

# THE RECORD

## SUMMER 2024



## CHURCH ROAD METHODIST CHURCH

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

Superintendent Minister: Revd Stuart Wild  
Tel. 07470 350205; email: [revstuartwild@aol.com](mailto:revstuartwild@aol.com)



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Web Site [www.churchroadmethodist.org](http://www.churchroadmethodist.org)  
Email: [churchroadmethodist@gmail.com](mailto:churchroadmethodist@gmail.com)*

*Church Road Methodist Church Registered Charity No 1134109*

**LORD OF THE CHURCH, WE PRAY FOR OUR RENEWING:**

Christ over all, our undivided aim.  
Fire of the Spirit, burn for our enduing,  
wind of the Spirit, fan the living flame!  
We turn to Christ amid our fear and failing,  
the will that lacks the courage to be free,  
the weary labours, all but unavailing,  
to bring us nearer what a church should be.

Lord of the church, we seek a Father's blessing,  
a true repentance and a faith restored,  
a swift obedience and a new possessing,  
filled with the Holy Spirit of the Lord!  
We turn to Christ from all our restless striving,  
unnumbered voices with a single prayer:  
the living water for our souls' reviving,  
in Christ to live, and love and serve and care.

Lord of the church, we long for our uniting,  
true to one calling, by one vision stirred;  
one cross proclaiming and one creed reciting,  
one in the truth of Jesus and his word.  
So lead us on; till toil and trouble ended,  
one church triumphant one new song shall sing,  
to praise his glory, risen and ascended,  
Christ over all, the everlasting King!

*Timothy Dudley-Smith OBE (born 26 December 1926) is a retired bishop of the Church of England and a noted English hymnwriter.  
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# WORSHIP SERVICES

## JUNE

2<sup>nd</sup> June

9.30 a.m.

*ACTIV8*

Janette Farley

9<sup>th</sup> June

10.30 a.m.

CHURCH ANNIVERSARY & GIFT DAY

Judith Smith

16<sup>th</sup> June

10.30 a.m.

Revd Janet Pybon

Service includes the celebration of Holy Communion

23<sup>rd</sup> June

10.30 a.m.

Revd Stephen Heath

Service includes the baptism of Charlotte Hanson

30<sup>th</sup> June

10.30 a.m.

Adrienne Simpson

## JULY

7<sup>th</sup> July

9.30 a.m.

*ACTIV8*

David Turner

14<sup>th</sup> July

10.30 a.m.

Julia Brooks

21<sup>st</sup> July

10.30 a.m.

Revd Janet Pybon

Service includes the celebration of Holy Communion

28<sup>th</sup> July

10.30 a.m.

Deacon Kim Gabbatiss

# WORSHIP SERVICES (cont'd)

## AUGUST

4<sup>th</sup> August  
9.30 a.m.

*ACTIV8:*  
Judith Smith

11<sup>th</sup> August  
10.30 a.m.

Local Arrangement

18<sup>th</sup> August  
10.30 a.m.

Heather Draper

25<sup>th</sup> August  
10.30 a.m.

Revd Stephen Heath  
Service includes the celebration of Holy Communion

## CIRCUIT SERVICES

### **Easter Offering for the Methodist Church World Mission Fund**

The traditional service to dedicate the Circuit's offering will be held at 3.00p.m. on Sunday 9 June at Layton Methodist Church.

### **Circuit Welcome Service**

A circuit welcome for Michaela Barker, the new probationary Minister for Fairhaven and Kirkham, will be held on Sunday 1 September at 10.30 a.m. at The Drive Methodist Church. The preacher will be the Chair of our new North West England District, Revd Dr James Tebbutt. Cakes will be served afterwards.

No preachers will be rostered for other churches on this day.



## **Letter from our Superintendent Revd Stuart Wild**

*Dear Friends,*

A favourite hymn of mine and indeed of many other people is How Great Thou Art. This is a truly international song whose history involves many nations which reminds us that the greatness of God is not national but universal.

It came to popularity in this country as a signature song of the Billy Graham rallies in the 1950s beginning in the USA. Dr Graham said "The reason I like 'How Great Thou Art' is because it glorifies God. It turns Christian's eyes toward God, rather than upon themselves. I use it as often as possible because it is such a God-honouring song."

However, the words we sing are a loose translation of what was originally a Swedish hymn. English missionary Stuart Hine first heard the Russian translation of the German version of the song while on an evangelistic mission to Ukraine in 1931. Upon hearing it, Hine was inspired to create his English paraphrase known as "How Great Thou Art" and he started using it in evangelistic services. Hine also started re-writing some of the verses --- and writing new verses (all in Russian) --- as events inspired him.

The original Swedish hymn was written by Carl Boberg in 1885. This is how he described its inspiration.

