

# Connexion

The Magazine of the  
Hazel Grove and Poynton Methodist Churches

June 2017 – August 2017

FINDING GOD IN THE ORDINARY



**Come and discover the 'good news' that is happening in Hazel Grove, Dialstone Lane, Windlehurst, Poynton and Green Close Methodist churches and the surrounding communities.**

# Connexion

# Our Calling

The **Methodist Church** 

The Church exists for:

**Worship:** *to increase awareness of God's presence  
and to celebrate God's love*

**Learning and Caring:** *to help people to learn and grow as Christians through  
mutual support and care*

**Service:** *to be a good neighbour to people in need  
and challenge injustice*

**Evangelism:** *to make more followers of Jesus Christ*

## **Priorities for the Methodist Church**

In partnership with others wherever possible, the Methodist Church will concentrate its prayers, resources, imagination and commitments

- to proclaim and affirm its conviction of God's love in Christ, for us and for all the world.
- to renew confidence in God's presence and action in the world and in the Church.

**As ways towards realising this priority, the Methodist Church will give particular attention to:**

- underpinning everything we do with God-centred worship and prayer;
- supporting community development and action for justice, especially among the most deprived and poor - in Britain and worldwide;
- developing confidence in evangelism and in the capacity to speak of God and faith in ways that make sense to all involved;
  - encouraging fresh ways of being Church;
- nurturing a culture in the Church which is people-centred and flexible.



## Mumblings from the Ministers

Dear friends,

As I write we are still in the Easter season but are moving towards the celebrations of Ascension and Pentecost ... not to mention, of course, an election. At this time of the year we start to think about the birth of the Church and some of the struggles that were faced by the earliest Christian fellowships: I never know whether to despair that nothing ever seems to change or to take comfort that God could take such fallible human beings and use them to change the world! What is certain is that as we share their stories we can see that the issues and struggles we face within our lives now are nothing new – socially, politically, or personally. If we read the Epistles we find that there were racial and cultural issues about who could be a follower of Christ and who couldn't; there were issues relating to social divisions within congregations; there were issues relating to morality and ethics – questions around what was distinctive about the Christian way of life and how to live authentically when surrounded by a culture that embraced different values. And all of that is before you even get as far as arguments about theology and who followed which charismatic leader and so on!

All of these questions call us to re-examine our own Christian lives, be that as individuals or within our local congregations, across the Circuit, District and Connexion, or with our Ecumenical partners; and we are called to wrestle once more with how we can live authentic Christian lives when we live in a world that is frequently apathetic if not actively hostile to people of faith. One thing that we can always be sure of though, is that God is with us and continues to call us forward to share in his mission – the question being, as always, whether we are open to his calling and leading.

As we come to the end of the Church year and move towards the new year starting in September we all of us need to be preparing for the changes that will take place in the short and long term. There are practical issues that we will be dealing with locally: John Wiseman is coming to the end of his five year appointment and I would ask you all to surround him with prayer as he seeks to discern God's will for the next phase of his ministry; John Payne begins his two

year extension and I move to half time in what will be my last year as an 'active' presbyter. You are moving towards being a two-minister Circuit with the changes that that will entail. Alongside staffing there will be ongoing conversations with neighbouring Circuits about boundary changes – conversations that will no doubt continue for some time. But in the midst of all this – important though those things are – we must never lose sight of our primary calling to be Church: to be salt, light, yeast ... to be the Body of Christ incarnate in the world ... to build each other up in the love of Christ and witness to that love in whatever way we can day by day by day ...

The wonderful thing about the Bible and our celebration of its teaching in our Church year is that we know absolutely that God never gives up on his people and constantly surprises us. So as we prepare for a new Church year start expecting the unexpected – and as you read and listen to the stories of the early Church just remember that God can use the most unexpected people. And that includes you!

Your sister in Christ,

**Mandy**

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*In this final quarter of the Methodist year we pray for all those who are experiencing change in their lives:*

*ministers on sabbatical and those who are in the process of making decisions about their current appointments;*

*young people leaving their existing school and/or moving on to their next;*

*those of whatever age taking examinations or awaiting results,*

*those who are away from their normal surroundings and adding new experiences.*

*Be with them, look kindly upon them and bless them we pray.*



## THE GOOD, THE BAD AND THE MEMORY

I sat in Poynton Methodist Church at the midweek communion service in December 2016 stunned as I realised that I could not do the simple thing that Minister John Wiseman had asked of those of us present. That is, to name two good things that had happened that week. It was Thursday, so several days had already elapsed. It wasn't that nothing good had happened; the problem was that I couldn't remember any of those good things. I could recall all the ill people I had been asked to pray for and all the bad situations in the world that needed, and in many cases still need, our prayers.

One of the reasons I could still remember these situations was that in a practical prayer book that John had made and given to those of us in Poynton (as part of Holy Habits) we were told on one of the daily pages that the Jews were commanded by God to attach the words given to them by God to the doorframes of their homes and that was our challenge for that day. I had written the names of these people and the situations on pieces of paper together with a phrase or Bible verse and put them on various doors in my home. Each time I opened a door I was praying for whoever or whatever was on them.

I realised that I needed help and that I needed to focus much more on the good things that happen, so I asked the Lord for his help. New Year was approaching and I felt that he was telling me to take down the pieces of paper that were on the doors and replace them with others that listed good things as they happened. This would also help me to remember to give thanks for them. I'm very good at asking people including God to do things, but sometimes forget to say thank you afterwards. Many times we are asked in church to pray for people and/or situations but when the Lord answers, how many times do we remember in church to praise and thank him?

My life had to change. One of the things that have happened as a result is that I have been reminded that good things always occur in challenging situations and, as well as praying for the situation, we need to give thanks for those good things. On 2<sup>nd</sup> January there was a programme on RTE Radio 1 (Irish radio) about reasons to be cheerful. It gave me loads of things to give thanks for and I thank God for that broadcast.

