

THE RECORD

SUMMER 2017



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 JUNE

4th

PENTECOST & CHURCH ANNIVERSARY

9.00 a.m. Holy Communion at The Drive Methodist Church

10.30 a.m. Revd Joan Edwell

7.00 p.m. FRESH Café Style Worship at Fairhaven



11th

TRINITY & MHA SUNDAY

10.30 a.m. Revd Stephen Heath - Holy Communion

7.00 p.m. FRESH Café Style Worship at Fairhaven

18th

10.30 a.m. Deacon Denise Creed - All Age Worship

7.00 p.m. FRESH Café Style Worship at Fairhaven

25th

10.30 a.m. Revd Stephen Heath

7.00 p.m. FRESH Café Style Worship at Fairhaven



ACTIV8

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

Each month, this will be followed by a family ramble. Further details can be obtained from Bill Ellison (01253 640576) or email wfellison@outlook.com

WORSHIP in JULY

2nd

9.00 a.m. Holy Communion at The Drive Methodist Church
9.15 a.m. Activ8 Café Church led by Revd Stephen Heath
10.30 a.m. Mr Richard Golding
7.00 p.m. FRESH Café Style Worship at Fairhaven

9th

ACTION FOR CHILDREN SUNDAY

10.30 a.m. Revd Stephen Heath - Holy Communion
7.00 p.m. FRESH Café Style Worship at Fairhaven



16th

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

23rd

10.30 a.m. Revd Sylvester Deigh
7.00 p.m. FRESH Café Style Worship at Fairhaven

30th

10.30 a.m. Revd Stephen Heath
6.30 p.m. Farewell Service for Deacon Denise Creed

Deacon Denise Creed

Denise has requested a curtailment of her appointment in the South Fylde Circuit and will be leaving us in August. Her farewell service will be at Church Road on 30 July at 6.30 p.m.

Denise has been in the circuit since September 2014 and we are grateful to her for her ministry amongst us, particularly her work with younger people, including Messy Church and Timeout, as well as her preaching, pastoral support and friendship.

We send our thanks and best wishes to Denise and pray that she will find new opportunities for her talents in the future. Please come along and support Denise on 30 July.

WORSHIP in AUGUST

6th

9.00 a.m. Holy Communion at The Drive Methodist Church

9.15 a.m. Activ8 Café Church led by Mr David Turner

10.30 a.m. Revd Stephen Heath

13th

10.30 a.m. Revd Terry Hudson - Holy Communion

20th

10.30 a.m. Ms Laura Davies - All Age Worship

27th

10.30 a.m. Revd Stephen Heath



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. See weekly notice sheet for details.

There will be no meetings of FRESH during August

Please visit the South Fylde Circuit website, which has more details of the services and other events across the circuit.

www.methodistsouthfylde.org.uk



A word from Stephen....

Dear Friends

I'm sure many of us are saying "June already? Where does the time go?" As we all know it goes and you can never have a replay so we use it or lose it as some say.

A few days ago, I wrote a letter as part of the Gift Day appeal recounting some of the significant moments since our Anniversary in 2016. Many of you will recall that at the last Gift Day Coffee Morning we had an exhibition that brought to mind significant times from previous years. This year we will be displaying plans for the future development of our buildings. These plans will soon be submitted to Fylde Borough Council as we seek Planning Permission.

All this reminds us that our church is preparing to write a new chapter in its history of mission and service responding to current need and opportunities. In the near future the Fundraising Group will be announcing various plans to help us raise the money needed to bring the plans to fruition and make the premises a suite of rooms that will be comfortable, affordable and welcoming. These are exciting times.

The church is, as the Bible teaches us, more than a building - it is people, a congregation. What a joy it has been to welcome numerous people into our fellowship in recent months. I want to use this article to encourage all connected with our church, if not already a member, to consider becoming one. I realise that some will not be sure just what that means so I am putting together some opportunities to help people find out and then before too long we can formally welcome people into the church.

There is a lot going on at the moment as this Newsletter will reveal and my hope is that as you read about them you will be encouraged to become more involved. The joy is that there is something for everyone - working

with young people, cooking in Wesley's Cafe, visiting those who are housebound or unwell, gardening, cleaning, teaching in JKids, helping with the administration, leadership in and, of course, praying.

In this our Anniversary edition we have so much to be thankful for, so much to be excited about as we look to the future and the joy of knowing that God has brought you to this place to be a part in building the church of tomorrow.

As we celebrate Pentecost we open our lives anew to God's spirit to prompt and guide us, to equip and enable us to be faithful in our calling as His followers here in St Annes.

I look forward to working with you in the months ahead.

Stephen



MORNING PRAYERS

**Every Thursday at 10.00 a.m.
in the Parlour**

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 of the week to reflect on God's presence.

Followed on the first and third Thursdays by **Worship on Thursday**.

FLOWER DEDICATIONS

MARCH

5th Birthday memories of Gordon Porter

12th Loving birthday memories of Ross Wells
Audrey Porter, Wedding Day memories of Gordon

19th Birthday memories of Michael from Valerie

26th Loving memories of Muriel Maddox
Birthday memories of Arthur Nicholson.
Loving memories of Margaret Richmond, Wilfred & Dorothy
Lowe



APRIL

2nd Treasured memories of Vera Pate

9th Pauline, Tony and Rachel, treasured birthday
memories of Claire
In loving memory of Eric and Jean Currie
Treasured birthday memories of
John Eadon from Louise, Helen and Rachel.

