



THE HERALD



The Methodist Church

in Poynton

SEPTEMBER 2017

Delivered by
your pastoral visitor, who can be contacted on.....

Our Church Family encourages everyone...

- **To come to worship God who loves us**
- **To follow Jesus Christ our Saviour**
- **To grow in fellowship, joy and love, and**
- **To go out, share the Good News and serve in the world.**

MUMBLINGS FROM THE MANSE

September 2017

Where has the time gone? Is it really a year since we started out on the journey that we have all travelled for the past 12 months; one in which we have explored the practices and activities of the early church? I am of course talking about their 'Holy Habits', the things that they did individually and collectively as a community of faith as they remembered, reflected upon and then put into practice the things they had learned from their time with Jesus. And we have followed suit, albeit it at a distance of 2,000 years, by eating, praying, worshipping, sharing fellowship, breaking bread, exploring scripture (in church and in house groups) and then putting our insights into service by giving to others with joy and generosity as an outworking of our discipleship. Or at least that's what we should have been doing. And I include myself in that statement.

So at the end of our journey I wonder at what points did you join in with all the various things that were being offered? At what moments did you take a leap of faith and step out of your comfort zone? When was the light bulb moment that made you realise that if you want to walk on water, well you have to get out of the boat! And here is the \$64,000 dollar question...has the past 12 months made us individually and as a family of faith better disciples? Have those different themes that we have explored each month simply been a flash in the pan or have they indeed become a habit, something that we put into practice almost without thinking, things that have become not only part of our 'doing' but also part of our 'being'.

And if we are better disciples (and I hope we are) then are we now equipped to go out there to make more disciples? Because it's only

by going out there that it's really going to happen. The hardest part of Holy Habits was always going to be taking those habits out into the streets of this village, connecting with those who don't come to church, making a difference to those who perhaps think 'the church' is irrelevant and of little use to their lives. How much of what we have done during our year of Holy Habits has involved the community out there? Have we done anything that could be classified as mission or evangelism during the past 12 months? Do the rest of the village even know what we have been doing?

Mission, outreach, evangelism...call it what you will, it's always the hardest part of being the living body of Christ. It's just a good job that the early church didn't struggle in the way that we, and that means the church as a whole, appears to do.

Who knows, perhaps we could learn something from them after all.

Love and light

Rev John

GREEN CLOSE HARVEST FESTIVAL SERVICE



SUNDAY 17th SEPTEMBER 2017

Afternoon at 2.30pm

Preacher: Rev John Wiseman

A warm welcome is extended to everyone

Tea available after the Service

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

**SUNDAY SERVICES AT POYNTON
IN SEPTEMBER.**

Date	10.30am UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED	
3 rd Sept	9.00am Med	Rev John Wiseman HC
10 th	Chris Hawkyard	
17 th	9.00am Rev Amanda Boon HC	Catharine Hughes Café Service
24 th	Theo Eaves	
1 st Oct	9.00am Med	Rev John Wiseman HC

**SUNDAY SERVICES AT GREEN CLOSE
IN SEPTEMBER.**

Date	2.30 pm
3 rd Sept	Rev John Wiseman
10 th	Adrian Law
17 th	Rev John Wiseman HC
24 th	Alan Rashleigh
1 st Oct	Stewart Bradley

HC Holy Communion

Stepping Hill 10.00am 24th September Alan Rashleigh

Woodlands 11.00am. 10th September Theo Eaves

POLDARK AND METHODISM

What's the truth behind the story of the 'Methodies' in Cornwall in the late 18th Century? See pages 29/32 or read the full article here:

<http://www.methodist.org.uk/who-we-are/history/methodism-in-poldark>

PRAYER AT PMC



Midday Prayers

This is a reminder that prayers are said daily at noon every weekday in the Prayer Corner.

The list for prayer is in the pocket on the cupboard door at the side of the main entrance. If you wish to add a name please ask the person's permission first.

The Prayer Group meets every Tuesday morning at 9.45am again in the Prayer Corner apart from the third Tuesday of the month (**21st September**) when we meet for breakfast first at the Kingfisher. We would love you to join us.

There is also a prayer chain set up for urgent prayer. Simply contact me if you wish link yourself to the chain. Let me know any urgent requests for prayer and I will immediately text your message.

Mandy Hawkyard

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 **3rd September**.

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



THURSDAY COMMUNION

This is always on the **third** Thursday of the month at midday followed by a light lunch. See you there on **21st September**.

TUESDAY SERVICE



Tuesday 5th September is the date of our next Tuesday Service when we can sit and revel in the beautiful flowers that by then will be in front of each Holy Habit Banner.

If you have never been to this Service before: it lasts about half an hour and is followed by a delicious buffet lunch of sandwiches, fruit and homemade cakes. We simply ask for a minimum donation of £3 to cover our costs.



