



THE HERALD



The Methodist Church

in Poynton

SEPTEMBER 2016

Delivered by
your pastoral visitor, who can be contacted on.....

Our Church Family encourages everyone...

- **To come to worship God who loves us**
- **To follow Jesus Christ our Saviour**
- **To grow in fellowship, joy and love, and**
- **To go out, share the Good News and serve in the world.**

MUMBLINGS FROM THE MANSE

September 2016

Have you ever thought about what it is that gets Jesus into trouble with the religious authorities of his day? One of the things is certainly food. Food, I hear you all cry. Yes, food. It is central to Jesus' ministry and his methods of including those who had been excluded. A means of inviting them to the table and the feast that God offered to all.

Food matters. Meals matter. Eating together matters. Food connects us. Food links us. Food shapes us. Food helps us remember. In the book that we shall be reading as part of September's Holy Habits 'Toast' by Nigel Slater, the author describes how as a boy his mother's kisses were like marshmallows. When Slater was nine his mother died and his father started to leave marshmallows beside his bed each night to show him that part of her was still near.

Food connects us, with family, with strangers with people across the world. Indeed the food we buy can enable those who produce it in developing countries to earn a fair wage. And food can also divide. Did anything sum up the Civil Rights divide in the deep south of the USA more clearly than signs in restaurants that stated 'no blacks here'? And in Jesus' day food certainly divided. Divided ethnic groups through what was termed clean and unclean, pure or impure. Divided social groups...one would never invite someone from a lower social standing to a meal...how could they ever return the favour!

Within the New Testament there are three different ways in which the phrase 'the son of Man came' can be completed. It could be the son of Man came not to be served but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many (Mark 10.35). Alternatively the phrase

might be completed by saying that the son of Man came to seek and to save the lost (Luke 19.10). Or, and this is by far and away the most interesting, the son of Man came eating and drinking (Luke 7.34) so much that he is called a glutton and a drunkard!

It was through food and gathering around a table that Jesus taught, he reached out, he welcomed, he included, he offered and accepted hospitality, he evangelised, he worshipped and he carried out his mission to announce that the kingdom of God was close at hand.

In Luke's gospel in particular it can seem that Jesus is either going to a meal, at a meal or coming from a meal. There are over 60 references to food and at least nine meals. In Jesus' ministry, food and meals were examples of God's grace in action. They were about mission. About community. About friendship. About breaking down barriers. About welcome and acceptance.

So if the son of Man came eating and drinking as a means of inaugurating God's new kingdom, how can we here in Poynton in 2016 do the same? The musical film *Oliver* contains a song I am sure everyone has sung at one stage, with the lines "Food, glorious food, hot sausage and mustard! While we're in the mood – cold jelly and custard! Pease pudding and saveloys, what next is the question? Rich gentlemen have it boys, in-digestion!"

During the next month as we celebrate 'eating together' how many courses are you going to try? Are you going to come along to the film? Are you going to read the book? Are you going to join a house group? Are you going to join us for at least two breakfasts? Are you going to bake and then help distribute what we have baked not to each other but to others, who live, work and move in this village? Are you going to invite people to your house for a meal? Are you like Jesus going to use food and eating together as a means of celebrating the kingdom of God? Are you just like *Oliver Twist* going to come back for a second helping!

Love and light

Rev'd John

**Our Church Family encourages everyone to
Come to worship God who loves us...**

**SUNDAY SERVICES AT POYNTON
IN SEPTEMBER 2016**

Date	10.30am UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED	
4th September	9.00am Med	Rev John Wiseman HC
11th	Mandy Hawkyard (Racial Justice)	
18th	9.00am Rev John Wiseman HC	Richard Baker
25th	Rev John Wiseman Harvest	
2nd October	9.00am M	Rev Ray Brown (Black History) HC

**SUNDAY SERVICES AT GREEN CLOSE
IN SEPTEMBER 2016**

Date	2.30 pm
4th September	Eating Together 1: Rev John Wiseman HC
11th	Eating Together 2: Rev Amanda Boon Harvest
18th	Eating Together 3: Theo Eaves
25th	Eating Together 4: Alan Rashleigh
2nd October	Worship 1: Rev John Wiseman HC

AA **All Age Worship** **HC** **Holy Communion**
Med **Meditation**

Lawrence House 10.30am. **11 Sept:** **David Allaby**

Stepping Hill 10.00am. **25 Sept:** **Alan Rashleigh**

Woodlands 11.00am. **11 Sept:** **Chris Hawkyard**

PRAYER



There are many opportunities for prayer in our church and you will be very welcome to join any of the following groups: -

Daytime Group: - We meet in the church prayer corner **every Tuesday** at 9.45am.

Midday prayers are said **every weekday** in the church prayer corner at 12.00 noon. There is a prayer list on the cupboard door near the front entrance. Jean Drinkwater would be happy to add your name to our rota.

Meditation

There will be a time of silent meditation on the first Sunday in each month at 9.00am. After 30 minutes of reflection, we share our thoughts if we feel able. We invite you to come along to a different experience of God's presence. All are welcome. Next time it is on **4th September**.

*Be still
and know
that I am
God*
-PSALM 46:10

Weekday worship

First Tuesday The first Tuesday in September is **6th September**. There will be a service at noon on that day followed by a simple lunch.

All are very welcome to this 30min service that caters for shoppers, passers-by and everyone who is available and wishes to take this extra opportunity to worship. (The first Tuesday next month is the 4th.)