16th In memory of Dorothy Plenderleith
In memory of Glenda Thompson
Phoebe Rimmer in memory of her parents,

23rd Birthday memories of Mr & Mrs Blundell
Treasured memories of Conrad Pate

30th Treasured Wedding Anniversary and birthday memories
of Derek Rigby

MAY

7th Diana Thompson, birthday memories of a dear Mummy & Daddy

14th Mr and Mrs P. Harrison, in memory of their parents Audrey Frodsham and Sylvia Dibble, in loving memory of their parents

21st Fond memories of Hannah Nicholson
Rosemary Wells – Wedding Anniversary memories

28th Birthday memories of Arthur and Evelyn Buckley



CHURCH FLOWERS

Any contributions to church flowers should be sent to the Flower Secretary, Miss Elaine Watts, Flat 10, Fellborough Lodge, 195 St. Annes Road East, Lytham St. Annes, FY8 3HF, telephone 01253 722302. Please make cheques payable to Church Road Methodist Church Flower Fund and include the wording for any dedication that can be inserted in the Church Record.

Thank you to everyone who helps with the arrangement and distribution of flowers each week. After Sunday morning service the flowers are given to the sick, bereaved or someone who might appreciate them. If you know of anyone who might appreciate some flowers one week, please have a word with Elaine Watts.



Never hesitate to hold out your hand -

Never hesitate to accept the outstretched hand of another.

Pope John XX111 (1881-1963)



PHOEBE RIMMER

DOROTHY ROPER

CYRIL LAMBERT

*“The Lord’s my Shepherd, I shall not want
He makes me down to lie
In pastures green, He leadeth me,
The quiet waters by”*



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.

CONGRATULATIONS !



to Bill and Monica Bissett who celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary on 4th April, whilst visiting their daughter in Texas



and to Richmond and Jane Neale, who are celebrating their Golden Wedding Anniversary on 17th June.

Richmond and Jane were married here at Church Road in 1967 by the Minister of the day, the late Revd Stanley Chesworth.

We send our warmest wishes and blessings to Bill & Monica and Richmond & Jane as they mark these special milestones in their lives.



100TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION!

Margaret Collins, wife of the late Revd Bill Collins, former Assistant Minister at Church Road in the 1980's, will soon be celebrating her 100th birthday! An invitation to any members of our congregation who remember Margaret and who would like to join in her birthday celebrations has been sent by her son, Edward, via Bill and Monica Bissett.

The celebration will take place on **Saturday 1st July 2017** from 11.00 a.m. at 4 – 6 Northgate, Todmorden, West Yorkshire, HX7 7ND. A reply is essential for catering purposes, so anyone wishing to share in this special birthday celebration, please reply to edwardcollins49@gmail.com or 01422 842645.

Congratulations and best wishes to Margaret
on this amazing birthday achievement!



WORSHIP ON THURSDAYS

A Time of Bible Study, Worship and Reflection

First and third Thursdays in the month

11.00am – 12.15pm

ALL WELCOME

SUMMER PROGRAMME

1 st June	Psalm 17 <i>A Great Hope</i> led by Revd Stephen Heath
15 th June	Introducing the pupils from Heyhouses School to Church Road Methodist Church.
6 th July	Psalm 31 <i>Trusting in God and believing he is faithful</i> led by Revd Stephen Heath
20 th July	Psalm 119 focusing on verses 113-128 <i>When will God act?</i> led by Deacon Denise Creed
3 rd August	Holy Communion led by Revd Stephen Heath
17 th August	No meeting



CIRCUIT PRAYER DAY AT CHURCH ROAD

During the year of prayer, our Methodist churches are hosting prayer events on the third Saturdays of each month. The next prayer day at Church Road will be

Saturday 17 June from 10.00 a.m.

led by Deacon Denise Creed and based around the Lord's Prayer.

Everyone is invited to come along and share a time of peace and reflection. More details in the weekly notices.

Summer prayer days elsewhere in the circuit are at Fairhaven on 15 July and at Lytham on 19 August.



Thanks to Arthur Taylor, who has recently retired from the position of organist after many years of dedicated service to Church Road in this capacity. Arthur has brought his musical talent to the organ each week and built a strong musical partnership with the choir to enrich our worship and inspire our singing. Where more modern styles of music have been used in recent years, he has frequently demonstrated a unique ability to complement this by joining in with the organ!

And so, whilst we're sorry that Arthur is retiring from playing the organ each week, we remain extremely grateful to him for all his contributions over the years. His presence on the organ stool is going to be greatly missed!

All change at the Friday Fun Club

Donald and Jean Foulkes have recently retired from leadership of the Friday Fun Club after many years of dedicated and enthusiastic service to our young people. The success of the club and Church Road's outreach to young people owe much to their inspirational leadership and their obvious rapport with the youngsters.

We send our sincere thanks to Donald and Jean for all their hard work over the years. They will continue to assist with the club whenever possible but John and Heather Morrow will now assume the leadership role, after assisting with the club for a number of years. We are grateful to them for continuing the good work of the club and we offer them our wholehearted support and prayers.

