



# The Methodist Church in Poynton

# **JULY/AUGUST 2017**

Delive	ered by
	pastoral visitor, who can be contacted on

Following the election results, the President and Vice-President of the Methodist Conference, the Rev Dr Roger L Walton and Ms Rachel Lampard MBE, made the following statement:

Today we are grateful that the people of the United Kingdom are able to debate and vote peacefully, and to elect our leaders democratically.

The importance of this is all too apparent in the aftermath of the atrocities suffered in Manchester and London during the election campaign. While acts of terrorism seek to undermine our democracy, by choosing to cast their ballot yesterday people demonstrated a commitment to a hopeful and just future for our country.

Some will be pleased by the outcome, some will be disappointed, others will be concerned. We invite you to pray for those working to form a government and for all of our newly elected MPs, that they may represent constituents' concerns and interests in the House of Commons with wisdom, compassion and dedication. We also ask you to remember all those who make the democratic process possible, from council officials to those who put themselves forward for election, often at great personal cost.

A hung Parliament is a reminder that politics does not end with elections. As the Government is formed, at a time of uncertainty for our country, we call on all members of Parliament to act in ways that will build a society with the common good at its heart. We commit ourselves and ask the Methodist people to be active participants in our democracy, encouraging and challenging those who have been elected. We are called particularly to advocate for the needs of the most vulnerable in our society and world.

Finally, we rejoice in God's promise that the Kingdom of God is coming, and recognise that it is also ushered in today when we embrace principles of justice, mercy and peace; may we continue to do so. **09 June 2017 Connexional website** 

# Statement and Prayer from the London District Chairs in response to the fire at Grenfell Tower:

It is with shock and dismay that we woke up to the news of the fire at Grenfell Tower in Notting Hill this morning. This has taken place in a densely populated, vibrant part of our city and the tower block has been the home of many families.

Notting Hill Methodist Church is close to the fire and within the cordon established by police. Superintendent Minister of the Notting Hill Methodist Circuit, Mike Long, visited rescue centres this morning to see what help the Church might offer.

The facts of the cause of the fire and the events that followed will take time to emerge and the effects on the local community will be long-term and far-reaching. As a District we will do all we can to support the local church as it works with the community in the weeks and months to come.

#### **Gracious God**

We pray for those caught up in the fire at Grenfell Tower, for casualties, for the wounded, for the missing and the traumatised. We pray for the emergency services and for those who are responsible for coordinating the response to this major incident.

In despair bring hope
In injury bring healing
In fear bring comfort.
In our helplessness be our strength.
In your mercy hear our prayers.
In Christ's name.
Amen

The Revs Michaela Youngson and Nigel Cowgill, Chairs of the London District of the Methodist Church

#### 14 June 2017 Connexional website

### 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.

#### Shuffling to Santiago – extracts from Rev John's blog:

23rd May Poynton to St Jean Pied de Port...every journey begins with the first step and mine was trying to decide what to call the blog that would trace my walking sojourn across 800km or roughly 500 miles of northern Spain to Santiago. In the end I thought it appropriate to chose something that may well describe my mode of movement as the blisters developed, the joints ached, the muscles stiffened and the path continued to stretch on into the endless distance. So 'Shuffling to Santiago' it is...

**24<sup>th</sup> St Jean Pied De Port to Roncesvalles...** Funneling through the pilgrim's gate and out onto the cobbled streets of the old town and the first stage of the Camino, guided by the ubiquitous yellow painted arrows, the scallop shells signs, my fellow pilgrims and what I hoped would prove a trusty guidebook, I had no idea what the future held in store.

25<sup>th</sup> Roncesvalles to Zuria... The guide says that day 1 is the hardest as it is 27 km over a pass to the monastery at Roncesvalles. After 30 minutes I had my first change of clothes, off came the long sleeved shirt and sweater and on went the short sleeved shirt. Puffing and panting my way along in the mist that enveloped the trail, it was impossible to see fellow walkers more than twenty metres ahead.

26<sup>th</sup> Zabira to Uterga... At the end of the day, the assorted pilgrims from all over the world gather around a table to share the pilgrim's meal, a three course meal plus the obligatory wine, a chance to share stories, often in a mix of languages and usually via a third party translator. By 9.00pm the vast majority of people are tucked up in bed.

**27<sup>th</sup> Uterga to Estella...** A retired British army Colonel, an Australian policeman, a Polish lawyer, a Cajun fiddle player, a recent 1st class honours Fine Art student and a Methodist minister walk into a bar... It sounds like it should be the beginning of a joke but instead it's

simply a summary of the people gathered round a table enjoying a post walk meal and beer (well two beers).

**28<sup>th</sup> Estella to Torres del Rio...** even on isolated stretches, when other pilgrims are either out of sight on the road ahead, or have been left trailing in one's dust, one never really walks alone on such a geographical, physical and inward journey, but is in fact surrounded, upheld and supported by a cloud of witnesses both seen and unseen.

**29<sup>th</sup> Torres del Rio to Logrono...** And so by 5.00am, I was having my once only, never to be repeated Camino experience of setting out in the dark, the beam of my head torch throwing a pool of light on the ground ahead of me... The days rest, spent sitting in Sunday sunshine of Logrono, the third biggest town on the Camino, just watching the world go by and catching up with familiar faces from further back along the trail will hopefully mean I live to fight or at least walk another day.

**30<sup>th</sup> Logrono to Najera...** I think Paul's 'thorn' was that upon arriving in a town or village, having walked for many miles in the burning sun, carrying his own baggage, he discovered that some so called pilgrims had in fact not only reserved a bed in advance but had paid a local company 5 Euros to transport all their luggage.