Weekly Prayer Group

Around 8 of us meet every Tuesday morning at 9.45am in the prayer corner. We pray informally for the needs of the world, our country, our Church and individuals. In the last few weeks we have been praying for the success of Holy Habits so we thought we should lead by example. September is all about eating together – the importance this played in the life of Jesus, asking if this is important



in our life today. How often did the disciples and Jesus pray together around a table?

Following their example our prayer group on **13th September** will meet in the Kingfisher at 9.00am for a prayer breakfast. You are welcome to join us.

Praise and Prayer -Thursday 8th September



We aim to fit our services to the monthly theme of Holy Habits, the first of which is **Eating Together!** You are thus invited to come at 7.00pm - a little earlier than normal and having already had the first course of your dinner come and enjoy delicious sweets. We can then plan our future services, give thanks to God for his goodness to us and consider others less fortunate.

Thursday Communion



This is always on the **third** Thursday of the month at midday, so it is next on **15th September**. We follow with a light lunch in the foyer. Why not come a little early and enjoy a coffee before the service?

**Our Church Family encourages everyone to
Follow Jesus Christ Our Saviour...**



“Lessons from a Hospital Bed” by John Piper. Published by IUP £4.99

This little booklet, with a foreword by Joni Eareckson Tada, would be perfect to give to someone either in hospital or who is due to go in. The main purpose of the booklet is encouragement.

In it, John Piper shares ten beliefs that he took with him to hospital (and brought out) and ten lessons he learned while in hospital. They are all in very short chapters as people in hospital don't have the strength to read long treatises.

The booklet is full of comforting, hopeful verses from His word, the Bible. You don't need to have a Bible with you as they are all quoted. One promise that struck me is Romans 8.1 'There is therefore no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.' Is there anything better than to fall asleep, even in a hospital bed, knowing that whether we live or die, God is with us and we are his?

In Romans 8.23 we are reminded that the time is coming where there will be no more hospitals, chemotherapy, antibiotics, crutches, wheelchairs etc. In one wonderful healing for his redeemed world God will put things right and for this we wait. We must remember that God still heals now, sometimes miraculously, sometimes through medical means while we are in the hands of doctors. If healing does not happen now it will certainly happen later. See Revelation 21.4.

If we go into hospital we need God's help. We need to look to Christ who suffered for us and so knows all about pain and suffering. One

of the things we must do while we are there is speak for Jesus as we are his representative in that place. It is a good idea to memorise very short verses of scripture that we can recall before we go under anaesthetic or when we are in pain.

Another thing we must do – as we are in Admissions, while we are on the trolley, before we go into theatre, while we are in bed and if we are awake in the middle of the night, is pray. Short bursts of thanks or cries for help are fine. There are some such sentences suggested here and there is a concluding prayer at the end of the booklet.

“Lessons from a Hospital Bed” would be really useful for anyone who goes hospital visiting and I thank God for it.

“Judas” The troubling history of the renegade apostle.

By Peter Sandford Published by Hodder and Stoughton Ltd

ISBN 978 1 444 75471 1 or eBook 978 1 444 75473 5

Peter Sandford is a Christian journalist and broadcaster and has written a wonderful, fascinating book investigating the most famous ‘traitor’ in all of history. The book looks critically at whether Judas Iscariot deserves the scorn which has been poured on him since the time of the famous kiss in the Garden of Gethsemane.

The reader will find it helpful to read the book in conjunction with watching the BBC1 programme shown in March 2016 “In the footsteps of Judas” presented by Rev Kate Bottley, to which Peter contributed.

The book looks at the various aspects of the facts and myths surrounding Judas. Did he act out of greed for silver as the agent of Satan? Or was he part of God's plan for Jesus in fulfilment of the OT prophecies?

The hard evidence for either view is very limited, as Judas is mentioned less than 30 times in the whole of the Bible. The

polarisation of the actions of Judas are meticulously researched, tracing the history of the way in which the Church and society has vilified the name of Judas (as well as the man). He examines the way Judas has been used as a scapegoat to blame the Jews for a whole variety of perceived wrongs, and which has resulted in many pogroms. Peter lays out the historical facts and how the name of Judas became synonymous with betrayal and treachery.

Although the book is largely 'academic' it makes fairly easy and interesting reading. Its serious side is tempered by each of the 13 chapters beginning with a list of interesting facts, which will be keenly read by followers of pub quizzes or such TV programmes as Pointless. These facts, in a light-hearted vein, also illustrate how the name of Judas has been used throughout the ages. Why 13 chapters? Perhaps the answer lies in triskaidekaphobia!

The book also looks at contemporary visions of Judas, as seen through the eyes of Bob Dylan (remember the words he sang in the 80s "You'll have to decide whether Judas Iscariot had God on his side" – this is what the reader is encouraged to do.) Peter also, perhaps surprisingly, looks at Davis Oldfield and Luis Figo as well as the wonderful etched window produced by Sir Lawrence Whistler of the hanging Judas for the parish church in Moreton, Dorset.

A completely fascinating book, it is well written for lay people, who want to understand more of how Judas Iscariot has been viewed through the ages. The only criticism is the poor quality of the excellent illustrations – but it is only a paperback! 5 stars!

GREEN CLOSE HARVEST FESTIVAL SERVICE

SUNDAY 11th SEPTEMBER 2016 Afternoon at 2.30pm

Rev Amanda Boon

A warm welcome is extended to everyone
Tea available after the Service

HAVE FAITH IN GOD'S LOVE

"Examine me, O God, and know my mind; test me, and discover my thoughts" Psalms 139, 23-24.

