

THE RECORD

SUMMER 2025

CHURCH ROAD METHODIST CHURCH



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

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Church Road Methodist Church Registered Charity No 113109

HOW FINE THE DAY HAS BEEN

How fine has the day been! how bright was the sun!
How lovely and joyful the course that he run;
Though he rose in a mist when his race he begun,
And there followed some droppings of rain:
But now the fair traveller's come to the west,
His rays are all gold, and his beauties are best;
He paints the skies gay as he sinks to his rest,
And foretells a bright rising again.

Just such is the Christian. His course he begins
Like the sun in a mist, while he mourns for his sins,
And melts into tears! then he breaks out and shines,
And travels his heavenly way:
But when he comes nearer to finish his race,
Like a fine setting sun, he looks richer in grace;
And gives a sure hope, at the end of his days,
Of rising in brighter array.

Isaac Watts (1674 – 1748)

This hymn was written by Isaac Watts and is sometimes referred to as Summer's Evening. It reflects on the beauty of a summer day and draws a parallel between the setting sun and a Christian's journey of faith. It describes the sun rising in mist, facing moments of rain, but ultimately setting in golden beauty—symbolizing the trials and triumphs of a believer's life



Letter from our Superintendent Revd Stuart Wild

Dear Friends,

My daughter Hope and I had a few days in London after Easter. One of the highlights of our time was a theatre trip. We saw one of the final previews of the new musical version of *The Great Gatsby* (being a preview made it more affordable!)

A couple of evenings later it was Press Night and after that the reviews started to hit the newspapers. It was a really interesting experience reading those reviews. Had the reviewers seen the same show as each other and more significantly had they seen the same show as us.

Whilst we would not claim it was a perfect musical performance, we both agreed that the music was pleasant; the costumes great and the sets absolutely amazing. At least one reviewer disagreed with us on every point.

It got me thinking. We went to the theatre wanting to be entertained; expecting something special; hoping for the wow factor. Maybe the newspaper reviewer went expecting something to criticise. If that is so we all found what we went for.

Actually, it's very easy to be critical, many of us (and I include myself here) do it an awful lot. But just because it is easy does not mean it's right. A popular hymn based on words of Jesus recorded in Matthew 6:33 is Seek ye first.

“Seek ye first the kingdom of God”

Surely that means seek things to praise rather than condemn - not just in relation to entertainment but in relation to each other. There is so much around us to rejoice in, let us concentrate on that and only be more critical if absolutely necessary.

God bless You

Stuart Wild

1

Seek ye first the kingdom of God
And His righteousness;
And all these things shall be added unto you.
Allelu-, alleluia !

2

Ask, and it shall be given unto you;
Seek, and you shall find.
Knock, and it shall be opened unto you.
Allelu-, alleluia !

3

Man shall not live by bread alone,
But by every word
That proceeds out from the mouth of God.
Allelu-, alleluia !

WORSHIP SERVICES



JUNE

1st June

9.30 a.m.

ACTIV8 led by Revd Stuart Wild

8th June

10.30 a.m.

PENTECOST
CHURCH ANNIVERSARY
Professor Alan Gillies

15th June

10.30 a.m.

Janette Farley

22nd June

10.30 a.m.

Revd Stuart Wild
Service includes the celebration of Holy Communion

29th June

10.30 a.m.

David Turner

WORSHIP SERVICES



JULY

6th July

9.30 a.m.

Activ8 led by Revd Stuart Wild

13th July

10.30 a.m.

Own Arrangements

20th July

10.30 a.m.

Revd Stuart Wild

Service includes the celebration of Holy Communion

27th July

10.30 a.m.

Eliel Aldred

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.

WORSHIP SERVICES



AUGUST

3rd August

9.30 a.m.

ACTIV8 led by Judith Smith

10th August

10.30 a.m.

Judith Smith

17th August

10.30 a.m.

Revd Michaela Barker

24th August

10.30 a.m.

Christine Pierce

31st August

10.30 a.m.