There are usually around 25 of us but we would love to see more people – please accept this invitation to join us – and why not invite a friend?

Mandy Hawkyard

Praise and Prayer

We are not meeting until further notice as we wish to support Café Church – see separate notice.

MIDDAY PRAYERS

HELP - Although we advertise that prayers are said every weekday at noon we are unable, at the moment, to make true this statement, due to people who have been on the rota for many years being unable to take their usual turn. Some are not in good health and others have moved out of the area.

I implore you to pray about this and find out if it is YOU who is missing from the Rota. Desperately needed are people to pray once a month, for approximately 30 minutes, particularly on a Wednesday or Thursday.

It is not an arduous task; there is a prayer list on the cupboard door by the entrance. Just pick it up, take it into the prayer corner at the back of the church and use that as a guide to prayer. People are in need of prayer, you could be the answer to mine.

I am usually to be found in church with Kit, please speak to me for further information. If you cannot find me, please give me a ring on 01625 871745. Thank you in anticipation.

Jean Drinkwater

*Some prayer resources that you may in general find useful:

- **'Day by Day'** - prayers for a 'spiritual five-a-day' in support of this year's Presidential and Vice-Presidential theme. Available as a booklet from **Methodist Publishing** or to **download from the Methodist website**.
- **Bible notes** for a reading from Acts 2 to which the same theme relates (**download from the Methodist website**).
- The new **Prayer Handbook** for 2017/18, from Methodist Publishing
- **Resources, activities and prayer ideas** from the Manchester and Stockport Methodist District website

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



'The Amazing Technicolor Pyjama Therapy' and other ways to fight back against life-changing illness by Emily Ackerman.
Published by Muddy Pearl at £9.99

This book is very different from anything I have ever seen. The author was ill for a long time and she cried out to God for help. Emily worked as a doctor before she was ill and she states in the book "Now I am a patient." The idea of the book is to focus on the light of hope rather than darkness. It is light reading and easy to digest as Emily knows very well from personal experience that sick people do not have a great deal of energy.

Emily writes as a believing Christian. She says that her faith has been more than a crutch, more than a stretcher. Each chapter has a lovely line drawing, some words about a piece of scripture which she says it would be a good idea to read alongside the book if you have the energy, three questions for reflection and a few words from very well known people. There is good news from the Bible about living abundantly and usefully with illness.

After twenty three years of poor health and increasing disability Emily is gratefully recovering. Flowers do not seem to be accepted by hospitals anymore and if a person is at home, arranging flowers is often the last thing they feel able to do. Therefore this book would make a very suitable alternative gift for those who are ill and suffering and anyone who cares for them.

HYMNOLOGY ON A MONDAY MORNING - 24

'To God be the glory' Words by Frances Jane van Alstyne (Fanny Crosby) (1820-1915)

Nigel Swinford, musician and broadcaster, one of the regular conductors of 'Songs of Praise' remembers as a small boy of seven listening to the radio. John Snagge is saying, "Now we go over to White City where Billy Graham is speaking. Before the American evangelist speaks, every person in the stadium stands to sing Fanny Crosby's hymn. 'To God be the Glory'."

This, Nigel Swinford remembers is how his Christian faith took off. He wrote, "I know I was only seven, but at that moment I was convinced that this was the way I wanted to go, the Rubicon I wanted to cross. I was converted at the age of seven, listening to the BBC that night. I knew I could, like thousands upon thousands of people, almost like the whole country it seemed to me, move on."

It wasn't all emotion, and it wasn't even a comfortable experience to hear Billy Graham. I've been reading Martin Luther recently, who said, "the first duty of a preacher of the gospel is to show a man his sin. You need to understand the down side to experience the up. That's what you get with Billy Graham and with Moody and Sankey hymns, and it always leads on to the release from sin, the redemption which comes, and, I think, sends you onto cloud nine."

The BBC Songs of Praise booklet says that in Swinford's den in his home on the hills above Oldham we see organ, computer and piano, and also an overflowing archive of revivalist music, especially the partnership of Dwight L. Moody and Ira D. Sankey, and that other extraordinary American, Fanny Crosby, the blind teacher and hymn-writer with more than 8,000 hymns to her name.

Nigel Swinford says that 'To God be the Glory' is one of Crosby's best. "It's typical of a Sankey hymn, full of content, telling the story so well that you could say it in rhyme even if you couldn't sing it. And

after each verse there is an easily remembered chorus for you to respond to the story."

Fanny Crosby's hymns do not tell people what to do, but what God has done for them. Another of her hymns, often used in the Billy Graham campaigns, is 'Blessed Assurance'.

This hymn appeared in W. H. Doane's 'Songs of Devotion' (1870) for use in Sunday schools, was made popular by Sankey and first came into the Methodist Hymn Book in 1933 as Hymn 313. It remains in 'Singing the Faith as Hymn 94.

