



THE HERALD



The Methodist Church

in Poynton

MAY 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

May 2017

Well, speaking personally, what a fantastic Easter! On Maundy Thursday we experienced the lesser known events captured in John's Gospel when we washed feet in an act of service and humility. Good Friday began with party poppers, confetti and palm branches being waved as we remembered the excitement of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday. This was followed by temper tantrums in the temple and tables being overturned,



remembering Jesus' command to love one another, symbolism of the bread and the wine, the words of betrayal uttered around flickering flames and the fact that we are commanded to pick up and carry not just our own cross but that

of others just as Simon of Cyrene was forced to do. Finally ceramic tiles that had been marked by painted handprints were then rearranged on the floor of the church to form a blood stained cross.



A cross which on Easter Sunday morning was transformed into words that spelt out the Easter message...Open (the tomb), Linen (all that was found inside), Mary (the single word that turned her and our world upside down), Egg and finally

the word Alive. And yes, I did say 'EGG' because that's what Easter is about...the fact that the tomb was **E**mply, the fact that Mary received '**G**ood News' (in a Garden from a Gardener) and the fact that she was then given a task, to '**G**o', go and tell the world that Jesus was alive. And whilst all this was going on in worship, all along Park Lane 250 lollipop stick angels fluttered from trees, shop signs,



lamp posts and railings announcing the news of Easter, that Jesus is risen!

Through his life, death and resurrection Jesus sought to restore the relationship that was damaged and broken between God and Humanity and to reconcile the two. Our Holy Habits theme for the next six weeks will be

'Breaking Bread', one that we shall explore in several different ways. The most obvious, through the sacrament of Communion, a time when we recall what Jesus said and did in the context of the last meal he shared with his disciples, a time when we believe Jesus is present with us here and now in bread and wine and a time when we look forward to the heavenly banquet we have been promised. Breaking bread can also be thought of as simply sitting down to share food/meal with family, friends and strangers, something I hope to be doing a great deal of during the next few months

The third way is to consider the Middle Eastern concept and context of bringing about reconciliation with one enemy through breaking bread/sharing a meal together.

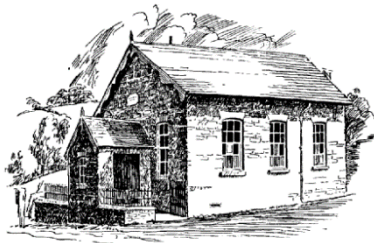
In Psalm 23 we read how God prepares a table before David in the presence of His enemies. We might read this verse and imagine David sitting at the table and enjoying a feast when the enemies are all around him, feeling safe and secure in God's presence. We might also think that despite being surrounded by the enemies on every side somehow God was still providing for him.

But there is an interesting Middle Eastern custom that helps understand this Psalm even further. Within Arab communities there is the practice of "sulha", or reconciliation meal, between enemies. This Arabic term is the same as the Hebrew root for the word 'table' – 'shulhan'. If there is a conflict, or someone gets hurt by a member of another tribe, a bloody revenge may swiftly follow. Or the two parties can try to reconcile when possible through 'sulha', a meal of reconciliation.

This can be a protracted process with negotiations lasting for a few days but once the agreement has been reached, the two families are fully reconciled, and a family that was wronged can never EVER bring up the incident again before the offender. From now on it is as if the whole matter has never happened. It's erased, forgotten altogether. And that new found peace is celebrated by breaking bread/sharing food together.

So as I leave you all to go and break bread with strangers who will become friends, I hope that the peace that only Jesus can bring is with you this Easter time.

Love and light, **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 MAY**

Date	10.30am UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED	
Theme: Breaking Bread		
7 th May	9.00am Med	Rev Ray Brown HC
14 th	Stewart Bradley	
21 st	9.00am Rev John Payne HC	Catharine Hughes
21 st	6.00pm Circuit Service – Easter Offering PMC	
28 th	Rev John Payne	
4 th June	9.00am Med	Rev Amanda Boon HC

**SUNDAY SERVICES AT GREEN CLOSE
IN MAY**

Date	2.30 pm	
Theme: Breaking Bread		
7 th May	Stewart Blackledge	
14 th	Rev Stephen & Deacon Jenny Heath CA	
21 st	Catharine Hughes	
21 st	6.00pm Circuit Service – Easter Offering PMC	
28 th	Rev John Payne	
4 th June	Stewart Blackledge	

HC Holy Communion

CA Chapel Anniversary

Stepping Hill 10.00am. May No Service

Woodlands 11.00am. 14th May Songs of Praise

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 **7th May**.