Does anyone else in the Circuit have ideas that can help us deal with the bad things in the world without them pulling us down and help us to focus on the good things our wonderful God has given us and the good things he is doing in the world? If you do, please share them on these pages.

**Hilary Parry (PMC)**



## PERSONAL REFLECTIONS OF THE CIRCUIT

Dianne and I will shortly be off to pastures new, because circumstances have somewhat dictated the location of our new apartment. Of course, the topic of downsizing has sometimes crept into our sermons, thereby indicating that this thought was lingering somewhere within our agenda for consideration.

For twelve years, I served the Circuit in my role of Treasurer, and as a consequence I was also a member of the world famous Circuit Leadership Team! During that period there were many varied events and situations, too numerous to mention, which kept the Team fully occupied. Naturally, there were plenty of discussions relating to annual budgets and assessments, staffing needs, plus much more. However, people will have to wait for the publication of my memoirs, in order to know about all the sensational stories!!!

One of the significant aspects of our membership of the Circuit has been our rôles as Worship Leaders, followed by that as Local Preachers. Neither of us had any intention or inclination to take up such appointments, and yet these have been such a wonderful and challenging experience and privilege.

We hope and pray that we have been of some help and support to people within the Circuit, as we have conducted services over the past twenty years in both these roles of responsible and important ministry.

It certainly has been fascinating to visit the various Circuit churches, all with their own individuality and characteristics. Each church displayed the means and capacity of showing and sharing God`s love and peace, in so many different ways and styles of Christian worship and fellowship

We will especially remember how the vestry prayers prior to a service played a meaningful purpose and calming effect, and for this we have the many church stewards to thank. And we will always treasure the input of those Worship Leaders in the various churches who shared services with us and provided an extra-special personal dimension and input to them.

Dianne and I have always valued the significance and importance of music within a church service. And so, over the years, we have been able to share and be aware of the skills and talents of many people who have enhanced services with their musical abilities.

Of course, within this modern technological age, we must not forget to say thank you to all those people working in the background, especially those who have to deal with computer,



PowerPoint and sound systems. Many people work behind the scenes to make services run smoothly, and we should be most grateful for all of these individuals.

Naturally, we are leaving Poynton and the Circuit with some regret, but we will always carry with us some very happy and special memories of people we have met on our journey of faith. We know that there is a thriving Anglican church just across the road from our new apartment. So although some people might feel that we are deserting Methodism, especially with my sixty years membership, nevertheless we must remember those famous hymnal words, "One church, one faith, one Lord".

May God`s blessings be with you, your family and friends.

### **David and Dianne Jones (PMC)**

*Many readers will wish to be associated with an expression of grateful thanks for all the service that Dianne and David have given to this Circuit; their preaching and conduct of worship both together and separately has been much appreciated and David's service as Circuit Treasurer and member of the Circuit Leadership Team was assiduous, unstinting and well beyond the call of Duty. In addition, they have both been most generous in shouldering their responsibilities as members of their local church, holding many appointments in the years they have been among us.*

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### **CIRCUIT MISSIONARY COFFEE MORNING**

Even though it was not very well attended, the Circuit Missionary Coffee Morning held at Hazel Grove church on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> 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 (PMC)**

## THANK YOU

I'd like to offer a Circuit-wide thank you for all your prayers and support when I was in hospital for nearly three weeks in January. The operation I had didn't quite go to plan with the result that I spent a week in the High Dependency Unit at the MRI. I didn't realise just how ill I was until I was taken for a scan with a large oxygen tank lying next to me! The care I received was superb.

I really appreciated the visitors (including Amanda while John W was away), the cards, but most of all your prayers. All I can say is that during that first day in the unit there was a tangible reassuring presence with me. I've also enjoyed the welcome I received when I came back into circulation, including a big hug from a lady from Green Close when I was shopping in M & S!

It's been quite an experience – I've witnessed the care of the staff but also some unbelievably bad behaviour from some of the other patient's visitors. It's made me realise what the hospital staff have to put up with and the calm way they deal with it.



One of the highlights of my stay in the High Dependence Unit was to hear some beautifully soothing music. No, I hadn't gone to heaven! There was clarinettist at the end of my bed. She asked me if I wished her to continue – I sure did. She even played a request for Chris – Stranger on the Shore. She is part of a charity which provides professional musicians to come into smaller wards every week. What comfort they give! What an amazing service they provide. An aid to recovery.

I was sad to see the absence of my name on the last preaching plan – it was right that I wasn't included, but it hurt. When Martyn Bennett requested help for the last Sunday in April my heart soared and I couldn't answer him fast enough.

This told me two things – that I had recovered and that the call to preach is as strong as ever. I thank God for the high privilege He has given me, and the health and strength to continue.

**Mandy Hawkyard (PMC)**





## STELLA MOLTON

Some years ago, each church would have its own choir which would contribute to services by leading the congregational singing and offering anthems on special occasions. Sometimes, more extended items would be tackled. Sadly this is no longer the case, certainly in this area, and we have lost an aspect of worship which was valuable to many.

Although individual churches no longer had the numbers to sustain a choir on their own, there are nevertheless, many people interested in singing. If there were sufficient numbers, a combined venture could be set up, and Stella was one to spot the potential here when she set up a circuit choir some 15 years ago. By drawing together singers from the various churches and also inviting others to join in, it was possible to have a choir with sufficient resources and the necessary 4 parts, to perform works from the extensive repertoire of religious choral music. For this, she was ideally placed with her contacts in the area, and could use her own background and experience with choirs over the years. We must pay tribute to the enthusiasm, dedication and energy that she has given to carrying this out over the period she has been involved. It is down to Stella's organising ability that the choir existed and due to her commitment that it has been possible to continue over this considerable period of time. At times, she has not enjoyed the best of health, but has managed to keep going, and to keep the choir going.

The choir has sung works from many periods, ranging from the baroque in Vivaldi (Gloria), Haydn (Creation) and Handel (Messiah), through romantic works of Mendelssohn (Hymn of Praise) and the Victoriana of Olivet to Calvary and Stainer (Crucifixion), to more modern items by the American Petersen and contemporary Welsh composer Karl Jenkins (Requiem and the Armed Man) and even the popular style "Sing Good news". In fact, some of the pieces have been done more than once.