Revd Stuart Wild

Service includes the celebration of Holy Communion

SPRING FLOWER DEDICATIONS

MARCH

- 2nd Birthday memories of Gordon Porter
- 9th Loving birthday memories of Ross Wells
- 16th Audrey Porter – wedding day memories of Gordon
- 23rd Loving memories of Muriel Maddocks
- Loving memories of Margaret Richmond, Wilfred & Dorothy Lowe

APRIL

- 6th 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
- 13th Birthday memories of Evelyn Etherington from Audrey Porter
- Treasured wedding anniversary and birthday memories of Derek Rigby
- 27th Treasured memories of Conrad Pate

MAY

- 4th Diana Thompson – birthday memories of a dear mummy and daddy
- 18th The birthday of Margaret Joyce Knight
- Rosemary Wells – wedding anniversary memories
- 25th Sylvia Dibble, in loving memory of her parents



CELIA FOTHERGILL

DAVID SHAW

HAZEL BEESTON

(former member, lately of Bolton)



**We remember all those in our community who have recently passed away
and offer our prayers and sympathies to all those experiencing
bereavement and remembering loved ones.**

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

FUNERAL



The funeral for David Shaw will be held at
Lytham Methodist Church on
Monday 23 June at 1.30 p.m.



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.



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

FLOWER DONATIONS

Anyone wishing to make a donation for flowers in memory of family members or someone special to them, please speak to Elaine Watts or Anne Mayes.

It is important for us to recall these special memories and to remember these people in our prayers.

Conference 2025

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 Telford from 26 June to 2 July.

New President and Vice-President of the Methodist Conference elected for 2025-26

The Methodist Conference has elected the Revd Richard Andrew to serve as President and Matthew Forsyth to serve as Vice-President. They will start their year of office when the Representative Session of the Methodist Conference meets in Telford.



Revd Richard Andrew is currently chair of the Darlington District. Growing up in rural North Yorkshire, he studied philosophy and theology in London. He trained at Wesley House, Cambridge before joining a circuit in Sheffield, training ministers and teaching theology as Director of York Institute and working in the Connexional Team as Director of Learning and Development.

He has a deep passion for the renewal and refreshing of the Methodist Church and the rediscovery of its DNA as a growing, inclusive, evangelistic and justice-seeking church. He is married to Debbie a former teacher and now a Church and Community Worker in Teesdale with two grown up children, Tom and Becky. He enjoys walking, reading, hospitality, guitar and watching Middlesbrough FC.

Richard says, "I am humbled and excited by the nomination of the Conference. I have always believed that it is essential that we live by hope and I am really encouraged by everything we are doing together as a Church as we join

together with God as we seek to be a growing, inclusive, evangelistic and justice-seeking Church.

"God is bringing something new to birth amongst us and I pray we might be open to the leading of the Spirit as we recognise that and follow in the footsteps of Jesus."

Matthew Forsyth

Matthew Forsyth is a local preacher and Mission Team Leader in the Northampton Methodist District. Within this role, Matt leads a diverse team of lay and ordained leaders.

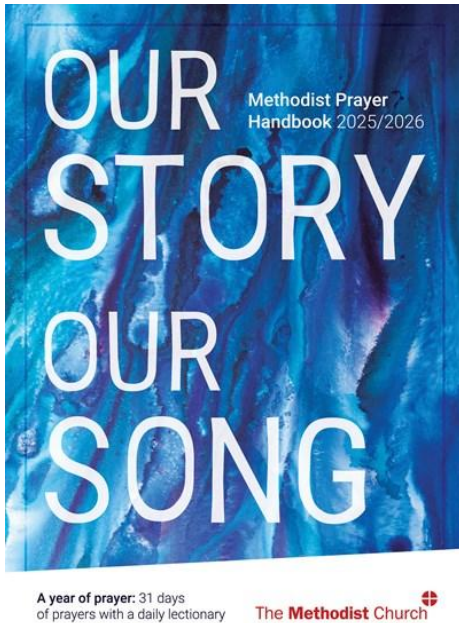
As Mission team Leader, Matt works to see a flourishing sustainable network of circuits of worshipping communities that are growing, evangelistic, justice-seeking, and inclusive in their outworking of the mission of God. That means areas like New Place for New People (NPNP), Justice, Dignity and Solidarity (JDS), and the lay leadership development form key parts of his role. Matt is a member of the Missions Committee and currently serves on the NPNP guiding team.