Psalm 126.3; **Luke 6.43**; John 3.16; Heb. 2.17; Rev 5.9

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

IS CHRISTIANITY JUST FOR SUNDAYS? (CAFÉ CHURCH 2)

Following a successful first café church-style service, our new church venture is continuing to its second service on:

Sunday 3rd September at 4.00pm

2017 SEPTEMBER						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3 +	4	5	6	7	8	9
10 +	11	12	13	14	15	16
17 +	18	19	20	21	22	23
24 +	25	26	27	28	29	30

After having looked at Evangelism as our Holy Habit for August, the next service will be on the theme "**IS CHRISTIANITY JUST FOR SUNDAYS?**" In our new church format, we will be thinking, discussing and praying about 'everyday Christianity' and how this can reflect who we are as a person, as well as our worship.

The idea behind the café church style format is to have a more interactive style of service, with more chatter (we are considering

changing the name of our venture to 'Chatter Church!'), more energy and more tea/cake! If that sounds like something that would suit you, why not come along to our next service?

For this service only, we are asking you to do a little homework beforehand! As part of the service, we will be discussing our individual Mission Styles (as talked about in a previous Herald article) - the information will be posted on Facebook, Twitter and sent out via the email chain, but as a short intro.:

Mission styles is a project set up by Fusion UK, in which you take a short (about 10 mins) quiz to discover the style of worship that suits you best. Even if you're not coming to café church, it is a very useful resource for personal worship, so we can recommend it! The quiz will sort you into one of four groups, telling you your strengths, some ideas about how to discover/ strengthen your faith and some areas which you may be able to work on.

We are asking everyone to try and complete the quiz before the service if they can; if not then there will be a few computers there on which you can do the quiz!

All you need to do is:

1. Follow this link:
<https://www.missionstyles.org/group/48RSii4ZRuWFWiWW2L4pw6> ,
2. Input your email address and name (if you need one, contact me and you can borrow one!)
3. Take the quiz
4. Note down/ remember your result (though this will be available at the service if you forget)
5. Turn up to the service on 3rd September at 4.00pm

(If you have any problems, please contact Helen on helenbeth@hotmail.co.uk or 260451)

We look forward to seeing you there!

Helen Holmes, Sally Holmes, Catharine Hughes, Richard Baker and Mandy Hawkyard

ANNIE'S "MESSY" RAMBLINGS

The morning of 3rd August saw our church packed with young children and their carers: Mums; Dads; Grandparents. Nursery rhymes were playing from the sound system, thanks to John, and the room was buzzing as people moved from table to table to take part in different activities. The prayer corner was set up for babies and toddlers, the kitchen was alive with food preparation and Room 3 was requisitioned as a buggy/pram park. This was the second Messy church that we have held since I began work here in January and I want to send a HUGE thank you to all the helpers. I also want to add an explanation for those of you who do not know what it is all about.

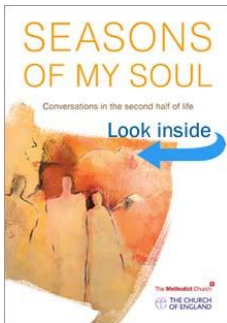
"Messy Church" aims to provide a completely informal style of church. It is for everyone regardless of age and the idea is to include a range of craft activities, food, games, discussion, singing and stories. The objective is for the Messy congregation to become a worshipping congregation in its own right. We need to keep these aspirations **constantly** in the forefront of our minds in order to prevent Messy church becoming a glorified children's club, where adults feel that they are only there to care for their children. In my experience this is an ongoing battle but I believe that it is imperative that we keep on trying.

The practise of eating together is one of the most important parts of Messy church, whether it is a snack, a picnic brought from home or a cooked meal. We have been learning of the value of "table fellowship" through the Holy Habits series and I do not believe that it can be emphasised enough. It is a very significant part of being church family together and the founders of the Messy idea see it as essential.

I would like to end by encouraging as many of you as can, to come along to the next Messy. You would be warmly and very noisily welcomed...watch this space.

Annie Truman

LIFE: PART TWO



'SEASONS OF MY SOUL' is a resource devised by the Methodist Church and the Church of England designed and aimed at people who have entered the second half of life. (Which, if we are honest, applies to 90% of our congregations.) So it's aimed at **YOU**.

It is designed to engage with eight themes that have particular significance in the second half of life, all explored within the context of the Christian faith and the journey we are all undertaking. It will provide a way to reflect back on the past, engage with the present and look forward to the future.