31st ... There are three things you need to keep a constant eye on while walking the Camino. They are in no particular order, your feet, your feet and yes, you've guessed it, your feet. The prophet Isaiah once declared 'beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news'. He obviously hadn't seen mine.

1st June Tosantos to Cardenuela Riopico... United in our hopes, dreams, fears, concerns for the journey ahead of us, united over sharing food and through praying for those who had gone before us, united in our thoughts about those at home holding us in prayer and now united in the joy, laughter and sense of togetherness that is such a huge part of the Camino experience. It was a wonderful experience to be part of, one of many I have encountered so far.

2nd Cardenuela Riopico to Burgos... what a fantastic day's walk it was ... a wonderfully cool morning with sunrise over fields of corn and the path marked out with a veritable florist's display of wild flowers that even caught my inexpert eye. There were a couple of lung bursting climbs and an extended stroll through a woodland

forest on broad tracks that reminded me of many of the trail runs I had done in the UK... there was a huge bonus waiting at the end... a swimming pool. Not to swim in but simply to dangle my aching legs and feet.

**3rd Burgos – a day off!...** which actually means just a 12km walk into the city yesterday morning and then the rest of the day doing as little as possible. Sat in the square in front of the simply stunning Gothic cathedral for which Burgos is perhaps most famous, it was a chance to reflect on the journey so far, one that has had its ups and downs in more ways than one.

**4th Burgos to Hontanas...** Today marked the first day of the Meseta, the high central plain on Spain, and also the first day that the rain cover for the rucksack made its appearance, as the thunder and lightning that appeared to be heading to Burgos caught me on its fringe...much cooler and thus easier to walk in, though still warm enough for the ubiquitous walking uniform of blue shorts, yellow T shirt and blue paisley patterned hat.

5th Hontanas to Fromista... The light through the window indicating the start of another day. The tension of muscles easing back into use. The plod of footsteps on stone, concrete, gravel or grass. Looking down on the patchwork quilt of multicoloured fields and the Camino snaking away into the distance. The babble of innumerable languages from those sheltering from the rain. The whistling of the wind across the open plains and through the trees. The gasp of relief at sitting down on my bed for the night. The sense of peace at being right here, right now.

6th Fromista to Carrion de Los Condes... Compared to the overcast weather of the past couple of days, today was just beautiful with a cloudless blue sky and a nip in the air that almost had me reaching for my gloves until the temperature began to pick up after an hour or so walking. It's been beautiful just to walk for km after km on my own or at least with enough distance between me and other pilgrims or even better on some occasions with a clear view ahead of me.

**7th Carrion de Los Condes to San Nicolas Del Real Camino...** Straight as an arrow the Camino cut through the most beautiful landscape, a gravel line dissecting fields of verdant green, rich gold, deep ochre red and burnt browns, whilst above cotton wool clouds hung

effortlessly in the big sky. 34km disappeared almost in the blink of an eye. And now I am off for a 20 minute alternate hot and cold treatment of my rapidly improving feet.

8th San Nicolas del Real Camino to El Burgo Ranero... yesterday was my 16th day of walking, which means I have already walked more days than I have days left to walk to reach Santiago. The space and solitude of the Meseta has allowed me to think about and give thanks for, those who have walked alongside me on my journey through life, some of whom have now gone ahead of me to a deserved rest, whilst others have only recently come alongside me and in doing so helped to turn my sky from battleship grey to blue. 9th El Burgo Ranero to Peunte Villarente... They come from all over the world to walk, to experience and to live the Camino... Some walk as disciples, others as an act of discipline... Some start each day before dawn, most between 6.00-7.00am, a few lucky ones manage a lie in and only leave at 8.00am... Refuelling at the end of the day is done by eating the pilgrim menu meals at every stop, cater for themselves with supermarket purchases or splurge in local restaurants... The old (85) and the young (4 months!), the singles, the couples and the groups all walk alone and yet as one.

10th Puente Villarente to Leon... arriving in Leon marks the end of the second stage of the trip. Whilst the first stage to Burgos was all about bruised, battered and blistered bodies, the second stage, the Meseta, is described by many as the stage that affects one's mind, with the endless straight path and huge wide open spaces. From my point of view it was simply a wonderful opportunity to walk, to think, to reflect, to pray and to be at peace. My mind does not feel so much jumbled as calm and ordered... tomorrow I will begin the last leg into the hills of Galicia and onwards to Santiago.

11th Leon to Hospital de Orbigo... this little rural jolly was for 4 hours along paths and roads that offered zero shade in temps pushing 32 degrees...one section was an 9km stretch that ran straight as an arrow, with villages that resembled visual illusions as they never seem to get any nearer...I have to admit that some of it was a dreary drudge. The only respite was the irrigation channels that ran parallel to the road into which I could dip my hat for a cool down. By the time I arrived at Hospital de Orbigo, some 7 hours after

leaving Leon, I was 'cream crackered', both physically and mentally.

12th Hospital de Orbigo to El Ganso... Have I mentioned my feet yet during this little jolly?... my little toes have decided to demand a little bit of attention...so... for the first time on the trip I walked in my walking sandals... And so far so good. My pinkies were allowed more room to move and breathe... And thankfully today's little 27km was much better than yesterday, with wide open paths, the opportunity of occasional shade and a halt 7km earlier than planned.

13th El Ganso to El Acebo... At Crux de Ferro, the pilgrim leaves whatever it is they have carried with them from home... I wore a cross that had been given to me by members of my young church group as part of my Camino 'survival pack'... I climbed up the mound of rocks and stone, removed the cross from round my neck, and in a moment of letting go, a moment of moving on and a moment of committing myself to whatever the future has in store, I tied it carefully to the central post, stood back and watched it flutter in the breeze.

