



THE HERALD



The Methodist Church in Poynton

FEBRUARY 2017

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 MY DHAKA TIMESHARE

February 2017

So, the start of a new year and the start of our 6th Holy Habit which, depending on whether you look in the Holy Habits book or on the first banner hung in church, tells us it is biblical teaching or scripture. We hear in Acts 2 how the early disciples gathered together to devote themselves to the apostles' teaching, which one assumes would be studying their sacred writing or scripture as well as recalling the words and teachings of Jesus.

According to 2 Timothy 3.16 'All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness', but the question is, to what is that actually referring bearing in mind that none of what we recognize as the New Testament would have been written at that point? According to 2 Timothy the term 'scripture' would have referred to the writings of the law, the prophets and the wisdom tradition that we know as the Old Testament. Or perhaps it is worth pointing out, to quote Philip Yancey, the bible Jesus read.

Which raises the question, which bible do you read? And before you all shout out the NIV or the King James or the NRSV, I asked which bible rather than which translation. What's that I hear you cry? "There is only one bible!" Well, try telling that to a Jew, a Samaritan, a Catholic, a Protestant, a Greek Orthodox or an Ethiopian.

And how are we supposed to read the 66 books of the bible? Books written over thousands of years, by different authors, in different contexts, to different cultures for different purposes. Or how are we to read, interpret and understand different forms of literature:

should we read a poem the same as we read a treaty or a law code or a genealogy, a sermon or a proverb? Should we read the words we find in the bible literally (was Jesus really the LAMB of God) or should the metaphorical or allegorical meaning of a passage be explored? And does it matter that we are not reading it in the original language, whether that be the Aramaic that Jesus spoke or the Hebrew that was the language of worship and the temple, or the Greek in which the NT was recorded, or the Latin into which it was translated, or the English which you are currently reading?

What the original message meant to its original audience at the time in that context and culture is the first place we should start to try and comprehend words spoken thousands of years ago before trying to see if words found within scripture have any meaning and relevance to us here in Poynton today.

In "The Year of Living Biblically" which we are reading in February, A.J Jacobs does exactly that: spends a year trying to live exactly as the bible commands. For approximately nine months he attempts to live via OT rules and regulations and then a further three by following those Jesus and Paul expound in our NT writings. And all of this whilst living in downtown Manhattan where it is perhaps all too easy to find people who are committing adultery but perhaps not quite so easy to stone them to death!

This month, as we explore biblical teaching, let us perhaps not get caught up in trying to stick to the letter of the law but instead remember how Jesus summed up the most important teaching of 'his' scriptures in a single simple sentence 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind' and, 'Love your neighbour as yourself'.

Perhaps if we can all do that, then the peace that we all pray for will begin to appear

Rev John

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

**SUNDAY SERVICES AT POYNTON
IN FEBRUARY**

Date	10.30am UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED	
The theme for February is Scripture		
5 th February	9.00am Med	Rev John Wiseman HC
5 th at 6.00pm	Taizé Circuit Service at Hazel Grove	
12 th	Catharine Hughes	
19 th	9.00am Rev Amanda Boon HC	David Jones
26 th	Richard Baker	

**SUNDAY SERVICES AT GREEN CLOSE
IN FEBRUARY**

Date	2.30 pm
The theme for February is Scripture	
5 th February	Rev John Wiseman HC
5 th at 6.00pm	Taizé Circuit Service at Hazel Grove
12 th	Alan Rashleigh
19 th	Julie Hallworth
26 th	Rev Amanda Boon

HC Holy Communion

Lawrence House 10.30am. 12th February David Allaby

Stepping Hill 10.00am. No service

Woodlands 11.00am. 12th February Theo Eaves

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 on **5th February**.

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

WEEKDAY WORSHIP

First Tuesday The first Tuesday **in February is 7th**. 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.

PRAISE, PRAYER AND PUDDING 9th FEBRUARY

February's Holy Habits challenges us to study the Scriptures! So please join us on **9th February** at **7.30pm** to do just that and joyfully worship, pray, and eat. Puddings and drink are planned but we always hope we'll have to rush out to Waitrose for more!



THURSDAY COMMUNION

This is always on the third Thursday of the month at midday followed by a light lunch. See you there on **16th February**.