The eight themes that will be covered are:

- **Identity**:- exploring who we are and what that might mean to each one of us
- **Transition times (change)**:- exploring the important moments of transition in our life
- **Memories**:- exploring our past as we remember it today
- **Wisdom**:- what we think it means to be wise, how we have discovered wisdom and who has helped us make those discoveries
- **Roles and relationships**:- what our purpose and priorities are now
- **Forgiveness and reconciliation**:- exploring how we can offer and receive wholeness and healing through being channels of God's grace
- **Death and dying**:- how we can move towards the end of life with purpose, grace and dignity
- **Celebration of Life**: - how we can celebrate life in all its fullness

Rev John Wiseman will be running this as a **circuit event** with sessions moving around our 5 churches. Each session will be repeated so that you will have two opportunities each month to come along

and share in this new adventure. The days on which these sessions will be held will also change to give as many people as possible a chance to take part. The sessions will avoid Advent and Lent to allow churches to hold their own bible study groups during these times of the year.

The dates for the first three sessions are below. The book that Rev John will be using for the course is currently available from Methodist Publishing for £5.50 should you wish to pick up your own copy. In addition to these study sessions Rev John will be showing a film and recommending a book each month to tie in with each individual theme.

Theme 1 Identity

Poynton Methodist Church Wednesday 13th Sept 10.30am – 2.30pm

Windlehurst Methodist Church Tuesday 19th Sept 10.30am – 2.30pm

Theme 2 Transition times / Change

Dialstone Lane Methodist Church Tuesday 17th Oct 10.30am – 2.30pm

Green Close Methodist Church Friday 20th Oct 10.30am – 2.30pm

Theme 3 Memories

Poynton Methodist Church Monday 13th Nov 10.30am – 2.30pm

Hazel Grove Methodist Church Wednesday 15th Nov 10.30am – 2.30pm

Themes are opened up for discussion and exploration using interactive conversation tools, Bible texts, creative activities, social action topics, prayer and worship.

Doug Swanney, Connexional Secretary for the Methodist Church says, "Seasons of My Soul is a creative way of offering us an opportunity to explore themes which are often avoided but which, when examined, can lead to the most amazing possibilities for us all."

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

THANK YOU LETTERS



May I thank everyone for the lovely flowers I received on Sunday 6th August which Eileen brought. It cheered me after a difficult week.

Nadia Garner x

We would like to thank everyone for their cards and surprise gift which we received on our move to Hartford. We have bought a lovely picture for our new apartment with the gift voucher. We are settling in well and enjoying being surrounded by a lovely garden which doesn't involve us in any work! We hope to see you all again when we come over to share in some of your events. God bless and many thanks again for all the love and support we received whilst members of PMC.

David & Dianne Jones

We would like to thank everyone for their concern and kindness when Mart had an accident recently. He was watering the garden and found himself lying on the drive as his replacement hip had come out of position. He ended up in Stepping Hill and had the hip 'manipulated' the next afternoon. Unfortunately the day after he started with a chest infection, possibly due to the time he was lying on the concrete drive and he then had to stay in hospital for ten days. He was not allowed to get into a car for six weeks as it was important not to bend at all. Luckily he is now driving again and hoping that nothing like that happens again.

We would also like to thank all our friends at PMC for the congratulations and good wishes following our Diamond Wedding Anniversary. We must mention that we are grateful to Sally Holmes for making a cake for us to celebrate with everyone at Church. Sally had only just returned from holiday and made the cake and iced it in time - thank you Sally!

Janet and Mart Rodger

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

Congratulations to **Janet & Mart Rodger** whose 60th Wedding Anniversary was on 3rd August 2017. They were married at Handforth Methodist Church by the Reverend William Houchin. We all enjoyed a slice of cake after the morning service on 6th August (it was delicious, Sally!)

Congratulations also to **Ann and Malcolm Stephenson** who are celebrating their Golden Wedding Anniversary on 23rd September.

Sarah Joan Withers

We are sorry to announce the death of **Joan Withers** recently. She was a long-term resident at Parklands who attended on Sunday mornings when possible. She featured in a special article here earlier this year (March pp 20/21) concerning her 100th birthday. Her funeral took place at Stockport Crematorium on 15th August. We keep Joan's family and friends in our prayers.

Ken Coombes

We regret to announce the death of **Ken Coombes** on 17th July. Ken and Hilda who used to worship at Wood Lanes were regular attenders for coffee here on Mondays and Fridays and at other times at the Baptist Church. His funeral was here at PMC on 18th August. We keep Hilda and the extended family in our prayers.

Baptisms:

We send our love to **Donna and Andrew Hawkyard** and their son **Joshua James** and also to **Joanna and Stephen Parkinson** and their daughter **Abigail Joanna** with whom we celebrated the baptism of the children in our service on 20th August.

Removal:

We extend our best wishes to **Barbara and Ray Brown** for a speedy settling-in to their new home in Hunstanton and thank them for all they have contributed to our worship and fellowship over the years.

Best wishes also to **Richard Baker** as he takes up his new job at Bramhall Methodist Church.