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

WEEKDAY WORSHIP

First Tuesday The first Tuesday **in May is 2nd**. 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 and PRAYER



We meet again in the Church on **Thursday 11th May at 7.30pm** to look at the Holy Habit theme of breaking bread. You are very welcome to join us.

THURSDAY COMMUNION

This is always on the **third** Thursday of the month at midday followed by a light lunch. See you there on **18th May**.



PRAYER GROUP



Just a reminder that we meet every Tuesday morning in the Prayer Corner in Church at 9.45am apart from the third Tuesday in the month when we have a prayer breakfast at the Kingfisher. So why not join us for breakfast at 9.00am on 16th May. There are usually around a dozen of us.



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



'Holy Communion for Amateurs' by Tom Wright. Published by Hodder & Stoughton. Published price £4.99

'Holy Communion for amateurs' was first reviewed here in January 2001 and has been reprinted to reflect our April Holy Habits theme. Now out of print, it may still be available in second-hand bookshops; St Denys bookshop in Manchester has said that they will try to find a copy for serious enquirers.

Who is not an amateur? Who can say they are a professional? This means that the book is then surely for all of us. It will be valued by all those who want to understand what they are doing when they come to the Lord's Table. In the west, most people are unfortunately totally ignorant of their Christian heritage. It has been written with simplicity and clarity for the enquirer and yet will bring profound understanding to those who regularly go to Holy Communion.

Tom Wright is an eminent New Testament scholar who, for over twenty-five years, has celebrated Holy Communion in churches, chapels, cathedrals, hospitals, students' rooms, hotels, ancient ruins and on hillsides and beaches. The book is livened with cartoons by Taffy Davies. I particularly like the cartoon of history. The 't' of history is formed by Christ standing with his arms outstretched. Jesus did stand in the middle of history, with arms outstretched to past and future and held them together, though it killed him.

It begins with the story of a birthday party. This then leads into the story of another party - the Passover, which in turn leads into the Last Supper. It examines how we can make the best of Holy Communion and why it has become so controversial that some people even argue about what to call it.

This meal that should declare every time that all Christians belong together has often come to be a sign of our disunity. There are five

different words used for this meal, each of which has its own meaning. How about a sixth name - the Jesus meal?

'SONGS FOR THE SOUL' by Ivor Moody. Published by Rejoice Publications **ISBN 978-1-910265-26-0**

Books like this should come with a health warning!

The book examines from a Christian perspective the thoughts and ideas which the author has seen in six classic and iconic songs written between 1964 and 1986. Those readers of a certain age will remember the original recordings, although some of the cover versions are perhaps better known and more loved.

Rev Canon Ivor Moody, the Vice Dean and Canon Pastor of Chelmsford Cathedral is, I suspect, of that certain age and the songs he has examined which are among his favourites are:

Don't let me be misunderstood	Recognising Truth
True Colours	Finding Strength
Message in a bottle	Making Intercession
Blowin' in the Wind	Encountering Reconciliation
The Sounds of Silence	Discovering Power
Let it Be	Discerning Direction

Whether you like the songs or not, the messages, as discerned by Ivor, will resonate with all who enjoy popular music, and will provide a talking point with young and old alike. As much as I have tried while writing this review, it is proving very difficult to concentrate as the words and music of "Don't let me be misunderstood" are persistently coming to the fore! Hence the opening sentence; when reading the book, be very careful of bouts of nostalgia and memories of long since gone (misspent?) youth!