EXPLORING FAITH THROUGH FILM: FEBRUARY 2017

At the time of going to press Rev John hasn't decided which film we shall be watching to fit in with the theme of Biblical teaching.



The dates however have been set. We shall watch the film on **Saturday 11th February** at **7.30pm** and meet to discuss it on **Monday 13th February** at **7.30pm**.

Once Rev John knows what we will be watching he will put the usual poster up in church and announce it via the notices and email.

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



“Out of the Silence” – memories, poems and reflections by Terry Waite, published by SPCK at £7.99.

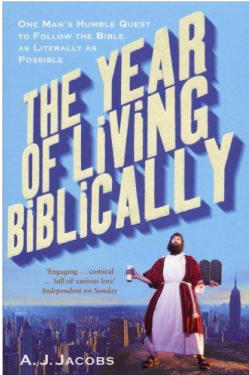
This is a new book by Terry Waite. In it he recalls the highs and lows of life during his almost five year imprisonment and the years that have followed.

Although now in his seventies, Terry is involved in many humanitarian causes including those relating to prisoners, the homeless, hostages and their families and overseas developments. He knows what it is to be chained, beaten, blindfolded, put in solitary confinement (he was for four years) and subjected to a mock execution. While he was in captivity one of his main thoughts was that he must at all costs survive rather than die in captivity. He felt that he owed it to his family and friends. He didn't want them not to know about his final days on earth and always have to live with 'not knowing'. Today he stands for forgiveness, truth and reconciliation, qualities that are much needed in our world today. He is busier than ever and still does much public speaking.

He has allowed others than those very close to him to enter his private, inner space and in many places it is far from an easy read. At times I had tears running down my cheeks as Terry describes certain situations. One poem that moved me is titled 'You ask me why?'

Terry wrote this book, while often wondering whether to continue, in the hope that some of these things will speak to people who read them. He explains the background behind each poem. Things have leapt off the page and spoken to me. It is a very honest book and it is one to be dipped into and re-read.

HOLY HABITS BOOK FOR FEBRUARY 2017



The Year of Living Biblically is about the quest to live the ultimate biblical life by following every single rule in the Bible as literally as possible. It is perhaps easier to obey the famous ones: The Ten Commandments, love thy neighbour, be fruitful and multiply – but what about the hundreds of often ignored ones such as do not wear clothes of mixed fibres, do not shave your beard and stone adulterers?

We will journey alongside A.J. Jacobs as he dives in headfirst and tries to experience the Bible himself by finding out what's good in it, and what's maybe not so relevant to the 21st century. The resulting year turns out to be fascinating, entertaining and informative. It is equal parts irreverent and reverent. It is filled with surprising insights almost every day, although as the author points out it is sinful to boast so perhaps I should let you find out for yourselves.

Come and explore some of the Bible's startlingly relevant rules, as well as some of the ones that baffle the 21st century brain. Look at how various fascinating religious groups each take the Bible literally in their own way, from creationists to snake handlers, Hasidim to the Amish. Stand on the sidelines as A.J.'s own spiritual journey also includes a memoir of his family's eccentric religious history, including his ex-uncle Gil, who has been, among other things, a Hindu cult leader, an evangelical Christian and an Orthodox Jew.

For a month when we are exploring biblical teaching let's join together to see what it might be like if indeed we embarked on a year of living biblically.

Rev John

CLIFF COLLEGE

Cliff College, Sheffield, one of the training colleges used and supported by the Methodist Church, has announced a new partnership with the Bible Reading Fellowship (BRF).

The BRF is a leading ministry organisation in the United Kingdom, best known for its support, resourcing and enabling of the Messy Church initiative.

The two organisations hope to develop important training resources for the Church and lay leaders, with a particular focus on sharing the Christian message. The partners have previously worked together in providing courses and resources, and this new announcement solidifies the relationship, enabling further work to be done.

Upcoming projects will include newly developed certificate programmes in Bible Engagement, and guest speakers from the BRF speaking at the annual Cliff Festival, in May.