HILDA HALLWORTH

Hilda Hallworth was born in Gorton on 3rd October 1927 and died on 26th May 2017 in a Care Home in Macclesfield.

Her early holidays were spent in Higher Poynton, to which her family, which included three brothers, eventually relocated. When Hilda left school she became a textile tracer although work-wise she is perhaps best remembered for her involvement with Bancroft's bakery which was on Clumber Road.

Hilda led a very varied life. She married Eric and had two sons, Andrew and Simon, and later there were grandchildren. At one time she was captain of Poynton Ladies Hockey team with Eric acting as referee. She was also involved with the Macclesfield branch of Samaritans, taking her turn manning the 'phones.

One of her great loves was Poynton Band with which she was involved for many years. She was also involved with Poynton Show and had her place in the President's tent.

Hilda was a diabetic resulting in various associated health problems in later years. However, she did not give up and stated that her middle name was 'Determination'. Peter Went visited regularly and Hilda enjoyed his visits very much. It was during these later years that Hilda came to Poynton Methodist Church attending the evening service. She had a new experience of the Lord and realised that she wanted to become a Church Member here. When our regular evening services ended we went to Dialstone Lane together and the congregation there made us very welcome. Hilda really enjoyed going there when she was able.

It was fitting that Poynton Band played at her funeral service and included her favourite hymn, 'The day Thou gavest'. As both John Wiseman and Peter Went were away at the time, Rev Amanda Boon, who knew her at Dialstone Lane, took the service.

Hilda was a lovely lady who will be missed by many.

Hilary Parry

WE'RE A TRAVELLING, WANDERING RACE, WE'RE THE PEOPLE OF GOD...

First the Jones, now the Browns!

In just a few short weeks, we have moved from a conversation about our future, to the choice of a Retirement Living apartment in Hunstanton, Norfolk, to putting our house on the market with a part-exchange company, to an anticipated moving date of 1st September.

We have been in Poynton for thirteen years, and will take with us many happy memories of our time here, especially of friendships made.

They have been turbulent years for us, and we leave with a sense of reaching the end of a sad chapter in our life's story, whilst embarking on an exciting last adventure. Our years in Poynton have been marked by loss. Barbara's brother, my three sisters, and our beloved Sally have all passed on, leaving a void in our lives.

We are grateful to all those among you who have supported us with your care and friendship and especially for the support you gave us in establishing Sally's Place. Watching it become a centre of excellence and a model for similar work growing throughout the region has been a real healing for us. And the sight of hundreds of smiling faces of children, whose lives have been transformed in her name, is a constant reminder to us of the love Sally brought to our family, and the friends who support us in our loss.

We are moving closer to the one son who lives in England, to some life-long friends ...and to the seaside, fulfilling a long held dream!

We calculate that this will be our seventeenth house move since our marriage fifty eight years ago! Who knows whether it will be the last? As with every other move, it is people we will miss, and new experiences and challenges we look forward to. Truly part of a wandering, travelling race, among the people of God!

Barbara and Ray Brown

THANK YOU FROM MALCOLM

Thank you to all the people who came to share in the Service of Celebration on the evening of Sunday 25th June to mark my 50 years as a Local Preacher. It was good to be joined by so many friends which helped to make the service so enjoyable.

Particular thanks go to Barbara Ogle who preached at the service. Barbara is the daughter of John and Elsie Camp who for many years were members of the churches at Clumber Road and subsequently at Poynton before moving to Congleton. John was my mentor during my training as a Local Preacher so it was a particular joy to have Barbara participating in the service.

Thanks also go to Rev. Amanda Boon who took so much care to ensure that the service matched my particular favourites, the ladies who provided the refreshments and flowers, and to our organist, John, whom I particularly wanted to play. So you will see it was for me a really memorable occasion and I am very grateful to you all.

There was a further surprise when, during the Annual Church Meeting on Sunday 30th July, The Rev. John unexpectedly produced and presented my delayed certificate from the President of Conference. I value this very much and am also grateful to have received it.

In chatting to people afterwards it became clear that many did not know our background so I thought it might be helpful if I gave some brief details. Pat and I moved to Poynton 54 years ago and have lived in the same house since then. We were members of Clumber Rd. until it closed. Our friends in Bollington, Sally and Ross Wrigley suggested that we join them at the church there. We were members there until it too closed a few years ago when we returned to PMC. Both Pat and I held a range of offices within the two churches.

Malcolm Burgess

COME AND ENJOY

"BANNERS BOUQUETS & BARBEQUE"

Saturday 2nd September
from 2.00pm



Invite your friends!



Followed by a Family Barbeque at 5.00pm

£4 per person or £12 for a family ticket.