Fundraising



As we look forward to the redevelopment of our premises, we will be working to find new opportunities for our work and mission in the neighbourhood. There will be plenty of opportunities to use the enhanced church buildings for community events and we are currently looking at ways in which we can best meet the needs of our community. The trial cooking on a budget project is already proving to be very successful and is just one example of a project that has enormous potential to help people and families in the area.

Of course, all our plans and aspirations will cost money. To cover the cost of the development, we need to raise about £50,000 in addition to funds we already hold and the proceeds we shall receive from the sale of part of our premises for social housing. We are applying to Charitable Trusts to support us in this, but we will also need to show that we have raised some funding ourselves. In the longer term, if we are really going to make our church open to community activities and live up to our commitment to *Make Disciples, Transform Lives and Communities*, there will be an ongoing need for fundraising to make these plans a reality and keep them going in the future.

FUNDRAISING EVENTS

The Gift Day on the Church Anniversary weekend is an opportunity to make a donation towards the development and help us reach our target. Looking ahead, we are also organising a number of events to appeal to more people and help raise money towards our goals. Here are some of the fundraising events that are already planned. More details will be available in the weekly notices and on noticeboards.

Please try and support these events to help support our mission in the community and encourage your family and friends to do as well.

2017

11 June	Launch of fundraising boxes
8 July	Coffee and cakes at St.Annes Carnival
22 July	Bag Packing at Booths, Heyhouses Lane
28 October	Concert by Lytham Community Choir
18 November	Christmas Fair and Table Top Sale

2018

12 – 15 July	Sponsored North of England Bike Ride by a team of our young men - Bill Ellison, Colin Hird & Jonathan Livesey. Joint event with another charity to be agreed
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Other events are being planned. Look out for further dates.

FUNDRAISING BOXES

One initiative is an invitation to everyone to take home a money box, in which we can collect our loose change and put in occasional extra donations. It's a great opportunity to seek contributions from friends and family in exchange for a cup of coffee or a sandwich! Or perhaps we can forego that extra latte one day in the week and put the money saved in the box towards our community work.

The boxes are being formally launched at the morning service on Sunday 11 June; some people have already received theirs at the General Church Meeting. The first collection of the boxes will be at the end of August, with further regular collections about every three months. Donations can be gift aided for additional benefit to the church.



This is intended as an ongoing initiative to allow people and their family and friends to continue supporting us in the coming years. If you or someone you know would like one to help us with our project, please leave a message on the church office phone, email us or message us on Facebook.

HELPING US TO MAKE DISCIPLES & TRANSFORM LIVES & COMMUNITIES

Lord God, Creator of the universe, you who care for all your children: I raise you for your wisdom and power which are beyond my thought and trust you for your infinite goodness and love which support me every day of my life. And I offer my thanksgiving for all the things you ask me to do. Make me more worthy to serve you and more willing to do your will.

Lord, let me not live to be useless.

John Wesley

ST.ANNES CARNIVAL DAY



Saturday 8 July is St Annes Carnival Day and Church Road is on part of the route of the procession. We are opening the church to the community to offer coffee and refreshments during the morning from 10.00 a.m to noon. If the weather is fine, we hope that this will be outside!

Please come along to watch the procession and share in the carnival spirit.

CHURCH ANNIVERSARY AND GIFT DAY

SATURDAY 3rd JUNE

10.00 a.m. to noon

GIFT DAY

- Enjoy a coffee and chat with other members,
- An opportunity to make a donation for our future mission
 - Spend some time in prayer for the work of the church
- Plans for the development will be on display, with an opportunity for questions, comments or suggestions.

SUNDAY 4th JUNE

CELEBRATION OF PENTECOST AND CHURCH ANNIVERSARY

FAMILY WORSHIP AT 10.30 A.M.

Led by REVD JOAN EDWELL

A service of thanksgiving and celebration for the mission of our church and our hopes for the future.

Dedication of gifts received towards our continuing ministry.

Service followed by a Jacob's Join lunch for all the family.

(Please bring your choice of sweet or savoury to the restaurant, preferably before the service and ready to serve, for what promises to be a very enjoyable occasion.)

Come along and join us in the Pentecost celebrations and the anniversary of Church Road Methodist Church

*Teach us good Lord, to serve the needs of others,
Help us to give and not to count the cost.
Unite us all, for we are born as brothers;
Defeat our Babel with your Pentecost*

Fred Kaan (1929-2009)

CHURCH ANNIVERSARY

Celebrating our history

On Sunday, 4th June, we celebrate our Church Anniversary. Here John Mayes tells us more about the story of Methodism in St. Annes and the history of our church.

The inaugural sod of the St. Anne's-on-the-Sea was cut on 2nd February 1875. The new town took its name from the Anglican chapel-of-ease dedicated to St Anne, consecrated in 1873 to serve the remote inhabitants of Heyhouses, Cross Slack and the West End as the far-flung parts of Lytham were known.

The story of Methodism in St. Annes is as old as the town itself. In May 1875, John Heap, a joiner and builder newly arrived from Rossendale, erected a small wooden bungalow by the railway, close to where Hove Road and Springfield Road now stand. He called it "Pine Cottage". It was the first rated house in St. Annes and also the town's first place of Nonconformist worship.

With a steady influx into the town of folk from East Lancashire, an area with a strong Nonconformist tradition, the number of friends who met there began to outgrow the little cabin and in February 1876 they left "Pine Cottage" for a room above Whiteside's stables in Back St. Annes Road West. There, Wesleyan Methodists, Baptists and Congregationalists continued to meet until August 1877, when the Wesleyans went their separate way, meeting for worship in a newly-erected chapel on South Drive.