14th El Acebo to Cacabelos... yesterday was the first day when (the heavens) truly opened and it poured down. It had been humid for most of the morning, then with a sudden increase in wind speed, a drop in temp...thunder cracked overhead before a single bolt of lightning appeared to tear the clouds apart... (today) it's been four seasons in one day with thunder one minute interspersed with alorious sunshine that threatens to melt the tar the next. Thankfully for me the Germans are on washing patrol so I can have an afternoon siesta with no fear of clothes getting a sudden soaking. Day 23: 15th June Cacabelos to Vega de Valcarce... had the choice of plodding along the valley floor or taking an alternative but more demanding higher route. With legs and feet feeling okay I chose the latter option and climbed, and climbed and climbed high up the hillside, until the whole valley just opened up... For close to two and a half hours I walked without seeing another soul, along paths that wound round the contours of the hills covered in pine forests. It was beautiful, peaceful and life affirming... back into the valley to rejoin the rest of the Camino faithful. You can continue to follow John's full blog at http://shufflingtosantiago.blogspot.co.uk/

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

# SUNDAY SERVICES <u>AT POYNTON</u> IN JULY/AUGUST

Date 10.30am UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED									
Theme: July – Giving; August – Making Disciples									
2 <sup>nd</sup> July	9.00am Med Rev Amanda Boon HC								
9 <sup>th</sup>	Catharine Hughes								
16 <sup>th</sup>	9.00am Rev .	John Payne	HC	Andrew Stoker					
23 <sup>rd</sup>	Rev John Wiseman								
30 <sup>th</sup>	Richard Baker								
6 <sup>th</sup> August	9.00am Med	Rev John Wiseman HC							
13 <sup>th</sup>	Ann Dawber								
13 <sup>th</sup>	6.00pm CS at Dialstone Lane Richard Baker								
20 <sup>th</sup>	9.00am Re	v John	Rev John Wiseman						
	Wiseman	HC							
27 <sup>th</sup>	Keith Tonge								

## SUNDAY SERVICES AT <u>GREEN CLOSE</u> IN JULY/AUGUST

Date	2.30 pm						
Theme: July – Giving; August – Making Disciples							
2 <sup>nd</sup> July	Mandy Hawkyard						
9 <sup>th</sup>	Stephan Rudolfer						
16 <sup>th</sup>	Rev Amanda Boon HC						
23 <sup>rd</sup>	Rev John Wiseman						
30 <sup>th</sup>	Andrew Stoker						
6 <sup>th</sup> August	Rev John Wiseman HC						
13 <sup>th</sup>	Rev John Payne						
13 <sup>th</sup>	6.00pm CS at Dialstone Lane Richard Baker						
20 <sup>th</sup>	Rev Amanda Boon						
27 <sup>th</sup>	Richard Baker						

HC Holy Communion CS Circuit Service

Stepping Hill 10.00am. 23<sup>rd</sup> July Alan Rashleigh

Woodlands 11.00am. 9<sup>th</sup> July Theo Eaves

13<sup>th</sup> August Chris Hawkyard

# PRAYER

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

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.

## PRAYER GROUP



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 on18<sup>th</sup> July and 15<sup>th</sup> August**. There are usually around a dozen of us.

# 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 2<sup>nd</sup> July and 6<sup>th</sup> August.



# WEEKDAY WORSHIP

First Tuesdays The next first Tuesdays are 4th July and 1st August. There will be a service at noon on those days followed by a simple lunch. All are very welcome to these 30min services that cater for shoppers, passers-by and everyone who is available and wishes to take these extra opportunities to worship.

# THURSDAY COMMUNION

This is always on the **third** Thursday of the month at midday followed by a light lunch. See you there on **20<sup>th</sup> July and 17<sup>th</sup> August**.



# PRAISE PRAYER AND PUDDING



Because of holidays we have decided that our next meeting will be in **September**.



# BEACHED!

What would you take to your desert island? What hymns/ songs/ pieces of music have most helped or inspired you throughout your Christian life?

As part of our series on Giving – 'Giving Testimony' there will be a slightly different feel to worship at 10.30am on 9<sup>th</sup> July as Arnold Samuels talks with me about his life in conjunction with some of his favourite music.

### **Catharine Hughes**

# CAFÉ CHURCH

In July our church is starting a (kind of!) new venture... so what is it all about?

#### What does café church involve?

Great company, great music, great food (we need your help for the company bit...)

#### What kind of service will it be?

Relaxed, with plenty of worship but very fellowship-based. We're hoping to encourage conversation, so you chatterboxes are more than welcome here! (Listeners welcome too.)

#### Who is it aimed at?

Age 11-111. The plan is that themes will be accessible to both those curious about faith and those who have been committed to faith for a long time.

#### How is it different to 'normal church'?

Café church is a less traditional and perhaps more lively approach to worship, which encompasses learning some new music and exploring different themes.

We are in the early stages so it may well be different as it develops, but our vision is to have a more interactive style of worship. Don't worry; we're not planning to quiz you! But we're encouraging fellowship and discussion within our café church community.

#### Where and when can I come along?

Come on 9<sup>th</sup> July at 4.00pm to Poynton Methodist Church. Be ready to eat cake, praise, sing and chatter (preferably not all at the same time).

#### **Helen Holmes**

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



'Get Up and Give – 101 Little Ways to make a Big Difference' by Steve Chalke and Sir Cliff Richard
Published by Harper Collins at £6.99

The really good thing about this book is that the royalties are divided equally between Great Ormond Street Hospital Children's Charity, Tear Fund and Oasis (a charity working with homeless and disadvantaged people, of which Steve Chalke is International Director).