"It was that time of year when everything seemed to be in its richest colouring; the birds were singing in trees and everywhere. It was very warm; a thunderstorm appeared on the horizon and soon there was thunder and lightning. We had to hurry to shelter. But the storm was soon over and the clear sky appeared. When I came home I opened my window toward the sea. There evidently had been a funeral and the bells were

playing the tune of "When eternity's clock calls my saved soul to its Sabbath rest". That evening, I wrote the song, "O Store Gud"

Its quite a journey the hymn has travelled and since gaining popularity in the 1950s. There are many other translations and it has frequently featured high in polls of best or favourite hymns. We owe grateful thanks to all those who have played a part in bringing it to us but above all we owe our thanks to God who inspired them. We best show that gratitude by considering in awesome wonder all the works the hand of God has made. Then our souls will truly and sincerely sing

### HOW GREAT THOU ART

God bless you

*Stuart Wild*

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#### PLEASE NOTE:

Revd Stuart Wild is on Sabbatical during June, July and August. Urgent pastoral matters during this period should be referred to

Revd Andy Halstead.

tel: 01253 302895 email: [halstead7@hotmail.com](mailto:halstead7@hotmail.com)

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### **ACTIV8**



Our monthly informal service of early morning worship is on the **first Sunday of each month** at 9.30 a.m. A time of warm fellowship with associated activities for children followed by breakfast. There will be **no** service at 10:30am at Church Road, but those wishing to attend a traditional service are encouraged to go to The Drive.



**SYBIL BLEACH**

*former member, lately living in the Isle of Wight*

**KATHLEEN FENN**

**ARTHUR TAYLOR**

**RON WOODHEAD**

*former member, lately living in Grange-over-Sands*



Green pastures are before me,  
which yet I have not seen;  
bright skies will soon be o'er me,  
where darkest clouds have been;  
my hope I cannot measure,  
my path to life is free;  
my Saviour has my treasure,  
and he will walk with me.

Anna Laetitia Waring (1823-1910)

# SPRING FLOWER DEDICATIONS

## MARCH

- 3<sup>rd</sup> Birthday memories of Gordon Porter
- 10<sup>th</sup> Loving birthday memories of Ross Wells
- 17<sup>th</sup> Audrey Porter – wedding day memories of Gordon
- 24<sup>th</sup> Loving memories of Muriel Maddocks
- Loving memories of Margaret Richmond, Wilfred & Dorothy Lowe

## APRIL

- 7<sup>th</sup> In loving memory of John and Clarice Hughes from Margaret Wrigley
- Pauline, Tony and Rachel - Birthday memories of Claire
- Treasured memories of Vera Pate
- In loving memory of Eric and Jean Currie
- 14<sup>th</sup> Birthday memories of Evelyn Etherington
- Treasured wedding anniversary and birthday memories of Derek Rigby
- 28<sup>th</sup> Treasured memories of Conrad Pate

## MAY

- 5<sup>th</sup> Diana Thompson – birthday memories of a dear mummy and daddy
- 19<sup>th</sup> The birthday of Margaret Joyce Knight
- Rosemary Wells – wedding anniversary memories
- 26<sup>th</sup> Sylvia Dibble, in loving memory of her parents

## Paws for thought 12



Psalm 121 - I will lift my eyes to the hills - from where will my help come.

A popular Psalm which brings to mind the imagery of a beautiful hillside. The Cumbrian hills or perhaps the Pennines or somewhere abroad but one thing is for sure, its not the hills of St Annes or the Fylde. The nearest we get to seeing the hills is when we look across the bay on a clear day and see the Welsh hills.

I suppose the hills around here are mainly the sand dunes and whilst I quite enjoy a walk through them my four-legged friend, Fimber, enjoys running up and down them.

In the 14<sup>th</sup> century, the Monks in Greece believed that the higher they could build their Monasteries the nearer to God they would be. Certainly, around Meteora, you can visit some of these ruins set on pinnacles of rock looking surreal against the skyline. The only way up and down was a basket pulley system, and it was their only way of contact with the outside world. Only six of these monasteries are suitable for visitors today.

But we don't really need to go to the mountains to find God, he is everywhere, lowlands, highlands, and everywhere in between. A friend of mine is following in the footsteps of Wainwright, intending to complete all his walks except one day when the weather wasn't so good he had a fall, hurt himself, broke his phone but was able to get down the hillside. Fortunately, he managed to make it back to his car where the phone worked and so he was able to contact his wife to meet him in A & E before she called the mountain rescue out. He felt God was looking out for him, even if he wasn't looking where he was going!

If we read the whole Psalm, we can be reassured that God will keep us safe wherever we are. While we sleep, while we go about our everyday business, he will be at our side. He will keep our goings out and our comings in for ever, and ever.

(StF 492 by Brian Foley)

God knew my days before all days,  
before I came to be;  
And keeps me, loves me, in my ways,  
through all eternity.



*Judith Smith*



The Cross decorated by the congregation on Easter Sunday, with the Lenten crown of thorns replaced by spring flowers.

