmas Fayre & Table Top Sale

The diary of events is displayed in the Church Centre Foyer and regularly updated. More details of events taking place will be in the weekly notices at the relevant time.

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES



MORNING PRAYERS: Every MONDAY at 10.30 a.m. Start the week with a time of quiet reflection and prayer.

MOVEMENT TO MUSIC: Every MONDAY 7.30 to 8.30 p.m and Wednesday from 9.45 to 10.45 a.m.

BUMBLEBEES: Every TUESDAY during term-time, 9.30 to 11.30 a.m, playtime, music and crafts for pre-school children and their parents, grandparents and carers.

LADIES' FELLOWSHIP: Meets on a WEDNESDAY - see inside for meetings during the summer. Regular meetings resume in the Autumn on Wednesday 5th October.

WORSHIP ON THURSDAY: 1st & 3rd THURSDAY of each month from 11.00 a.m. – 12.15 p.m. A time of worship, bible study and reflection.

FRIDAY FUN CLUB: Every FRIDAY during term time, for children, ages 6-11 from 6.00 to 7.15 p.m.

THE HUB: Every FRIDAY during term time, for young people aged 11-16 years, from 7.30 – 9.30 p.m.

ACTIV8 CAFÉ STYLE WORSHIP at 9.00 a.m. on the first SUNDAY of each month, 4th September, 2nd October and 6th November.

TRAIDCRAFT STALL: At the rear of the church, generally on the last SUNDAY of each month. Please come along and support fair trade products.

FRESH CAFÉ STYLE WORSHIP at 6.30 for 7.00 p.m every SUNDAY at Fairhaven Methodist Church. Drinks are available from 6.30 p.m. and worship begins at 7.00 p.m.

TIMEOUT at 7.00 pm on the third SUNDAY of each month, a time to talk, think and share for young people aged 12 – 16.

Keep up to date!

All our church activities are included in our weekly news sheet. Any items that you wish to be included should be sent to the Church Office, preferably by email, by lunchtime on Thursdays.

churchroadmethodist@googlemail.com

If you would like to receive a copy of the weekly notices by email, please email a request to the church office or speak to Stuart Wrigley (01253 727950)

Details of all our activities are shown on our website
www.churchroadmethodist.org.uk



Church Road is on Facebook. If you are too, "Like" our page and receive updates each week of activities taking place here. Don't forget to share our news with your friends as well.

The next edition of the THE RECORD will be the Christmas & New Year edition, which will be published at the beginning of December. All contributions welcome.

Please let us know if you have any special family news or celebrations that you would like to share with our readers.

You don't need to wait for the deadline to send something to the Editor, Audrey Frodsham, c/o the Church Office, but in case you are a last minute person, the absolute deadline will be

1 p.m. on Sunday 20 November 2016

Please send articles by email if possible
churchroadmethodist@googlemail.com