Having studied Theology, worked as an estate agent, and spent time working as a fundraiser for All We Can to name a few roles, Matt remains firm in his calling to lay leadership. As such, Matt serves as a trustee of a Christian Schools Charity in his home city of Peterborough (CROPS), and offers as a mentor to teenagers in his spare time.

Matt has a deep desire to listen, encourage, and play his part in the flourishing of a church on the journey of being inclusive, just seeking, and evangelistic. With his wife Amy, his three kids, and bouncy cockapoo, any spare time is given to their care and attention.

Matt says, "I am humbled to serve the church in this role. I am deeply aware of the responsibility to represent the voice of the lay leaders across the Connexion. I hope to listen well and work in partnership with the President Designate so that together we can encourage the church to continue its journey on becoming an inclusive, justice seeking and evangelistic church."



Methodist Prayer Handbook 2025/2026

Our Story, Our Song

"O sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the earth. Sing to the LORD, bless his name; tell of his salvation from day to day"

Psalm 96:1-2

From ancient times, communities have defined themselves by the stories they tell and the songs they sing about themselves. **Our Story, Our Song** calls upon the Methodist people to join in a soul expedition deep into the heart of our calling, journeying afresh into the story of grace and the vocation that God has placed upon us – learning to live, work, pray and play in ways both true to our roots and open to the presence of God in the songs and stories of others.

Pray with **Our Story, Our Song** to discover:

- **A Shared Story** – exploring the richness of God's love and grace to, with, and for us in Christ; learning to live by hope for the future and rediscovering our story by celebrating our roots.
- **A Shared Harmony** – responding by living in a way that draws others to bring their praise to Jesus and by longing and working for a world transformed.
- **A New Song** – sharing in a soul expedition as we journey with God's Spirit to discover the new songs that God is inspiring within, among and around us.
- **A New Chapter** – rediscovering the gifts of testimony and storytelling as we commit ourselves to hear not only our own voices, but the voice of Christ amongst those who are marginalised, sharing stories of lament, hope, surprise, expectation and festal joy for opening a new chapter in our mission.

The Methodist Prayer Handbook will be available from 11 August and can be ordered from the Methodist Publishing House.

<https://www.methodistpublishing.org.uk/books/9781858525372/methodist-prayer-handbook-20252026>

The Methodist Church welcomes Pope Leo XIV's election



Methodist people cherish our place in the worldwide church, and our relationships with the Roman Catholic Church at local, national and international levels. We look forward to ever more opportunities to share with our Catholic siblings in the mission of the Church. We pray that all church leaders listen to the voices of

the poor and the oppressed, and speak out for justice, as we share God's love.

A prayer on the election of Pope Leo XIV

God of all grace, we thank you that in every generation you reveal your love for the world, and set before your people your word of life and hope.

Bless and guide your servant, Pope Leo XIV. Give him the assurance of your love, and pour your Spirit upon him: may his ministry reflect that of your Son Jesus, and let him be a bold witness to your love and truth.

Bless our siblings in the Roman Catholic Church as they welcome their new Holy Father. May he lead their Church with wisdom and grace.

Together with Pope Leo, unite all Christians as a holy people, bearing hope and peace within the human family, and always attentive to the most poor and marginalised.

In the name of our Risen Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ we pray.

Amen.

CHURCH ANNIVERSARY & GIFT DAY

SUNDAY 8 JUNE 2024

Morning Worship at 10.30 am



We will be celebrating our Church Anniversary and Gift Day on Sunday 8 June with a special morning service at 10.30am, led by a former member of our Sunday School, Professor Alan Gillies.

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 2025' on the reverse, or if making the payment electronically, please input 'Gift Day 2025' 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

ANNIVERSARY LETTER FROM REVD STUART WILD

Dear Friend,

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 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 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.

In chapter 9 of St. Paul's second letter to the Corinthians at verse 7 we read,

"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."

Gift Day is not an imposition, but rather 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 8th June for a service conducted by **Prof Alan Gillies** followed by a Jacobs Join lunch.