The book is dedicated to Roy Castle who got up and gave! Get up and Give has short, punchy, straightforward answers to the question of how we can make a difference. There are simple, practical, down to earth suggestions that will help us make the most of the limited resources we have.

The aim of the book is to show how you can make the best use of your time, money, energy and talents to help others. Yours and other people's lives can be changed if you follow some of the ideas in the book.

At the end of the book is a pledge to take action where you can fill in what you are going to give. Sometimes it helps to write things down that you intend to do.

## THE PRODIGAL CONFECTIONER.

This story was told by Catharine Hughes in her children's address on 21st May. Her 'props' were afterwards enjoyed by many!

Once upon a time, a farmer had two sons.

One of them was a **Smartie** and good looking. His hair was **Curly Wurly** with **Highlights**, although he was slightly **Flakey**.

He said to his dad with a **Wispa** '1'd like to talk to you about a certain **Topic**. I feel my life could do with a **Boost**, so give me my inheritance.'

His dad tried to **Fudge**. 'You want half of my money?' 'Yes, Pa,' replied the son, 'and half of **Mars**.'

Eventually the father agreed, and handed over all his **Bounty**. The son did up his **Buttons**, put on his **Snickers**... **Snickers**... (actually it was a *pair of Snickers*), left the farm and went off to spend his dad's fortune. He took a **Picnic** and walked, not waiting for a **Double Decker**.

It wasn't long before he found himself in a large city, in a superb shopping Mall, where some people mocked and made fun of the shops. They were known as Malteasers (Mall - teasers). The farmer's son also visited a night club where they played music by M&M and there were Minstrels playing tunes while customers played Skittles. There were also female dancers known as the Turkish Delights, and some of them would Twirl, while others had tummies that could Ripple. The son enjoyed all these Revels, and soon his money was spent.

His friends were gone and so was his livelihood.

He finished up as a **Drifter**, and took a job working on a pig farm. It was run by a moaning, complaining old woman who had no teeth, and she was known as **Wine Gums**. The boy had to **Lion** the ground to sleep, making his pillow from leafy branches with not too many **Twix** and was very uncomfortable if he had to **Rolo**-ver.

He was peckish and got the **Munchies** and ended up longing to chomp on the pig's food, which was **Crunchie**. But obviously he had to **Chewitt**.

Eventually he came to his senses.

He looked up at the **Milky Way** - which looks like a thick line of stars, or a **Starbar** - and the planets and the **Galaxies** beyond and repented of his sin.

When he got home, his father forgave him, welcomed him and decided to have a **Celebration**, but his older brother was a right **Wotsit**.

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# THE METHODIST CHURCH PRAYER HANDBOOK

I am now taking orders for the Methodist Church Prayer Handbook which is published each year. Besides prayers for each day of the month there is a lectionary which suggests readings, hymns and psalms for each day of the year.

We pray for Christians in different countries all over the world each day and there are maps so that we can identify where the countries are.

Copies at £3.75 contain a wealth of information and they also make a nice little present to give to a friend.

#### **Marjorie Harrop**

# HYMNOLOGY ON A MONDAY MORNING - 23

'The Lord is my shepherd' – Psalm 23 – Scottish Psalter – 'Crimond'

One Minister/Musician said, "No vicar conducting a wedding, who values his own life would avoid or alter the tune Crimond."

It is sung for weddings and funerals, and the psalm has been translated into other popular hymns e.g. 'The king of love', 'In heavenly love abiding' and many modern settings.

The 1650 metrical version of the psalm 'The Lord's my shepherd, I'll not want,' remains as one of the nation's favourites, according to the BBC 'Songs of Praise' programme, but only when sung to 'Crimond'. Crimond first appeared in 1859. Most people accept that it was written by Jessie Irvine, the daughter of a Scottish minister living in the little Aberdeenshire village of Crimmond.

In those days worship was ordered in strictest reverence. This happened to such an extent that a distinguished church music historian, Miles Patrick, said choirs never rehearsed from scripture, but first learned the tune using secular words. He noted that some 'decidedly mischievous alterations were sung. 'For example, "Keep silence, all ye sons of men, and hear with reverence due The maister has gane oot to smoke, but he'll be back the noo."

In 1601 King James VI came to the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland. Here he recited his own versions of the psalm at some length. It was recorded, 'It was a joy of all present to hear it', but some it was unwelcome because earlier versions "were known to people, in their hart already".

The revision of earlier texts was a long and complicated process, texts travelled between Scotland and England in spite of the Civil War, in which religion played a large part. John Bell from the lona Community noted "Everyone had a shout." Eight different authors were involved in revising Psalm 23 alone, and James VI is credited with the line, "shall surely follow me."

References: Psalm 23; John10.11&14

#### 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

# THE PERSECUTED CHRISTIAN

'Christian persecution is any hostility experienced from the world as a result of one's identification as a Christian.'

Thank God, you may say that we live in a tolerant, democratic country in which freedom of speech, thought and religion is practised and defended. A country nevertheless which draws the line and denies anyone the right to express hatred of others and in so doing encourages them to acts of violence.

And yet a prominent politician, a leader of a political party can say "we are kidding ourselves if we think we yet live in a tolerant, liberal society".

Here is an extract from Tim Farron's recent resignation speech. It could have been said by any other leader of any other party who chose to allow their faith to form their reply to a leading question.

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"From the very first day of my leadership, I have faced questions about my Christian faith. I've tried to answer with grace and patience. Sometimes my answers could have been wiser.

At the start of this election, I found myself under scrutiny again – asked about matters to do with my faith. I felt guilty that this focus was distracting attention from our campaign, obscuring our message.

Journalists have every right to ask what they see fit. The consequences of the focus on my faith is that I have found myself torn between living as a faithful Christian and serving as a political leader.