Sometimes we all need to be tested in our faith, in our way of treating other people, in our thoughts. No church service has challenged me more in recent years than a service at my church here in York, which was led by Shane Taylor. He works for Alpha, leading many people to faith all over the UK. This may not seem that noteworthy, but for those who may recognise the name, he was once one of the most dangerous criminals in the UK. His story is incredible, and really challenged me in the way that I think about other people, as well as reinforcing the foundations of my faith in God.

I wasn't quite sure what to expect from the service – it'd been advertised as a guest talk from an ex-convict, but that was all I knew. When Shane began his story, I was shocked at how honest he was. He explained how, as a young teenager, he got into the wrong crowd and fear, arising from bullying, caused him to become violent. He told us that he had repeatedly robbed houses, got into fights, and when an incident turned nasty, he murdered a man. This I found completely surreal, and honestly, quite terrifying.

Shane told us how he had acted in prison, leading to him being kept in deep isolation, and being shifted from prison to prison. He attacked prison guards and was classed as the third most dangerous prisoner in the UK. The life he was talking about seemed so alien, and I couldn't imagine how the man standing in front of me had once been the man he was describing. But then, Shane began to tell us about his journey to faith.

There were a few steps in his journey but, in the interest of space, the main step was when he ended up 'accidentally' (I write it this way because of course, God's plans are never accidental!) in a prison Alpha course. He decided to sign up so that he could get away from his cell and enjoy the tea and biscuits!

At first, he paid little attention, but then decided that he was going to disprove what he believed to be the nonsense that the leaders

of the course were telling him. He began researching the Christian faith in order to call out the leaders and ask difficult questions, but found that they always had answers.

Leaping ahead in the story, the group were holding a prayer day, and Shane was prayed for by one of the Alpha course leaders. He didn't experience anything, but was asked into the office by one of the leaders, who told him about the freedom that was granted us by Jesus. He described how he then felt a warm sensation in his chest, which moved up his body until he found himself sobbing uncontrollably in that same office. Quite simply, he said, he had felt God's love. He told us that from that day forward he went around the prison with joy, telling everyone about God's love.

He said something that will stay with me for a long time: he said that God does not compare us to others. He does not label us 'good' or 'bad'. We are all sinners, and can all be redeemed. When God looks at us, he doesn't see the things we've done wrong, or the things we don't like about ourselves, but someone whom He truly loves. This is a message that is easily forgotten in our battles to live our life in the 'right' way, to do 'good' and not be 'bad'. Whatever we have done, or whatever others might have done, God does not let this define us, and does not let it stop him from loving us.

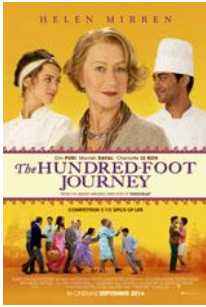
This message, in the context of a man who would be considered by many in society – and even by me before I heard him speak – as defined by his criminal act, is especially powerful. Shane Taylor is a man whose life has been turned around by God's love, so much so that he was moved to tears talking about God's love for us all.

The service was a great reminder for me not to judge people so fast, and not to dismiss the fact that we may be able to share our faith with others, even if they seem 'unlikely candidates'. His story also reminds us not to concentrate so much on how much we have done wrong, but on how much we are loved, for *"this is what love is: it is not that we have loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the means by which our sins are forgiven"* 1 John 4.10.

Helen Holmes

HOLY HABITS

OUR FILM for Holy Habits 'Eating Together' is "**The Hundred-Foot Journey**," starring Helen Mirren and Om Puri



Drifting through Europe after fleeing political violence in India that killed the family restaurant business and their mother, the Kadam family arrive in France, settling in the quaint village of Saint-Antonin-Noble-Val in the south of France. Filled with picturesque charm, it appears to be the ideal place to settle down and open an Indian restaurant, the 'Maison Mumbai'.

Perfect that is until the chilly chef and proprietress of Le Saule Pleureur, a Michelin starred, classical French restaurant run by Madame Mallory gets wind of it. Her icy protests against the new Indian restaurant, situated a mere hundred feet from her own establishment, escalate to all out war until Hassan Kadam's passion for French haute cuisine and for Mme. Mallory's enchanting sous chef Marguerite combine to weave magic between their two cultures and imbue Saint-Antonin with the flavours of life that even Mme. Mallory cannot ignore

The film will be shown in church on Saturday 3rd September at 7.30pm and discussed on Monday 5th September at 7.30pm

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OUR BOOK for Holy Habits 'Eating Together' is '**Toast**' by **Nigel Slater** (available second hand for £2.80 from Amazon)



'My mother is scraping a piece of burned toast out of the kitchen window, a crease of annoyance across her forehead. This is not an occasional occurrence. My mother burns the toast as surely as the sun rises each morning.'

'Toast' is Nigel Slater's award-winning biography of a childhood remembered through food. Whether recalling his mother's surprisingly good rice pudding, his father's bold foray into spaghetti

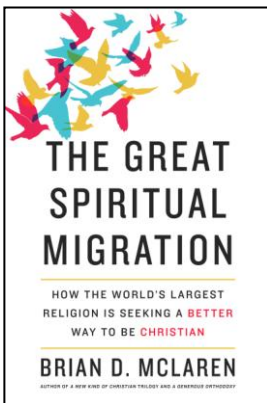
and his dreaded Boxing Day stew, or such culinary highlights as Arctic Roll and Grilled Grapefruit (then considered something of a status symbol in Wolverhampton), this remarkable memoir vividly recreates daily life in 1960s suburban England.