God bless you

Stuart Wild



Introducing Professor Alan Gillies

To lead our worship for our church anniversary this year, we are delighted to welcome back a former member of our Sunday School, Alan Gillies. Here, Alan looks back at his time at Church Road and tells us something about his life since.

“I spent my formative years from birth to University at Church Road, attending Sunday School and demanding money with menaces for JMA from such understanding adults as Barbara Grace and Len Macklin. My mother (Evelyn)’s influence extended to drilling us to win the Bible Quiz three years running I recall. I became a member at Pentecost in 1977, having been baptised at Easter when I discovered that I had not been baptised as a baby. I have happy memories of the Sunday evening youth group, especially when Rev Peter Haywood turned our outlook to the wider world.

I still visited Church Road when home from university until my parents moved away in 1984. In 1983, Peter Haywood sent me off to Sri Lanka to visit the Methodist Church in Kandy. Unfortunately, a war had just started in the country, but safeguarding had not yet been invented! Also in 1983, I took a note to preach, and on my return to Lancashire I was received onto full plan in 1986 in the Preston (Trinity) Circuit. I have lived within 10 miles of Preston ever since. The Bible I received was signed by Rev John Lampard, former minister at Church Road, who was Head of the Local Preaching Office at the time.

My academic career started in Preston in 1985, and after a few years at Salford I returned and became a full professor there in 1994. My career has given me wonderful opportunities to live out my faith and build relationships with interesting people. I have worked with a university in

Transylvania (Romania) since 1997, and have built relationships in other countries such as Gambia, Kenya, Sierra Leone, Canada and Australia. I have had wonderful students including the Chief Nurse at Great Ormond Street Hospital and my friend Dr Yero Baldeh who now runs the largest development programs in 30 of the poorest countries in Africa.

In 2010 I left full time academia to work in a social enterprise in Liverpool where I met extraordinary people doing extraordinary things and fell in love with the city. Before I left academia, I had made a short return to Oxford, where I completed my book on science and religion. Over the next decade I worked on national and international projects with agencies such as the World Bank, the Global Food Safety Initiative and national governments and agencies.

However, after COVID, I returned to teaching as my first love, and am currently Professor of Health Care Management at the International University of Applied Sciences in Germany where I teach students all over the world (in English!) from my study in Chorley.

In recent years, I have turned to occasional hymn writing to try to help maintain the tradition that as Methodists we sing our theology. Also, my name has gone forward to the 2025 Methodist conference to join the Faith and Order committee that advises conference on theological matters.

I am a father to two wonderful daughters, Rachael and Anna. Rachael is assistant Principal at a primary academy in London with a very diverse intake. Anna lives on the Wirral where she works in marketing for an educational services company with Olive, her dog, who is her pride and joy, which makes me a Grand-paw!

Thank you to all of you who played a part in my time at Church Road and set me on a path that has been well beyond my expectations and even imagination.

I am looking forward to sharing in worship with you for your church anniversary.”

Alan Gillies

Paws for thought 16

by Judith Smith

Jeremiah Ch 29 v 10 -14

We've had a few beautiful days of late so we decided to have a drive out to Dunsop Bridge. As we head onto unfamiliar lanes and lose the signs, set the Sat Nav says Brian, which wants to turn us around and send us home. Persevering we drive on, the big hill on my left, a sign for Dunsop Bridge, then we turn and the big hill is on my right as we head down another hill. We seem to be going back in the direction we came and begin to think the sign had been turned around as well!



Definitely this way says Brian, the Sat Nav still wanting to take us home. We begin to recognise the scenery and decide we are going in the right direction following the river in the valley. Well, the sun is still shining and Fimber is ready for getting out of the car, the walk will have to wait until we've acquainted ourselves with some refreshments.

We did go on a beautiful walk by the stream, with a well-maintained footpath, sheep with their new lambs in the fields and the river for Fimber to get down to for a drink. It really turned into a wonderful day out.

We read of many people that went off travelling in the Bible, from Abraham, to Moses, to the people of Israel, to Jesus and his disciples. Jesus liked to find a quiet place away from the crowds to be with his Father, to pray and no doubt contemplate life. We all need time and space to replenish our energy, not just physically but spiritually as well.