Across the railway and a vast tract of dunes and common land (difficult to imagine now!), Wesleyan services were also conducted occasionally in the home of James Jackson on Church Road, and in 1881 a room over a bake house, off Church Road, was opened as a mission room. There the predominantly working-class society grew and on Sunday 8th May 1887 they moved into the Band Room, a wooden mission room with seating for 100, which had originally been opened in the late 1870s by the United Free Methodists from Blackpool. Services were so well-attended that in March the following year the circuit Quarterly Meeting at Lytham gave its consent to the erection of a new Mission Hall.

Losing no time, by mid-June the Trustees had let out contracts and in early July, shortly after the Sunday School had held its first anniversary, the memorial stones of the new Mission were laid. Building progressed rapidly with the aid of voluntary labour and gifts of building materials. Before the end of August, the building was roofed in and, on the afternoon of Wednesday 3rd October 1888, the Revd. Charles Garrett of Liverpool Mission opened the new chapel.

Church Road Wesleyan Mission flourished. The Society continued to grow as the town about it grew and it became obvious that the members would have to emulate their friends at The Drive who, in 1892, had opened an imposing church in the Gothic Style. So, on 16th April 1904, the foundation stones of a new church on Church Road were laid.



The new building, with its 75 feet high tower, was opened for worship on 8th June 1905, by John Roberts, a gardener, one of the Church's hardest workers. It cost £5,500 to build and could accommodate 750 worshippers. The old Mission Room, which held a mere 200 worshippers, was utilised as the Sunday School.

The next hundred years saw many changes. Among them, in 1955, the most ambitious project since the building of the Church began. It was a £30,000 scheme to build new Sunday School premises and these were opened in 1957. The twentieth century also saw Church Road involve itself dynamically in the community. On 20th January 1975, the Day Care Unit of the new Church Road Centre welcomed its first 12 clients.

Since then there have been new challenges to our worship and our mission. All these have been met by prayer, hard work and sacrificial giving. So, we go forward in faith, remembering and giving thanks on this Anniversary, not only for our Church building but also for all those who have worshipped and witnessed as the living Church in this neighbourhood and community for around 130 years.

“Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms.”

1 Peter Chapter 4, verse 10

The Vestry Team

From 1 May, there have been changes in the Vestry Team. Catherine Peak has concluded her time as Senior Steward but will remain a Steward and Irene Harrison has also concluded her time as Steward and is retiring from the team.

We record our sincere thanks to Catherine and Irene for all they have done in these roles. Linda Butcher becomes Senior Steward and we assure her, and the Vestry Team, of our prayers in their leadership role in the church.

The team for the coming twelve months is now Linda Butcher as senior steward, supported by Colin Hird, John Mayes, Jonathan Livesey and Catherine Peak.

Catherine has diligently fulfilled her duties as Senior Steward for two years and as she retires from the senior position, she has sent her thanks to everyone, especially Stephen and the Vestry team, for all the love, help and support that she has been shown whilst she has been the Senior Steward.

"It has been a privilege and a blessing to serve you in that way. And now, as Linda takes over from me, I know that you will give to her, as you gave to me. You are very special people, and it's a joy to be part of this Church Family."

Catherine

This, this is the God we adore,
our faithful, unchangeable friend,
whose love is as great as his power,
and neither knows measure nor end:
'tis Jesus, the first and the last,
whose Spirit shall guide us safe home;
we'll praise him for all that is past,
and trust him for all that's to come.

*Singing the Faith 67
Joseph Hart (1712-1767)*

Personal Reflections on the Church Hall by Mandy Hall

My summer production of 'Blood Brothers' takes place on Saturday July 1st at 7.30pm in the Main Hall. This is a most significant performance as it is probably the last performance on that wonderful stage. I have been personally performing on that stage for 48 years, beginning in the Sunday School pantomimes which my mum (Marjorie) and dad (Peter) produced for many years. My mum, my brother Gary and sister Yvonne and I played a diverse range of roles in these productions. As a young person and teenager I took part in various Christian productions in the Church Hall. The most memorable of these was 'Rock Nativity', directed by Peter Buckley. At the age of 17 I founded 'The Centre Players' and directed 'When We Were Married' and 'Hobson's Choice' in which many Church Rd members took part. I also directed Agatha Christie's 'Murder at the Vicarage' in which many people will remember my great Auntie Ruby playing the role of Miss Marple.



After returning from university and spending a short time living in Burscough and then the Isle of Wight, I established 'The Emily Laws School of Acting' in 1993. I have been running Acting and Musical Theatre classes on Saturdays since that time and we have put on at least 3 shows a year on that stage. Over 1,000 young people have been involved in these classes and productions. It has been a joy to watch my son, Oliver, playing roles as diverse as King Duncan in 'Macbeth' to Miss Trunchbull in 'Matilda'. I now have the pleasure of teaching my niece, Evelyn. Many of these young people have gone on to successful careers in the theatre world and all have benefited from increasing confidence, self-esteem and life skills. They have also gained accredited examinations in Performing Arts topics.

My Acting School celebrated its 10 and 20 year anniversary in the Church Centre by holding two huge open days with performances and displays throughout the day. The 20 year celebration was opened by the Mayor of Fylde and extremely well attended.