Likes and dislikes, aversions and sweet-toothed weaknesses form a fascinating backdrop to Nigel Slater's incredibly moving and deliciously evocative portrait of childhood, adolescence and sexual awakening.

'Toast' will be discussed on Sunday 25th September at 7.00pm.

Rev'd John

BRIAN MCLAREN IN MANCHESTER



The well-known American progressive writer and speaker Brian McLaren will be introducing his new book "The Great Spiritual Migration" in a talk at Manchester Cathedral on Thursday 13th October, 7.30 pm.

Spiritually, McLaren advocates a migration from Christian faith defined as a system of beliefs to a love-centred way of life.

Theologically, he challenges people to move from defending God as a violent Supreme Being to experiencing and embodying God as the non-violent Holy Spirit.

Missionally, he explores how congregations can move from being institutional outposts of organised religion to networked cells of organising religion. In his book, McLaren invites readers to join a movement that can shift the direction of Christian faith to be more in sync with its founder, more life-giving for individual Christians and congregations, and more of a just, generous, and joyful resource for the whole world.

Tickets priced £10 can be obtained from PCN Britain:

http://www.pcnbritain.org.uk/shop/product/brian_mclaren_tour_october_2016

John Ramsbottom

HYMNOLOGY ON A MONDAY MORNING - 14

'O thou who camest from above'. Words by Charles Wesley (1707-88)

There are links between Charles Wesley and John Robinson, the late Bishop of Woolwich who wrote the notorious best-selling book 'Honest to God'. Both were ordained in the Church of England, and both caused a Christian rumpus that spread far beyond the church. Both were reviled by their church, and found themselves ostracized by that society. Both are now seen to have led millions of people to a new understanding of faith.

Every stage of Robinson's life, his wedding, ordination, family baptisms, consecration as a bishop and his funeral has included this hymn.

There was an uproar when his book 'Honest to God', named by his wife, was published. Several of the tabloids said Robinson intended to 'destroy the faith of simple folk' by his statement that the idea of God as a 'daddy in the sky' would not do. Some church leaders denounced him – in some cases before they had read the book; others welcomed it.

The Wesleys did not intend to found a new church but their revolutionary preaching of God's free grace was too much for the Anglican church of that period. This was almost true for Robinson but in the mass-media age the fuss was as much due to headlines as to people's understanding of the book, or listening to the bishop. It became a best seller.

The hymn is based on a verse in Leviticus, 6.12. John Wesley was particularly fond of the words of the first two verses of the hymn. Charles Wesley's grandson Samuel Sebastian wrote the tune 'Hereford'. In 1916 this tune appeared in a supplement to Hymns Ancient and Modern.

References: Verse 1: John 3.31; Acts 2.3; Luke 12.49.

Verse 2: Lev. 6.12-13. Verse 3: Romans 10.1; 2Tim.1.6.

Verse 4: Romans 12.2; 1Thess.1.3; Philippians 2.17.

Theo Eaves

This article contains extracts from 'The Nation's Favourite Hymns' 2004 by Andrew Barr published by Lion Publishing. Used with permission of Lion Hudson plc.

**Our Church Family encourages everyone to
Grow in Fellowship, joy and love...**

THANK YOU LETTERS



Thank you to all our church family for your best wishes on our 55th Wedding Anniversary, and for the lovely flowers from church.

Maureen & Kevin Downing

Thank you so much for the Church flowers brought by Carole and Marjorie when I was unwell. I was happy they found time for a chat too! Thank you all.

Nora Shercliff

Thank you to all who helped with our recent move, for the cards, gifts and good wishes from our church family, they were much appreciated. Also thank you for the welcome flowers. Please call in to our new home if you are passing by.

Jean and Roger Drinkwater

We would like to thank all of our friends at Poynton Methodist Church, for their kind thoughts and best wishes expressed, either with cards or by means of e-mail messages. These really helped to make our Golden Wedding Anniversary celebration very special and meaningful. May God's blessings be with you all.

David and Dianne Jones

Thank you to all my friends at Church, for lovely flowers, get-well messages, and lifts to and from Church. I also want to give thanks for the prayers offered for me. Within the next 2/3 weeks I should be able to finish with the black boot and crutches so should be back to normal (hopping and skipping all over the place). It's lovely knowing what a lovely caring family Church we belong to.

Sandra Townsend

Since I was taken ill, I have received good wishes and flowers from church and individuals. It was lovely to hear from so many people and has encouraged me to return as soon as I could. The kindness and thoughtfulness of all is lovely to experience.

Pat Musgrave

Thank you to everyone who has sent me best wishes since I was taken ill some weeks ago. I had lovely flowers delivered by Pat & Peter Dobson, who spent some time with me and since then a note from church wishing me well. Thanks to everyone for being so faithful and keeping in touch.

Peggy Brough

I would like to say a very heartfelt thank you to everyone who helped us to celebrate Geoff's life so wonderfully on 5th August. There was so much hard work put in by all, and I and the family appreciated the love and care shown.

Margaret Sharp

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

Congratulations to **Eleanor Hall**, whose 21st birthday was on 18th August.

The marriage of **Carol Lawless** to **Michael Riley** was celebrated at this church on Saturday 30th July, the Rev'd John Wiseman officiating. We extend our congratulations to them both and offer our best wishes for a long and happy married life.