All of the songs are chosen for the sentiments which can be found in the lyrics. The ideas are not achieved by examining and analysing each word and phrase, but by using the lyrics to identify areas of concern for Christians. For example 'Message in a bottle' uses this wonderful song to show that a message in a bottle is both an act of desperation and a gesture of hope that springs from loneliness. It raises the very interesting point that God might be

lonely, because he gave up his Son. Ivor uses George Herbert's poem 'Love' to illustrate that the lonely can enjoy the love which may be found in the embrace of Holy Communion, which is full of hope.

Each of the songs is able to produce a fuller meaning of relevance to all readers. Through the six songs we are led through topics such as the watching presence of a mother, the power of silence, being true to oneself, reconciliation and misunderstanding and being misunderstood.

The book wonderfully provides for preachers many potential topics for sermons, whether using any of these songs or other well-known, favourite 'pop songs', it is a good excuse to go into the attic and retrieve the long forgotten but cherished vinyl singles to illustrate a different sort of sermon!

Well worth reading!

Alan Rashleigh

BOOK OF THE MONTH

'The Return of the Prodigal Son' by Henri Nouwen



Henri Nouwen is captivated by Rembrandt's famous painting of the prodigal Son – so much so that it takes him on a long voyage of spiritual discovery. He is fascinated by such details in the painting as the father's hands, the head and feet of the prodigal son, the expression of the elder son. (A reproduction of the full picture can be seen in the Prayer Corner).

It leads him to ask, "Who am I most like – the prodigal, the elder son or indeed the father?" We are then led to ask the same question of ourselves.

This is a fascinating read – come and share your thoughts about it on **Sunday May 21st at 7.00pm**. Why not bring with you any other painting, religious or secular, that has led you to a deeper spiritual understanding?

Mandy Hawkyard

HYMNOLOGY ON A MONDAY MORNING – 21

'O Jesus I have promised' Words by John Ernest Bode (1816-74)

The Reverend John Bode wrote a collection of hymns in 1860 'for the gospel of the day and the festivals of our Lord'. Only one hymn has survived, a hymn written for a children's confirmation service, 'O Jesus I have promised.'

We are spoilt for choice as to the tune: in the BBC 'Songs of Praise' list are three; other books mention four others. Congregations often feel strongly about their own preference.

The theme of Bode's hymn of self dedication is 'Action'. One commentator says that he remembers when a young couple chose it for their commissioning as Salvationists. It is a marching tune played by Salvation Army bands.

In 1980, Malcolm Muggeridge then 80 years old, interviewed Salvation Army Commissioner Catherine Booth, as she celebrated her 100th Birthday. She described how, as a young candidate in training, she felt inadequate; "I couldn't sing solos and that was one of the requirements", but luckily she was sent out with a young lieutenant who had a sweet soprano voice. "Ask a crowd of tipsy young men in a pub what they want to hear and it was often 'Tell me the stories of Jesus'". She continued "You see the glory, the beauty. The joy of life is being able to say each day, "Lord, thy will, not mine be done. If I die and find myself in Hell, then I shall go on preaching Christ, and then it won't be Hell anymore."

References:

Psalms 31.3 and 91.14; Isaiah 30.21; John 14.3 and 15.15; Heb 12.2.

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

LOVE ONE ANOTHER AS I HAVE LOVED YOU

Easter 2017

What a stimulating week we have just experienced! From the noise and bustle of Palm Sunday to the apprehension of Maundy Thursday, on to the choking emotion of Good Friday and finally the angels sending us hastening from the Tomb to find the risen Christ; wonderful!

The thought and planning behind each act of worship cannot be understated and together with the willing participation at each service, all worked to create for me a memorable Easter.

We left on Friday with a sense of shock, feeling the blood on our hands, and came to Sunday understanding better the sacrifice made for us. I do hope that others too feel the strength of the Spirit working in our Church.

Alleluia!

Judy Gibbons

Rev. John had certainly put a lot of time and effort into his preparation for Easter. The shock I felt when he overturned the money changers' tables made me realise at last why Jesus had made so many enemies and why they wanted to get rid of him.

Marjorie Harrop

This year Easter Sunday fell on the 3rd Sunday in the month so the 9.00am service fell in line with the normal plan schedule.

