



THE HERALD



The Methodist Church

in Poynton

APRIL 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 THE MANSE

April 2017

THE MYSTERY OF EASTER

For this month I thought I'd let you do all the work. Simply answer the questions below. Then take the first letter of each answer and slot them into the spaces below (in the order of the questions) to make an anagram. Then simply solve the anagram to reveal the message of Easter which is quite angelic. (The solution on page 5 is just to confirm that you've got the right answer.)

1. This word means to be 'set apart'
2. The destination of two travellers on Easter Sunday evening
3. Part of the group that tried Jesus (70 in total)
4. Puppet king who died a horrible death
5. The other Joseph came from here
6. This would not have been found in the bread Jesus broke
7. The tomb was not totally empty
8. Where God's will is already done
9. Jesus instituted this in the synoptic accounts
10. 'Ride on, Ride on' according to Zechariah 9:9
11. In his account Jesus drinks from several cups
12. Some people think this person was referring to Jesus when he described the suffering servant but the writing just makes me tense
13. One of the disciples we assume was with Jesus. Can you **figure** it out?
14. He could be bought if the price is right
15. Location of the final meal
16. The rulers at the time all this took place

17. Another way of saying God is with us, and remember, it's I
before E

18. This was conflicting when the witnesses at Jesus' trial spoke

19. Mary and the other women took these to the tomb

Your anagram is _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _

Your angelic Easter message is

Rev John



GREEN CLOSE ANNIVERSARY SERVICE

SUNDAY 14th MAY 2017 2:30pm

Preachers:

Rev Stephen and Deacon Jenny Heath

A warm welcome is extended to everyone

Tea available after the Service

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

**SUNDAY SERVICES AT POYNTON
IN APRIL**

Date	10.30am UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED	
Themes: Discipleship; Easter; Breaking Bread		
2nd April	9.00am Med	Rev Amanda Boon HC
9th	Catharine Hughes	
9th at 6.00pm	Circuit Choir Service 'Crucifixion'	
16th	9.00am Rev John Wiseman HC	Rev John Wiseman
23rd	Richard Baker	
30th	Mandy Hawkyard	
7th May	9.00am Med	Rev Ray Brown HC

**SUNDAY SERVICES AT GREEN CLOSE
IN APRIL**

Date	2.30 pm
Themes: Discipleship; Easter; Breaking Bread	
2nd April	Rev John Wiseman
9th	Rev Amanda Boon HC
9th at 6.00pm	Circuit Choir Service 'Crucifixion' at PMC
16th	Rev John Wiseman
23rd	Adrian Law
30th	Alan Rashleigh
7th May	Stewart Blackledge

HC Holy Communion

Stepping Hill 10.00am. 9th April Rev Amanda Boon

Woodlands 11.00am. 9th April Alan Rashleigh

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 **2nd April** and again on **7th May**.

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

WEEKDAY WORSHIP

First Tuesday The first Tuesday **in April is 4th**. 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

As this coincides with **Maundy Thursday** this month we will be joining the usual Service for this special evening on **13th April** commencing 7.30pm led by John.

THURSDAY COMMUNION

This is always on the **third** Thursday of the month at midday followed by a light lunch. See you there on **20th April**.



STAINER'S 'CRUCIFIXION'

Modelled on the great passion settings of J.S. Bach, Stainer's *Crucifixion* is amongst the most popular of all English choral works and vividly portrays the events of the Passion of Christ.

Scored for tenor and bass soloists, organ and mixed choir, the piece combines recitatives, solos, and masterful choruses that range from the graphic mob shouts of '*Crucify Him*' to the ethereally beautiful meditation at the work's centrepiece '*God so loved the world*'.

The Circuit Choir will be at PMC on 9th April at 6.00pm to offer this work as an act of worship at our next Circuit Service. The choir will be joined by John Elliot (Tenor), and Andrew Charlton (Bass).

There are five congregational hymns included in the work and the choir will be accompanied by John Ramsbottom and conducted by Stella Molton.

Come and join us at PMC at the beginning of Holy Week.