## Conference 2024

The Conference is the governing body of the Methodist Church and meets annually to discuss matters affecting the life of the Church, our nation and the world. This year, Conference will be held in Leeds from 27 June to 3 July.

### New President and Vice-President of the Methodist Conference elected for 2024/25

The Methodist Conference has elected the Revd Helen Cameron to serve as President and Mrs Carolyn Godfrey to serve as Vice-President, starting their year of office when the Representative Session of the Methodist Conference opens in Leeds.



**Our President and Vice-President Designate for 2024/25**

*Revd Helen D Cameron*  
President Designate

*Mrs Carolyn Godfrey*  
Vice-President Designate

**The Revd Helen Cameron** is currently the Chair of the Northampton District and the Nottingham and Derby District, Moderator of the Free Churches Group and President of Churches Together in England. Helen represented the FCG at the funeral of Her Majesty the Queen, reading prayers during the service and was also present at the Coronation of King Charles.

**Mrs Carolyn Godfrey** is the District Safeguarding Officer covering both the Darlington and Newcastle Districts and a local preacher. She has a background in pastoral care and child protection within the education system helping to support children with additional needs and families facing complex issues. Carolyn has a Master of Education degree which focused on social, emotional and behavioural difficulties.

The role of President of the Methodist Conference is reserved for presbyters and that of Vice-President for lay people or deacons.



## **NORTH WEST ENGLAND METHODIST DISTRICT NEWS**

### **Launch of North West England District**

**Saturday 31 August at 2.30 p.m.**

**Victoria Hall, Bolton BL1 2AS**

An opportunity to celebrate as five Methodist Districts join to form the North West England District. The event will include the welcome service for the District Chair and the wider District Team.

# Statement on Antisemitism and Islamophobia

## **A statement from the 2023-24 President and Vice President of the Methodist Conference, the Revd Gill Newton and Deacon Kerry Scarlett**

We are deeply saddened and concerned about the increase in antisemitism and Islamophobia in the United Kingdom. Such incidents, attacks and attitudes are fundamentally opposed to Jesus' command to love our neighbour. The tangible fear and tension for British Jewish and Muslim communities as a result of these incidents have no place in our society and are a real threat to community cohesion.

The 2023 Methodist Conference reiterated our commitment to oppose antisemitism and to stand by all who are discriminated against or persecuted on the grounds of their religion or ethnicity. We recognise that as a Church we need to be vigilant about our own language, voice and actions, and continue to repent and learn from past wrongs. We are committed to being an inclusive Church that challenges antisemitism, Islamophobia and all forms of discrimination.

We call on our elected leaders to lead by example and not only call out any discrimination on ethnic or religious grounds but to ensure that in their language they do not incite antisemitism and Islamophobia.

We also believe that we are called as Christians to challenge all policies and practices which perpetuate injustice, oppression, violence and suffering. This includes instances where states, political parties, politicians or groups try to silence legitimate criticism of policies and actions by claiming they are antisemitic or Islamophobic.

As a justice-seeking Church we believe in building communities of inclusion and challenging discriminatory speech and behaviour, recognising that we are all created in God's image and have value and worth. We continue this work of seeking justice, peace and flourishing through our interfaith relationships and with all who share a vision of a society where no-one is discriminated against and all are free to fulfil their God-given potential.

## A Biblical Banquet

### Starter

Prepare the second fruit of  
Garnish with

Numbers 11 v 5  
Jeremiah 6 v 9

### Fish course.

Prepare and cook  
Using a choice of  
Complete with

Luke 24 v 42  
Matthew 23 v 23  
John 6 v 31

### Main Course.

Roasted leg of  
Serve with cracked  
Mix with  
Serve with green  
Add to taste

Genesis 22 v 8  
Matthew 13 v26 (Not the weeds)  
Numbers 11 v 5 (Omitting the fruit)  
2 Samuel 17 v 28  
Matthew 5 v 13

### Dessert

A basket of

Amos 8 v 1

Complete your meal with

Job 10 v 10  
John 6 v 31

Take plenty of  
Complete with

John 4 v 14  
Ecclesiastes 2 v 24

References taken from the NRSV of the Bible

Judith Smith



# CHURCH ANNIVERSARY & GIFT DAY

**SUNDAY 9 JUNE 2024**

Morning Worship at 10.30 am



We will be celebrating our Church Anniversary and Gift Day on Sunday 9 June with a special morning service at 10.30am. We are delighted that Judith Smith will be leading us in worship on this special occasion.

Following the service, there will be a Jacob's Join lunch at the back of the church. Contributions of food can be brought before the service - where possible please bring food that is ready to serve.

Everyone is welcome, we do hope that you will be able to attend and share this memorable celebration with us.

## **GIFT DAY ARRANGEMENTS**

Special envelopes (and Gift Aid slips) will be available in church in June, to enable members to make an extraordinary donation. If you prefer to make a donation by cheque, please write 'Gift Day 2024' on the reverse, or if making the payment electronically, please input 'Gift Day 2024' in the 'Reference' field.