The Revd Dr Stephen Skuce, Acting Principal of Cliff College and Director of Scholarship Research and Innovation for the Methodist Church, said: "We are really pleased that Cliff College is in partnership with the BRF. In recent years, the BRF has helped us to develop excellent materials and programmes, such as those for Messy Church, Who Let the Dads Out? and The Gift of Years. These tools have been key in contemporary evangelism in the Church and solidifying our link together will help us to develop further resources and opportunities for mission."

Richard Fisher, Chief Executive of the Bible Reading Fellowship, said: "This [partnership] is a natural extension of the work we already do. We are excited at the prospect of being able to teach, train and impact more people through Cliff's expanding ministry and mission-focused courses."

Connexional News (18 Jan 2017)

HYMNOLOGY ON A MONDAY MORNING - 18

'In Heavenly love abiding', words by Anna L Waring (1825-1910).

Born in South Wales, Anna began life as a Quaker and later became an Anglican. She spent much of her life in prison visiting, and caring for ex-prisoners. She decided to write something for them and for people who felt cut off from church life, people who were, for any reason outside the church. Victorian jails were grim, and the hymn was to reassure people of God's abiding presence, an ever-present help in times of trouble and build confidence for the future. The hymn is based on Psalm 23, the words 'my treasure' in the last verse means the 'singer's heart.'

The hymn was first broadcast as long ago as 1885, when telephone subscribers in the North of England heard it through their receivers as the congregation of St. Paul's, Manningham in Bradford sang it to the tune 'Penlan.' BBC broadcasts properly began in 1922 and soon 6BM Bournemouth, offered a monthly service of hymns and religious talks especially for the sick. Later, Kathleen Cordeaux, a listener to 2LO London, began a campaign to persuade John Reith, first director general of the BBC, to broadcast a daily evensong for the sick, from London, to the whole country.

Dick Sheppard of St. Martin in the Fields, the first 'Radio Preacher' said the service should be on a daily basis for all. In 1932 the first Daily Service was broadcast from its own studio in the new Broadcasting House in London, but the studio was destroyed by a bomb during the Second World War.

Sunday Half Hour was born from a need for the BBC to provide programmes for the B.E.F. in France, and this hymn is often requested.

Psalm 23; Echoes of Psalm 34.1

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.

CIRCUIT CHOIR



The next Circuit Choir Service will be on **Palm Sunday, 9th April** here at Poynton Methodist Church when the choir will be offering to the Circuit Stainer's 'Crucifixion'.

Rehearsals start on **21st February** at PMC. Please come to collect your music at 7.30pm.

Stella Molton

CREATIVE WRITING



The Creative Writing meeting in association with Holy Habits will next convene on **Thursday 23rd February at 2.30pm**. Bring your reflections on the February theme of 'Bible'.

If you haven't tried it before, why not come along? We share thoughts and ideas on the Holy Habit topic, read a bible story, pray together, write creatively and generally enjoy each other's company for about an hour. (Despite the title of the group, there is no pressure to write or read!)

Catharine Hughes

With what do you choose to write? Ancient Egyptians writing on their papyrus scrolls used thin reed brushes or reed pens. Quills were used to write some of the Dead Sea Scrolls in about 100 B.C. but it was only in the 7th Century that they finally replaced reeds. A copper nib was found in Pompeii dating to 79 A.D. Poenaru took out a French patent for a fountain pen in 1827. The first patent for a ballpoint pen was taken out by John J Loud in 1888 but there were problems with the design. In 1938 László Bíró filed a British patent for a successful ballpoint. Felt tips continue the story...bring the writing implement of your choice on 23rd February!

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

THANK YOU LETTERS



I would like to thank the church family for your kind messages and visits from Carol, Jean and John Lunt bringing a lovely plant and flowers. I seem at long last to be over my prolonged attack of troublesome asthma and it is nice to be out and about again.

Dianne Jones

Thank you very much to everyone for all the support and kindness shown to me whilst I was in hospital and since I came home.

I'm delighted to say that the NHS was wonderful and I am making an excellent recovery.

The little plant in its miniature Father Christmas novelty plant pot has cheered me every time I have looked at it. Thank you all very much.

Marjorie Harrop

Thank you very much for the Church flowers, delivered by Joyce, following the death of my mother-in-law. Keith and I really appreciated them.

Cary Heppenstall

We would like to thank all our church family at PMC for the lovely plant we received and all your thoughts and prayers when Kevin broke his arm. He is slowly getting there.