Stella Molton

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



'Bleak Day – Poems on The Stations Of The Cross' by Albert Radcliffe
Published by Albert Radcliffe at £2.00

This booklet would make excellent reading for what is left of Lent. I have reviewed poems by Albert Radcliffe in this feature before. He is a retired residentiary canon of Manchester Cathedral and has found the Stations of the Cross to be an excellent spiritual and ecumenical bridge between the Church of England and Rome.

These meditations arose out of a visit to St Mary's Roman Catholic Church (the hidden gem) in Mulberry Street in Manchester where there is a series of tremendously moving and spiritually powerful Stations of the Cross by the artist Norman Adams. The series shows the horror and bleakness of the Cross by which God redeemed the world through Christ.

I have seen this artwork and I recommend a visit to it as well as recommending these poems.

THE MYSTERY OF EASTER

Holy / Emmaus / Sanhedrin / Herod / Aramathea / Leaven / Linen /
Heaven / Eucharist / Ass / Luke / Isaiah / Nathaniel / Judas / Upper
Room / Rome / Immanuel / Evidence / Spices

That should give the anagram HE SHALL HEAL INJURIES

And when you rearrange the letters, the angelic Easter message
is...**HALLELUJAH HE IS RISEN.**

Which is of course what is on our lollipop angels!

HYMNOLOGY ON A MONDAY MORNING – 20

'Onward! Christian Soldiers' – Sabine Baring-Gould (1834-1924).

Just off the M1 in West Yorkshire there is an unusual road sign. The sign reads "Welcome to the home of 'Onward! Christian Soldiers!'" The road has dipped down into the River Calder Valley, to Horbury Bridge. You cross this to the village of Horbury, where you see the spire of the parish church. We have entered the 19th century world of 'Onward! Christian soldiers'. In 1864 the new curate, Baring-Gould, arrived. He came from the privileged world of Clare College Cambridge. We read that although thirty, he enjoyed a prank, as his boss Canon Sharp found out when his white kitten turned pink!

Baring-Gould was given the task of starting a mission church in a house in a little terrace, today a Post Office. He began to hold services in an upstairs bedroom. It was a tough community between the sidings of the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway and a canal. A few years before there had been violent Weavers riots that had spilled over into the village.

The services soon became popular and the congregation had overflowed down the stairs from the bedroom. Baring-Gould preached standing on a stool in front of the mantelpiece.

It was the time when 'Whit Walks' were common and Gould was faced with the task of getting his congregation and the children to march up the steep mile-long hill to the parish church. He decided to write a marching hymn to encourage them. On the eve of Whitsun 1865 he says he 'knocked off the hymn in ten minutes'. One doubtful parishioner pointed out: "You'd best be sharp about it, for this is Saturday, and soon all printing will stop!" Gould recorded the process in a letter still preserved, and it was sung to the tune of 'Haydn'.

The well-known Arthur Sullivan tune 'St. Gertrude' was not written until 1871. St. Gertrude was chosen by the Bishop of Wakefield.

What was the tune 'Haydn'? There has been some argument about this, but it is considered to be the Haydn 'Surprise' symphony which does fit the words.

References: Matt.16.18; Eph.4.4; Col 2.15; 2Tim.2.3; Jas. 2.19

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

HOLY HABITS MONTH 8 – BREAKING BREAD

The quote which will appear on the banner on Easter Sunday comes from the poem 'Christmas' by Sir John Betjeman. The last verses read –

And is it true?

*This most tremendous tale of all,
Seen in a stained-glass window's hue,
A Baby in an ox's stall?
The Maker of the stars and sea
Become a Child on earth for me?*

*And is it true? For if it is,
No loving fingers tying strings
Around those tissued fripperies,
The sweet and silly Christmas things,
Bath salts and inexpensive scent
And hideous tie so kindly meant,*

*No love that in a family dwells,
No carolling in frosty air,
Nor all the steeple-shaking bells
Can with this single Truth compare -
That God was man in Palestine
And lives today in Bread and Wine.*



Here is grace
here is peace
Christ is with us
He is with us

WELL, HAVE YOU WORKED IT OUT?