Inevitably over a period of time, singers are lost through age and infirmity, so numbers have varied. Some pieces are not to the liking of everyone, but Stella has managed to retain sufficient numbers to continue to run the choir and produce a creditable rendition of the chosen work at the circuit services.

We are all greatly indebted to her for this commitment and wish her all the best for her 'retirement'.

**John Ramsbottom** (PMC)



## 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.

On 9<sup>th</sup> April 2017 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 was a fitting start to Holy Week and the forthcoming celebrations of Easter Sunday.

The services at which the Circuit Choir contributed were among the best attended of the Circuit Services, with members present from Methodist and other denominational churches throughout the area. It would be a great pity if this resource to enhance 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 enhance worship during significant parts of the Christian calendar.

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

**Alan Rashleigh (PMC)**

## **WHAT THE PRESIDENT DIDN'T SAY** *(suspend your disbelief for a moment...)*

**A new church format could "absolutely rival the Anglican Church" says the President of the Methodist Church in Britain.** The format, proposed to begin in 2020, moved a step closer on Monday as further details were revealed.

The President said it was "not a gamble" for the existing churches. "What we are doing here is future-proofing the church," the President said. "I don't think it's so much a gamble, it's about saying, 'What do we want our church and our faith to look like?'" Churches such as Saddleback, or Vineyard, enjoy huge success, attracting the world's best preachers and drawing large congregations.

A referendum is expected to be dispatched on Tuesday inviting members to sanction a format based around large city congregations, rather than the many churches and chapels that traditionally offer worship services domestically.

### **What is changing?**

On Monday, the Methodist Church presented a detailed overview of its proposals for a new house church to its 250,000 members. These included:

- Eight new city churches offering 36 services over a 38-day summer window, with four morning services per city
- All services televised, with significant free-to-air exposure
- No scheduling overlap with the existing house group plan
- An attendance record to give more incentive for greater numbers in church
- A planned preacher's list, with groups of 15 including three ordained ministers
- Other churches guaranteed £1.3m

### **Why does the Methodist Church want to change?**

It says Christianity has the chance to be part of "mainstream conversation" and believes the new format can make faith "relevant to a whole new audience".

Following a period of consultation including more than 10,000 interviews, the Church decided on three key principles:

- To have a major positive impact on driving participation
- To focus on recruiting the next generation of believers, in particular promoting attendance to a diverse, young, family audience
- To ensure complete differentiation from existing church activities to protect and support the future of church worship

"What we absolutely need to do is start appealing to a younger audience," said the President. "We know that by doing things differently, by building new teams, we can be relevant to a whole new audience and bring this very diverse, multicultural Britain in to our churches in a way perhaps we haven't been successful in doing."

## **Is this the end of the existing church?**

This will be the first time in the history of the Methodist Church that existing churches are not directly represented, hence the need for a change to Standing Orders.

It was confirmed on Monday that all churches have signed "media rights deeds" to allow the governing body to include the new City Worship in their forthcoming broadcast portfolio.

Asked if the move to a city-based format signalled the end of the local church, the President said: "Not at all. I think what we are doing here is future-proofing the local church.

Christianity has been a faith which has always had the ability to evolve and change where it's needed to, and it's shown itself to be incredibly adaptable. We are the denomination which came up with class meetings, and other faiths have been trying to find the equivalent of their own. So we have demonstrated we are capable of it, we've got the format, we now just need to create the competition which enables these new members to get involved. It's a hugely exciting moment."

## **Questions remain about rotas and ministers**

The Methodist Church says the proposed competition can rival the incredible success of the big American churches, which draw average congregations of more than 2,000.

Questions remain around where the services will fit into the schedule, and which of the world's best speakers will be available.

The Methodist Church insists it will not impact on ECG, Soul Survivor or Greenbelt, which last year featured the likes of The Archbishop of Canterbury and Rev Dr Calvin Samuel.

"We think there's a lot of room for growth in ECG," said the President. "It's done a tremendous job at bringing in a church congregation. But the evidence we have suggests Christianity exists in a bubble and we've got to get outside this bubble."

## **Free-to-air ambition?**

The Church's aim for "significant" free-to-air coverage is an "aspiration which reaches at the heart of our proposition going forward", according to the President. "We are hoping very much as part of that is a whole new calibration of our reach, so a whole new way of looking at access to our faith whether that's digitally, whether it's through social media or whether it's through traditional TV channels," he added. "But we also understand it has to be the right mix of revenue and reach and promotion of the faith which is ultimately what we're searching for."

## **BEFORE YOU START WRITING A LETTER OF COMPLAINT... none of the above is true!**

**But it is true of the ECB's plans (England and Wales Cricket Board) to revolutionise cricket by introducing an eight team city-based T20 tournament. (Read below the original BBC article ( <http://www.bbc.co.uk/sport/cricket/39407046> )**

Yes - I've cheekily adapted it for the Methodist Church, but I was struck by how many of the ECB's aims and values are the same as ours. They want...

- more people attending (it brings in more money and keeps the cricket grounds open)
- more young people interested (so that it doesn't become a game of old people/the past)
- a new format that brings fresh blood, but supports the existing (county) game
- to step outside the 'bubble' it finds itself in

The Church wants...

- more people attending (which, incidentally, brings in more money through collections and keeps existing buildings open)
- more young people interested (so that it doesn't become just for old people and a reflection of the past; old and dying congregations are killing the church)
- a new format that brings fresh blood, but without rocking the existing church/chapel worship
- to step outside the 'bubble' it finds itself in

And so I raise three questions (well, I am a Methodist local preacher...)

1. Are we prepared to learn from the secular world in our understanding of Church?
2. Are we prepared to dismantle the existing structure of churches, circuits, even districts, in order to make Christianity real in our current world?
3. Are we prepared to risk radical change in order to maintain the faith?