The service was led by Rev John Wiseman and the sermon was designed to lead us into the happenings on that first Sunday after the crucifixion. On this occasion we were asked to consider how the first followers of Jesus to find the tomb empty in the early morning used their 5 senses and how they reacted. We then considered how their emotions evolved in those first few minutes.

With about double the numbers who often attend the 9.00am services we still managed to stand around the altar and cross of tiles as a united group to receive the elements.

Perhaps our numbers were swelled by the thought of a boiled egg and toast to follow the service. Although we can't offer this every time there is a 9.00am Communion Service we do provide coffee, tea or just friendly conversation afterwards so we look forward to being joined by as many of you as possible next month (21st May) when Rev John Payne will be leading the service. Don't worry about missing the 10-30 service as some of the congregation stay for both.

Peter Thorp

What a marvellous uplifting journey it has been this Eastertime! Beginning by celebrating Palm Sunday with Catharine's New Song Café... Moving on to the ecumenical service held to dedicate Poynton Cross at St George's... On Maundy Thursday, a service which included foot washing and many readings from John's gospel... Good Friday's Service was memorable for the themes " I remember" and they were depicted in so many ways, culminating in the formation of a cross made of tiles, a crown of thorns, and nails placed at hands and feet...

The church was prepared on Saturday for Easter morning...The blinds were drawn, and the Church was decorated with vases of lilies and palms...On Easter Sunday, Angels were hung all along Park Lane for folk to take home with a message from Poynton Methodist Church, Hallelujah, He is Risen... Sunday began with Communion...A family breakfast followed...Then an interactive service... The blinds were lifted and the Angels were revealed... Christ is Risen, and the tiles spelled ALIVE...It was a joyous service.

Sunday evening saw a service conducted at St George's...our churches in Poynton each gave a representation of their Easter themes...Rev John took one of our Angels along.

It's been such a privilege to be part of the journey we have travelled together...

Gill Oldham



THE END OF AN ERA

The Circuit Service at PMC on Palm Sunday marked the end of 15 years that the Circuit Choir has been led by Stella Molton, who formed and conducted it during the whole of that period.

The choir has sung twice a year, during Lent and during the Remembrance Sunday/Advent period, using appropriate oratorios or other musical works to mark the celebration of that part of the Christian calendar by adding to an act of worship. John Ramsbottom was ever-present providing the accompaniment of the organ or piano, sometimes supplemented by other musicians. The choir was augmented by very able soloists, who were always willing to give of their time, and happy to be part of a choir led by Stella.

This time, the 45-member choir performed 'The Crucifixion' by John Stainer. It was a fitting end to Stella's tenure: the choir was singing for Stella and clearly wanted to do their best. Many past members returned to take part in what was an emotional time. The performance of the tenor soloist (John Elliot), who has sung with the choir on many previous occasions, was outstanding, particularly his rendition of the solo 'The Majesty of the Divine Humiliation' – and tears welled up in the eyes of some members of the choir and congregation.

The service, centred on 'The Crucifixion', was a fitting start to Holy Week, and the forthcoming celebrations of Easter Sunday.

Services at which the Circuit Choir contributed have been among the best attended of all our Circuit Services, with members present from Methodist and other denominational churches throughout the area. It would be a great pity if this resource which so enhances our worship was lost to the Circuit.

Whatever the future is for the Circuit Choir, we owe a debt of gratitude to Stella Molton and all the choir members, musicians and soloists for the effort they have consistently applied to embellish worship during significant parts of the Christian calendar.

Thanks to you all, and a 'happy retirement' to Stella.

Alan Rashleigh

Hazel Grove Methodist Church
Wesley Street, Hazel Grove, Stockport, SK7 4JQ

Flower Festival

“Summer Suns are Glowing”



in the Church

Friday, Saturday and Sunday
23rd, 24th, 25th June 2017



Friday and Saturday 10.30am – 4.00pm
Sunday 2.00pm – 3.30pm

Closing Service at 4.00pm on the Sunday
led by Mr Martyn Bennett

Live music on organ and piano throughout
Refreshments served throughout

Look out for knitted Sunflowers in Hazel Grove during
the two weeks prior to the Festival
and please take one.