A better, wiser person than me may have been able to deal with this more successfully, to have remained faithful to Christ while leading a political party in the current environment. To be a political leader – especially of a progressive, liberal party in 2017 – and to live as a committed Christian, to hold faithfully to the Bible's teaching, has felt impossible for me.

I'm a liberal to my finger tips, and that liberalism means that I am passionate about defending the rights and liberties of people who believe different things to me.

There are Christians in politics who take the view that they should impose the tenets of faith on society, but I have not taken that approach because I disagree with it – it's not liberal and it is counterproductive when it comes to advancing the gospel.

Even so, I seem to be the subject of suspicion because of what I believe and who my faith is in. In which case we are kidding ourselves if we think we yet live in a tolerant, liberal society.

That's why I have chosen to step down as leader of the Liberal Democrats."

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This is a leading topic about which, as Christians, we would be expected to have an opinion.

What do you think of Tim Farron's reasons for stepping down? Should the politician mix politics with religion? How about "We don't do God"? Is the media hostile to Christianity? Or religion in general? Why? Can we still call ourselves a Christian nation? How can this nation recover its faith?

Please think about these questions (and your own) over the summer and then send me your thoughts by 16<sup>th</sup> August for the September Herald. I aim to start a debate about this fundamental matter which I hope would continue in further editions.

**Arnold Samuels** 

(See also p 31)

# JULY'S HOLY HABITS THEME: GIVING/SHARING

Week 1 – 2<sup>nd</sup> July: Giving monetary gifts to support others

(Rev Amanda Boon)

Week 2 - 9th July: Giving an account of your faith journey

(Catharine Hughes)

Week 3 – 16th July: Giving of your time and talents (Andy Stoker)

Week 4 - 23<sup>rd</sup> July: Giving of yourself (Rev John Wiseman)

Week 5 - 30th July: Giving yourself a rule for life (Richard Baker)

# HOLY HABITS FOR AUGUST

The final theme in this series is 'Making Disciples'.

As we go to press we have no details about the August services or activities but on Saturday  $2^{nd}$  September we will be rounding off (but not abandoning) our Holy Habits with a **banner/flower festival** from 2.00pm.

This will be followed by a **Church family barbeque** at 5.00pm. Please put this date in your diary now. (See also p 21)



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

## THANK YOU LETTERS

We would like to thank the Stewards and other Church members, who assisted at the service on 23<sup>rd</sup> May to celebrate the life of Norma Battle.



Thank you to the flower teams for ensuring the church had plenty of floral displays, Norma loved flowers.

Our appreciation also goes to Stewart Bradley, who did such a wonderful job leading the service.

A total of £621 was donated to ward E1 at Stepping Hill in memory of Norma, for the care they gave, while she was in the stroke unit.

#### Reg Battle and family

Thank you very much for the beautiful flowers which Keith Thompson delivered. Stewart is on the mend after a nasty 'flu virus.

Love from Diana &Stewart Thomas

Thank you for the lovely flowers you gave me on two occasions: one when I broke my foot and the other for my special birthday. They were greatly appreciated.

#### **Muriel Clark**

# CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

Happy Birthday to Robert Finnis, who is 17 on 11th July
Happy Birthday to Alicia Woodhouse, who is also 17 on 2nd August
Greetings to Arthur Corbett who was baptised here on 27/7/14

We regret to report the death of **Hilda Hallworth** on 26<sup>th</sup> May. Her funeral service was conducted by Rev Amanda Boon on 15<sup>th</sup> June at PMC

# Holy Habits Banner and Flower Festival

# Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> Sept from 2.00pm







Followed by Family BBQ at 5.00pm – burger, sausage, salad and pudding all for £4 per person or £12 for a family ticket. Tickets available throughout August

# A FOND FAREWELL AND A NEW BEGINNING

As many of you may know, David and I are moving to a retirement apartment in Hartford, near Northwich, in late summer. So here are a few reflections on our time at Poynton Methodist Church:

Noise! That was my first impression of Poynton Methodist Church. Having come from a church where no one spoke to each other and everyone sat in separate pews, I was quite overwhelmed to see people chatting and hugging as if they were really pleased to be there! My neighbour, Eric Foskett, had suggested we went along so that our two sons could join the very active youth section run by David Emison and Colin Gee. We were all hooked after that first family service and felt we had arrived home at last.

I recollect many memorable moments in the subsequent years. I was often asked to read but always refused as I could never envisage standing at the front. I finally agreed one Christmas and the entire family were stressed beyond belief as I read just 5 verses from a well-known passage. I knew it by heart by the time it came for me to read.

That was the beginning of my journey to becoming a Local Preacher. When I was invited to be a steward I refused at first as I couldn't possibly imagine praying out loud in front of a minister! Overcoming this challenge led David and I to becoming worship leaders, a role we enjoyed and shared for many years until Steve Barlow, now a minister, suggested we started training together to become Local Preachers. It seemed the right time to answer my call to preach and I was commissioned in 2001. As you can see from this, small, tentative steps and lots of love and support, gets one to places one never imagined possible. So have courage and dip your toes in the water. You never know where the journey will end!

There are so many happy memories I shall take with me both big and small. I remember the fun we had preparing tea and entertainment at Christmas for 80 elderly people from around Poynton; the Network event when Room 4 was overflowing with plants for sale and people were queuing for the delicious lunch that was on offer; large sums of money were raised for various charities but we all enjoyed the fellowship and hard work it entailed.