## Catharine Hughes (PMC)

**ORIGINAL BBC WEBSITE ARTICLE, DATED 28 MARCH 2017**

**City-based Twenty20 tournament moves a step closer as ECB reveals more details.**

**A new eight-team, city-based Twenty20 tournament could "absolutely rival the Indian Premier League" says England and Wales Cricket Board chief Tom Harrison.**

The competition, proposed to begin in 2020, moved a step closer on Monday as further details were revealed. ECB chief executive Harrison said it was "not a gamble" for the 18 first-class counties. "What we are doing here is future-proofing county cricket," Harrison told BBC sports editor Dan Roan. "I don't think it's so much a gamble, it's about saying, 'What do we want our business and our game to look like?'"

The IPL - and Australia's Big Bash tournament - enjoy huge success, attracting the world's best limited-overs players and drawing large crowds.

A referendum is expected to be dispatched on Tuesday inviting stakeholders to sanction a tournament including eight teams, rather than the 18 counties who traditionally contest the main competitions domestically.

### **What is changing?**

On Monday, the ECB presented a detailed overview of its proposals for a new Twenty20 competition to its 41 members. These included:

- Eight new teams playing 36 games over a 38-day summer window, with four home games per team
- All games televised, with significant free-to-air exposure
- No scheduling overlap with the existing T20 Blast competition
- An Indian Premier League-style play-off system to give more incentive for finishing higher up the league
- A players' draft, with squads of 15 including three overseas players
- Counties guaranteed £1.3m

Why does the ECB want to change?

It says cricket has the chance to be part of "mainstream conversation" and believes the new competition can make the sport "relevant to a whole new audience".

Following a period of consultation including more than 10,000 interviews, the ECB decided on three key principles:

- To have a major positive impact on driving participation
- To focus on recruiting the next generation of fans, in particular promoting attendance to a diverse, young, family audience
- To ensure complete differentiation from existing cricket tournaments to protect and support the future of the county game

"What we absolutely need to do, is start appealing to a younger audience," said Harrison.

"We know that by doing things differently, by building new teams, we can be relevant to a whole new audience and bring this very diverse, multicultural Britain in to our stadiums in a way perhaps we haven't been successful in doing."

Is this the end of county cricket?

This will be the first time in the history of domestic cricket that first-class counties are not represented, hence the need for a change to the ECB's articles and constitutions.

It was confirmed on Monday that all 18 clubs have signed "media rights deeds" to allow the governing body to include the new Twenty20 in their forthcoming broadcast portfolio.

Asked if the move to a city-based format signalled the end of the county system, Harrison said: "Not at all. I think what we are doing here is future-proofing county cricket.

"Cricket has been a sport which has always had the ability to evolve and change where it's needed to, and its shown itself to be incredibly adaptable.

"We are the sport which came up with short formats through T20, and other sports have been trying to find the T20 equivalent of their own.

"So we have demonstrated we are capable of it, we've got the format, we now just need to create the competition which enables these new fans to get involved.

"It's a hugely exciting moment."

Questions remain about schedule and players

The ECB says the proposed competition can rival the incredible success of the Indian Premier League and Australia's Big Bash, which **draws average crowds of more than 28,000**.

Questions remain around where the tournament will fit into the schedule, and which of the world's best players will be available.

The ECB insists it will not impact on the T20 Blast, which last season featured the likes of West Indies star Chris Gayle and New Zealand's Brendon McCullum.

"We think there's a lot of room for growth in the Blast," said Harrison. "It's done a tremendous job at bringing in a county cricket audience.

"But the evidence we have suggest cricket exists in a bubble and we've got to get outside this bubble."

Free-to-air ambition?

The ECB's aim for "significant" free-to-air coverage is an "aspiration which reaches at the heart of our proposition going forward", according to Harrison.

"We are hoping very much as part of that is a whole new calibration of our reach, so a whole new way of looking at access to our sport whether that's digitally whether it's through social media or whether it's through traditional TV channels," he added.

"But we also understand it has to be the right mix of revenue and reach and promotion of the game which is ultimately what we're searching for."

## TRUTH AND LIES ABOUT POVERTY

Posted on 1 March 2013 by Joint Public Issues



**In 1753 John Wesley said, "So wickedly devilishly false is that common objection, 'They are poor, only because they are idle'."**

Yet today church-goers and the general public alike are still willing to believe that the key factors driving poverty in the UK are the personal failings of the poor – especially 'idleness'. In all our thinking and discussion we should remember that Jesus had a bias towards the poor and he was also very slow to judge.

Recently I was privileged to hear Andrew Stunell speak about a joint report of the non-conformist churches. Andrew Stunell was the MP for Hazel Grove and is now in the House of Lords. From his experience as an MP for 18 years he could vouch for the veracity of this report.

The report called 'The Lies We Tell Ourselves.' from the Baptist Union of Great Britain, the Methodist Church, the Church of Scotland and the United Reformed Church lays bare six myths about the poor which enable the majority to live with the comfortable assumption that both poverty and wealth are deserved.

It was very interesting to find in this meeting of 'older pilgrims' (The meeting for 'older pilgrims' is held every two months at Marple Bridge Methodist Church and led by the Rev Graham Hawley. All are welcome) that churchgoers do indeed go along with the general public in agreeing with the statements in the pocket guide on *Truth and Lies about Poverty*, in citing the reasons given for people living in poverty. In fact during discussion one person talked about the 'unworthy poor,' a comment that made me think we were back in the late 19th/early 20th century when people were distinguished between the deserving and the undeserving poor.

I am sure that we are all guilty at times of making snap judgements without having the proof to back up what we are saying, but this report is a real eye opener to the true facts about poverty in this day and age. It can be found on the internet at:

**<http://www.jointpublicissues.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2013/02/Truth-And-Lies-Report-smaller.pdf>**

**Maureen Jackson (WMC)**

(We reproduce the 'Pocket Guide' referred to above on the next page):

## Truth and Lies about Poverty | a pocket guide

### 1. 'They' are lazy and don't want to work

The most commonly cited cause of child poverty by churchgoers and the general public alike is that "their parents don't want to work". Yet the majority of children in poverty are from working households. **In work poverty is now more common than out of work poverty.** It is readily believed that across the country there are families in which three generations have never worked, and this is used as the argument behind welfare policies. However the report shows that examples of such families have not been found, and the evidence suggests it is unlikely they ever will be.