Motivation can be at a low ebb at times and it is then when we can remember the words of Jeremiah 29 v 11, "For I know the plans I have for you declares the Lord. Plans to prosper, not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." Perhaps not in the direction we want to go, but in our searching and journeying we need to allow God to help us.

Next time we'll leave the Sat Nav at home!

Judith

ANNUAL CHURCH MEETING

MONDAY 16 JUNE

Refreshments served from 7pm for a 7.15pm start.

All members of the Church Road family are invited to the annual General Church Meeting with a difference on Monday 16 June. Join us at 7.00p.m. for a time of fellowship over a shared family meal of light salad, followed by tea and coffee.

“...faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.”

APPOINTMENT OF CHURCH STEWARDS

The church stewards are appointed by the General Church Meeting each year. Please prayerfully consider whether you may feel called to join the team of Stewards. Also, whether you wish to nominate another person for this role -please consult them first! If so, please let Caroline Livesey (our new Church Council Secretary) know as soon as possible.

READING IN CHURCH – AN OPPORTUNITY

Every Sunday members of our church family take part in the service in various ways, one of these being reading the lesson.

We are always looking for new volunteers to read, so if you think this is something you might like to do or if you want to find out more, please contact Linda Butcher or one of the stewards.

You won't usually be asked to read more than once a quarter. When it is your turn you will be sent an order of service a few days in advance to give you time to check over the reading and sort out any queries.

Unless told otherwise our readings are taken from the New Revised Standard Version (Anglicised) of the Bible and you can borrow a church copy or find your reading online at Bible Gateway [BibleGateway.com: A searchable online Bible in over 150 versions and 50 languages.](https://www.biblegateway.com)

If you think you might give this a try here are a few hints to help you decide:

- **Remember your contribution is important**, but there is no need to be nervous, you are among friends
- **Prepare properly**, read it through – out loud – twice; resolve any issue of pronunciation or understanding or when to take a breath; practise your presentation.
- **On the day, take your time:** before starting the reading take a pause; what you are delivering is an important part of the message that we are all sharing. Adjust the microphone to suit your height and if necessary switch on the light on the lectern.
- **Read more slowly** than feels comfortable - as if you are telling a story to children; bring the passage to life and meaning, by your presentation.

“For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve others, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

Matthew 10 verse 45



CHURCH LIFE COMMITTEE

Church Life is an active and enthusiastic group representing all sections of the church family and committed to enhancing social activity and fellowship within and outside the Church.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS:

dates for your diary

JUNE	Sunday	08/06/2025	Church Anniversary Jacob's Join Lunch
JULY	Saturday	12/07/2025	St Annes Carnival coffee and cakes
SEPTEMBER	Sunday	28/09/2025	Harvest lunch
OCTOBER	Saturday	18/10/2025	Quiz night with snacks
NOVEMBER	Saturday	08/11/2025	Winter Market
DECEMBER	Saturday	13/12/2025	Lytham Community Choir

We look forward to sharing in these events and an enjoyable time of fellowship, building the social life of the church family. If you would like to know more about the Church Life group, and perhaps get involved, please speak to Judith Smith or Linda Butcher.

PRAYER CHAIN



If you, or someone you know, is in need of prayer, then please contact Anne Mayes (Tel. 01253 727132) or Janette Farley (Tel. 07958 100041)

Please be assured that confidentiality will be respected



BUMBLEBEES

Baby and Toddler Group

**TUESDAY MORNINGS IN TERM TIME
from 9.15 a.m.- 11.30 a.m
in the Church**

Activities for the children include a playhouse, baby toys, cars, a slide, dolls, dressing-up clothes, puzzles, sand tray, crafts and singing.

New members are very welcome. If you are interested in joining the group, please come along with your child any Tuesday morning in term time. Parents, grandparents and childminders all welcome.



Our last session before the summer holidays will be on Tuesday 8th 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.

Bumblebees starts again after the summer break on Tuesday 9th September.

Thank you to Lesley Turner and her team of helpers for all their hard work with Bumblebees.