All donation envelopes will be passed, unopened, to the Treasurer.

**IF YOU ARE A UK TAXPAYER, PLEASE REMEMBER TO ADD GIFT AID.**

This enables the church to claim an extra 25 pence for every £1 you donate.

If you have any queries, please contact:

Janette Farley, 29 Newton Road, Lytham St Anne's, FY8 3JW, 07958100041  
or [janettefarley63@gmail.com](mailto:janettefarley63@gmail.com)



## To all friends of Church Road, A letter from our Minister, Revd Stuart Wild

Dear Friends,

We are very blessed at Church Road. We have a beautiful suite of premises which we can use ourselves and share with others in the community. We have an amazing organ and a fantastic piano and we have some fantastic amazing musicians who play them and other instruments and use their God-given gifts to lead us in following the Psalmist and singing a new song to the Lord.

We are able to work in partnership with the other churches in the Blackpool and South Fylde Methodist circuit and with people of other denominations through Churches Together in St Annes. We can engage with those in need through Wesley's café and Wesley's Larder. We have volunteers who work with young people of all ages from babes in arms to teenagers. We are reminded by them of Jesus' statement that only those who become as children will enter the Kingdom of God.

We have people of every generation from those with the enthusiastic energy of youth to those with the wisdom of age and experience. We are cared for pastorally; we have opportunities to get together. We can share friendship, fellowship and fun.

God is good and we are richly blessed.

This is where you are probably expecting the fourth F - I've mentioned friendship, fellowship and fun, what about finance? After all this is a Gift Day letter, I am supposed to quote another F-figures to show you how dire our financial situation is and why we need you to give generously but I am not going to. This is not because our financial situation is good-it's not, far

from it. This is not because I don't want you to give generously. I most certainly do.

However, I am going to refer you to some words of St Paul in chapter 9 of his second letter to the Corinthians at verse 7

*"Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."*

In fact, I would encourage you to read Chapter 9 verses 6-15. I do not see Gift Day as an imposition but rather as an opportunity. God is good. God's love is generously bestowed upon us. Gift Day is our chance to be cheerful givers and offer some of what we have to be used to bring glory to God.

I hope you will be able to join us for the Anniversary on 9 June for a service conducted by Judith Smith followed by a Jacobs Join lunch.

God bless you

*Stuart Wild*

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*For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, you are God's building. According to the grace of God which was given to me, as a wise master builder I have laid the foundation, and another builds on it. But let each one take heed how he builds on it. For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.*

1 Corinthians 3:9-11

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### **CALLING ALL KNITTERS!**

Please contact Sharon Hird (Tel: 07910 622345) if you can help to produce items suitable for a stall at the back of church. These will be tagged with a Bible message and sold for fund raising.



## HELP NEEDED

Please let Janette Farley know if you are interested in finding out more about the following opportunities - **all essential if we wish to continue to enjoy worship at Church Road.**

- **Sound system operators** - training will be provided - to go on a rota
- **PowerPoint / Projection** - training will be provided - to go on a rota
- **Communion Stewards** - training will be provided - to go on a rota - usually once every 2 months

and also.....

- **Readers** - If you would like to join in worship by reading the lesson occasionally, please speak to Linda Butcher, email [lindambutcher@gmail.com](mailto:lindambutcher@gmail.com) or phone 07796 035514. The readers' rota is arranged quarterly in line with your availability. You will usually be notified of the reading a few days in advance.

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Please consider prayerfully how you can support Church Road at this time. Like many churches, income from collections has reduced since the COVID pandemic and an increasing burden is being placed on a diminishing band of volunteers to look after our premises and support our fellowship. We are extremely grateful to those who are helping to keep our premises in good shape, maintaining our buildings, ensuring that we meet standards for health and safety and that we comply with any legal and insurance obligations.

Whilst we are pleased that our premises are being well used in the service of the local community, by Wesley's and now by One Fylde, we are nevertheless vulnerable financially and we need to look at ways to increase our income in order to keep our premises going.

At Church Road Methodist, we have a long tradition of expressing our faith through outreach and service in the local community. Please pray that this can continue and please reflect on anything that you can do to contribute.

## Changing Lives in Our Community

We are pleased that local charity One Fylde are now using our premises each week for a range of their activities. Their use complements the work already being done by Wesley's and ties in with Church Road's mission to offer facilities for wider community uses and outreach. These uses are contributing to our mission of Transforming Lives and Communities

One Fylde provides person-centred support and exciting activities for adults and young people with learning disabilities and autism in Blackpool, Fylde and Wyre.