Maureen & Kevin Downing

Each little flower that opens,
Each little bird that sings,
He made their glowing colours,
He made their tiny wings

Memories of Lily Blocksidge

I don't want to remember Lily in hospital over this last year. I want to think back to the surprise party her family organised for her to celebrate her 90th birthday. Her smile was as wide as it possibly could be and her eyes shone with joy. "Why would anyone do this for me?" she asked – its simple Lily - they did it because they loved you.

I've only known her over the last 15 years and I too have grown to love her. She reminded me of my own mother – gutsy, unselfish, never wanting to be a nuisance, self reliant as long as she possibly could be. How many times have I heard her say with her finger wagging at me, "As I say!"

Several people have remarked how she and Reg would serve coffee every morning in Parklands care home when Lily's Mum was living there and how they continued to do this long after she had died. How they must have cheered the residents.

I can picture her walking into the Methodist Church on the first Tuesday or the third Thursday in the month for a coffee, a chat, a Service and then lunch. How she loved it, never missing if she could possibly help it. After the meal she could be found at the kitchen sink washing up – doing her bit as she put it. On one such occasion I remember Lily sharing her testimony as to what the 23rd psalm meant to her. She could recite it line for line. She must have been 92 years young – how I wished I'd taped it. Her faith was so strong. How she would have laughed at Rev John and me on the day she died reciting this psalm – well reading it actually – we had to admit we didn't know it by heart as she did. But then she said it every night before she went to sleep.

I can picture her in the lounge of her new bungalow which her family had made into a little palace for her – there she was surrounded by poppies of all shapes and sizes – her favourite flower. There was always a book in easy reach – what an avid reader she was. "I can lose myself in a good story," she told me and to read a book in one day was so often the norm.

Lily, we will miss you so much but I know you are in a better place where you longed to be. Rest in peace my friend. I will never forget you.

Mandy Hawkyard

PASTORAL NOTES

Pastoral Service(s):

a) New Church Members

Giving us a good start to 2017 – with a call to “Serve” as the current theme of our Holy Habits discussions – the first Sunday service of the year included a section in which we were delighted to receive a number of people into our church membership. Although they have already been with us and among us for a while now, we had the great opportunity to formally welcome the following:

Pam Green]	
Marie Moncaster]	all of whom were transferring membership
Dorothy Taylor]	from other churches
and		
Keith Thompson		who was both confirmed and received as a new member and who gave us wonderful testimony of his faith journey.

We sincerely hope that they will all find true friendship and fellowship in our church family.

b) Re-dedication

While this has tended to occur in the autumn period as far as the Pastoral team is concerned, it was deferred on this occasion until the Covenant Service held on January 8th – primarily to link in with the theme of Service. And in a change from the past it was appropriately adapted to include ALL members who hold office and perform recognised specific tasks within the church. Indeed, there seemed to be many of them – to judge by the number of people getting up and sitting down (some more than once!) as their particular group/function was called upon to be recognised. It is undoubtedly part of our covenant with God – whoever we are and whatever our “work” at PMC (and beyond) – to re-dedicate ourselves accordingly.

c) Allocation of Pastoral Visitors / Pastoral Co-ordinators

First, I would like to thank all these for their dedicated service within both church and community. Then, on their/your behalf I would like also to thank Rev John and Rev Peter who both spend considerable time with their pastoral visits – much of it unseen by us, but certainly much appreciated.

Inevitably, changes occur within any team. At this time may I offer a “thank-you” to those who have recently stepped down from this work – Pat Musgrave, Hilary and David Garrett. In their place we welcome Margaret Meekley who has now joined us; and it is hoped that there may be further addition to this team shortly. While these changes are being ratified and worked out, I would ask those who for the moment have no regular assigned PV or Herald deliverer to bear with us while Rev John and I attempt to “sort things out”.

We ask God to continue to bless our work.

d) Emergency Contact List (ICE List)

I would like to offer a reminder that copies of this list are in the hands of Rev John, all the church stewards and myself: and all of these are asked to keep their own list either at their home or, if possible, with them when they come to PMC. If emergency contacts are needed, then, to assist their finding, a list of the names and telephone numbers of those in the above group is posted at PMC on the inside window between office and foyer.