ACTIV8 Walk – Crook O’ Lune. 4th May



After a month’s delay, our Crook O’ Lune walk got underway on a sunny but cool first Sunday in May. We were so keen to start we left Jonathan behind - but we soon let him catch up. No ACTIV8er left behind! The original plan was to head upstream on the

north bank, cross the water-works bridge, then return on the opposite side. However, we took the opportunity to add a loop through Aughton Woods and take in the view, as shown in the picture above. Why not come and join us, next time.

We last did this walk in 2011 - see picture below - and, with so many of our children, this was probably our best-attended ACTIV8 walk.



April 2011



ACTIV8 walks usually take place on the first Sunday of the month following the Activ8 service. Walks are suitable for all ages and all are welcome. Please speak to Bill Ellison for more details of the next walks over the summer.

ACTIV8 Social – Table-Top Games Evening.



The 4th ACTIV8 Table Top Games evening took place on a sunny Saturday evening, 10th May, with 35 players and Bill Ellison as host. We enjoyed a hot-pot supper, with hot dogs for our younger gamers - then made a start on the games. Competition was keen, with the family teams leading the way. The Derbyshire's were

looking to retain the team title they won last year. However, it was not to be. After four rounds the Dows finished in third place with 22 points, the Derbyshire's squeaked into second with 23, but the Hird's - with Linda Butcher as their adopted family member for the evening - brought it home with 29 points: this out of a maximum-possible of 48. The individual winner was Sharon Hird - with three outright wins and one second place. Well done Sharon!

Just to prove we did this before, below is a picture from our first table-top games evening in 2008. Almost all the same people; almost all the same games. Looking forward to seeing you again at the next games evening!

First ACTIV8 Table-Top Games Evening: March 2008





Blackpool & South Fylde Circuit Family Picnic

(weather permitting)

Sunday 10th August 2025 @ 1.00pm

on The Green, St. Annes

(near The Beach Café on the South Promenade)

Everyone is invited

A great way to meet people across the circuit
so please come and join in

Bring your own chairs, rugs, food, drinks

**If you would like a lift, please speak to your Church Steward who will
make arrangements.**

Parking on the side streets or at The Drive.

Toilets are available at The Beach Café car park.

Churches will be notified on the day if cancelled due to weather conditions

*“Therefore, whether you are eating or drinking, or whatever you are doing,
do it all to the glory of God.”*

1 Corinthians 10:31



Come and join us for Carnival & Coffee time Saturday 12 July 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.
See separate notice; speak to Janette Farley for more information

Nearly here....the Start of Iona's Big Adventure!

We reported in March that one of our Time Out members, Iona Fielding is traveling to Malawi in South East Africa this summer to undertake several community projects.

Please donate to help Iona

Iona has already raised some funding for this expedition towards vital supplies, for building materials, tools and clean bottled water that they will need whilst in Malawi. In addition, the group is hoping to take equipment for games and activities with the children, such as beanbags, parachutes and skipping ropes.

**If you are able to make a donation to support Iona,
please have a word with her or her mum, Janet.**





WESLEY'S SUPPORTS YMCA SLEEP EASY 2025

One Night Sleeping Rough to Change Lives

YMCA Fylde Coast recently hosted their first ever Sleep Easy event to raise awareness and essential funds to support local young people experiencing homelessness in the Fylde & Wyre area.

Overnight on Friday 16th May, from 7pm to 7am, ten people slept rough in the open car park on St Albans Road to raise vital funds for YMCA Fylde Coast's Housing Services, which provide supported and affordable accommodation for young people aged 16–35 across Fylde and Wyre. Over £1,500 was raised, which will directly help young people in our area move from homelessness to independence.

Wesley's was pleased to be able to support this project by providing homemade soup, sandwiches, tea, and coffee on the night — followed by

bacon sandwiches and pastries the next morning. Just another example of how Wesley's is working with the local community to help people who are struggling and facing challenges in life.



Volunteers in the kitchen preparing the breakfast at 6.00am on the Saturday morning!