Peter – has a cockerel to remind us of his denial - John 18.15–27 but also to remember the gentle way Jesus forgave him. John 21.15-19.

Andrew has become known as the one who introduced others to Jesus. He brought Peter - John 1.40-41, the boy with the loaves and fish and the Greeks John 12.20-22. So Andrew is depicted by his fishing boat and net. Jesus said, "I will make you fishers of men".

John is the one to whom Jesus entrusted his mother Mary whilst dying on the cross. John 19.26-27.

James, John's brother never appears in the Gospels apart from John – they constitute an inseparable pair. However as he was the

first disciple to be martyred Acts 2:2, he is depicted with a sword to signify the manner of his death.

Philip – in John's gospel Philip is one of the first disciples to be called. The next time we meet him is at the feeding of the 5,000 so he has been given 5 loaves and 2 fish.

Nathanael (Bartholomew) has been given an Old Testament scroll – it would appear that he was a scholar and a seeker after truth. John 1.45-50.

Matthew was a tax collector – hence the money bag.

Simon the Zealot has been given the Star of David superseded by the early Christian sign of the fish.

Thomas the doubter, the questioner, has a question mark but the bottom half of it is gold. He doubts the resurrection but later addresses Jesus as “My Lord and my God.” John 20.19-29.

Judas betrays Jesus for 30 pieces of silver, seen near the cross – Matthew 27.3-10.

Thaddeus – little is known of this disciple but in John's Gospel he makes one appearance under the name of Judas, not Iscariot, when he asks a question at the last supper. John 14.22-23. He has been given bread and wine.

James the Lesser – nothing is known about him apart from his name. He is listed in Acts 1 as being present between the Ascension and Pentecost. We have made the assumption that he was also present at Pentecost, hence the dove and flames.

Before I went into hospital mid January I left Linda with ideas for each disciple. When I returned she sent me a photo of what she had made. Look at the detail Linda has put on this banner to make each symbol stand out. Thank you Linda – you have a great creative gift which you use unreservedly.

Mandy Hawkyard

HOLY HABITS BANNERS

One of the great teachings of the Bible is to give thanks, but sometimes we forget, so it is good that we have the opportunity to say how very fortunate we are to have a talented and inspired group of people who have designed and made the banners displayed in church, each one depicting our monthly theme.

The art and skill shown by the beauty of these banners must be 'spirit-led' and they serve as a reminder of our meeting together to study, pray and expand our own faith. These truly are a visual challenge to our Christian pathway, as we seek to explore the lifestyle of the first Christian community.

The fellowship we share with each other, gives us the opportunity to look outward into our community as we become involved in different activities.

So, thank you for your care and commitment in helping us to share our faith and keep up the good work – we have far to go yet!

Margaret Wilson, Carole Clarke

CHURCH ENVELOPES

Our new style envelopes will be available for collection at the back of the Church from Sunday 2nd April. The envelope scheme has contracted over the years as there are different options for giving. If anyone would like any further information please let me know.

Carole Clarke

THE ULTIMATE PARADOX

At a recent service at Poynton I asked "What is God like?" Most of us know God as a loving, caring Father, a marvellous creator and a merciful judge. But there is a longer list, though it may seem a bit academic. God is:

- Eternal (not constrained by time)
- Immutable (unchanging)
- Incomprehensible (beyond our understanding)
- Infinite (knows no limits)
- Omnipotent (all powerful)
- Omnipresent (present everywhere at all times)
- Omniscient (knows all – actions and thoughts, past, present and future)
- Self-sufficient (uses assistance only by choice, not need)
- Sovereign (everything is under His control)
- Transcendent (greater and totally apart from anything He has created)

These are His natural characteristics.

His moral ones are that He is faithful, good, gracious, holy, jealous (see the first and second of the Ten Commandments), just, long-suffering, loving, merciful, forgiving, righteous, truthful, wise and wrathful (but slow to anger).

These were all backed up by biblical references in a handout that Catharine Hughes gave to a study group she was running.