My mum was ELSA's pianist for 14 years. Her loss in 2007 was bigger than can be written in words, but her legacy lives on in my Acting school; money donated at her funeral contributed to the cost of the new stage curtains. I cannot look at the Hall piano without seeing her sitting there playing it. It has been a real privilege to have my sister, Yvonne, taking over that role.

I have been involved in many concerts in the Church Hall which have raised money for charity and Church funds. I could also describe all the fabulous church social events, Barn Dances, Gilbert & Sullivan productions, Guides, Autumn Markets etc that my family and I have attended and been heavily involved with in the Church Hall over the last 50 years.

It isn't just a building. It is a haven of beautiful memories which will live with us forever. I wonder if other people would like to share their memories of the Church Hall and perhaps we can put together a book so that future generations can learn about this great aspect of our history at Church Rd?



**The Emily Laws School of Acting
proudly present their Summer Spectacular**



Our version of
“Blood Brothers”
Based on the West End hit musical by Willy Russell

in the Church Centre Hall on

SATURDAY 1st JULY AT 7.30 P.M.

Admission is £6 for adults and £4 for under 16's.
Pay on the door.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

This may seem to be a bit early, but the end of June marks the mid- point of the year and we shall soon be nearer to next Christmas than last! The Church Council has agreed that this coming Christmas we support the Samaritan Purse's Operation Christmas Child, which since 1990 has arranged for more than 124 million boys and girls in over 150 countries to experience God's love through the power of simple shoebox gifts. Some people have indicated they would like to start collecting shoe boxes and the items to fill them in good time and so we thought it might be helpful to have the following information now.



Procedure

You will need an empty medium sized shoebox, wrapping the lid and box separately in colourful wrapping paper. Attach the appropriate label to show if your gift is for a boy or a girl. Select an age category 2-4, 5-9 or 10-14 and attach the label to the top of your shoebox. If you are struggling to find a shoebox please ask one of the Stewards who have a supply of boxes and labels.

Having prepared your box, fill it with a selection of fun toys, hygiene items and school supplies.

Gift Suggestions

Toys - include items that children will immediately embrace such as dolls or stuffed toys (with CE label), toy trucks, harmonica, yo-yo, skipping rope, ball, small puzzles etc.

School Supplies - pens, pencils & sharpeners, crayons or felt pens, stamps & ink pad sets, writing pads or notebooks & paper, solar calculators, colouring & picture books etc.

Hygiene Items - toothbrush and toothpaste, bars of wrapped soap, comb or hairbrush, flannel.

Other Items - hat, cap, gloves or scarf, sunglasses, hair accessories, jewellery set, wind up torch, wrapped sweets (best-before-date must be at least March of the following year).

Please Do Not Include - used or damaged items, war related items such as toy guns, play soldiers or knives; chocolate or other food items; liquids or lotions of any type including bubbles; medicines; hand-made or knitted stuffed toys; anything of a political, racial or religious nature; sharp objects; glass containers, mirrors or fragile items; playing cards of the 4-suit variety; clothing other than as listed above.

Pray - pray for the child who will receive your gift. You can also include a personal note and photo of yourself or your group.

Further details will be included in the next edition of The Record. The shoeboxes will need to be returned to church by the beginning of November.

THANK YOU IN ANTICIPATION OF YOUR SUPPORT FOR THIS WORTHY CHRISTMAS CAMPAIGN

How shall we be remembered?

*by Dorothy Stanger,
wife of our former Minister, the late Revd Gerald Stanger*

This question was brought home to me on the occasion of visiting Church Road to meet the President, then Steven Wild. At the end of the service, an elderly lady approached me and thought she should recognise me - "I remember you dressed in a football kit and kicking a football!" The occasion was when we were entertaining people in the Day Care Centre directed by the Secretary Kath Pickstone.

Dorothy Wake spoke up "I remember you when you took us to London for the weekend". At that time, Dorothy had no friends that she could invite to share a twin room and the events of the weekend. I said to her "I am in a similar position, will I do?" "That would be great!" was Dorothy's reply. During the next two days we joined with Joy and Vera to make a foursome to the Albert Hall, shops and theatre. The four of us decided to have a Chinese lunch, made to look more attractive on rotating tables. One of the results of the weekend was that Dorothy's husband of Chinese origin said "I will make you a real Chinese meal. Gerald can come too." It was even better than I could have imagined – a real climax to the weekend! No wonder it has been one of my favourite memories! Thank you Lord for new friends!

Shocks

Strange though it may seem, I learned recently that I had lost two longstanding friends about the same time and found it difficult to cope with. Although I heard from Hazel Orton's daughter that she was frail and showing her age I could not accept that she too had died. Since first going to Church Road as the minister's wife, Hazel was always in touch. Somehow I could not see life without Hazel, one who had done so much with her skills, caring and thoughtful generosity. One example was when there were four of us on duty serving at the Day Care Centre before the Ladies Fellowship. Hazel made not one apron but two for each of us so we had a choice of colour. Surely, she was a permanent fixture at Church Road.

Christmas will not be the same without a letter from Hazel with her greetings. Over the years she has given so much as President of the Ladies Fellowship, seamstress and friend. No one person can replace Hazel, such a unique personality with so many talents and gifts.

Thank you Lord for the privilege of knowing her, working with her and being her friend. Long may her influence continue. Thank you too to her very loving and dedicated daughter, Josephine, who cared so much.