Churches Together in St. Annes

PENTECOST: SUNDAY 8 JUNE



A short 'Walk of Witness' around Ashton Gardens, assembling **at 2pm for a 2.15pm start**, with banners and singing, followed by a service in the garden of the United Reformed Church at 3pm. The service will be inside if the weather is poor.

Please come along to support us if you are able...and wear bright clothing!

ST ANNES CARNIVAL WEEKEND: SATURDAY 12 JULY

A 'walking float' will be designed on this year's theme of 'movie magic', probably celebrating 'The Greatest Story Ever Told'.

The stall in Ashton Gardens will also be repeated, on both 12th and 13th.



ROYAL LANCASHIRE AGRICULTURAL SHOW 2025

FRIDAY 18th JULY, SATURDAY 19th JULY & SUNDAY 20th JULY
SALESBURY near RIBCHESTER

If you are planning to visit the Royal Lancashire Show, please do drop in to the **Churches Together Tent** for free cuppa, somewhere to sit, chat and natter. You will discover lots of resources for supporting farming and rural communities. Please pray for the ministry of the Church Tent as we make preparations and during the three days.

There will be a "Church in the Field Service" on **Sunday 20th July at 3pm**. The music will be led by the Blackburn Citadel Band.

ST THOMAS CHURCH 125th BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

SUNDAY 6 JULY 2025



SONGS OF PRAISE

To celebrate the 125th Birthday Party of St Thomas' Parish Church we are invited to join a Songs of Praise on Sunday 6 July at 6.00p.m. We are asked to submit a favourite hymn, saying what its significance is to our faith – two hymns are needed in case our first choice has already been chosen by someone else!

You are invited to submit a favourite hymn suitable for the occasion to Janette as soon as possible. She will then determine the most popular/most suitable hymn to represent Church Road.

SUMMER IS HERE!



The months of June, July and August are traditionally regarded as the summer months, when we look forward to warmer weather and (hopefully) sunny days. Many of our regular activities take a break and it's an opportunity to get away for a holiday, a change of scene or to get out and find new perspectives in our everyday surroundings.

The origins of holidays reflect humanity's journey through agriculture, religion, politics, and culture. Early holidays were primarily about connecting with the rhythms of nature and honouring gods or key life events. As societies became more complex so did holidays, evolving to reflect historical milestones, Christian and other religious festivals, cultural shifts, and eventually in many cases, becoming commercialised. The key idea, however, is that holidays—whether secular or religious—serve as ways for people to come together, mark important moments, and take time for celebration, reflection, or rest.

The summer season allows us to discover our surroundings in new and revitalizing ways; there are more hours of daylight to enjoy and warmer weather brings more opportunities for being outdoors, for lingering over meals or encounters with friends. Summer takes us into holiday time, when the usual routines change and families can spend more time together. Holidays can take us into different environments, offering opportunities for exploration and broadening horizons – or simply the time to look at our own surroundings in a different light.

The warmth and light of summer bring so much enrichment in sight and scent and touch and taste. Whether in new or familiar surroundings, simply passing our neighbours' gardens or public parks, summer can remind us of the wonders and generosity of God.

Summer is a great time to reflect on faith and enjoy scripture in a fresh way. Here are some Bible readings that might be perfect for the season: Here are a few reflections for the season:

Isaiah 40:28-31 – Finding strength in God’s unfailing power, especially when feeling exhausted.

²⁸Have you not known? Have you not heard?

The LORD is the everlasting God,
the Creator of the ends of the earth.

He does not faint or grow weary;
his understanding is unsearchable.

²⁹He gives power to the faint,
and strengthens the powerless.

³⁰Even youths will faint and be weary,
and the young will fall exhausted;

³¹but those who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength,
they shall mount up with wings like eagles,
they shall run and not be weary,
they shall walk and not faint.

Isaiah 58:11 – An image of renewal:

⁵⁸The Lord will guide you always; he will satisfy your needs in a sun-scorched land and will strengthen your frame.

Matthew 11:28-30 – Jesus invites us to rest in Him:

²⁸‘Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. ²⁹Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.’

Psalms 19: 1-4 - God’s Glory in Creation

¹The heavens are telling the glory of God;
and the firmament^[a] proclaims his handiwork.