Colin Wrigley son of Ross and Sally Wrigley who attended this church prior to moving to Bollington has been awarded the MBE for services to education in Pakistan. Colin has just retired as Principal of Karachi Grammar School.

Hilary Parry

Joyce and John Deighton wish to thank the family of Poynton Methodist Church for their prayers and support. John is now resident in Adlington Manor where, on the whole, he is settled but he does have his bad days. However if anyone would like to visit him he would appreciate it. He is in the Rowan Suite which is at the back and has a separate entrance. Please remember us in your prayers at this stressful time.

Joyce Deighton

We are sad to record the death of **Geoff Sharp** on 20th July and send our sincere condolences to Margaret and the family. Geoff, and Margaret have been personal friends for many years and I have fond memories of innumerable conversations and discussions (sometimes a little one-sided!) over that time. Steadfast and knowledgeable in his faith, Geoff was a fine preacher much appreciated far and wide whose name was on many plans, undoubtedly especially his Lord's. He and Margaret produced The Herald and its predecessor for a goodly time (which gives us a special connection). His interest and knowledge of all things printing and his eye for a bargain were of great service to Poynton and Hazel Grove. The celebration of his life was well attended on 5th August at this church and it is a matter of great regret that we were on holiday at the time. Other aspects of his life are recorded elsewhere in these pages and all of it has enriched the life, service and worship of this place.

Arnold Samuels

THE CIRCUIT CHOIR



The Circuit Choir starts rehearsals on 13th September at PMC. We will be rehearsing the Choral Suite from "The Armed Man" (a Mass for peace) by Karl Jenkins to offer to the Circuit on 13th November – Remembrance Day Sunday – at 6.00pm.

Please come at 7.30pm on 13th September to collect your scores. We would welcome any new voices and former choristers to join us again in our music-making and fellowship.

Stella Molton

GEOFF SHARP – AN APPRECIATION

Geoff was born on 29th January 1931 in Greater Manchester. His parents were Harold and Lydia Sharp. He had an older sister Dorothy, who has only recently passed away herself and a younger sister Margaret. Geoff grew up and went to school in the greater Manchester area, leaving to become an apprentice draughtsman at an electrical crane manufacturers, a company for which he worked all his life, rising through the ranks from that initial starting position to becoming the Managing Director.

He met his future wife Margaret through the joining together of two church youth groups and through a mixed hockey team, a sport Geoff loved to play. Initially Margaret was not interested in Geoff as he was 4 years her junior, but eventually a friendship and then romance developed. They were married on 21st June 1952 at the Methodist church in Cheadle village and settled down to their married life together in Woodsmoor, Stockport. Janet was born in 1957, followed three years later by Judith in 1960.

Family holidays were spent in the Lake District, north Wales and Scotland as that allowed the family to enjoy other great loves Geoff had, walking and photography which are passions now shared by his children and grandchildren. In later years Geoff and Margaret would often go on holiday with Janet's and Judith's families.

I've already mentioned Geoff's love of hockey – I am told he played for several years for a team in Disley – and also his passion for walking. He loved classical music, especially Gilbert and Sullivan, and enjoyed reading books although they tended to be more reference and text books than novels. He was regularly asked to be the official photographer at people's weddings, and not only took the photos but also developed them himself. And of course he was deeply committed to the life of the church through helping to run activity groups for teenagers, promoting discussions on issues of faith and of course his role as a local preacher.

When I asked the family to describe Geoff they spoke about his loyalty, his perseverance and dedication to a task – something that occasionally made him come across as rather passionate. They spoke of his love of family, of church and of God. They told me how well respected he was by those he worked with and that he was also a man who knew his mind. He was a great story teller, although his exaggerated tales would often require correcting by Margaret!

He had a very generous nature and after his retirement would often be found helping Margaret to print off the church magazine that she had prepared. And not just PMC's magazine but also coming to the assistance of the local Baptist church and even churches as far away as Hayfield and Chapel en le Frith when they had issues producing copies themselves. And as Margaret pointed out, all at a little profit for our own church funds!

Even in his later years when Geoff went to live at Woodlands, despite problems with his memory and ability to communicate, his inner character shone through. He would often be found walking up and down the corridors at Woodlands greeting other residents and visitors. He still enjoyed the church services that took place there, often shouting out phrases and words of encouragement, clapping along to the song that he recognised and he was forever whistling the tunes. He also enjoyed listening to the CDs of hymns and music that could often be heard in his room and which brought him peace.

And it was at Woodlands that Geoff passed away peacefully on Wednesday 20th July to be reunited once more with the God that he loved so much, the God who created him, redeemed him and empowered him. May he rest in peace.

(From Revd John's address)



ArtRelax



Last month we were able to donate (with your contributions of wool and trimmings for which we once again thank you) 40+ Twiddle Muffs, which were gratefully received by the residents of Woodlands.

We have a few projects on the go, namely:

- † Making and decorating Stars for the Christmas Treasure Hunt around Poynton shops
- † Knitting blankets for Premature Babies
- † Experimenting with glass painting and trying our hands at creating cards with water colour pencils.

We still meet on Wednesday evenings, 7.00 – 9.00pm and all are welcome.



Church Cards



As we start a new Methodist year, we would like to thank everyone who has supported church funds by purchasing our cards, wrapping paper and books etc. allowing us to donate in excess of £1,400 to church funds.

Regulars who purchase our cards may already have noticed that our categories have changed. Over the past year in some categories we have not sold any cards and these we have

removed to make room for a wider selection of our more popular ones.