Mark, our eldest son went to Germany with the youth group on an exchange and they were given a wonderful welcome from the church they were attached to. The following year the return trip was arranged and we had Ziggy staying with us. I can still remember getting them up very early so that they could join a group going to watch the sun rise on Easter day. It was the most beautiful morning, still, warm and calm and quite a contrast to the noise, laughter and welcome an overflowing church gave those young people from a country which at one time was our worst enemy. We kept in touch with Ziggy and he is now married with children of his own.

At this time David Emison also arranged for Unity, the teenage youth group, to live in the church for several days at a time. Sometimes this was during term time and at others in the holidays when they undertook jobs such as gardening for the elderly. You can imagine the state of the church whilst 20 or more teenagers lived and cooked there but they all helped clean up at the end of their stay. The church provided so many wonderful experiences for the children and young people that I am sure it influenced them throughout their future lives.

Do you remember the wonderful fun we had at Church weekends away in Blackpool? I clearly remember doing some country dancing outside the Tower whilst we waited for the coach to pick us up to take us back to the hotel. Wesley Day saw a petrified David Emison being led on a shire horse through the village and then Colin Oakley reading from a very old version of the bible in the Nat West car park. No one understood a word! Thank goodness for the modern translations we now have.

There are too many happy occasions to relate them all, but the fellowship shared over meals, the laughter at the pantomimes, the

wonderful music, brass bands and the packed Carol Services, these are just a few of the happy memories we will be taking with us.

But most of all we will be taking the love and friendships we shared with you all. They will help sustain us as we begin a new life in a different place and a different church – and one thing is for certain: we will always be so grateful for our time at Poynton Methodist Church which helped us grow as people and in faith.

You will never be forgotten and we hope to come over to see you all as we are not too far away.

God bless you all

#### Dianne and David Jones

# CREATIVE WRITING

The Creative Writing Group in association with Holy Habits will next meet next on **Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> July at 2.30pm**. The July theme is 'Giving'.

The following meeting will be on 14th September when we will be exploring the August theme, 'Making Disciples'

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

### **Catharine Hughes**

# THE TIMES, THEY ARE A'CHANGING

Some of our readers will have noticed that we have a new church clock and a different one in the foyer. Others, who never look at the church clock during a service or immediately after, may not. The old one was the original, given to the church by Margaret and Alan Rodway when the church was opened in 1982, so it lasted for 35 years, not bad for a standard battery operated movement.

It has ticked away through the sermons of 8 resident ministers and countless others both ordained and lay and I doubt that even Hilary has kept a record of all the sermons they have preached or all the readings they have chosen.

Eight ministers in 35 years works out to an average tenure of 4.375 years, so no-one can say that we are not used to change even though the longest was 10 years.

Last Sunday, 11<sup>th</sup> June, it was announced that our current minister, Rev John Wiseman, has decided that when his present invitation expires in August 2018 he will not seek reappointment. And so the Circuit Stewards will begin the process in early autumn 2017 of finding a replacement, for such matters take time when a church and a minister are anxious to secure a good mutual 'match'.

We have been blessed to have experienced a remarkable ministry from John Wiseman. It has been challenging, full of vitality and creativity, wholehearted, energetic and unstinting. Now is not the time to say more, for we will have ample future opportunity to express our thanks and make our goodbyes.

In the meantime, let us all pray that the wisdom of our District Chairman, who will play the major rôle in our search, the vagaries of the Connexional Stationing Committee, the availability of the 'right' person, and the deliberations of the Circuit Invitation Committee combine to provide an appointee who will help us to move onward towards Jesus and the coming kingdom on earth.

#### **Arnold Samuels**

## HOLIDAY WORD-SEARCH (this is just for fun!)

(With acknowledgements to Ralph Hewitt at Wesley Methodist Church, Queens Road, Reading – church of my 'birth')

A	E	I	T	Н	N	M	S	I	R	G	I	T	E	R
R	S	E	P	0	0	C	A	I	R	E	В	I	Т	D
T	U	Н	Z	P	Н	R	S	C	A	R	R	I	N	E
U	E	A	E	E	I	V	I	S	K	R	E	I	R	L
P	M	0	L	N	E	s	E	N	A	E	E	Т	I	A
A	Н	D	D	L	A	Т	S	W	0	P	N	M	A	W
M	Т	Т	В	A	A	N	A	I	E	С	P	Z	P	A
Н	E	В	W	R	R	D	D	R	S	0	0	I	I	R
A	I	R	Н	E	D	0	E	0	P	S	R	Т	D	E
R	Y	P	R	Y	E	N	L	0	A	Ū	I	В	D	В
В	U	A	R	I	N	D	I	0	0	H	N	M	L	Ū
E	G	S	W	0	M	J	0	S	С	Y	T	0	E	N
T	Н	E	R	D	С	A	S	E	M	A	Н	Т	I	A
0	R	A	N	G	E	I	С	G	N	I	L	R	A	D
T	G	Y	0	F	M	M	E	K	0	N	G	G	0	D

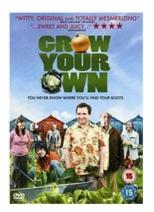
In the word-search grid above are hidden 28 words or names which "lie in bed all day but never sleep". Each individual one may appear in horizontal, vertical or diagonal format (normal, up-ordown, back-to-front, but never twisting or crossing itself): however, any complete word may cross another complete word, and letters may be used more than once.

When all the words have been discovered, the remaining unused letters (in original order) will form part of a relevant biblical verse. To assist you, the initial letters of the hidden words are 1xA, 1xB, 1xC, 4xD, 1xE, 1xG, 1xI, 1xL, 7xM, 2xO, 1xP, 1xR, 2xS and 4xT.

Please identify the 28 words, determine the passage of scripture that is left and then its biblical location. If you care to put your name/date/time to an answer and leave it my pigeon-hole, I can indicate who was "first" along with the correct result after the summer break. Good searching!