Given the nature of God then, where does free will fit in? Sin exists because we have the freedom to choose from doing or thinking the right thing, the wrong thing or nothing at all. If we do or think the right thing that will fit in with God's overall plan, but the other options will have bad consequences to a greater or lesser extent. God knows what we are going to choose before we do, so what is He going to do about it if we choose a bad option? This may seem like denying his unchanging nature, but I can only assume He is flexible and will adapt His plan to take account of our bad choice. God is unchangeable in that the ultimate goal does not alter, even

though the route to it takes many different paths depending on various factors connected with dealing with sin.

My bible study notes on this subject recently dealt with this paradox.

Jeremiah offered King Zedekiah a choice: 'Obey the Lord and your life will be spared (Jer. 38:20)'. The possibility of survival remains to the end. This was a real choice as it was for the two criminals who were crucified with Jesus.

"Nobody is irrevocably locked into a preordained future. We must not underestimate God by thinking that God knew in advance what Zedekiah would do and offered him a false choice." The author went on to say "Since childhood I have struggled to hold together the paradox that an all-knowing God may perceive the future yet still offer us absolute and unlimited freedom to choose Him. Like much which we apprehend by faith, these are two eternal realities which we must believe. I have come to understand that what I deem a paradox is only paradoxical in my small mind, not in the mind of God."

Chris Hawkyard

EXPLORING FAITH THROUGH FILM:



I am hopeful that in the week after Easter we will be able to watch and discuss the film 'Risen' in church, times and dates to be announced.

The time is Jerusalem, 33 AD and Clavius is a senior officer in the Roman army. He spends most of his time putting down rebellions but recently he has been given a different task. He is to be the officer-in-command at a crucifixion and ensure that no incidents occur at or after the executions.

When the body of one of the executed disappears from its tomb, his own reputation is at stake and he must do everything in his power to reclaim it. The man who disappeared was known as Yeshua or Jesus, and if rumours are to be believed...he has risen from the dead!

Rev John

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

THANK YOU LETTERS



Keith and Christina Thompson wish to thank the Church for its welcome to us on our return to Poynton after 42 years living in Cheadle Hulme. The roses delivered by Carol Clarke are beautiful. We feel very much among friends here and thank them for all the welcome cards we have received.

I just wanted to say thank you all so much for the flowers Eileen brought, and of course all the good wishes. I am still plodding on and hope to see the last of my grandsons married in November. God bless you all, with love from **Gwenda Hope**.

Thank you friends and all the members for your love, good wishes and prayers following a few hiccups I have experienced health-wise recently. Special thanks to Pat for braving a howling gale to bring me the prettiest pink carnations. Your kind thoughts are much appreciated.

Mary Thorp

I have greatly appreciated all of the flowers I have received in the past couple of months and also the regular visits from Nadia. My health has now improved. Many thanks to everyone for your kind thoughts and prayers.

Lynda James

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

Happy Birthday to **Elizabeth Dawson** who will be 4 on 11th April

This section of our church magazine is an opportunity to share our special news days and give due recognition to life's milestones among our church family. We welcome all such contributions. If your contribution is about another person, please make sure you have their permission.

35th CHURCH ANNIVERSARY

It may be that there are reports elsewhere but what a good weekend we had. We didn't miss this very important date in our calendar.

Ladies' Fellowship started Saturday with an excellent coffee morning and sale raising funds for the Seashell Trust. Although they hoped for bigger numbers it was well supported and a good donation was raised for this excellent local charity.

Having asked Sandra to move her beautiful flowers out of the danger zone which was to be the pantomime performance space, the luvvies amongst us moved to create a world of fantasy, oh yes it was!



All of us involved in writing, directing, costuming, sourcing props, creating music, creating visual effects, preparing flyers, selling tickets, coordinating preparing and serving food and trying to act, enjoyed ourselves fully, and it seemed that the audience did too. It was so good to see our church full of our usual

friends together with families and friends of all ages from other groups who use our church but may not attend worship each Sunday. Many stayed to eat and to continue the party atmosphere, over 100 of us. It was truly a family celebration.

In addition we were able to raise funds not only for the Seashell Trust but for our Church and for Comic Relief. We should have raised a little less for the Church if Morrisons had not, once again, given us a generous donation of savoury foodstuffs plus tea, coffee and milk.