### 2. 'They' are addicted to drink and drugs

Churchgoers and the wider public cite addiction as the second most common cause of child poverty. While addiction is devastating for the families and communities touched by it, **fewer than 4% of benefit claimants report any form of addiction.**

### 3. 'They' are not really poor – they just don't manage their money properly

Nearly 60% of the UK population agrees that the poor could cope if only they handled their money properly. The experience of living on a low income is one of constant struggle to manage limited resources, with small events having serious consequences. **Statistics show that the poorest spend their money carefully, limiting themselves to the essentials.**

### 4. They' are on the fiddle

Over 80% of the UK population believe that "large numbers falsely claim benefits". **Benefit fraud has decreased to historically low levels - the kind of levels that the tax system can only dream of.** Less than 0.9% of the welfare budget is lost to fraud. In fact if everyone claimed and was paid correctly, the welfare system would cost around £18 billion more than it presently does.

### 5. 'They' have an easy life

Over half the British public believes benefits are too high and churchgoers tend to agree. Government ministers speak of families opting for benefits as a lifestyle choice. Yet we know that **benefits do not meet minimum income standards. They have halved in value relative to average incomes over the last 30 years.** We know the ill and the unemployed are the people least satisfied and happy with life.

### 6. 'They' caused the deficit

**The proportion of our tax bills spent on welfare has remained stable for the last 20 years.** It is ridiculous to argue, as some have, that increasing welfare spending is responsible for the current deficit. Public debt *is* a problem but why is it being laid at the feet of the poorest?

[www.jointpublicissues.org.uk/truthandlies](http://www.jointpublicissues.org.uk/truthandlies)





**‘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 (miss-spent?) 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 (PMC)**



## **MOTHER OF ALL BOMBS**

The bomb dropped by the USA on a Taliban mountain stronghold in Afghanistan on 13<sup>th</sup> April was the biggest non-nuclear bomb ever used, but how big was it? Well it was rated as being equivalent to 11 tons of TNT.

The Sun newspaper reported that it was nearly as powerful as the atom bomb dropped on Hiroshima on 6<sup>th</sup> August 1945, which the Sun said was equivalent to 15 tons. The reality is that it was equivalent to 15 kilotons (15,000 tons), so the Sun was a factor of 1000 out.

Clearly there is a problem with understanding just how powerful nuclear weapons are. The introduction of hydrogen bombs ratcheted up the danger again. The hydrogen bomb tested by Russia in 1961 was equivalent to 57 megatons (57,000,000 tons) of TNT, a factor of 3,800 more powerful than the Hiroshima bomb and 5.2 million times more destructive than the 'mother of all bombs.' That represents much more destructive power than the total unleashed by all sides in the Second World War.

When Teresa May announced the election to be held on 8<sup>th</sup> June the subject of defence and security came up almost straight away. Jeremy Corbin was asked yet again whether he would press the nuclear button, and he reiterated that he wouldn't.

I am among those who agree with him. I ask myself "Would Jesus do it?" I feel that the use or even the possession of such weapons is totally immoral. But there are some Labour Party MPs who don't go along with their leader on this point.

The Greens and the Scottish Nationalists are firmly with him as are the vast majority of the nations of the world. Take Sweden as an example. It is close to Russia and has strong conventional defences but is firmly against nuclear weapons.

The sixth commandment says "you shall not kill" and the use of nuclear bombs is an extreme example: quite simply it is mass murder. Nuclear weapons are not a deterrent for war. They didn't stop Russia taking over the Crimea for instance. It is claimed that they are a deterrent to nuclear war because their use would result in 'mutually assured destruction' Somehow I do not find that comforting!

**Chris Hawkyard (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, and everyone at PMC is invited to submit things to me that they 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 see what we are sharing with friends/family/on social media! There's even a button to subscribe to email alerts, which will tells everyone when church chatter has a new post!

**Helen Holmes (PMC)**



## **A GOOD SOCIETY? GENERAL ELECTION HUSTINGS**

**Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 10am-12:30 at Dialstone Lane Methodist Church**

On 8<sup>th</sup> June Britain will once again, rather unexpectedly, have a decision to make. What direction should our nation take in the next five years? What are your concerns? The NHS? Schools? Poverty and food banks? Brexit? Working for Peace? The environment?

As Christians we seek to love our neighbour, and to follow Jesus in siding with the most vulnerable and marginalised. As well as informing our personal morality, this needs also to inform our public values and our political decisions.

At our hustings event we will be inviting candidates from the Hazel Grove, Stockport and Cheadle constituencies to share their visions of a Good Society. People will have a chance to ask questions, and talk informally with candidates and each other. There will be tea, coffee and cake.

Over the past two and a half years Dialstone Lane has hosted a series of conversations exploring what it means to be a Good Society. We have joined with partners from St. Alban's Church of England, Stockport Quakers, Stockport Baptists, and individuals with no religious affiliation. Opening our meetings to all who share our hope to build a good society, we have had some interesting, sometimes lively, conversations. We thought about poverty, Europe and ways to build bridges in our broken society. We have shared concerns with the local MPs.

We hope that this hustings will build on our previous work. It is important to question those seeking election on our values and concerns. It can help us to decide for whom we vote. It also gives an opportunity for those seeking political office to hear the concerns of those they seek to represent. The voices of our churches should challenge those in power to help build a good society for everyone, especially the most vulnerable.

So please come to our hustings if you can. If you use Social media please share our event on Facebook, or tweet about it. Or you could put up a poster.