One Fylde provides a wide variety of groups and social events for adults with additional needs, maybe with a learning disability and/or autism. From sports, yoga and outdoor pursuits, to creative arts, crafts, and photography clubs, there are activities around the Fylde Coast and Wyre area to suit every interest. At Church Road, they are now offering Woodwork, Drama and Yoga, Digital Arts, Crafts and Table Games. One Fylde also have their own in-house radio station and preparations for broadcasting are being made in Room 3.



All these sessions are meaningful and purposeful and are a way for people to develop and learn new skills as well as reducing isolation and improving mental health and wellbeing. All activities are designed to be fun and are individually tailored to all needs and abilities. They provide a great way to improve people's confidence and social skills, as well as an opportunity to meet new people and get more active.

**onefylde are helping to make a difference in our community.**

Please visit their website to find out more.

[www.onefylde.org/](http://www.onefylde.org/)

## CHURCH LIFE



The Church Life Group has recently reconvened with the intention of planning various activities and events to promote the social life of the church and to help with raising funds at this time of financial pressure for the church.

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

If you have any suggestions for activities or would like any further information about Church Life, please contact Linda Butcher on 07796 035514 or any member of the Church Life group.

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## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

- |                   |                                     |
|-------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Saturday 8 June   | Games Evening                       |
| Saturday 29 June  | Carnival & Coffee Morning           |
| Wednesday 10 July | Concert by St.Annes Community Choir |

More details elsewhere in the magazine and in the June notices

## Watch out for more events in the Autumn....

- |                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| Saturday 12 October | Coffee morning with pumpkin carving and decoration demonstration / workshop |
| Saturday 2 November | Festive Fund Raising Event  |

**TABLE-TOP GAMES EVENING**  
**Saturday 8 June from 5:30 pm**

- All ages welcome!
  - £5 per ticket
- Games will be provided, but feel free to bring any game that three or four can play
  - Hot dogs and Sweet Treats
  - Tea, and Coffee.

Tickets from Janette Farley or Bill Ellison: Phone 07969 168205 or e-mail [wfellison@outlook.com](mailto:wfellison@outlook.com)



**Come and join us for Carnival & Coffee time**  
**Saturday 29 June from 10am-12noon**

*Watch the carnival procession pass whilst enjoying a coffee and cake*

There will also be a walking float organised by Churches Together



# SUMMER CONCERT

by St.Annes Community Choir

Wednesday 10 July at 7.00 p.m.

Musical director Dr Kevin Morgan

Tickets available in advance or pay on the door  
£6 to include refreshments.

*The programme will include a great variety of music including the BEATLES,  
VERDI, SONGS FROM THE MUSICALS and the HIPPOPOTAMUS Song.*



Congratulations & Best Wishes to

**DAPHNE RIGBY**

who celebrated her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday on  
25 March 2024



## FREE ENGLISH LESSONS

We meet on Mondays 1.00p.m. to 2.30p.m. at the Catholic Social Centre on St Albans Road in St Annes FY8 1XD

**ALL NATIONALITIES are WELCOME**

Relaxed, friendly group - no exams!

We work in small groups -Beginners, Intermediate and Advanced.

Lessons are FREE as the group is run by volunteers.

**Please get in touch if you would like to join our team of tutors.**

No formal qualification required - just an interest in the English Language, lots of patience(!) and a willingness to meet people from many parts of the world! In recent months our members have included men and women from Ukraine, Brazil, Spain, Malta, Italy, Bangladesh, India, Guinea, Hong Kong, Iraq, Thailand and Libya.

Our last lesson before the summer will be on Mon 24 June.

We start again after the summer break on Monday 9 September.



## The ACTIV8 walks are back!

After the March ACTIV8 cafe-style worship service, Church Family members and friends met in Garstang for a short walk - taking in the banks

of the River Wyre, the Lancaster Canal and the ruins of Greenhalgh Castle. As promised, the walk was rain-free; as feared, there was plenty of mud. But that didn't deter the ten of us. We even found somewhere mud-free to sit for lunch.



On May 5th we enjoyed another ACTiV8 ramble. It was a five-mile walk around Abbeystead in fine early summer sunshine. Route-finding was a little difficult - not least because of a thirty-year old map and a sixty-year old map reader. But we made it in the end!



We intend to carry on with monthly walks, after the early-morning worship on the first Sunday of the month. The walks will be local - within one hour's drive - will start around 12:30, be 4-5 miles, easy to moderate. So look out for announcements in the rolling news, pack some lunch and come and join us.

Our walk in June will be on Sunday 2 June, meeting at the Barton Grange Garden Centre on the A6, for a walk along the Brock River, 5.6 miles in all.

For further details of future walks, contact Bill Ellison - 07969 168205

## **CIRCUIT PICNIC**

*South Fylde and Blackpool churches*



**SUNDAY 18 AUGUST AT 1.00 P.M.**

**St. Annes Promenade**

on the green near the Beach Café

Please bring your own seating and picnic.  
Come ready to make friends and have fun!