Please note that the current list does not contain the name of everybody on our church and community roll. So, if anyone now wishes to get their details added, please contact either Rev John or myself.

John Turner

Pastoral Secretary

FLOWER MINISTRY

Thank you to you all for your kind donations to the Flower Fund over the past twelve months. The new calendars are now pinned near to the Flower Ministry Rotas (on the large notice board in the corridor).

If you have a special Sunday on the calendar, e.g. Birthday, Anniversary, Memoriam or any other occasion, please write your name on the appropriate date, and one of our arrangers will be happy to arrange them for you.

Gill Oldham or I will be happy to receive your donations.

Sandra Townsend

HOLY HABITS HOUSE GROUPS

We are now nearly half-way through the Holy Habits year and have decided on dates for the house groups for the second half of the year. The house groups will aim to meet during the following weeks:

Theme	House groups (week beginning)
Scripture	12 th Feb
Discipleship/Lent	19 th Mar
Breaking bread	14 th May
Fellowship	11 th June
Giving	16 th July
Making more disciples	13 th Aug

Groups meet on Monday evening (Richard and Liz Baker, 730104 or John and Jean Lunt, 874099), Wednesday afternoon (John Wiseman, 261769) and evening (Mandy Hawkyard, 875032) and Friday morning (Theo Eaves, 875162). I'll leave you to work out the exact dates of these during the weeks listed above. Please remember that we encourage some fluidity between the groups and you shouldn't feel constrained to attend the same group all the time.

There will be no other house groups meeting during Lent (1st March through to Easter) but each group should decide independently whether it would like to meet more frequently over this period.

Richard Baker

LADIES' FELLOWSHIP

On 5th January Peter Kirk gave us a talk with slides of the East African Game Parks.

On 19th January we had Julie Hallworth, who stepped in at the last minute due to Dianne Jones' indisposition to give us a talk about her early life in the Philippines. Thank you, Julie.

On **2nd February**, Wendy Bray will be coming to give us an insight into the charity we have chosen for 2016/2017, **Seashell Trust**. Anne Hindle will be leading the meeting.

Then on **16th February** we will be looking forward to spring, as a representative from the Prestbury Plant & Garden Centre, will be leading us into the season with ideas for 'What to plant'. Christina Thompson will be leading the meeting.

Coming to **2nd March**, Rev Peter Went will be giving us a talk on "Journeying across the plains 2016". Brenda Oakley will be leading the meeting.

We will not then be meeting in Church until the **6th April**. These are three further dates for you to book in your diaries.

Friday 3rd March: Women's World Day of Prayer.

Saturday 11th March: Coffee morning in aid of our charity Seashell Trust.

Thursday 16th March. Lunch at Ciao.

Looking forward to seeing you all at the above meetings.

Sandra Townsend

NEW YEAR, NEW PERSPECTIVE?

2017: a new year with new challenges, new sermons and new resolutions. John recently challenged us to put God and other people first when we make our new year's resolutions, rather than ourselves. It may seem a little late to be discussing in February, but I wouldn't say it's too late yet!

With New Year's resolutions come new perspectives – I will work out more (and therefore feel healthy), I will eat more healthily, I will read my Bible more, etc. However, without these resolutions, we aren't always challenged to change, or gain, perspective.

There are many issues that this could be applied to, but I wanted to take a minute to talk about mental health. 2016 was a good year for mental health issues, with a surge in the number and popularity of campaigns. Positive messages have been splashed all over social media, with the hope of removing the stigma behind such issues. Yet I can't help but think- what role is the church (or indeed our church) playing in this?

In researching this article, I was shocked by the statistics. 1 in 4 people in the UK each year experience a mental health problem. While generally suicide rates are dropping, the rate of male suicides (as a result of mental health) is increasing. Clearly, this is a big problem, so why is it seldom mentioned in prayers, or in sermons?

In our society, there seems to be a stigma behind mental health. It's been suggested that this is caused by a need to 'save face'. Embarrassment, coupled with the belief that 'it's just a phase – it'll go away' are generally stated to be the biggest reasons why people do not, and feel like they cannot, discuss mental health problems.