Tickets available from Judy Gibbons or Linda Grant

SEASONS OF MY SOUL

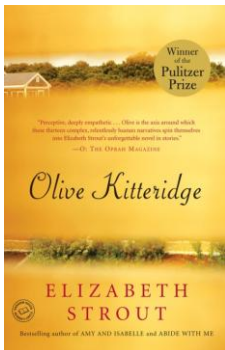
As part of Seasons of my Soul, I will continue to show a film each month and facilitate reading a book linked in with each particular theme.



So for the first month of September which looks at **Identity** we shall watch the film '**Bend it like Beckham**'. This is a vibrant and colourful British comedy about a young girl from a Sikh family who desperately wants to play football against the wishes of her traditional parents.

Caught in a clash between the traditions of her family's Indian culture and the background of modern day Britain, will Jess get caught offside as she strives to carve out an identity for herself without losing her family in the process? Exploring the themes of *Friendship, Growing up, Family, Culture clashes, Sexism, Racism and Identity*, this is a film that really hits the back of the net!

We will show the film on Saturday 9th September at 7.30pm with the discussion taking place on Monday 11th September at 7.30pm.



The book that we shall be reading is 'Olive Kitteridge' by Elizabeth Strout. This is a collection of 13 short stories about a group of ordinary people living in a small town in Maine, their joys, sorrows, tragedies and grief. All centre on the main character, Olive Kitteridge, sometimes as the main focus of the story, at other times appearing as a peripheral figure. Each story is presented from different viewpoints and shows Olive's many sides as she interacts with family,

neighbours and friends, as she experiences age, loneliness, grief and love. It is available from EBay/Amazon for about £5.

The discussion for this book will take place on **Sunday 24th September at 7.00pm**

Rev John

LADIES' FELLOWSHIP

We had a very successful social evening in June, when we had a Faith supper and our programmes for our next six months were distributed

In July, 12 of us went for lunch to the 3 Bears. Unfortunately one or two people were ill so couldn't come along. We enjoyed the meal and plenty of chatter and laughter was heard from various tables.

September 7th is the date that we start our next Ladies' Fellowship programme, when the Offerton Methodist Choir, led by Linda Houston will be entertaining us with their music. This meeting will be led by Sandra Townsend.

Please note that for our first two meetings in September we will be seated in our usual places, and thereafter will be seated in the first two sections nearest to the organ pipes.

September 21st is an Open Evening.



We have invited our Minister Rev. John to give us a slide show of his 'faith walk' entitled "Shuffling to Santiago". This meeting will begin at our usual time of 7.45pm, and will be led by Marjorie Harrop.

Admission is £3...all proceeds will go to the Ladies Fellowship charity for 2017-18 which is 'Riding for the disabled'.



Sandra Townsend

THE WALK

We all know of THE WAY, THE TRUTH AND THE LIGHT, but until recently did any of us know of THE WAY – the Camino Way – a walk of some 800 km from St Jean Pied de Port to Santiago De Compostella? I only came to know of it through my beloved daughter Carole who was determined to do the walk one day, when she got fit enough. Sadly she died last year but her interest in the walk is still with me.

When I heard that Rev John was planning to go (and indeed has now achieved his goal) I followed his regular blogs with interest. Since his return Rev. John has compiled a book of his experiences and recently I was lucky enough to borrow a copy from the church. I have only praise and admiration for his determined effort to walk so far and achieve so much. The book entitled 'Shuffling to Santiago' is a masterpiece of human endeavour and I urge you to get a copy and read it where, like me, you will be retracing his every step, albeit sometimes with pain ridden feet!

On 21st September, Rev. John will be at a Ladies' Fellowship Open Evening at Poynton Methodist Church with film and talk. I hope to join you there.

Janet Jones

PROPERTY UPDATE

*Three new lamps fitted in foyer and gent's w.c (church).

*Repair to opening window of Room 3.

*Office door closer re-calibrated.

*Repair to curtain rails Room 2.

*Red topped tables re-painted.

*All fire extinguishers and alarm systems tested and certified. New CO₂ extinguisher fitted in office.

*LINCAT boiler de-scaled and new filter fitted.

*New wooden top for FONT made and fitted.

Derek Garner (PMC Property Committee)

(NEW) HOUSEGROUP

Meeting on Mondays, starting **18th September at 7.30pm**, I am going to lead a house group, meeting at Zoë & Stephen Dawson's home (9 Charlecote Road, Poynton). We are going to look at the book of Isaiah - one of the most quoted Old Testament books in the New Testament.

If you are interested in coming, please can you let Zoe or Catharine know, so that we have an idea of numbers - or just turn up on the night.

Thank you!

Catharine Hughes 07925 144681

From the introduction to Isaiah in 'The Message' bible:

"The book of Isaiah is expansive, dealing with virtually everything that is involved in being a people of God on this planet Earth. The impressive art of Isaiah involves taking the stuff of our ordinary and often disappointing human experience and showing us how it is the very stuff that God uses to create and save and give hope. As this vast panorama opens up before us, it turns out that nothing is unusable by God. He uses everything and everybody as material for his work, which is the remaking of the mess we have made of our lives."