Also, let's remember that whilst there is much that our representatives in Westminster can do on our behalf, the task of building a good society does not begin or end with them. Neither does it begin and end with elections. It is a long term task for everyone. Whether you come or not, on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> June please consider prayerfully which candidate(s) on your ballot paper promote values of justice, peace and love of neighbour. And afterwards, whatever the outcome, remember that the work of building a good society does not end with elections. Let us continue to find ways to work within our own communities to build a better society.

As the joint public issues team reminds us, **“Think, Pray, Vote, Act”**

**Liz Delafield (DLMC)**

## OFFERTON CHURCH

Following the closure of Offerton Church last October nearly all the members have transferred to Dialstone Lane Church. Banners and other artefacts from their church were brought to Dialstone Lane to help the members feel at home and their enthusiastic participation in church events is an indication of their seamless transfer.

The working party set up to dispose of the Offerton site has been working hard, and following approval to sell from the Circuit Meeting and TMCP, the property will be placed on the market soon. Furniture, kitchen equipment and other items of use in the building have gone to good homes primarily through an open day organised by the Offerton congregation. The remainder has been cleared, except for some items in the cellar. The church grounds have been tidied.

As required by Charity Commission rules a Qualified Surveyor's Report has been commissioned which provides a valuation of the property and recommends the best means of marketing and sale. The property will be marketed for sale by private treaty.

The chapel, as opposed to the hall and other rooms to the rear, dates from 1887 and has been identified by Stockport Council as a building of local architectural interest which is likely to mean that it will seek the building's retention in any redevelopment scheme for the site.

**Dave Bryant**

Circuit Steward

## WINDLEHURST METHODIST CHURCH



### **COFFEE MORNING FOR CHRISTIAN AID**

Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> May 10.30 – 12.30

**Admission £1 including refreshments**

Bring and buy stall

(Donated cakes welcomed)

Hosted by Active at Windlehurst



## WELCOME GROUP...continued

As you know, there is no longer a need for the Welcome Group we ran at Dialstone Lane as there are no more asylum seekers being accommodated temporarily at the local hotel. However we have remained in touch with just a few of the individuals we met; Andrew Mason writes on another page about Awet from Eritrea.

I have been able to continue to offer support to a young Mum from Nigeria, who is on occasions struggling with the different style of bringing a child up in the UK from her home, where it is a much more communal activity. She has received leave to stay in this country and is eager to work to get her qualifications updated and recognised so that she can get a good job. She is living now in her second temporary house (the first had rats so we managed to negotiate a move) but would find it easier to start looking at childcare and college courses if she knew she was to be in the specific area for a reasonable length of time. We all know how disruptive just one house removal can be and after all the changes she has been through, she longs to be settled!

One very positive experience for her has been involvement in a creative writing project. The outcome has been an E-book, available for free, entitled "Women Who Dare", which you can download for yourself from **Women Who Dare | Pages | Manchester Literature Festival**.

This is how it describes itself:-



*Women Who Dare is a collection of poems written by women from Longsight's Women's Voices, a group run from the Greater Manchester Pakistani Community Centre. The women took part in six creative writing workshops held at Longsight Library at the end of 2016, led by poet and coach Shamshad Khan. We hope you enjoy reading their daring poems (please download the PDF from the link above).*

*The project was funded by New Writing North via the Arts Council Strategic Touring fund and delivered in partnership with Manchester Literature Festival and Longsight Library.*

I should add that her young daughter stars on the cover!

**Catriona Stoker (DLMC)**

# Connexion

## THE GOD OF SURPRISES IS ALIVE AND WELL AT GREEN CLOSE!



“We’re now going to Green Close Methodist church at the back of Lyme Park,” we tell our friends.

“Oh, so you’ve moved house then?” they reply.

“No, we still live in Heaton Norris, Stockport, but the Lord led us – literally – to Green Close.”

To cut a long story short, Christine and I used to walk through Lyme Park to The Coffee Tavern in Pott Shrigley on some Sundays, passing Green Close Chapel at about 2.30pm. We finally noticed that this was the time of their service.

One Sunday in 2009 we actually went in and joined them for their service, led by the Rev John Squares. That afternoon completely changed our lives, because it eventually led to our leaving the Roman Catholic Church and joining the Methodist Church, as well as me beginning my training as a local preacher.

We were moved by John’s honesty in his preaching, where he shared his difficulties in understanding a particular passage of scripture. We decided to come again, especially since the congregation warmly invited us to do so. So we timed our walks to the Coffee Tavern accordingly (in fact, we never made it to the Coffee Tavern after that!). At that stage of our spiritual progress, we called ourselves *Cathodists* because we were still going to the evening Mass at St Peter’s, Hazel Grove.

We got more and more drawn to the Biblical explorations in the sermons at Green Close, and their love for SCRIPTURE – all of it - the Old as well as the New Testament. Furthermore, Theo Eaves held a regular Bible study, which we soon joined. We still continue to enjoy and be challenged by it. So we felt that this could be our spiritual home. Later on in our migration from the Catholic to the Methodist Church, we called ourselves *Metholics*. At one of their services, Green Close had a Church Council meeting, where John Squares mentioned that Green Close was in danger of being closed down since there were so few members. So we decided to join Green Close in order to delay that decision. We two were the “more-than-20% added to the Green Close numbers” quoted in the Poynton

Herald of June 2010! Later on, after the closure of Wood Lanes, several of their members joined Green Close, thereby increasing its chances of survival. They immediately became family members.

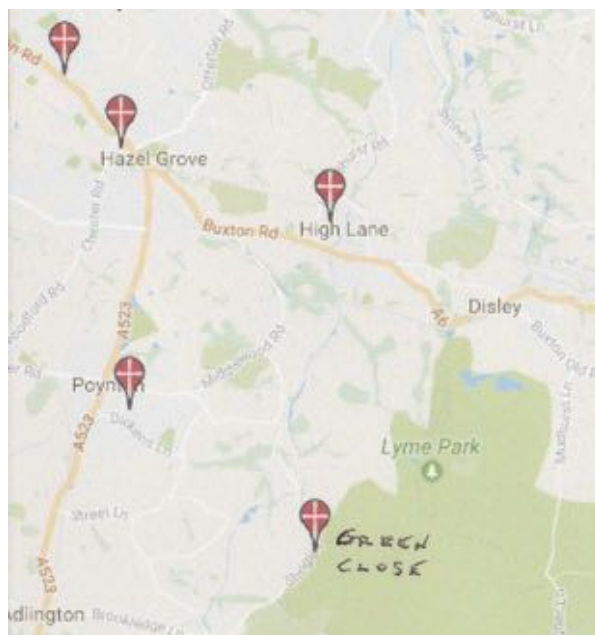
## What is so special about Green Close?