#### **John Turner**

# LAST MONTH'S FILM OF THE MONTH "Grow Your Own"



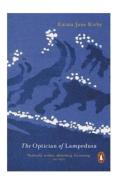
This film is about a northern allotment society where the members go to enjoy fresh vegetables but also to find love or escape from their home or their past. It is a light hearted comedy which also gives us an insight into society.

On Saturday 1<sup>st</sup>July at 7.30pm with discussion the following Monday at 7.30pm

July's film of the month will be screened on Saturday, 15<sup>th</sup> July. A surprise awaits you!

## JULY'S BOOK OF THE MONTH

### The Optician of Lampedusa by Emma Jane Kirby



The Optician of Lampedusa is written by BBC reporter Emma Jane Kirby. She tells the true story of Lampedusa's only optician and the day that changed his life forever. His family fishing trip suddenly placed him amid the human tragedy of hundreds of drowning migrants. This moving book turns the testimony of an accidental hero into a timeless story about the awakening of human courage and conscience.

# LADIES" FELLOWSHIP AGM 18th MAY 2017

Our meeting was attended by 24 members and was ably chaired by Mr. Chris Hawkyard, who welcomed everyone and led our devotions.

Hymn 506 (Mission Praise)
Prayer
Hymn 31 (Mission Praise)
Luke chapter 15, verses 11-32 (The Prodigal Son.)

Apologies were received from Vernice Baker, Pauline Deverell, Jessie Finn, Lynn Gray, Joan Horner, Marie Moncaster and Margaret Wilson.

### Reports were given by:

Chairman: Sandra Townsend. Treasurer: Brenda Wainwright.

Programme Secretaries: Carole Clarke & Marie Moncaster.

Registrar: Jean Rashleigh.

Pastoral Secretary: Julie Hallworth. Social Secretary: Barbara Dixon. (All reports are kept on file)

## **Election of Officers**

The existing committee members had consented to serve again in 2017/2018 and this was agreed unanimously by the members present who also approved the re-appointment of: Pianist: Joyce Deighton, Refreshments: Pauline Cottrill and Florence Gill.

Also on the team were Gill Oldham and Marjorie Harrop. Marjorie has decided to retire, and Sheila Asquith was approved to take her place. Gill Oldham continues.

It was agreed to continue the subs at the current level. It was also agreed to make a £450 donation to the church as a contribution towards running costs.

We are delighted to announce that we will be sending a cheque to "The Seashell Trust" for £912 as a result of our fund-raising events, and our thanks were given to seven of our speakers who donated their fee to this charity.

It was suggested by the committee that we support a Poynton Charity over the period September 2017 to May 2018 and "Riding for the Disabled" was suggested to the meeting, to be confirmed in September.

We concluded with The Grace which was followed by a hot drink.

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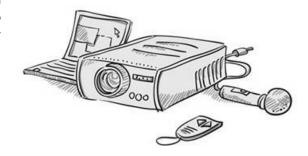
On **15<sup>th</sup> June**, we had our usual social evening and faith supper, when we all enjoyed sharing the food and each other's company. Then on **20th July**, we are going to "The 3 Bears" for lunch. Barbara Dixon has the details

Further dates for your diaries: We start our next session on **7th September** when 'The Offerton Methodist Church Choir' will be entertaining us. I will be leading the meeting commencing at 7.45pm as usual.

**21st September Open Evening.** Rev. John Wiseman will be giving us an illustrated talk about his walk of Faith entitled "A Walk on the Wild Side". Come along and hear all about his adventure. Marjorie Harrop will be leading the meeting. Just to emphasise, this is an

Open Meeting and all are very welcome to come and hear Rev John.

#### Sandra Townsend



# CHURCH CARDS AND BOOKSHELF





At the time of writing we are threequarters of the way through the church year and have sold 877 cards. together with the constant turnover of ours second-hand books we have boosted church funds between us by £824.

If you are wondering why perhaps this is lower than the number of cards sold, you will recall we had a 5 for £3.00 offer on our Christmas cards, when we sold in the region of 100 cards and from time to time we need to purchase additional card stock and cellophane bags.

Easter was another success selling 70 individual cards and several packs of cards which you will recall were produced to order.

Our thanks go to all our friends who support us in our venture and just to say, we still like to receive your old greetings cards and the cellophanes for us to recycle.

Please do not forget the card comment book (which is on the top shelf above the cards) to let us know what you think about the cards and suggestions for the future. Your feedback allows us to produce the type of card you are looking for.



#### Linda Grant and Hilary King

# PROPERTY UPDATE

- \*A new lock has been fitted to Cupboard 3 in the small corridor.
- \*A new capacitor and pipe thermostat have been fitted to one of the main heaters in the Hall (fan had stopped working).
- \*A new clock has been fitted in the main church and the office clock transferred to the foyer area. A new small clock has been bought for the office. (Both the main church and foyer clock unfortunately failed at about the same time and resisted all efforts to resuscitate them.)

#### **PMC Property Committee**

# MORE ON THE PERSECUTED CHRISTIAN

"As he closed his speech, he said:

"I joined our party when I was 16, it is in my blood, I love our history, our people, I thoroughly love my party. Imagine how proud I am to lead this party. And then imagine what would lead me to voluntarily relinquish that honour... 'In the words of Isaac Watts it would have to be something 'so amazing, so divine, (it) demands my heart, my life, my all".

That final, stunning line is taken from Watts' magnificent hymn, 'When I Survey the Wondrous Cross'. It's extraordinary that Farron chose to use it as the sting in the tail of his widely-reported speech... he took the opportunity to share his testimony on a national and international scale. What could be so big, so important, that it would cause me give up the earthly thing I love the most, my life's work, the thing I'd invested in daily since I was a teenager? It's a tantalising, deeply provocative question... reported in every media outlet in the UK, and many around the world. He didn't just resign, he evangelised to a nation.