We are pleased to advise for yet another year that our aim is to keep the price of our cards to £1.00 with special deals for some of our Christmas and Easter Cards.

Please let us know if there are ways we can improve our cards thereby increasing church funds. We'd like to express our sincere thanks for your support.

Hilary King and Linda Grant

LADIES' CROQUET

*The kiss of the sun for pardon,
The song of the birds for mirth,
One is nearer God's heart in a garden
Than anywhere else on earth.*
(Dorothy Frances Gurney)

The sun shone, the birds flew among the beautiful trees in Helen's garden and the sense of fellowship and fun was shared by eighteen lucky ladies as Alison (very patiently) explained the rules and how best to play Croquet on Wednesday 3rd August.



The time passed very quickly, as the blue, red, black and yellow balls were hit with varying degrees of accuracy through and round the hoops placed around the lawn.

The refreshments were first class, and on behalf of the group may I send thanks to Helen and Alison, as well as to those who had the wonderful idea.

Anne Hindle

LADIES' FELLOWSHIP

For our first meeting in September, we are having our usual Beetle Drive in Rooms 1 and 2. Come and share in the fun and games, and afterwards we will be having cake and coffee. **Date: 8th September, time 7.45pm.** Sandra Townsend will be leading this meeting.

If the Committee Members could come slightly earlier, to put out the tables and chairs for the Beetle Drive, that would be a big help.

On September 22nd we will be entertained by the talents of "The Singing Waiters". Barbara Dixon will be leading this meeting in the Church at usual time. All ladies are warmly welcomed to any of our meetings.

Sandra Townsend

FLOWER MINISTRY

Would flower arrangers please note that the next meeting is on **Friday 16th September in Room 3 at 10-30am.**

Sandra Townsend

PROPERTY UPDATE

- † Repair to emergency ramp fixing at fire door in main church.
- † Repair to carpet in Room 2. (Contractor)
- † Repair to disabled toilet seat.
- † New lock fitted to Cupboard 4 in Small Corridor.
- † Work to improve temporary banners fixings on front wall.
- † Repair to small table display shelf.
- † Speaker on wall at sound desk moved to improve audio performance.
- † Repair to vacuum cleaner.
- † Loose fence panels in church garden repaired (3rd time).
- † New ceiling lamp fitted in large corridor at serving hatch.
- † Repair to door seal on main entrance doors.
- † New monobloc tap fitted in main kitchen (centre sink).

PMC Property Committee

THE ROAD TO RIO



On 11th August, 70 young 'athletes' together with their coaches (parents and carers) gathered at Poynton Methodist Church for the Road to Rio

Olympic activity day.



Among the competitions taking place were biscuit decorating, torch making, collage construction, medal manufacturing plus a variety of



spontaneous events that involved running faster than a speeding train, leaping tall buildings in a single bound and throwing items a considerable distance indeed.



Great fun was had by all; several records were broken with not a hint of a failed drugs test in sight.



A huge thank you to everyone who helped to plan, organise, facilitate, serve and tidy up afterwards...a gold medal for you all!

Rev'd John & Team PMC

**Our Church Family encourages everyone
To go out, share the Good News and serve in the world.**

MORE MUNCHING MOMENTS

Help to burn off all those calories!

On Saturday 17th September we are arranging a church breakfast followed by a walk. At present we are looking at going to the Legh Arms, where the 'all you can eat' buffet breakfast is £4.49. This will be followed by a walk in a yet to be decided location. Check church notices for further details and simply put the date in your diary.

Eating together 'Mission and Outreach'

Wouldn't it be good to get together for an afternoon in small groups, share our various recipes for baking flapjacks, biscuits or small cakes and then distribute what we have made out in the local community? This could be to local care and nursing homes, to people shopping in Poynton, to parents dropping their children off at the various schools, even to early morning commuters heading into Manchester. Each food item would be contained in a small freezer bag with a little note inside explaining who we are and what we are doing.

The planned date for distributing our food gifts would be the weekend of Friday 23rd – Monday 26th September. So can I suggest you get together with a couple of friends and enjoy an afternoon of baking and fun? Recipe suggestions most welcome.

Rev'd John

CHURCH FAMILY COMMITTEE



Our next collection of clothing etc. for MIND will be on Saturday 15th October. Additional details will be available in next month's Herald. Items being collected will not change from previous collections.

LETTER FROM PETER ENSOR

Dear Friends,

It was lovely to see many of you again at the service on 24th July, though I was also conscious of the fact that there was regrettably no opportunity to speak with each one of you as fully as you (or I) would have liked.

My visit to Poynton was one of the highlights of my three month furlough which lasted from mid-May to mid-August. Other highlights included visits to many relatives and friends in their homes, attendance at the Keswick convention for one week (where I enjoyed both excellent bible teaching and time out on the Lakeland Fells), and a period of study in Cambridge. I am grateful to the Methodist Church's World Church Relationships team for facilitating this furlough and to the Lord for giving me much spiritual refreshment in the process.

Now that I have arrived back in Kenya I find myself faced with a multitude of tasks, which include sorting out the 38,000 theological books which have been given to Kenya Methodist University from the former Wesley College, Bristol, continuing my teaching of trainee ministers for the Methodist Churches in Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania, participating in the life of the Kinoru Methodist Church as it completes its new 2500-seater church building, and having opportunities to preach on Sundays at rural churches around the Meru District.

I would be grateful if you would continue to pray that my work in Kenya may bear lasting fruit and if you would also continue to give as much as you can to the Methodist Church's World Mission Fund, which makes it all possible.