Thank you everyone

Judy Gibbons



ANNIE'S PAGE

At last the Panto is over and I can breathe again and not have to worry about learning lines. We had a great time and I hope that those of you who came to see it enjoyed yourselves as well. I do not, however, remember acting being in my Job Description!

Just a quick update on what I have been doing lately. 'Toddlers' continues to be successful and I have found myself somehow or other on the craft table every week which I enjoy as it gives me a chance to talk to the carers (Mums, Dads, Grandparents etc.)

John and I recently went into Worth School and took an assembly where we talked to the children about Lent, temptation and making the right choices. John used the 'Be Bold' song that we sang last Sunday and the children loved it.



I visit preschool every week and have just started to tell stories from the Bible to the children. So far we have had 'Elijah and the jug of oil' and the parable of 'the treasure in the field'.

At the other end of the age spectrum I have been going with John and the team to Woodlands Care Home to take part in a short service.

Two Sundays a month you will see me around at the Sunday Service where usually I will go out with the little ones. If you see me, do say hello and forgive me if I have forgotten your name!

Well that's me so far. Here's hoping for a beautiful and blessed spring.

Annie Truman



The **Methodist** Church

3Generate, the Methodist Children & Youth Assembly, is an action-packed weekend for hearing the voices of children and young people across the Methodist Church, focusing on fun, faith and friends.

Mental health and the pressures of school life are among the topics that young Methodists have told the Church they would like support and guidance with.

After gathering at the 3Generate event attended by more than 500 young people aged 8-23 and their leaders, three manifestos have been produced that highlight the issues concerning young people in the Methodist Church today. Other issues raised include poverty, the refugee crisis and the positive tackling of extremism. The manifestos will be presented to the 2017 Methodist Conference, taking place in Birmingham in June.

Tim Annan, Youth President of the Methodist Church commented: "The Methodist Church has a wonderful tradition of actively listening to its members, including its young people. These statements should make important reading for all Methodists across the Connexion. Young people are an integral part of the Church today and these are the issues they are talking about which are affecting us as Methodist people now. The church has an important job in helping people grow in their faith and to provide the support that we all need to explore and discuss these issues from a Christian and a Methodist perspective."

Penny Fuller, Church and Community Development Co-ordinator, commented: "The world can be a very difficult place for people of all ages to navigate, especially at the moment. Young people don't just want to understand the world; they want to take an active role in seeking solutions to its problems. Children and young people are calling for the Church to support them and work with them to make

change happen. They are speaking out about how, as individuals, they want to become 'Agents of Change' and work alongside the wider Church and their communities to create a better, fairer world based on Christian and Methodist values."

3Generate 2017 is going to be held at Pontins Camp in Southport, 24-26 November 2017. Youth Leaders and Children's workers will be accompanying and caring for their groups at the event. Individuals not part of a group will be encouraged to attend with others from their District.

Methodist Church Press release

IT'S GOING TO BE A DEMOCRATIC DECISION - well, sort of!



There will be a film afternoon in the church on Saturday 13th May 2017 commencing 1.45pm for 2.00pm. The film choice will be one of the following:

Oklahoma, The King and I, South Pacific, Calamity Jane, Meet me in St Louis, Seven Brides for Seven Brothers and High Society so come at 1.45 and have a say in which film we watch.

This will be followed by afternoon tea at 3.30pm.

Cost £3.50 per head

All you need to do is turn up at 1.45 pm with your friends and enjoy the film and afternoon tea.