'CONNEXION' – JUNE-AUGUST 2017

Our Circuit Magazine 'Connexion' is published quarterly commencing September each year under the editorship of Rev John Wiseman. During John's absence on Sabbatical, I am deputising for him by producing the June-August edition.

At the time of writing this, not many contributions have yet arrived in my inbox, so it seems that Circuit contributors are much the same as Herald contributors – and for that matter Sunday morning worshippers – practised in the art of the last minute! (Scary for editors and, I imagine, preachers alike.)

However, one of the few early contributions is from Catharine Hughes, who has produced a clever comparison of **attendance issues in the Methodist Church** with those being faced by the England & Wales Cricket Board and the 'cunning plan' the ECB has proposed.

Rather than reproduce Catharine's article here, may I suggest you look out for it when 'Connexion' is available in June? In particular, find the three questions she poses – and think about them.

May I also suggest that you seek out a copy of the **Hazel Grove & Poynton Circuit Development Plan** published by the Circuit Meeting: March 13th 2017 (available from any Church Council member) and include that in your thinking?

Christianity is always at a crossroad. From its beginning, growth was by invitation; "Follow me" and "Come" have always been key words. *'Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.'* **Matthew 28.19,20 NIV**

The question is, "How, now?"

Arnold Samuels

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

THANK YOU LETTERS



Dear all. I was unfortunately unable to attend church on Easter Sunday. However, a visit from Marie with some flowers helped to make up for it. Thank you all and I hope you all enjoyed a happy Easter.

Best wishes from **Nadia Garner**

I would like to say "thank you" for the beautiful flowers I received recently when I was unwell. They were very much appreciated and really cheered me up.

Marion Turner

Thank you all so very much for the beautiful flowers I was given for my 90th birthday, and for the good wishes and love that came with them. God bless you.

Margaret Sharp

A very belated 'Thank You' for the warm welcome and flowers I received when I crossed the boundary from Hazel Grove to Poynton several months ago. Thank you too, for the prayers and flowers I recently received on the death of my brother. John's visit was a great comfort to me. With my love and every blessing,

Dorothy Taylor

Many thanks to the flower team ladies who sent me very cheering roses and tulips when I was taken ill again recently. My recovery is steady and I am feeling stronger as the days go by. Kind regards and best wishes to all at church.

Pat Musgrave

A very big thank you to everyone at Poynton Methodist Church for all the cards, visits, prayers and flowers. I am now mobile and look forward to attending church on a regular

basis. It has been a long time with my knee problems; however I am now feeling much better. Thanks again and God bless all of you.

Joyce Deighton

Thank you so much for the lovely flowers delivered by Liz Baker, which lifted my spirits. It really is reassuring that the congregation's thoughts and prayers are with one. Many thanks also for the 'Get well soon' cards. Thanks too to Rev John for his pastoral visits at the hospital and subsequently at home.

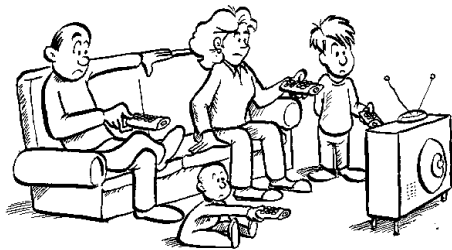
Muriel White

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

Belated Congratulations to Marjorie Harrop, who was 80 on 20th April. We apologise for this late announcement.

Happy Birthday also to **Kate Horobin** who will be 11 on 18 May.

FILM AFTERNOON



It's good to get out! There will be a film afternoon in the church on **Saturday 13th May 2017** commencing **1.45pm for 2.00pm**

It will be followed by afternoon tea at 3.30pm.

Total 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

2nd POYNTON RAINBOWS

Hi – my name is Sue Dyson and I am the District Commissioner for Girlguiding in Poynton. I am also a Rainbow leader. Several people have asked me what Rainbows are about so I thought I'd let you know...



Rainbows are the youngest section of Girlguiding, the girls being aged 5 to 7 years old. Rainbows learn by doing – they get their hands dirty, do sports, arts and crafts and play games. Being a Rainbow is all about having the space to try new things.