²Day to day pours forth speech,
and night to night declares knowledge.

³There is no speech, nor are there words;
their voice is not heard;

⁴yet their voice^[b] goes out through all the earth,
and their words to the end of the world.

From The Naturalist's Summer Evening Walk

Revd Gilbert White

*When day declining sheds a milder gleam,
What time the may-fly haunts the pool or stream;
When the still owl skims round the grassy mead,
What time the timorous hare limps forth to feed;
Then be the time to steal adown the vale,
And listen to the vagrant cuckoo's tale;
To hear the clamorous curlew call his mate,
Or the soft quail his tender pain relate;
To see the swallow sweep the dark'ning plain
Belated, to support her infant train;
To mark the swift in rapid giddy ring
Dash round the steeple, unsubdu'd of wing:
Amusive birds! -- say where your hid retreat
When the frost rages and the tempests beat;
Whence your return, by such nice instinct led,
When spring, soft season, lifts her bloomy head?
Such baffled searches mock man's prying pride,
The God of Nature is your secret guide!*

Gilbert White (1720–1793) was an English naturalist, ornithologist, and clergyman, often regarded as England's first ecologist. He is best known for his book *The Natural History and Antiquities of Selborne*, which has remained in print since its publication in 1789. White spent most of his life in Selborne, Hampshire, where he meticulously observed and recorded the behaviour of wildlife, including birds, plants, and even his pet tortoise, Timothy. His methodical work influenced later naturalists, including Charles Darwin and still today, remains a template for naturalists.



Wesley's Larder

Church Road Methodist Church
St Albans Road St Annes FY8 3NQ

The cost of living is still having an impact on local people. Wesley's are supporting those struggling to make ends meet.

More donations for the Larder are desperately needed!

*General groceries, cooking materials, fruit and vegetables
Everyday household items, toiletries and hygiene products*

Please drop off donations at the back of church on Sundays,
or at Wesley's during the week.



MISSION AVIATION FELLOWSHIP (MAF)

is a Christian organisation reaching men, women and children in over 25 countries. Operating more than 115 aircraft. MAF's pilots overcome terrain

that has become inaccessible due to derelict roads, natural disaster, or violent conflict. MAF aircraft fly into more than 1,000 destinations – transporting food and water, health professionals and medical supplies, and emergency workers and Christian missionaries where they are needed most.

Rev Ken Thom, a United Reformed Church Minister in Essex, has been supporting MAF through his hobby of postcard collecting for over 25 years and has raised over £300,000 through selling unwanted postcards that have been donated. You can also help MAF and its work by donating any unwanted postcards through the box at the rear of Church.



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.

SHOPPING ON-LINE OR BOOKING YOUR HOLIDAYS? PLEASE REMEMBER TO SUPPORT US THROUGH



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

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

Download a donation reminder on your laptop or computer to help you to find donations when you shop.

[Donation Reminder Toolbar Download | Easyfundraising](#)



CHURCH DIARY

WESLEY'S CAFÉ: Every MONDAY, TUESDAY, THURSDAY and FRIDAY from 9.30am to 2.00pm.

BUMBLEBEES: Every TUESDAY in term-time, 9.15a.m. to 11.30 a.m. for 0-4's with parents and carers. Contact Lesley Turner

MOVEMENT TO MUSIC: Every WEDNESDAY 9.15am to 10.15am and 10.45am to 11.45am. Contact Monica Bissett

LADIES FELLOWSHIP AT THE DRIVE: Sessions will resume in September. Alternate WEDNESDAY afternoons at 2.15p.m. in the Community Room at The Drive Methodist Church. Contact Elaine Watts for further details.

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 9.30a.m. followed by breakfast together.

THANK YOU to all those who have contributed to this edition of The Record. We aim to keep you up to date with what's going on in the Church and to offer other items of interest. Contributions from members of the congregation are always gratefully received.

Stuart Wrigley, Editor

The Autumn 2025 edition of the Record will be published at the end of August. The deadline for contributions will be

Monday 18 August 2025

Please send articles to the Church Office, by email if possible.

churchroadmethodist@gmail.com