The main thing is their friendliness and welcoming attitude to strangers, of which we had been two. We feel part of a wider family, and are amazed at how we 'townies' have been so warmly accepted by the Green Closers. They have even taught us a new dialect. We had never before heard of 'funnyosities' (if that's how it's spelt!) or 'werreting' or 'frabbing'. To us, Green Close represents the nearest we've ever come to the early church, one where the members care for one another and love each other. That's well worth our while travelling 18 miles round trip each Sunday!

Another very special thing about Green Close is its location. Being at the back of Lyme Park, it lies in the most beautiful scenery. We just have to look out of the church to see God's creation in all its loveliness and splendour. At this time of year, we even have the added bonus of seeing all the little lambs gambolling over the fields! At least one preacher is known to have said that they couldn't preach from the pulpit, since they would be too distracted by the lovely surroundings of the chapel. Looking out of the window by the pulpit, they would behold the most beautiful and enchanting scene. Its idyllic situation makes Green Close ideal as a retreat centre, and indeed it is used as such by the Circuit and District. There is always room for more bookings!

So, fellow members of the Hazel Grove & Poynton Circuit, if you've never joined us for worship before, why not give it a try? You'd be most welcome! Bear in mind that we are the only church in the circuit which holds services at 2.30pm.

**Stephan Rudolfer (GCMC)**





## DO NOT WORRY



Awet, our friend from Eritrea never ceases to amaze me. His status has changed from asylum seeker to refugee, which means he can now remain in this country for five years. This also brings a change in his circumstances, as he is now responsible for providing for himself.

He received his official papers in March and he came from Bolton to show us. He was so proud of his letters and we read every one. In Eritrea he was a mechanic in the army and drove and maintained trucks. He is determined to pass his driving test and indeed one of our Christmas gifts to him was a copy of the Highway Code. Now that he has refugee status he has applied for a provisional driving licence and his burning ambition is to own a van so that he can work for himself.

For the time being, he has to find his own accommodation which is no easy task. Fortunately, he belongs to an Eritrean Christian Church in Manchester and friends there are helping him in the short term, so that he does not become homeless. He has looked for work and is hoping that the Amazon warehouse at the airport will take him on. We haven't heard as yet whether or not he has been successful.

He is grateful for the care he received at Stepping Hill, when they managed to repair the wrist he broke whilst crossing the Sahara Desert. One day he would like to work at the hospital and return to Stockport.

Whilst we were talking we asked if he had any worries or concerns about his future. His answer was a straightforward NO, He sat beside me, took out his phone switched on his Bible and we read together Matthew 6 vs 25 – 34.

That was his answer and his reassurance that he had no need to worry as God will take care of him. It was not the answer I was expecting from a 26 year old but a very humbling one indeed.

Please remember Awet in your prayers: that he will find a home and employment and that he will continue to feel supported by his church and his circle of Christian friends.



*“ Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. ”*

**Andrew Mason (DLMC)**

## EASTER AT WESLEY STREET



Throughout Lent we shared Lenten meetings each week with the other churches in Hazel Grove, the theme of which was 'Receiving Christ in Five Different Ways'. There were also Lenten Meetings at our own church led by Rev John Payne.

The Sunday services throughout Lent concentrated on the cross – each week bringing symbols of the Passion to lay at the foot of the cross – a bag of silver coins representing Judas's betrayal, a chalice representing Jesus' blood, shed for us, a spear – for the wound inflicted on Jesus by the Roman soldiers, a bowl with a towel for Maundy Thursday when Jesus washed the feet of his disciples at the Last Supper and a crown of thorns for his agony on Good Friday. Then on Palm Sunday – representing his triumphal entry into Jerusalem, we decorated the cross with palm crosses.

The cross was bare on Maundy Thursday apart from the purple robe with a bowl and towel at its foot. At a quiet contemplative service of Holy Communion led by Rev John Payne, we celebrated our Lord's Last Supper together.

We met again on Good Friday for another contemplative time of worship, led by Rev John Payne. When, after hearing nails driven into a piece of wood, during a very moving service, we listened to the reflections of some of the people present at His crucifixion – Jesus' disciple John, his mother Mary, a Roman soldier, Mary Magdalene and Dismas – the prisoner crucified beside him who asked Jesus to remember him when He came into His Kingdom.

On Easter Day the church was decorated with flowers and there was a service of Holy Communion at 9.00am followed by breakfast in the Coffee Lounge.

At 10.30am was a service of celebration for Easter Day led by Keith Tonge. It was a joyful service with an Easter egg hunt for the children, hymns of praise and thanksgiving, many Alleluias and shouts of "He is Risen!" During the first hymn everyone went forward and placed a flower on the cross changing it from a cross of sorrow to a cross of glory. A transformation, which, during the service, Keith urged us to do with our lives – transform. At the close of the service the cross was carried outside and left on the steps of the church as witness to passers-by of the glory of that Easter Day that we are still celebrating two thousand years later.



**Doreen Sykes (HGMC)**

## THE KAMLA FOUNDATION

The Kamla Foundation is this year's chosen charity at Dialstone Lane.



In March we held our St David's Daffodil Tea which was a huge success; in fact it was so popular we even had a waiting list for those unable to get hold of a ticket!

Delicious sandwiches, scones, homemade cakes and tea in vintage teapots all served by three vintage waitresses.