Peter Ensor

WERE YOU A JMA COLLECTOR?

It was lovely to see Rev'd Dr. Peter Ensor when he paid us a return visit in July bringing news and slides of the Methodist University in Kenya. He was certainly very proud of the diversity of subjects taught there. We saw the Medicine Block, Science, Mathematics, Pharmacy etc. not just Theology.

As I spoke to him after his talk I told him how my late husband had always stressed the importance of Mission and how at Hazel Grove Church we had had a very strong JMA Group of youngsters not only collecting small weekly donations and entering the amounts in their books but visiting rallies, going on Days Out, performing plays and inviting returned missionaries to come to our church to talk about their work.

I became an enthusiastic collector myself over seventy years ago, after hearing of the scourge of leprosy in Nepal from a returned missionary minister.

One of our first outings when I first started going out with Joe was to a Missionary Rally at a newly built church in Manchester. Was it Hulme? It would have been 1967. I do remember that Cyril Davey and Pauline Webb were there.

An elderly clergyman turned to me and asked me what position I held at church. I was mortified because it was Joe who was the Missionary Secretary. "Oh" I said, "I am just a hanger-on". He patted my hand and said, "Keep hanging, dear. It is the best thing you can do".

I told Peter this little tale and his reply really thrilled me. He said, "Well there you are. You have seen the reward of your labours tonight. That wonderful seat of learning in Kenya is a Methodist University provided and entirely funded by Methodists and is just one example of the schools, clinics, hospitals and churches. It is the generous dedication of time and money of our congregations that has done it".

I would like to pay tribute to Robert Lewis at Hazel Grove Church, who has collected thousands and thousands of pounds for J.M.A.

from his friends and neighbours (whom he always referred to as his customers). He has retired now, having done a magnificent job continually aided and abetted by his brother Richard.

Marjorie Harrop

DIALSTONE LANE CHURCH CHARITY SEPTEMBER 2016 – AUGUST 2017

For the next twelve months the church's chosen charity is the Kamla Foundation. It was founded by a local man, Bhupendra Mistry, in memory of his mother. Bhupendra lives in Offerton and his children attend a local primary school. He has a strong connection with Lisa Austen and the Fosbrooks who also have an ongoing association with us at Dialstone Lane.

Mr Mistry came to talk to our Four Seasons Group and it was that talk which inspired us to support his work.

The Kamla Foundation works in India with people who are on the margins of society, the poor and the low-caste, especially women, to give them the opportunity to live in dignity, free from hunger and deprivation. The foundation also funds the provision of clean water and operations for people born with cleft lips.

Our first fund raising event to launch the charity on September 10th is an authentic Indian meal followed by a talk by Mr Mistry about his work with the foundation. I would urge you to join us at this social evening in the hope that it will inspire you to support the Kamla Foundation in the months ahead.

We have many things planned for the coming year including a fashion show, baby goods and toy sale, Fosbrooks concert, Brass Band concert and a St David's Day Daffodil tea.

Our success will be down to your support so please keep a lookout for our events and join us if you can.

For more information and tickets contact:

Lisette Milner 0161 456 3077 or **Sue Judson** 0161 487 2297

MP SUPPORTS MAKING POYNTON A “TOILET TWINNED TOWN”



Rev John Wiseman, Catharine Hughes and David Rutley MP

Local MP, David Rutley, has given his strong support to Poynton becoming a “Toilet Twinned Town”, when he recently met the local scheme organiser, Catherine Hughes, at Poynton Methodist Church.

“Toilet Twinning” is a scheme whereby people “buy” a toilet in a developing country that is twinned to a home, office, place of work or public toilet in a community in the United Kingdom. The donor then receives a certificate which has a photo of the new “twinned toilet” in the developing country, including its GPS coordinates. The money is used to build a toilet and to educate communities about sanitation. Ill health in developing countries is an important cause of poor education, as unwell children are unable to go to school and medical care is expensive, which means less money is available for education - or food. It can also be dangerous to not have a toilet, as alternatives can make girls in particular vulnerable to rape and abuse.

Poynton Methodist Church has been fundraising for the last 18 months in order to twin toilets in Poynton. The scheme organisers encourage anyone who visits the toilets in the Church to “spend a penny” to donate to the scheme and have also been supported by the Poynton Town Council and Poynton Library shared reception area in the Civic Hall, among others, which has collected funds in their two public toilets. 11th Poynton Brownies independently raised £80 to twin a toilet at Lower Park School. Organisers are keen to “match fund” the twinning of toilets throughout the town. To date, the campaign has resulted in the twinning of 31 toilets, with funding in place for more, which is helping to improve the health outcomes of hundreds of people in developing countries.

To become a Toilet Twinned Town, certain criteria have to be met, which can be found at www.toilettwinning.org. The criteria include ensuring that the local MP has their toilet twinned. With David accepting his "Toilet Twinning" certificate, local scheme organisers achieved one of their final targets.

After the meeting, David said "I was grateful to receive the certificate from the team in Poynton. It's clear that projects which promote improved hygiene and sanitation make a big difference in improving the life chances of people in less developed countries. I wish the scheme in Poynton continued success in taking this important work forward and would encourage more local residents and businesses to get involved."



News release, David Rutley MP Macclesfield

HOLY HABITS – CREATIVE WRITING

Ever feel led to respond to God by writing - a poem, a prayer, a hymn, an essay?

As part of the Holy Habits series I'm going to host a Creative Writing group on the Thursday before the last Sunday of the month.