Through taking part in a range of different activities with girls their own age, Rainbows develop self-confidence and make lots of new friends.



Rainbows follow a diverse and engaging programme called the Rainbow Jigsaw; the aim of the Rainbow Jigsaw is to enable a girl to develop in four areas, Look, Learn, Laugh and Love, whatever her ability and background.

Recently 2nd Poynton Rainbows have completed a Global Adventure. Each week we 'visited' a different country and explored a little of the culture. In Canada we made fun moose out of paper cups, in Australia we learnt how to speak the lingo and in China we ate with chopsticks. We spent an evening in Waitrose sampling Fair Trade fruit and chocolate (yum).

One area which set the girls thinking was the issue of dirty water. Having seen the atrocious conditions in which many people still live and the fact that today one in ten people are still living without safe water, the Rainbows were inspired to raise money for WaterAid. They took home water bottles and filled them with money earned by keeping their Rainbow promise:

"I promise that I will do my best to think about my beliefs and to be kind and helpful."

The 20 Rainbows have raised an amazing £120 for WaterAid – well done Rainbows!

Could you help? We are very short of adult volunteers. 2nd Poynton Rainbows meet Wednesdays in term time in Poynton Methodist Church Hall from 5.00pm to 6.00pm. Please contact me on 07515 883585 if you can spare an hour a week.

Sue Dyson

HOLY HABITS FILM



We will be showing our film linked with the Holy Habit theme of 'Breaking Bread' on Saturday 27th May at 7-30pm. It is **'Five minutes of Heaven'** starring Liam Neeson and James Nesbitt.

In February 1975, in Northern Ireland, seventeen year-old UVF member Alistair Little kills the Catholic Jimmy Griffin in his house in Lurgan in front of his younger brother Joe. Alistair is arrested and imprisoned for twelve years while Joe is blamed by his mother for not saving his brother.

Thirty-three years later, a TV show promotes the meeting of Alistair and Joe in a house in River Finn, expecting the truth and the reconciliation of the murderer and the victim who actually seeks his five minutes of heaven.

FINANCE MATTERS

These are the figures for the first six months of the financial year, from September to February 2017:

Income:

Collections	22396
Room Lettings	11814
Donations & Memoria	781
Interest and Trust Income	307
Coffee	499
Feed in Tariff	2424
Fund Raising Activities	2593
Copying	586
Miscellaneous Income	<u>100</u>
	41500

Expenditure:

Payments to the Circuit	31337
Other Outgoings	12960
Provision for Repairs	3000
CTIP Payments	<u>392</u>
	47689

Deficit for the period **£ (6189)**

Unfortunately these figures do not make for very positive reading. The position after the first six months of the year is a deficit of just over £6000.

I know that our gift aid rebate comes in the second half of the financial year. However, slightly worryingly, in the first half of the year all sources of income are down on the same six months last year, except for fund raising activities, which is up by £200.

We do rely on our gift aid claim though and as the tax year has just ended I am about to prepare our 2016/17 claim. I would ask that if you have not signed a gift aid claim form for your donations and you pay any tax, however small an amount, please do talk to me about the possibility of gift aiding your donations. It is so helpful to the Church to receive this tax relief and it is so easy to do.

I would just like to say thank you to everybody for all that you do and give and I would just note that our giving for our Children and Family worker is not reflected in the above figures, as this money is kept in a separate designated fund.

Jane Robson

Please note that my email is changing to janevrobson@gmail.com

40 ACTS OF DISCIPLESHIP FOR LENT

Day 29 – be a chocoholic

The challenge was to buy 10 bars of chocolate and give them away to family, friends or even complete strangers. I had my chocolate ready in my bag!

I went into Waitrose for a coffee when I noticed an elderly couple really struggling to get their lively grandson into his pushchair. It was becoming a real battle of wills. I felt so sorry for them and then wondered if my chocolate would help.

I beckoned the grandmother over and explained what my Church was doing and why. Would you like some for your grandson? “Oh thank you,” she exclaimed and ran back to her husband. The child was delighted and got straight into his pushchair and just sat holding it.