Family Committee

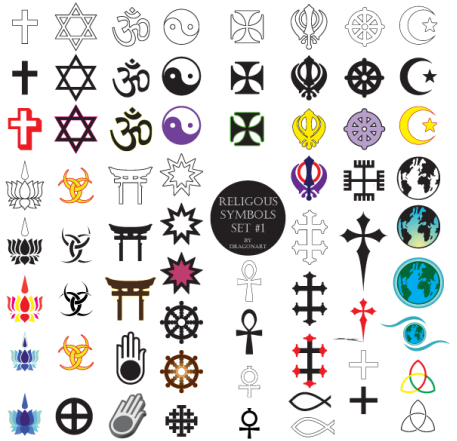
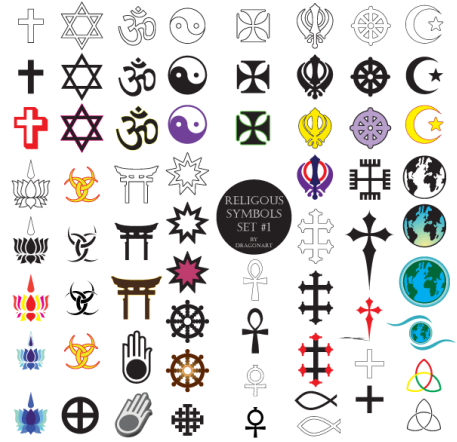
HALLELUJAH!

My father is Jewish
 My mother Hindu-ish
 My sister is Orthodox Greek
 My great-aunty Ann
 Is a Mohammedan
 My turbaned brother, he is a Sikh.

My son worships Buddha
 I wonder how could a
 Lad like him so wish to impress
 And my wife who's RC
 Asks the vicar to tea
 While I'm an agnostic, I guess.

I find it amusing
 And very confusing
 Deciding which church I should
 join
 But I've got a hunch
 When it comes to the crunch
 I'll decide on the toss of a coin.

But now I've decided
 In my wife I've confided
 I've left them all in the lurch
 After a good deal of thought
 I've decided I ought
 To join Poynton Methodist Church.

**Keith Thompson**

Set of 25 religious symbols in different styles making a total of 65 symbols in this set. Symbols included : Triquetra, Christian Ankh, Ankh, Jesus Fish (Ichthus), Cross Lorraine, Jerusalem Cross, Hexagram, Triple crescent, Baha'i, Yin Yang, Jain Hand, Omkar, Greek Cross, Solar cross, Dharma wheel, Torii Gate, Star & Crescent, Mother Earth, Khanda, Lotus

LADIES' FELLOWSHIP

On 2nd March, The Rev Peter Went gave us a very interesting talk on 'The Plains of America', which was duly helped by Arnold, who projected the slides. For the ones who had seen 'Westerns' many years ago, it was interesting to see the area where the films had been made, and what a thrilling journey over the Grand Canyon in a helicopter for Peter and Jenny!

11th March was our charity coffee morning. Thank you to all the helpers and for contributions to our stalls; we raised £356 for our charity Seashell Trust.

By the time you receive this Herald, 20 of us will have been to Ciao for our usual lunch, which was on the 16th March. As usual we enjoyed the meal and the company. Also thanks to Tom and his staff for looking after us most cheerfully.

6th April, the Manager from Morrisons is coming to give us a talk on 'Behind the Scenes'. Julie Hallworth will be leading the meeting.

20th April and the title of Andrew Little's talk is 'The Dinky Do'; come along and find out what the title means. Barbara Dixon will be leading this meeting.

4th May. The title of Mrs Sheila Tonkins talk is 'All Over the World.' Marjorie Harrop is leading the meeting which as usual begins at 7.45pm.

18th May is our AGM. Chris Hawkyard will be chairing the meeting. This is our last meeting before we have a break for the summer, but we will be meeting in the foyer for our social evening and faith supper on 15th June, and a meal out on 20th July (venue to be decided).

Sandra Townsend

Poynton Board Game Day

Saturday
22nd April
2-10pm



Everyone is welcome

Bring your friends

Play games

Eat cake



The **Methodist Church**
in Poynton

MORECAMBE BAY WALK

Action for Children has secured the right to participate in a sponsored walk across Morecambe Bay again. The event is on 20th May with a civilised crossing time starting at 12.30 pm.

There is no proposal at present to organise a group from PMC this year, though of course any individuals can sign up or get together with friends. If anyone missed it last time or wants to do it again, Judy Gibbons has the information from Action for Children and can pass it on.

MANCHESTER PASSION

The Manchester Passion will take place on Saturday 8th April at 2.00pm In **Cathedral Gardens** (not Albert Square as previously advertised) and is expected to last between 1½ and 2 hours.