PRINTING FACILITIES

Members of the congregation are reminded that we have some surplus capacity to carry out non-church printing on their behalf. Arrangements can be discussed with Betty Law at the Church office on Tuesday or Thursday mornings.

To minimise administration, payment must be made with the request (please note that we do not keep change in the office) and completed printing will be left in the pigeonholes in the foyer.

STEWARDS' REPORT

This year has been dominated by our Holy Habits theme. It has been an exciting and challenging time with worship, books, films, study groups and banners all focused in one direction each month. Now comes the inevitable question: "What shall we do next year?" We now know that it will be Rev. John's last year with us and we shall certainly miss his stream of ideas when he goes.

Our new Children and Family Worker, Annie Truman, has taken up the challenge of relating with schools, pre-school and Mother and Toddlers with gusto but recruiting young families to mainstream church-based activities, especially worship, is a thorny problem for us all.

We were glad to welcome Steve Hughes to our number this year and with the help of 'friends' especially Christine Ding and Nadia Garner we have managed.

David Dippie has continued to help out with the rota for the services. The good news is Marie Moncaster has agreed to come onto the team in September as I leave. However Roger is reaching the end of his term too so we need at least one more recruit. More would be even better. Noreen has agreed to take over as Senior Steward with assistance from Alison for the coming year.

There are many others who deserve our thanks and I would particularly like to express our gratitude to Jane Robson (Treasurer and Young Church), Derek Garner (Property), John Turner (Pastoral) and Helen Ives (Room Bookings and heating) with apologies to those I have not mentioned.

It has been a stressful time for Mandy and me this year but thanks to the Lord and our friends here at PMC we have got through it.

Shalom

Chris Hawkyard

THE CHRISTIAN IN CURRENT DAY BRITAIN

We ran an article in the July/August Herald headlined 'The Persecuted Christian' hoping to start a debate on the rôle of the Christian in current society. We've only had one contribution, but a valued one at that, which we publish below. It's not too late to join in the discussion, but before you do, please re-read the original on page 17/18 to jog your memory – if you still have the July edition.

Politicians should mix politics with religion. Religion affects all areas of life. George Thomas, former Speaker of the House of Commons wondered if he should continue preaching, but he decided he should as he became a preacher before he went to Parliament. Fiona Bruce, MP for Congleton and Andrew Stephenson MP for Pendle are two MPs who show that politics and religion (in their case Christianity) do mix.

The media is often hostile to Christianity, but in this country less hostile to religion in general. I'm not quite sure why but it may be connected to the trend which seems to be against Christianity.

I don't believe that this nation has ever been able to call itself a Christian nation – there is no such thing; you will never find a country where everyone is Christian.

This nation can only ever recover its faith by those of us who are Christians being prepared to stand up in the face of opposition for what we believe. When we are prepared to stand against things that are anti-Christian this can be a particularly good witness. I found this to be true in my working life.

We can also stand up for Christian values by supporting the work of The Christian Institute or similar organisations in the UK. They publish regular newsletters and are also on Facebook and Twitter. Their website is <http://www.christian.org.uk/> and they are at Wilberforce House, 4 Park Road, Gosforth, Newcastle upon Tyne NE12 8DG. Telephone 0191 2815664.

Hilary Parry

WOODLEY METHODIST CHURCH

Woodley MC is playing host to **The Vernon Building Society (Poynton) Brass Band**, as they put on a **Christmas Concert on Friday 1st December 2017 at 7.30pm.**

The Vernon Building Society (Poynton) Brass Band is one of the North-West's premiere brass bands. Delighting audiences throughout the year with original and entertaining concert programmes, the band is a regular prize-winner at contests throughout the country.

Following the band's victory at the Regional Championships in Blackpool in 2016 it now competes in the Championship Section with some of the finest ensembles in the brass band world. It is currently directed by Stig Maersk who developed his musical career in Denmark.

Recent highlights in the bands diary have included:

- Performing the World Premiere of *The Anson*. Composed by Jonathan Taylor, The Anson was commissioned by The Anson Engine Museum to celebrate the 150th Anniversary of the internal combustion engine.
- Being the last ever brass band to record in the BBC's famous Studio 7 on Oxford Road with a performance that was broadcast on BBC Radio 2.
- Finishing 2nd in the National Championships (1st Section) in Cheltenham in September 2016

Tickets are £8.00 each and will be available from 22nd October by telephoning Phil Taylor on 0161 430 8518

You can order in advance and collect on the door. If you are not able to attend after all, please let Phil know so that he has the opportunity to resell them as the numbers are limited by Health & Safety & Fire regulations.