“Thank God for that,” said grandma running her hand through her hair, “I was at the end of my tether.” However she meant the “Thank God” it saved the day for her and I hope made her think.

Barbara Whittaker

PMC CHURCH CHATTER

Introducing... Poynton Methodist Church's new blog:
Church Chatter



Our church website is brilliant. It has all the information you need about PMC, issues of the Herald, recordings of the talks/sermons, lists of events and groups etc. However, one thing that got me thinking about our church's publicity was

Richard's Newer Testament idea. Not only is this a great way to share with each other different things that explain the foundations of our faith, but also this is a great resource for anyone wishing to find out more about Christianity. It therefore struck me that although our church website and The Herald are great resources, they are really for those who come. They wouldn't necessarily reach anyone outside of our church community unless that person actively searched for them.



The church's social media presence is a different story. It frequently provides links to the church's website, but has the ability to create a gathering of followers, or is for people who may not be involved in our community but discover us 'by accident'. It's a great example of how religious organisations can use the growing culture of social media in order to reach out. Through this portal people have the ability to find out more about our church without having to take on the daunting process of turning up to a service in which they might not know anybody. This may sound silly to some of us who have always been involved in church, but I think that church is a very daunting place to just turn up to if you're not already a Christian, especially if you don't really know anything about what that church stands for, what the people in it think, feel or believe. Hence, Church Chatter!



The aim of Church Chatter is to publicise, through social media, the thoughts, feelings and beliefs of our church. This can and will be in

any form, whether poetry, songs, articles or pictures, so please don't hesitate to submit things to me that you think will fit! Hopefully, by publishing content that is accessible to curious non-Christians and creates a picture of our church, we can encourage our community to grow.



So, grab a cup of tea (or another beverage of your choice!), go to:

<https://pmcchurchchatter.wordpress.com/>,

have a look around and, if you like what you see, share with friends/family/on social media!

There's even a button to subscribe to email alerts, which will tell you when church chatter has a new post!

Helen Holmes

BIG CHURCH DAY OUT



We were wondering about trying to get a group together to go to Big Church Day out on 2-3rd June. It's a big Christian festival with loads of speakers and events (if you Google it then you can see a line up) and one of the two venues is actually in Cheshire this year!

We're thinking about going and tickets are cheaper if you can get a group so I am happy to arrange for a group

to go if people are available. Please let me know if you're interested.

Helen Holmes

ANNIE'S RAMBLINGS

I don't know about anyone else but Easter rather crept up on me this year...



At least we did do something for the younger ones on Palm Sunday. Catharine's service was excellent and we enjoyed ourselves in my 'crafty corner'; I hope we weren't too noisy. There were some interesting questions asked and comments made

by the little ones and although they express themselves very differently from us adults they were definitely thinking and taking things in.



The toddler group is still attracting new people and I told the story of Easter at the end of the last session. (Very difficult with little ones but a little easier than it could have been as I had already tested the water by telling the same story at preschool the day before.) I talked about a sad day and a happy day, emphasising the good news that Jesus came alive again and loves all of us.

I am going into Woodlands care home on a regular basis now and have some dates booked in to lead sessions while John is away. I am hoping to begin Godly play there on Tuesday afternoons in the future. For those of you who have not come across it, Godly play is a method of telling bible stories which draws people to consider how the story speaks to them. It was originally developed for children but has had some success with adults suffering from dementia.

Hope you all had a good Easter and haven't over-indulged on the chocolate front as much as I have!



Annie Truman

LADIES' FELLOWSHIP

On 6th April our guest speakers were the past and current (Ceri) managers of our local Morrisons. The ladies arrived laden with samples of the latest new products for us to sample. There are going to be more new products in the store at Christmas and they will then be coming back to introduce them to us.

They emphasised that Morrisons produce all their products themselves in their own farms, factories and nurseries for their plants. They were pleased to tell us that they have retained their share of the market despite strong competition.

Looking forward to 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 then we are having a meal out on **20th July** (venue to be decided).