As Farron so brilliantly put it, the question really boils down to this: is my view of God so amazing and so divine, that it means he demands my heart, my life, my all? When I sing Sir Isaac Watts' rousing anthem in the pews, I certainly believe it is. The challenge for every Christian is whether that translates to the sharp end of real life, if and when we're really called to sacrifice everything for Him."

Martin Saunders is a Contributing Editor for Christian Today and the Deputy CEO of 'Youthscape'. See also pages 17/18

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

## THE NEXT PRINCIPAL OF CLIFF COLLEGE



Cliff College is pleased to announce that the Methodist Council has approved the appointment of the Rev Ashley Cooper as the next Principal of Cliff College.

Ashley is currently the Senior Minister at Swan Bank Methodist Church in Stoke-on-Trent and Superintendent of the Burslem Mission Circuit. Having trained for ordained ministry in the Methodist Church at Hartley Victoria College Manchester, Ashley has

previously served in the Delamere Forest Circuit, as the District Evangelism Enabler in the Chester and Stoke District and as the Coordinator of District Evangelism Enablers in the Methodist Church.

Ashley is an inspirational leader with vision and energy, and a passion to see lives transformed by the Gospel. His commitment to mission and evangelism, the key ethos of the College, is evident in the leadership he has exercised throughout his varied ministry leading churches of different sizes to see transformation and ongoing growth.

He brings a broad knowledge and experience of mission, evangelism and church planting and has spoken on these themes locally, nationally and internationally. Ashley has a broad experience and understanding of the Methodist Church and is a member of the World Methodist Council, as well as having a proven ability to build creative partnerships with others beyond Methodism.

Ashley brings the experience of leading a very large church through a time of transition and change. A key part of his ministry has been

to implement significant organisational leadership and structural change, and he is committed to investing in lay leadership. He helped create the ECG conference and has been part of its leadership team over the last 10 years, and established the 'Navigating Change' conference hosted at Swan Bank Methodist Church, now in its third year.

Rev Rachel Deigh, the Chair of the Cliff College Committee, said: "The Cliff College Committee is excited with this appointment and believes that Ashley is the right person to lead the college into the future. We assure him of our prayers as he prepares to take up this post." 12 June 2017 Connexional website

# INTERNATIONAL AID TRUST

Our Harvest Thanksgiving service will be on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> October. As last year, we are responding to a request for knitted blankets of any size as well as knitted clothing, particularly for teenage boys and men. We are also collecting knitted squares which can then be made into blankets. There is an option to support the work by providing toothbrushes and toothpaste. Any donations of wool are also welcome.

The donated items will be collected by International Aid Trust on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> October around 11.00 - 11.15am. You are welcome to come and have coffee, meet the driver and help carry bags to the van.

Many thanks

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



This Church raised £2,915.50 for **Christian Aid** in May's house to house collection – £265 more than last year!



# Our next collection of items for the charity Mind will on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2017

Following our previous collection of items for the charity Mind we are planning a repeat collection on **Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> July** and Mind have kindly offered to make a small donation to church funds. Mind Charity bags will be available in the church foyer from the end of June, please help yourself to as many as you need; of course any strong bag may be used.

As with previous collections we will be collecting all items that you would normally give to a charity shop with the exception of books. Shoes should be secured together in pairs, whilst all toys and bric-a-brac should be in separate bags, or better still, in a tomato box or similar (available from supermarkets) as this will save us having to repack your items.

As you are aware we have very little room to store items for any length of time and it is for this reason that we are asking everyone to return your bags on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> July between 10.00 am and 12 noon, when the Family Committee will be holding a coffee morning.

Mind will be collecting our items on **Monday 24<sup>th</sup> July**.

Please support the charity Mind and church funds, by donating and asking your family and friends for unwanted items.

If you need any assistance with getting your filled bags to church, please speak to a member of the Family Committee or Church Steward.

Thank you - Church Family Committee

When you blow in a dog's face they gets mad at you, but when they travel in a car they always want to stick their heads out of the window. Why, for goodness sake?

## THE SEPTEMBER HERALD

Closing date for submissions will be 16<sup>th</sup> August (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 **September** Herald will be available for you to pick up from **25<sup>th</sup> August**. 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

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.

From 23 July, our Minister, Rev John Wiseman, is available in the church office (871592) on Tuesdays and Thursdays. The light by the door shows red when he is engaged. You can leave messages for him in the Minister's pigeonhole, or please call him or leave a message at home on 261769 or via his email jwiserev@hotmail.co.uk If there is no reply and there is an immediate emergency, phone Rev John Payne 0161 483 4952. The church office is open on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9.00am until 1.00pm. For Church Notices and office queries please contact: office@poyntonmethodist.org Our Children and Young People's Worker, Annie Truman may be in the office between 9.00am and 3.00pm on Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday and her email is annie@poyntonmethodist.org

#### **EVERY WEEKDAY**

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

#### MONDAY

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

#### **TUESDAY**

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

#### WEDNESDAY

- 5-6.00pm #2<sup>nd</sup> Poynton Rainbows (Sue Dyson 07515 883 585)
- 6.00-7.30pm #2<sup>nd</sup> Poynton Brownies (Catherine Potts 07979 955 804)
- 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 #1<sup>st</sup> Poynton Guides (Georgia Eyre 07989 360 850)
- 7.30-9.30pm \*Ladies' Fellowship (Sandra Townsend 878563)
- 7.30pm \*Prayer and Praise 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.