Dorothy Stanger



METHODIST HOMES

MHA SUNDAY : SUNDAY 11th JUNE

This is our only effort for MHA in general, as all the rest of our efforts are for Starr Hills in Lytham. MHA looks after about 70,000 people including At Home Schemes, Care Homes, Dementia Care and Music Therapy. MHA wants to grow their support of older people and help to eliminate the feelings of loneliness and isolation that affects so many of our communities. MHA Sunday will be an opportunity to support this work.

Thank you in anticipation, Jenny Breare, Circuit Secretary MHA.

LADIES' FELLOWSHIP

part of Methodist Women in Britain – MWiB

MEET IN ASHTON GARDENS' CAFÉ, ST ANNES

All ladies are welcome to join us for a drink and a chat between 3 00 pm and 4 00 pm every Wednesday starting 7 June.

LADIES' FELLOWSHIP AFTERNOON TEA

WEDNESDAY 12 JULY at 3.00 p.m.
in the Church

Tickets £3.50

(see weekly notices for more information)

METHODIST WOMEN IN BRITAIN

The Ladies Fellowship is part of the Methodist Women in Britain network. We have a proud heritage stemming from the twin roots of Women's Work, founded in 1858 to support training and care for women missionaries, and Women's Fellowship, started in 1945 out of a concern to address social problems resulting from the war.

These two movements merged in 1987 to form the Women's Network of the Methodist Church, with a clear place in the Methodist connexional team. Change came in 2008 resulting in the launch in 2011 of Methodist Women in Britain (MWiB) as an independent, self-financing organisation.

Our aim today is to connect women with an interest in creative spirituality and a passion for global social justice.



WESLEY'S COMMUNITY CAFÉ

*Part of the Cooking on a Budget initiative
to promote healthy and affordable eating*

TUESDAYS Opens 11.30 a.m. Full Menu served

WEDNESDAYS Opens 11.00 a.m. Tea, Coffee & Cakes

THURSDAYS Opens 12 noon. Full Menu served

Child friendly

Affordable prices, no booking required

Make new friends

Great food and atmosphere, all welcome.



Wesley's - Volunteers wanted

Got a few hours to spare? Want to learn new skills or use your experience to help others? Enjoy being part of a team?

Wesley's restaurant is looking for volunteers to help in all aspects of café service.

Whether it is food preparation or serving customers that interests you, or helping with after service clearing up and pot wash, the team at Wesley's has a job for you.

Even if you can only spare an hour or two a week you will be a welcome addition to our friendly team of volunteers.

To find out more contact Rev. Stephen Heath on 07711917955

or better still call in at Wesley's on Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday for a chat with some of the team.

IONA COMMUNITY



The island of Iona was where the Irish Christian missionary St Columba landed in 563 AD bringing Christianity to Scotland. Columba and his monks pursued an active missionary outreach across Scotland, seeking to attract people to the Gospel by their way of life, their care for all, and the preaching and practise of their faith in what has come to be known as Celtic Christianity.

Following in this early tradition, the present day Iona Community was founded in 1938 as an ecumenical Christian community attracting pilgrims from around the world to contemplate their faith amidst the wild beauty of the west coast of Scotland.

Apart from ecumenism and a broad dedication to prayer, meditation and commitment to its own liturgical practices, issues relating to the pursuit of peace and justice are central to the ethos of the Community. By bringing together men and women from different walks of life and different traditions within Christianity, the Iona community has helped to reinvigorate Christian worship in all kinds of ways.



The former Labour leader John Smith is buried in the cemetery of Iona Abbey.

Through the work of its leading songwriters, John Bell and Graeme Maule, the community's associated publishing group based in Glasgow has produced a significant body of modern hymns and songs to enrich our worship.

*The love of Christ surround us
The light of Christ lead us
The peace of Christ fill us
The power of Christ aid us
The joy of Christ thrill us
The presence of Christ be with us for evermore.*

A Celtic prayer



Take this moment, sign, and space;
take my friends around;
here among us make the place
where your love is found.

Take the time to call my name,
take the time to mend
who I am and what I've been,
all I've failed to tend.

Take the tiredness of my days,
take my past regret,
letting your forgiveness touch
all I can't forget.

Take the little child in me,
scared of growing old;
help me here to find my worth
made in Christ's own mould.

Take my talents, take my skills,
take what's yet to be;
let my life be yours, and yet,
let it still be me.

This hymn was written by John Bell and Graham Maule of the Iona Community. It is one of a number of hymns in *Singing the Faith* which display the simple and direct spirituality characteristic of the Iona Community.

This year, the Methodist Conference is meeting at the Hilton Metropole Hotel at the National Exhibition Centre in Birmingham from Thursday 22 June - Thursday 29 June. The Conference is the governing body of the Methodist Church, with responsibility for the government, discipline, management and administration of the life of the Church. The Conference is also a place for worship, thanksgiving, ordination and celebration.

At the conference, the new President Revd Loraine N Mellor and Vice President Jill Baker will start their year of office when the Representative Session of the Methodist Conference meets on 24 June 2017. They will succeed the current President and Vice-President, the Revd Dr Roger Walton and Rachel Lampard.