We're all guilty of saving face, or merely not telling people about our problems. Far too often we say 'I'm good, thanks' when we've had a rubbish week, or 'I'm fine' when actually, we really could use some help. So how do we help to break the stigma?

A great deal of the problem is a lack of knowledge about mental health. Stigmas, as with prejudice, are often the result of a lack of understanding. We would readily pray for someone with a broken leg; we understand that. It's a physical illness. So why does it not readily occur to us to pray for someone with a mental illness?

I think the answer lies in the fact that we don't know. We don't know how to deal with or discuss mental health. For many people, it makes us feel awkward and uncomfortable. How many of us would discuss it, or even let it show? I feel that sometimes, there's an expectation in church that we are all happy, prayerful and ready to praise, when often praising God can be the last thing we want to do. That may sound extreme coming from a regular church-goer, but it's true – I don't always feel like praising Jesus, and I'm sure I'm not alone in that. So how, as Christians, do we break the stigma behind issues such as depression, anxiety or Alzheimer's, to name just a few?

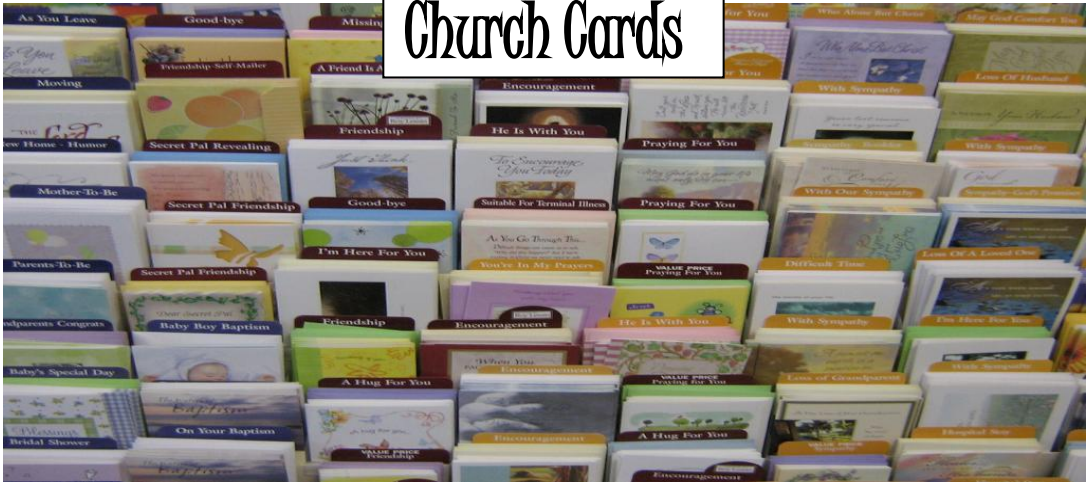
I'm not sure what is the best action for supporting mental health. Maybe one solution is practicing gratitude – helping others, reminding ourselves to think of all the things that God has done for them and learning to take things as granted, not for granted. There's certainly a lot of research supporting the creation of lists of things that you're thankful for.

Maybe another solution is simply to give those problems to God, and to hope and trust in his power. Perhaps the most important thing is to change our perspective on mental health, and through doing this, we might be able to offer a new perspective on life for someone who is struggling with these issues. We may even be able to offer or remind someone of the new perspective that being a follower of Jesus allows us to have on life.

I don't have all the answers to these problems, but sometimes it's asking the right questions, and challenging sub-conscious thoughts, that can create positive change.

Helen Holmes

Church Cards



Thank you to everyone for your support - and this includes our friends in the village who visit our premises solely for purposes of purchasing cards. For those of you interested, for the first quarter (September-December) we have sold a total of 515 cards.

Category	No. sold	Category	No. sold
Anniversary	6	Retirement	3
Baby	7	Sympathy	21
Birthday	69	Thankyou	10
Birthday + bible verse	3	Thinking of you	25
Blank	37	Wedding	0
Blank + bible verse	0	Holy Habits	18
Get Well Soon	18	Christmas	263
God Bless You	6	Christmas/med £1.50	7
Just to Say	10	Christmas /large £2	1
New Home	9	New Year	2

Towards the end of the year we donated some of our old birthday and blank card stock to 'Woodlands' who were extremely grateful for the gift and our ongoing support.