Bring your written responses to the theme and activities you've attended (the book, the film, the services) and help us all grow closer to God – and hopefully improve our writing skills.

Open to all ages and abilities, church and non-church members.

First meeting: **Thursday 22nd September, 2.30pm in Room 3.**

Catharine Hughes

INTERNATIONAL AID TRUST

The Harvest Thanksgiving service will be on **Sunday 25th September**. As last year, we are responding to a request for knitted blankets of any size as well as knitted clothing, particularly for teenage boys and men. We are also collecting knitted squares which can then be made into blankets. Additionally, there is an option to support the work by providing soap and facecloths. Donations of wool would be welcomed.

Donated items will be collected by International Aid Trust on **Monday 26th September** around 11.00am – 11.15am. You are invited to come and have coffee, meet the driver and help carry bags to the van.

Many thanks

Liz Baker (403787) and **Hilary Parry** (873674)

Charity Christmas Market

Saturday 12th November

10.00am – 12.30pm

New stalls welcome

Is your favourite charity included?

If not, why not?

Contact Mandy



Dear Overseas Travel Company:

"I think it should be explained in the brochure that the local store does not sell proper biscuits like custard creams and ginger nuts."

THE OCTOBER HERALD

Closing date for submissions will be **14th September (or earlier if possible)**. Please place articles in the Herald pigeonhole or preferably send them by e-mail to: **herald@poyntonmethodist.org**

TO ALL HERALD DISTRIBUTORS

The **October** Herald will be available for you to pick up from **23rd September**. There are sometimes events taking place in the first week of each new magazine and we hope that as many as possible receive the details in time.

To all those who are listed as contacts on our back page.

Please tell us via a note in the Herald pigeonhole whenever there are changes to times or contacts. We only know when we are told.

Copyright

Many thanks once again to all our contributors. We have no problem with those that are the work of the sender, but sometimes we receive pieces for inclusion that have appeared elsewhere. These too are welcome. If you wish to contribute in this way, please obtain permission and let us know the source so that due acknowledgement can be made.

The back page contains a list of useful contacts. You will find others in the Church Contact List, the Circuit Plan and the Circuit Directory. Our website is: **<http://www.poyntonmethodist.org>**, find us on Twitter by searching for @PoyntonMC or on Facebook via [facebook.com/poyntonmethodist](https://www.facebook.com/poyntonmethodist)

The connexional website: **<http://www.methodist.org.uk>** contains a wealth of useful and interesting information including President and Vice-President blogs about the visits they are making.

To donate furniture or arrange a house clearance and help Romania and other countries, contact Jeff Stoker, LIM Distribution Manager on 0796 7751494.

Our Minister, Rev John Wiseman, is available in the church office (871592) on Tuesdays and Thursdays. The light by the door shows red when he is engaged. You can leave messages for him in the Minister's pigeonhole, or please call him or leave a message at home on 261769 or via his email jwiserev@hotmail.co.uk If there is no reply and there is an immediate emergency, phone Rev John Payne 0161 483 4952. The church office is open on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9.00am until 1.00pm. For Church Notices and office queries please contact: office@poyntonmethodist.org

EVERY WEEKDAY

- 9.00am-3.00pm Preschool. Single sessions available. (Sarah Parker 871115)
- #Kids Zone - (Pam Dowd 07717 003 322)
- 7.30am and 3.00pm - Before & after school club
- 7.30am to 6.00pm - Holiday care
- 10.00am to 12.30pm #Open Hands Room 4 (878589) Coffee in the Lounge

MONDAY

- 10-11.00am Discussion Group/Bible Study (Theo Eaves 875162)

TUESDAY

- 9.45am-10.45am Meeting for Prayer (Mandy Hawkyard 875032)
- 12.00 noon *Service and Lunch 1st Tuesday (Mandy Hawkyard 875032)
- 7.30-9.00pm 3rd Poynton Guides and Rangers (Lyndsay Lamb 07950 187 480)

WEDNESDAY

- 5-6.00pm #2nd Poynton Rainbows (Sue Dyson 07515 883 585)
- 6.00-7.30pm #2nd Poynton Brownies (Catherine Potts 07979 955 804)
- 7.00-9.00pm Art Relax (Linda Grant 879663/Hilary King 877051)
- 7.30-9.00pm #4th Poynton Guides (Alison Southern 07905 133 073)

THURSDAY

- 9.30-11.30am Parents and Toddlers (Mandy Hawkyard 875032)
- 12.00 noon *Communion and lunch 3rd Thursday (Mandy Hawkyard 875032)
- 7.30-9.00pm #1st Poynton Guides (Georgia Eyre 07989 360 850)
- 7.30-9.30pm *Ladies' Fellowship (Sandra Townsend 878563)
- 7.30pm *Prayer and Praise 2nd Thursday (Mandy Hawkyard 875032)

SUNDAY

- 10.30am Crèche - 0-3 years (Denise Reid 871961)
- 10.30am Young Church - 3-11 years (Rachel/Ian Hall 872062)
- 10.30am Evolve - 11-18 years (Sally Holmes 260451/Jane Robson 879998)
- 6.00pm*+FoB School Years 6-13 (Judy Gibbons 878016/Christine Ding 859438)

All the activities listed here take place weekly on Church premises except for:
 *fortnightly or monthly +not on Church premises #not PMC organised
 (Please see the weekly notices or the notice board in the corridor for details).

ROOM BOOKING APPLICATIONS – Helen Ives (872465) 14 days notice requested if possible.