John Wesley himself was the original President of the Methodist Conference, but after his death it was agreed that in future, so much authority would not be placed in the hands of one man. Instead, the President would be elected for one year only and when lay people were admitted to the Conference in 1878, a lay Vice-President was also elected. The two now serve in partnership and follow Wesley's example in travelling the length and breadth of Great Britain, representing Methodism in the wider world.



Loraine (left) has been a presbyter since 1995 and is Chair of the Nottingham and Derby District. A member of the Church's Strategy and Resources Committee, Loraine is coordinator of the Larger than Circuit group which is considering how the Church can best reflect the missional needs of today's Church. She says

"I want to encourage and enable the Church to put God back on the agenda in our communities and enthuse people to share the Good News. The Church has reached a tipping point, the time has come for us to take some risks in our mission and in our discipleship in order to help us grow."

Jill (right) is a local preacher and tutor in the Scotland District, exploring and leading pilgrimages. She enjoys writing and, in the past, spent eight years as a mission partner in the South Caribbean. Jill was President of Methodist Women in Britain between 2011 and 2013.

"I am thankful to the Methodist family for the prayer and for the support it offers in hard times. I am committed to working locally and connexionally for an inclusive, just, compassionate and creative Church."



TRAIDCRAFT

Fighting poverty through trade

Fair trade, defined simply, is when producers in developing countries are paid a fair price for their work, by companies in developed countries.

It's when the price we pay for products gives enough to producers for them to afford life's essentials - like food, education and healthcare.

Fair trade was created as an alternative way of doing trade. It is based on partnership, which means that the interests of farmers and workers are just as important as other commercial considerations. It also represents a solution to poverty and a model for development.

Key Principles of Fair Trade

- Trading practices are fair and not one-sided.
- Prices paid are fair and sufficient for producers and workers to earn more than enough to meet their day-to-day needs.
- Payments are often made in advance to ensure the supplier can fulfil orders.
- Producers and workers have a voice, whether organised into groups or involved in workplaces where there is freedom of association.
- Safe working conditions, non-discrimination and welfare of children.

In the next edition, we'll look at some of the projects that Traidcraft is involved in across the developing world.

The Traidcraft stall will be in church after the services on the following dates over the summer:

25 June, 30 July and 27 August.



Please come along and support fair trade products and help to improve lives in the developing world.

FREEDOM TO WORSHIP

by American Artist Norman Rockwell

contributed by Stuart Wrigley

On our recent visit to family in New York, we spent a weekend away in the Berkshires in western Massachusetts. A popular area of classic New England small towns, the Berkshires is home to Tanglewood, the summer season venue for the Boston Symphony Orchestra. The area also boasts a number of connections with the 20th century world of modern American art. A strikingly well designed gallery in the area is dedicated to the work of local artist, Norman Rockwell (1894-1978), who lived in the town of Stockbridge for over 25 years and who became famous in America for his illustrated covers for the *Saturday Evening Post*.

Still published today, the *Saturday Evening Post* has chronicled American history in the making for nearly 300 years, reflecting the characteristics and values that define the American way of life. Today's *Post* continues to provide art, entertainment and information in a mix of features bringing an historical context to current issues.

Norman Rockwell painted over 300 covers depicting simple scenes of American life for this magazine between 1916 and 1963. He was a technical artist who liked to tell optimistic stories in his paintings. Critics called his work sentimental but Rockwell said simply, "I paint life as I would like it to be." His early covers for the *Saturday Evening Post* made Rockwell a celebrity.



Amongst his most popular magazine covers were his iconic "Four Freedoms" paintings in the 1940's. The "four freedoms" of Rockwell's paintings were freedom of speech, freedom to worship, freedom from want and freedom from fear. They were based on the words of President Franklin Roosevelt in his 1941 State of the Union address.

Illustrated left is Norman Rockwell's painting Freedom to Worship. The caption reads

"Each according to his own conscience"

Luxury on the Orient Express

by Myrtle Peplow

“What can you do in four days that you will remember for the rest of your life?” That was the advertisement that caught my eye in the Sunday Times in 1980, which led me to a memorable holiday. The Concorde Club had arranged a four-day package deal which included a journey on the Orient Express, two days and nights at the Danieli Hotel in Venice and a flight home on Concorde. This was for me!



And so it came about that I was standing on platform 8 at Victoria Station, looking around at my fellow passengers, wondering if I might be travelling in the company of someone famous. There was an air of excited anticipation. We were all eager to see the marvellous train and the sight that met our eyes was all that we'd hoped for.

I was to travel in 'Phoenix' which at one time had been the private coach of General De Gaulle. The cream and brown exterior was gleaming in the winter sun and the very presence of the porters in their brown and gold livery evoked memories of films made on this special train. The marquetry and the Lalique crystal inside the coaches had been restored by craftsmen to the same pattern as when new. The deeply upholstered armchairs at the dining tables created a feeling of luxury, which was enhanced by the gleaming silver and china on the tables.

Lunch was eaten whilst travelling through the lovely Kent countryside, and on arrival at Folkestone, I left the Pullman and embarked on the Sealink Ferry. We reached Boulogne after a very pleasant crossing and there we boarded the Wagons Lits, our French Orient Express train, which was to take us the rest of our journey to Venice.

Very elegant and the paintwork gleaming navy blue and cream. The cabins served as a bedroom at night and a cosy sitting room during the day. Everything was compact and the sink in the corner, doubled as a table when the lid was lowered over. Dinner was a very relaxed affair, the meal consisting of several courses, the main one being venison. The train stopped for a short time at Paris Austerlitz Station, and then we continued our journey through Dijon to Switzerland.