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To go out, share the Good News and serve in the world.**

WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER



Look carefully at the poster prepared for WWDP. The right hand side of the picture shows the abundance and beauty of nature. The left hand side shows the opposite. Look at the table towards the bottom of the picture – the food on the right is varied and generous whilst the left hand side lives on scraps. Have you noticed the lady has her hand over her right eye so she doesn't have to look to her right!

The parable of the Workers in the Vineyard – Matthew 20 was the chosen reading for

this Service. The workers who had only worked for a very short time were given the same wage as those who had agreed to work all day. The owner ends by saying "Don't I have the right to do as I wish with my own money? Or are you jealous because I am generous?"

Alongside the printed reading in the booklet provided was a translation of this parable from 'Good as New' by John Henson, the ending of which read "Be content and go home. If I chose to help the unemployed, isn't that my right? You're surely not resentful because I have a social conscience?" Perhaps it was because I had listened to Richard speaking of the ways God speaks to us in today the Sunday before that both the picture and translations spoke so powerfully.



Christian Aid Week this year runs between 14th and the 20th May. Richard Baker is now the coordinator for CTIP and Rowena Thorp the treasurer.

Do we have a social conscience? – Undoubtedly yes from the response we get to any appeal we make. Christian Aid week asks us to go one step further and go out into the community asking them to help. Discipleship one step up!

If you have helped in this way before you will be receiving an email from me in the near future asking if you will cover the same road as before. I do hope you will say "YES." As always I will need some new collectors too. Will you respond to the picture and not cover up one eye but heed John Henson's words? I know this isn't an easy task but this year in particular refugees depend on us.

Christian Aid Week was set up 60 years ago to support work with refugees in Europe following the Second World War. Let's act again now, to help relieve suffering and build a world where everyone has a safe place to call home. Mandy 875032

Mandy Hawkyard

PROPERTY UPDATE

*New radiator fitted in church hall office. Old one corroded and leaking.

*Repair to defective 'hot' tap in church flower cupboard.

*Repair to a leak on the water feed to the cold tap on the basin in the Gents' w.c.

*New 'hi frequency' fluorescent light unit fitted in the disabled toilet.

Derek Garner for Church Property Committee

EAST AFRICA CRISIS APPEAL

Leading UK aid agencies* have announced a joint fundraising appeal to help millions of people facing hunger in East Africa. More than 16 million people in the region do not know where their next meal will come from and children are at risk of dying from starvation. In South Sudan, Somalia, Kenya and Ethiopia, drought and conflict have left millions of people in immediate need of food, water and medical treatment.

Money raised will support the efforts of DEC member charities* to reach affected communities. **DEC Chief Executive, Saleh Saeed, said:** "Hunger on a massive scale is looming across East Africa. More than 800,000 children under five are severely malnourished. Without urgent treatment, they are at risk of starving to death. We are hearing that families are so desperate for food that they are resorting to eating leaves to survive. Unless we act **now** the number of deaths will drastically increase. Don't delay – please donate."

DEC member charities* are already on the ground delivering life-saving aid, such as food, treatment for malnutrition and clean drinking water. They are ready to scale-up their humanitarian support, but they need more funding to reach the millions of people in urgent need.

PMC will be holding a retiring collection for this cause on 26th March after the morning service. For those reading this note after that date and who did not attend the service, donations can still be made via our morning collections up to 9th April. **Please mark your envelope 'East Africa'. After these later dates donations can be made direct at www.dec.org.uk or by calling 0370 60 60 610.**

The UK Government will match pound for pound the first £5 million donated by the public to the DEC East Africa Crisis Appeal.

***Disaster Emergency Committee** charities involved are: Action Aid; Age International; British Red Cross; Cafod; Care International; Christian Aid; Concern; Islamic relief; Oxfam; Plan International UK; Save the Children; Tearfund; World Vision.

DEC website

Why do toasters have a setting that burns the toast so badly that no-one could eat it?

If Jimmy cracks corn and no-one cares, why is there a stupid song about it?

THE MAY HERALD

Closing date for submissions will be **19th April (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 **May** Herald will be available for you to pick up from **28th April**. 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.