*Indoors at The Drive Methodist Church if wet*



## BUMBLEBEES

Bumblebees meet in church on Tuesday mornings during term time, from 9.15 a.m. – 11.30 a.m.

Toys and activities available for the children include slides, a play house,

sit-and-ride cars /bikes, dressing-up clothes, a train set and cars, as well as dinosaurs, dolls, puzzles, sand tray, crafts and singing and plenty of baby toys. The toddlers also enjoy joining in with action songs.



Our last session before the summer holidays will be on Tues 9 July when we will enjoy an (indoor) Teddy Bears Picnic. The children are invited to bring a cuddly toy with them (This will not be limited to Teddy Bears - cuddly rabbits, hedgehogs etc also welcome!) The picnic will consist of mini-sandwiches, fruit, cake/biscuits and of course, Teddy - shaped crisps.

We open again on Tuesday 10 September 2024. If you are interested in joining the group, please text Lesley on 07840 924882 to reserve a place, and/or you are welcome to come along to Bumblebees on a Tuesday morning with your child for a taster session. The cost per week, including refreshments, is £2 for an adult and one child (plus £1 for any extra child).

Please tell your family and friends about us and invite them to come long

*Lesley Turner*



## CHURCHES TOGETHER IN ST.ANNE'S

### Two 'Moving' Celebrations!

On Good Friday, several people from various churches started off by meeting outside Fylde Christian Service Church, to walk to the Square by the 'scenic route'.

Blessed by the sunshine, we were accompanied by several crosses, large and small, dogs, banners, flags, mobility scooters and the like. The journey took us a while, as we stopped at intervals to pray for local residents, shops, hotels and businesses.

Here we are on the grass by the traffic lights. I am in the middle, holding a wooden cross borrowed from one of Church Road's windowsills.



We arrived at the 'amphitheatre' in the square, and had time to set up before the service started at 12 noon. Ten minutes to go, and most of the seating is already taken. Steve Moss led the service, with folk from other churches doing readings. The songs were a good mixture of traditional and modern, and Steve was ably supported

by several musicians and singers and 2 preachers, both also called Steve.... We were joined later by a few friends from The Drive (unfortunately their service started later than planned). The congregation was boosted by passers-by, joining in for a short time or longer. A great witness to remind the good folk of St Anne's that Easter is about more than chocolate and a

long weekend. It would have been lovely to see more folk from Church Road....

A similar, sunny experience on 19<sup>th</sup> May with the Walk of Witness around Ashton Gardens. A record turn-out of about 50 folk, more banners, flags, and red, yellow and orange (fire colours) clothes. We proved we could walk and sing at the same time, handing out leaflets explaining what Pentecost was all about (and providing contact details for all 9 churches), and smiles, and stopping for different volunteers to pray at key stages.

We joined another 15 or so in the garden of the URC for a short service, led by Margaret Russell (of the URC, and also an accredited Methodist Local Preacher), with help from several others of various denominations.

Highlights included 2 ladies from Hong Kong, who led the Lord's Prayer in Cantonese, and the dramatized reading from Acts 9 (Conversion of St Paul), with voices seen and unseen (the voice of God came from David, inside the church, working the Sound Desk!), and a BSL signer. Oh, and not forgetting the tea and biscuits inside the hall afterwards.

It would have been lovely to see more folk from Church.... But now I am starting to sound like a cracked record!

Our next outing will be our 'walking float' in St Anne's Carnival on 29<sup>th</sup> June, and a Churches Together stall in Ashton Gardens both days of the weekend. You should be able to spot us as we process by the church... we couldn't get our heads around a Christian 'take' on the Circus theme, but we will be colourful – and hopefully, loud!

*Janette Farley*

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*"As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all."*

*Ephesians 4:1-6*

## THE CHAPEL IN THE FIELDS

### KEVIN'S RETIREMENT CELEBRATION SUNDAY 28 JULY from 2pm – 6pm

For our Church Anniversary last year, we welcomed as our preacher our former minister, Revd Kevin Johnson, who told us all about his ground breaking work in establishing the Chapel in the Fields project near Altrincham.



As some of you will know, Kevin's ministry as project leader will come to an end this summer as he 'sits down' from active ministry – or retires in common parlance! This will mark a new beginning for the Chapel and all the community involved.

To mark the end of this part of Kevin's ministry, all the places he has been and all the people whose lives he has touched, the people at the chapel are organising a celebratory afternoon on Sunday 28 July. Everyone who knows Kevin is welcome to drop in to the Chapel between 2pm and 6pm to reflect on his ministry at the Chapel and to celebrate his wider ministry over a much longer journey with a much larger community.

All are welcome to come along to wish Kevin and Jane well in their retirement. Nothing formal is planned, but a few words will be said around 4pm.