Sandra Townsend

Please note also that the **Easter Offering** will be received when Jenny Heath leads the **Circuit Service at Poynton Church on Sunday 21st May at 6.00pm.**

Marjorie Harrop



TO ALL BOX HOLDERS:

It is time once again for me to empty our AfC boxes!

I would therefore be grateful if you would let me have them during the month of May.

Please bring them to church or to my home at Holland Court where a cup of tea/coffee is always available. Do ring (877820) if there is a problem or you want to make sure I'm in.

Thank you for your continued support.

Brenda Oakley

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

CIRCUIT MISSIONARY COFFEE MORNING

Even though it was not very well attended, the Circuit Missionary Coffee Morning held at Hazel Grove church on Saturday 25th March raised £145.

The money is being sent to 'All we can' which is a Methodist Charity bringing relief and development to the poorest places in the world and named after Rev. John Wesley's famous instruction:-

*Do all the good you can
By all the means you can
In all the ways you can
In all the places you can
At all the times you can
To all the people you can
As long as ever you can.*

It was a lovely social occasion which we all enjoyed. Thank you very much to everyone who bought tickets even though they were not able to attend.

Marjorie Harrop

NEWS FROM MERU

I am keeping safe and well. I have just been on holiday on two of the islands in Lake Victoria, and have come back feeling refreshed.

I was pleased to hear of the relief efforts for the starving people of East Africa. Fortunately, the Meru District has not been badly affected by this tragedy: the really arid areas lie to the north of us.

Peter Ensor

OUR CHRISTMAS CHARITY COLLECTIONS

We have recently donated £600 to Friends for Leisure and you should find their thank you letter on the notice board.

Our other charity was Christian Aid and it has taken us a while to choose an alternative gift, but I have now made a donation of £635 to purchase four specific gifts.

The four gifts that we have purchased are shown below and I hope that you will all be pleased and proud of our purchases:



Light the way £120.

Our gift is intended to provide counselling and financial support to help a rape survivor.



A home safety package £250.

We aim to help raise a family's home above dangerous floodwaters and provide them with the tools and livestock they need to make a fresh start.



Cow £150.

This gift is designed to help buy a locally sourced cow that will provide individual women with milk and, more importantly, give them a voice in their local community.



Mobile Health Clinic £115.

We hope to improve the health care and provide vaccinations for vulnerable young children living in rural Kenya.

Jane Robson (Church Treasurer)



British churches founded Christian Aid in 1945 to support refugees who had lost their homes and possessions in the Second World War. Twelve years later, Christian Aid Week was launched to help fund this ongoing work.

Sixty years ago, Christians refused to stand by while people suffered in refugee camps. Our generation is rising to that challenge again.

Christian Aid Week Diamond Awards

None of our work would be possible without the tireless dedication of our volunteers. As we mark the diamond anniversary of Christian Aid Week, we're also celebrating the amazing people who make it happen. **Like you!**

Erratum

In last month's Herald there was an explanation of the chosen symbols for the 12 disciples on the banner. Unfortunately there was a mistake - "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."

This should have read Acts 12.2

To answer another query there are 4 lists in the New Testament naming the disciples - in Matthew, Mark, Luke and Acts; Bartholomew is named in all four. Yet when we read John 1.43-51 there is no doubt that Nathaniel is a disciple and yet his name does not appear in any of the lists. The most probable explanation is that Bartholomew and Nathaniel is one and the same person. Bartholomew cannot be a first name: Bar means "son of" and so Bartholomew means son of Thalmai (various spellings exist). The suggestion is his name is Nathaniel Bartholomew.

Mandy Hawkyard

Why does Goofy walk on two feet and Pluto on all four when they are both dogs?

If corn oil is made from corn and vegetable oil is made from vegetables, what is engine oil made from?

THE JUNE HERALD

Closing date for submissions will be **17th May (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 **June** Herald will be available for you to pick up from **26th May**. 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.

If you require any information or advice please contact the Church Stewards (see notice on office window or Circuit Directory). For pastoral cover Rev John Payne 0161 483 4952 and also Rev Amanda Boon 0161 285 1431 are available. 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.