Going forward - Individual handmade cards will remain at £1 primarily due to a bit of canny internet shopping last year when we managed to secure sufficient blank cards and cellophanes for 2017

at a very competitive price. We could of course be proved wrong if sales increase but this is down to you!

For the past few years we have stocked a range of numbered birthday cards from one to one hundred and sales could not have been lower – so much so that we thought it was time to remove the stock, but to our surprise at the eleventh hour we sold two 80th birthday cards. So what do you think - should we keep or should they go? If we remove, with what if anything do we replace them? To this end we are introducing a little book (+ pen) for your comments please. So often we see people looking but not finding what they need, so please tell us.

Advance Warning

Easter is in mid-April this year and cards celebrating this important event will be on sale from early March.

As requested we will have packs of Easter Cards for sale this year, of which a sample pack will be on display by the middle of February. These packs will **need to be pre-ordered**, details of how to order and cost will be clearly displayed along with our sample pack. Single Easter cards will be available as usual.

You will be delighted to hear this is the end of our update, but we do look forward to hearing from you. Meanwhile we will get back to creating new cards in different ways.

Hilary King and Linda Grant

INTERNATIONAL AID TRUST

Happy New Year!

We would greatly appreciate any donations of double knitting wool in all colours to continue to support our knitters. Just a reminder that 6 or 12 inch squares of double knitting or 5 inch rounds if crocheting can be sent to the charity with volunteers making them into blankets.

Many thanks for your continued support.

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

FAMILY PLANNING

The Family Committee are organising the following events for 2017. We hope you can join in and support us. More details will follow nearer the time of each event.

Saturday 18th February – Quiz night.

Saturday 11th March – Evening of entertainment and food, part of our Church Anniversary weekend.

Saturday 13th May – Film at 2.00pm, followed by Afternoon Tea at 3:30pm.

Sunday 18th June – Faith Lunch during our Holy Habits month of Fellowship.

Saturday 22nd July – Mind Collection and Coffee Morning during our Holy Habits month of Giving.

Tuesday 5th December – as well as our usual Craft Market during the Poynton Christmas Fest, we will also be hosting a Christmas Tree Festival which will run from 5th to 7th December.

Linda Grant

WORLD CHURCH

Our recent envelope collection in church for Self Denial supporting World Mission Fund raised £140. £72 of this money was Gift-Aided, and so the total will be roughly £158.

Thank you all very much indeed.

Marjorie Harrop



PROPS

POYNTON'S RANDOMLY ORGANISED PLAYERS



PROUDLY PRESENT

ALICE IN PANTO LAND SATURDAY 11th MARCH 4.00pm

Once again our Church Anniversary will be celebrated with performance, song, a little dance and a glass of bitter – sorry, dash of glitter.

Follow the adventures of Alice as she travels through Panto land to find your favourite characters.

- Will Cinderella revisit the scene of her triumph?
- Will Abanazar reclaim the Lamp?
- Has Captain Hook perfected his sword technique?
- Will Sleepy ever wake up?
- Just how merry are the men?

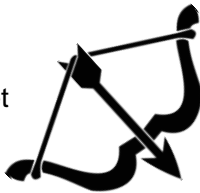
The only way to answer these questions is to be there on Saturday 11th March at 4.00pm!

A vignette of pantomimicry. A performance to make you weep.....with laughter?

The performance will be followed by refreshments: jacket potatoes with your favourite toppings and something sweet to follow.

Tickets available from mid-February, meal inclusive:

- £5 Adults
- £2 Children
- £10 family ticket



MEET ANNIE TRUMAN

Hallo to all at Poynton Methodist Church. My name is Annie Truman and I am your new Children and Families Worker. You may already have seen me around during the week.

I am most likely to be about on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays until the early afternoon, although I will join you on some Sundays too.

I believe that Arnold has included my church E-mail address on the back page of this issue and you can reach me on that during my working hours. Alternatively you can phone the office.

I am really looking forward to working with you all but forgive me if, even after we have been introduced, I forget your name. I am on a steep learning curve!

Do pop in and say hallo if you haven't already, I am just finding my feet at the moment but would love to share a brew with you.