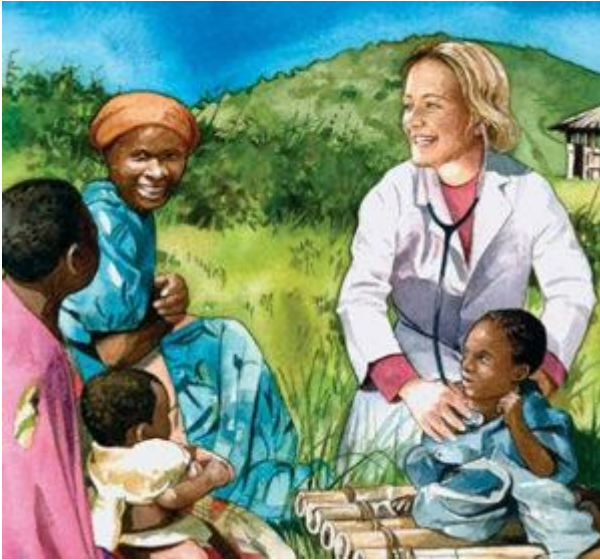


The Chapel in the Fields,  
Sinderland Green Methodist Chapel,  
Sinderland Lane,  
Dunham Massey,  
Altrincham  
**WA14 5SS**

Follow directions on Google Maps

If you'd like more information, please email Kevin Jaquiss  
[kevin.jaquiss@gmail.com](mailto:kevin.jaquiss@gmail.com)

## True Story: Hot Water Bottle Miracle



By [Dr. Helen Roseveare](#)

One night, I had worked hard to help a mother in the labour ward, but despite all we could do, she died, leaving us with a tiny premature baby and a crying two-year-old daughter. We would have difficulty in keeping the baby alive, as we had no incubator, no electricity to run an incubator, and no special feeding facilities.

Despite living on the equator, nights were often chilly, with treacherous drafts. One pupil midwife went for the box we used for such babies and the cotton wool they were wrapped in. Another went to stoke up the fire and fill a hot water bottle. She came back shortly, in distress, to tell me that, in filling the bottle, it had burst. Rubber perishes easily in tropical climates. And she exclaimed “And it is our last hot water bottle!”

As in the West, it is no good crying over spilled milk, so in Central Africa I might be considered no good crying over burst hot water bottles. They do not grow on trees, and there are no drugstores down forest pathways.

All right I said. “Put the baby as near the fire as you safely can; sleep between the baby and the door to keep it free from drafts. Your job is to keep that baby warm.”

The following noon, I went to have prayers with any of the orphanage children who chose to gather with me, as I did most days. I gave the youngsters various suggestions of things to pray about and told them about the tiny baby. I explained our problem about keeping the baby warm enough, mentioning the burst hot water bottle. The baby could so easily die if it got chilled. I also told them of the two-year-old sister, crying because her mother had died.

During prayer time one ten-year-old girl, Ruth, prayed with the usual blunt conciseness of our African children. "Please God, send us a hot water bottle. It'll be no good tomorrow, God, as the baby'll be dead; so please send it this afternoon."

While I gasped inwardly at the audacity of the prayer, she added by way of corollary, "And, while You are about it, would You please send a dolly for the little girl, so she'll know You really love her?"

As often with children's prayers, I was put on the spot. Could I honestly say, "Amen?" I just did not believe God could do this. Oh, yes, I know that He can do everything. The Bible says so. But there are limits, aren't there? And I had some very big "buts." The only way God could answer this particular prayer would be by sending me a parcel from the homeland. I had been in Africa almost four years at the time, and I had never, never received a parcel from home; anyway, if anyone did send me a parcel, who would put in a hot water bottle? I lived on the equator!

Halfway through the afternoon, while I was teaching in the nurses' training school, a message was sent that there was a car at my front door. By the time I reached home, the car had gone, but there, on the veranda, was a large twenty-two-pound parcel, all done up with paper and string, and bearing U.K. stamps. I felt tears pricking my eyes. I could not open the parcel alone, so I sent for the orphanage children. Together we pulled off the string, carefully undoing each knot. We folded the paper, taking care not to tear it unduly. Excitement was mounting. Some thirty to forty pairs of eyes were focused on the large cardboard box.

From the top, I lifted out brightly coloured, knitted jerseys. Eyes sparkled as I gave them out. Then there were knitted bandages for the leprosy patients and the children looked a little bored! Then a large bar of soap—and the children were probably more bored! Then a box of mixed raisins and sultanas that would make a nice batch of buns for the weekend. Then, as I put my hand in again, I felt the...could it really be? I grasped it and pulled it out—yes, a brand-new, rubber, hot water bottle! I cried. I had not asked God to send it; I had not truly believed that He could.

Ruth was in the front row of the children. She rushed forward, crying out, “If God has sent the bottle, He must have sent the dolly, too!”

Rummaging down to the bottom of the box, she pulled out the small, beautifully dressed dolly. Her eyes shown! She had never doubted.

Looking up at me, she asked: “Can I go over with you, Mummy, and give this dolly to that little girl, so she’ll know that God really loves her?”