Anita played the piano throughout, joined by Debbie on the clarinet. The room was transformed with huge displays of daffodils, Welsh flags and table decorations and Andrew, as Master of Ceremonies kept things together, with a few Welsh jokes thrown in for good measure.

Later in March Connie held a coffee day, with homemade lunches, a great atmosphere and a beautiful sunny day thrown in as well.

Both events raised in excess of £600 and we are extremely grateful for the generosity of our supporters.

We are now organising our next major event – a Hoe Down - for all the whole family on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> July. Liza Austin, from the Fosbrooks, will be our caller and further details of tickets and venue will be available soon.

Please contact Lisette 456 3077 and Sue 487 2297 for further information.



**Andrew Mason (DLMC)**



*Kamla Foundation works in India with people who are on the margins of society; the poor, low-caste, tribal people, especially women - to help them build and sustain their individual, family and community livelihoods.*

*Our Vision is an India, where all people have an opportunity to live in dignity, free from hunger, deprivation and marginalisation.*

## Flower Festival

On **Friday, Saturday and Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> June** we are holding a Flower Festival in the Church at Hazel Grove Methodist Church.



The Festival, entitled 'Summer Suns are Glowing' will be giving thanks to God for all things 'Summer'. The flower arrangements will represent our enjoyment of all the beauty and activities that summer brings. We'll thank God for the beauty of the earth, the sky, the sea, the trees and flowers, the hills and valleys. We'll also thank Him for the activities we enjoy in the summer – holidays, the beach, travelling, sports, our gardens, sailing, walking and flower shows.

We are advertising the Festival in Hazel Grove with the distribution of knitted Sunflowers – so, if you're in the Grove – look out for these in the two weeks prior to the Festival.

We hope you'll come and join us, enjoy the flowers, the skills of the arrangers, the fellowship, the music and the refreshments. There will also be a cake stall to challenge your resolve towards healthy eating.

The Festival will be open on Friday and Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> June from 10.30am – 4.00pm and on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> June from 2.00pm – 3.30pm followed by the closing service led by Martyn Bennett at 4.00pm. You'll be very welcome.

**Doreen Sykes (HGMC)**

*Summer suns are glowing over land and sea;  
Happy light is flowing, bountiful and free;  
Everything rejoices in the mellow rays;  
Earth's ten thousand voices swell the psalm of praise.*

*God's free mercy streameth over all the world,  
And his banner gleameth, everywhere unfurled;  
Broad and deep and glorious, as the heaven above,  
Shines in might victorious his eternal love.*

*William Walsham Howe (1823-1897) H&Ps 361*

## FINDING GOD IN THE ORDINARY

This edition of 'Connexion' was subtitled 'Finding God in the ordinary'. (Please note that we do not give 'ordinary' an initial capital.) Did we achieve our objective? Of course we did! And thinking back to previous editions, we always do, whatever time of the church year we are in and whatever is the current theme.

Between these covers, we recount the stories, the events and the ordinary lives of ordinary people and the situations in which they sometimes find themselves – and in the ways they respond. That's often the extraordinary bit – the response. Look through this quarter's pages and see what is happening in this Circuit at this time; read the stories you have told: seek between the lines and you will find God.

In ancient times, people looked to sun, wind, fire, smoke, thunder, water en masse and messengers for that contact with the Almighty that those primitives sought. In order to explain life's vagaries, they imagined the Creator as fierce, unforgiving, warlike, demanding and possessive; someone to fear, to appease and to placate.

Jesus changed all that! He showed his contemporaries an altogether different view of what God is like. They began to hear that God is love and that is how they too should live, something that some of the prophets and other enlightened thinkers (not just in the middle east) had already started to suspect and ponder.

Now, in our age, we don't need to fear and worship natural forces, for God himself has lived among us and showed us his true nature. He lived an 'ordinary' life for thirty years among ordinary people and then demonstrated beyond that what, in his company, ordinary human beings can achieve.

So we take heart, us ordinary people. Each of us, with our portion of God's love, can do great things! In our ordinary way, we can inspire, care, respond to need, support good, speak out against evil, persuade, lead and witness in that part of creation we find ourselves. Very few of us will become famous, even when we are by ourselves in our own kitchen, but we can each inch the kingdom a little bit closer.

Be alert for opportunities in the next quarter, and share your 'ordinariness' with us in the September – November 'Connexion'.

### **Arnold Samuels**

Thank you to all of our contributors who gave so generously of their time and effort and yielded so gracefully to my requests for contributions.



## HOW TO FIND AND CONTACT US

- **Dialstone Lane Methodist Church**, 161 Dialstone Lane, Offerton, Stockport, SK2 7LQ  
Rev Amanda Boon (0161 285 1431)  
[www.dialstonelanemethodistchurch.co.uk](http://www.dialstonelanemethodistchurch.co.uk)
- **Hazel Grove Methodist Church**, Wesley Street, Hazel Grove, Stockport, Cheshire, SK7 4JQ  
Rev John Payne (0161 483 0150) [www.wesleystreet.org](http://www.wesleystreet.org)
- **Windlehurst Methodist Church**, Windlehurst Road, High Lane, Stockport, SK6 8AF  
Rev John Payne (0161 483 4952) [www.windlehurstmethodistchurch.co.uk](http://www.windlehurstmethodistchurch.co.uk)
- **Poynton Methodist Church**, Civic Car Park, Park Lane, Poynton, Stockport, Cheshire SK12 1RB  
Rev John Wiseman (01625 871592 or 01625 261769)  
[www.poyntonmethodist.org](http://www.poyntonmethodist.org)
- **Green Close Methodist Church**, Shrigley Road, Pott Shrigley, Macclesfield, SK10 5RU  
Rev John Wiseman (01625 871592 or 01625 261769)

The next edition of the circuit magazine will cover the months of  
September 2017 – November 2017

Please ensure that any articles are submitted directly to Reverend John  
Wiseman by e mail ([jwiserev@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:jwiserev@hotmail.co.uk)) or via post c/o Poynton  
Methodist Church

by **1<sup>st</sup> November 2017.**