The piano bar was popular and the pianist played throughout the evening. Hearing the conversation around me, I realised that for all of us, this was the first time on the Orient Express. There was a lot of good natured banter about Agatha Christie and 'Murder on the Orient Express'!

I looked out of the window a couple of times during the night, hoping to see something of Switzerland but it was too dark and could only make out the tops of the mountains against the sky. In the morning, continental breakfast was brought to my compartment so that I could enjoy the scenery as I ate. The sun was shining and the Italian Lakes looked very beautiful as we sped past.



When we arrived at the Italian Swiss Frontier at Domodossola, the French engine was replaced by an Italian diesel engine, as we were now travelling on the Italian railway network. We arrived in Venice at noon and transferred from the train to a water bus. I took a last look at the fabulous train, checked my luggage then settled down to enjoy the journey across the lagoon, to the Danieli Hotel which is by San Marco square.

The first sight of St Mark's Square and the Doges Palace is breath-taking – but then, Venice *is* a magical place. I made the most of my two days in Venice, renewing acquaintances with places I remembered from previous holidays.

The morning of the fourth day arrived all too soon. We congregated in the hotel lounge to await our vaporetto to take us across the lagoon to the airport. Full of eager anticipation, we stepped ashore in front of the airport runway. There, behind the railings was the sleek elegant Concorde, a beautiful sight as it waited for us to board. The plane seated 100 passengers, in twos on either side of the aisle. The seats are slightly larger than on an ordinary aircraft and everything is of an exceptionally high standard. At last – I was aboard Concorde, another dream come true!



The plane taxied down the runway ready for take-off, everyone was excited then suddenly there was a slight bump. The Captain informed us that he was going to go back and taxi again to check that everything was OK. This time the bump was more noticeable. There was a fault.

After we had enjoyed a first class dinner, Captain David Ross informed us that the fault had been found on a wheel break. Whilst we were enjoying our meal, mechanics had jacked the plane up to check the wheels without anyone feeling the slightest movement! A spare part was to be flown out from England but it would be

the next morning before we could take off. We were taken back to the Danieli Hotel, having to spend another night in Venice. For me, an unexpected bonus!

After breakfast the following day, we set out again for the airport. Even after the disappointment of not flying the night before, it was still a thrill to be boarding Concorde again. We settled down, ready to enjoy the supersonic flight. To gain the required height and to avoid towns, it was necessary to fly around the Bay of Biscay, to break the sound barrier. As we reached Mach One, I felt a slight 'nudge' in my back which was due to the extra thrust of the engines, but it was such a smooth and quiet flight that there was very little impression of the speed, and at Mach Two, we were travelling at an incredible 23 miles per minute!



On arrival at Heathrow Airport, after a flight lasting two hours ten minutes, I reluctantly left Concorde. What a wonderful holiday it had been. My retirement present to myself was certainly the stuff that dreams are made of!

But we didn't have a "Murder on the Orient Express"!

Thank you, Myrtle, for sharing this "trip of a lifetime" with us. If anyone also has memories of a special holiday or event, please let us know and perhaps we can read about it in a future edition of The Record !

Lord, we thank you for the freedoms that are ours.
We remember those who are trapped
by the decisions and actions of others,
as well as by themselves.
We pray for those in dark places and ask that they
may begin to see the light at the end of the tunnel,
know hope restored and freedom gained.
We ask that you grant to all the freedom
that comes from knowing Christ's transforming love
in our lives. Amen.

Graham Thompson, Plymouth and Exeter District Chair

DIARY NOTES



Please check the weekly notices for summer meetings and closures during school holidays

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 in term-time from 9.30 to 11.30 a.m. for 0-4's with parents and carers.

LADIES' FELLOWSHIP: Every WEDNESDAY from 3.00 to 4.00 p.m. in the Ashton Gardens Café.

MORNING PRAYERS: Every THURSDAY at 10.00 a.m.
A time of quiet reflection and prayer.

WORSHIP ON THURSDAY: 1st & 3rd THURSDAY of each month (except 18th August) from 11.00 a.m. – 12.15 p.m. A time of worship, bible study and reflection.

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

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

ACTIV8 CAFÉ STYLE WORSHIP at 9.00 for 9.15 a.m. on the first SUNDAY of each month. No service in June.

TRAIDCRAFT STALL: After morning worship, generally on the last SUNDAY of each month. Come along and support fair trade products.

TIME OUT at 7.00 p.m. every THIRD SUNDAY of each month. An informal faith based group for young people 12+

FRESH CAFÉ STYLE WORSHIP at 6.30 for 7.00 p.m every SUNDAY at Fairhaven Methodist Church. An opportunity to explore faith through media, conversation and prayer. Drinks are available from 6.30 p.m. and worship begins at 7.00 p.m. **No meetings in August.**

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. The news sheet for Sunday 30 July will include the month of August.

churchroadmethodist@gmail.com

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



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.

Please visit our new website, which has details of all services and activities at Church Road. If you have a church event that you want to include, please pass the information to the church office.

www.churchroadmethodist.org.uk

The next edition of the THE RECORD will be the Autumn edition, which will be published at the end of August 2017. 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

1p.m. on Sunday 20 August 2017

Please send articles by email if possible to
churchroadmethodist@gmail.com