That parcel had been on the way for five whole months. Packed up by my old GCU class, the leader had heard and obeyed God’s prompting to send a hot water bottle, even to the equator.

And one of the girls had put in a dolly for an African child—five months before in answer to the believing prayer of a ten-year old, to bring it “that afternoon.”

Can God still perform miracles? Is He the same yesterday, today and forever- in Israel, Africa, and anywhere else where He finds living faith? Indeed, He can and is.

*Contributed by Hazel Hawkins*

***Dr.Helen Roseveare (21 September 1925 – 7 December 2016) was an English Christian missionary, doctor and author. She worked with Worldwide Evangelization Crusade in the Congo from 1953 to 1973. She practised medicine and also trained others in medical work***

# *The Son of Man*

Painting by Norwegian artist, Christian Skredsvig



The largest painting in the National Museum in Oslo is by 19<sup>th</sup> century Norwegian artist Christian Skredsvig and is entitled *Son of Man*. It is regarded as a classic of Norwegian art.

Created in 1891, the painting depicts a biblical scene in a contemporary Norwegian setting. In Skredsvig's day, religious art was usually bound by traditional styles and iconography. Christ would be typically depicted in a regal manner to emphasise his divine nature. This artist's choice to break tradition and depict Christ as a common craftsman challenged those conventions and was controversial at the time, as it was seen to be diminishing the sacred status of Christ.

The painting shows a craftsman, interpreted as Christ, entering a farmyard. The people have laid their best rugs on the ground before him and he is seen laying his hand on the head of a little girl, while a sick young woman is brought to him on a wheelbarrow. This representation of Christ

as an ordinary craftsman was Skredsvig's way of bringing the divine into the everyday, suggesting that the sacred can be found in the most humble of settings and figures.

This painting is a deliberate attempt to humanize the figure of Christ, presenting him in a relatable and accessible manner, as someone deeply integrated into the daily lives and struggles of ordinary people. The artist wanted to bridge the gap between the sacred and the secular, so that the viewer might find spiritual significance in the commonplace and to see the divine in the midst of the ordinary.

For us, every moment is an opportunity to encounter Jesus in the simple routines of our everyday lives, whereby we can experience a deeper connection with Him throughout our day.

*“God is calling us to serve him in and from the ordinary.... There is something holy, something divine hidden in the most ordinary situations, and it is up to each one of us to discover it.”*

Josemaria Escriva (1902 – 1975), a Spanish priest.



Over the centuries, many works of art have been inspired by the Christian faith. Images of Jesus and narrative scenes from the life of Christ are the most common subjects, and scenes from the Old Testament play a part in the art of most denominations.

Christian Art is a website offering a unique approach to daily Gospel readings. Each day, the site links a work of art to a scripture passage and offers a short reflection on the two. Its mission is to draw people closer to God through the pairing of art and the Christian faith. It is written by Patrick van der Vorst a Roman Catholic priest in the Diocese of Westminster and a former Director of Sotheby's in London.

[www.christian.art](http://www.christian.art)



Everyone is welcome to join us for our

## **HARVEST FESTIVAL**

**SUNDAY 22 SEPTEMBER AT 10 30 AM**

There will be a collection for All We Can. All We Can helps people in some of the world's poorest communities to become "all that they can". Envelopes will be available if you want to gift aid your donation.



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 evermore

*Celtic Prayer*



## PLEASE REMEMBER

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

### OLD SPECTACLES

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



### USED POSTAGE STAMPS

These can be sold to raise money for various charities.



### USED OR UNUSED POSTCARDS

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



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

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## SHOPPING OR BOOKING A HOLIDAY ON-LINE? PLEASE REMEMBER TO SUPPORT US THROUGH



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

Use this link to access your favourite websites when you order  
<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/churchrdmethodist/>



# CHURCH DIARY

**WESLEY'S CAFÉ:** Every MONDAY, TUESDAY, THURSDAY and FRIDAY  
9.00 a.m to 2.00 p.m.

**ONE FYLDE:** Every WEEKDAY 9.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m.

**BUMBLEBEES:** Every TUESDAY until 9 July, 9.15 a.m. to 11.30 a.m.  
for 0-4's with parents and carers. Resumes 10 September.  
Contact Lesley Turner

**MOVEMENT TO MUSIC:** Every WEDNESDAY until 17 July, 9.15am to  
10.15am and 10.45am to 11.45am. Resumes 11 September.  
Contact Monica Bissett

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

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

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## KEEPING UP TO DATE

For up-to-date information about services and church activities, please follow our monthly news sheet which will be distributed by email. If you do not receive a copy in this way, please let the Church Office know and we will send you one. You can also follow us on our website and on Facebook.

[www.churchroadmethodist.org](http://www.churchroadmethodist.org)

The Autumn edition of the Record will be published at the beginning of September. Contributions from members of the congregation are always welcome, as well as any special family news that you would like to share with our readers.