Annie Truman

NEW YEAR RESOLUTIONS

It's a tried and tested sermon opener during the first few weeks of the New Year: "Have you made any New Year Resolutions this year?" Well, have you?

It's a tradition with religious origins:

The Babylonians made promises to their gods each year that they would return borrowed items and repay their debts (that reminds me..!);

Romans made promises to Janus (god of January);

Knights confirmed their annual commitment to chivalry;

At the Jewish New Year Jews reflect upon their wrongdoings over the year and both seek and offer forgiveness;

Christians hold Watchnight services to pray for the year ahead and make promises to God and

At the Methodist Covenant Service, we seek to renew our Covenant with God at the beginning of September or January.

Looking at it emotionally, it's a good way to start a new year; new beginnings, wipe the slate clean, a fresh start, a new chapter, a pristine new diary.

Logically, I'm not so sure. We are told that we are the only creature with full self-awareness. So we are conscious of our actions and the motives that drive them. We also have the capacity for empathy. So we are able to appreciate how some kinds of action can affect ourselves and others adversely.

So what are we waiting for? Do we have to wait for the arbitrary concept of the beginning of a new episode in time before we resolve to cease harmful action? Why can't we do it now? Let us therefore live in the present: we can't correct past actions (but we can apologise, ask forgiveness and put things right if possible); we can behave better now... and extend that to the next 'now'. That takes care of the future too.

Arnold Samuels

PROPERTY UPDATE

- *Repaired leak at cold tap in gent's W.C.
- *New lock fitted to preschool shed in rear play area.
- *New valve fitted to high level flushing system in gent's W.C.
- *Large area of carpet stuck down in church music area.
- *Lamp replaced in large corridor light fitting.
- *Repair to door and lock at hall main entrance.
- *New latch fitted to side gate of church garden.
- *Repair to main heater/blower unit in church near to sound desk.
- *Notice board in large corridor repainted.
- *Shelving removed from cupboard in Room 3 and fittings installed to hang banners.
- *PAT (small portable electrical appliance) testing carried out by outside contractor. 100 + items.
- *Leak in church roof at entrance doors to worship area repaired by outside contractor.
- *Evolve have repainted Room 4 (Thank you!) to bring it up to the standard of the rest of our building, as their contribution to the Holy Habit of Service.

Derek Garner for PMC Property Committee

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

NEW YOUTH PRESIDENT DESIGNATE



Michael Pryke, aged 17 from Stamford in Lincolnshire, has been announced as the Methodist Youth President Designate. He was elected at this year's 3Generate event for young Methodists that took place over the weekend of the 25 and 27 November.

Michael was elected from five candidates running for the position. The candidates took part in hustings and produced promotional videos and displays as part of their election campaigns.

"I'm deeply honoured to have been chosen to take up this role and I'd like to thank all the people who helped and supported me with the election," said Michael. "Young people need to be a voice of change. We are not just what is next, we are now and our voice counts."

The current Youth President, Tim Annan, was among the first to congratulate Michael: "Having spent time with Michael over this past weekend, I'm confident and excited to see his passion and enthusiasm for the children and young people of the Methodist Church. He has great ambitions and I look forward to seeing what God has planned for him over his time as Youth President."

"I'd also like to thank all the candidates for the confidence and passion to put themselves forward for the role of Youth President this year. I ask that we keep them in our prayers as they look ahead and wish them well in their ministries."

Michael will begin his role next summer, taking over from Tim in September 2017.

E News 1 Dec 2016

"What was this cured ham suffering from?"

How is it that we put a man on the moon before we thought about putting luggage on wheels?

Why do we say "slept like baby" when they wake every 2 hours?

THE MARCH HERALD

Closing date for submissions will be **15th February (or earlier if possible)**. Please place articles in the Herald pigeonhole or preferably send them by e-mail to: **arnoldsamuels@btinternet.com** (marketing spam automatically deleted).

TO ALL HERALD DISTRIBUTORS

The **March** Herald will be available for you to pick up from **24th February**. 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 Our Children and Young People's Worker, Annie Truman may be in the office between 9.00am and 3.00pm on Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday and her email is annie@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 & Toddlers (Judy Gibbons 878016/Margaret Martin 874883)
- 12.00 noon *Communion and lunch 3rd Thursday (Rev J Wiseman 871592)
- 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.