HAVE YOU SEEN THE LIGHTS?

Do you go to Blackpool illuminations? This year the 'Jesus light' will appear as part of them and will be seen by an estimated 52 million people over its fifteen year life-span.

The display is 15 feet tall by 10 feet wide and shows a dark Good Friday cross which transforms into a resurrection scene proclaiming the message, 'I am the Resurrection and the Life'. The light will be lit from 1st September to 5th November 2017.

It was originally switched on in front of a crowd of well-wishers singing 'Shine Jesus, Shine' at Easter this year by the Bishop of Lancaster Rt. Rev Geoff Pearson who was joined by the Mayor of Blackpool Councillor Kath Rowson at a dedication service for the monument on Queen's Promenade.

Churches in the town have joined forces to raise money towards this £25,000 new light show opposite Uncle Tom's Cabin on Queen's Promenade. Bishop Geoff said: "This is a fantastic initiative by Churches on the Fylde Coast and I warmly encourage other churches across Lancashire to take part by donating towards paying for this display because the three million people who view the Illuminations each year deserve to know more about the saving grace of Jesus Christ." Surplus donations will be retained for future maintenance work.



Hilary Parry and internet sources

THE 'METHODIES' IN *POLDARK* SEASON 3

Abridged from <http://www.methodist.org.uk/who-we-are/history/methodism-in-poldark>



The Poldark books by Winston Graham and the current TV adaptation demonstrate that you cannot tell the story of mining in Cornwall in the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries without the story of Methodism in Cornwall. But how much of the current popular TV adaptation or the books reflect the truth of Methodism in the 1790s?

It's a good story! But...

The most important factor is that the books are fiction and the TV series is designed as entertainment: one would look to neither for historical accuracy necessarily! In its earliest, enthusiastic phases, Methodism could be like the books and TV series depict them - but that was around the 1740s and at its worst. What is depicted in Poldark is a caricature of Methodism from 50 years before. Methodism in Cornwall by the late 1790s was not as the TV series depicts it.

Early Methodism in Cornwall

John, and occasionally Charles, Wesley, the most prominent of the founders of Methodism, began visiting Cornwall in 1743 and had made 32 visits by 1787. They were not welcomed initially as their rules and 'method' did not suit established eighteenth-century religious life. Religion was dominated by a Church of England controlled by the middle ranking gentry who wanted tenants to be passive, obedient to them and committed to providing them with labour. Methodist preachers were 'enthusiastic' and Methodism required commitment of heart, and time for prayer and 'class' meetings where faith was nurtured.

Minor gentry, as depicted in Poldark by the rival Poldarks and Warleggans, would have had responsibility for the church in their community and landowners could exert significant pressure and appoint or remove clergy - although landlords were often absent

and priests were often 'second sons' themselves, supported by the income from their parish 'living', but sometimes then preferring life in town and employing curates of varying quality and concern for the 'cure of souls' in their stead.

Wesleyan Methodism flourished among the working classes. Its social concern had no interest in parish boundaries, unlike the limited welfare offered by the Anglican churches to their parishioners. Workers in independent rural industrial communities, and later those who moved beyond their rural parishes and homes to labour in the growing industrial centres, were beyond the reach of the established churches.

Class meetings and travelling preachers suited these communities - the Wesleyans came to them. The salvation message was simple and direct and they could seek physical support, education and spiritual nurture from the Methodist societies, at a time when life could be precarious and short. Methodists often drank less and came to be considered as reliable men who were promoted and so local preachers became mine captains and rose in society.

Initially, the gentry and clergy felt threatened and were jealous of the Methodist movement's popularity, leading to disturbances being orchestrated (such as the Wednesbury riots of 1743/4) and preachers (even ordained priests like John Wesley) being barred from Anglican pulpits.

So, what's wrong with this depiction?

The TV series is set at the end of the eighteenth century: Poldark Season 3 begins in 1795. The War of the First Coalition against France broke out in 1792. The implication in the present series of Poldark has been that that conflict had largely died down, but it had broken out again. This could be the War of the Second Coalition, actually 1798-1802; a novel is not required to follow the history exactly.

In Methodist chronology, Poldark Season 3 begins after John Wesley's death in 1791. By then Methodism was fairly well

established and ordered, with 56,000 followers (which went on to peak at c1.5m in the nineteenth century). By the religious census of 1851, Cornwall was the most Methodist County in the country with 48% of worshippers in a Methodist church, and so out-numbering all the other denominations put together, including the Church of England (NB the next most Methodist County was Yorkshire, where 26% of worshippers were Methodist).

In Cornwall in 1798 there were five circuits (groups of Methodist meetings around which the ministers circulated) covering the county - Penzance, Redruth, St Austell, Plymouth and Launceston - with 19 ministers. There were 95 chapels, with two societies in their second chapel!

In the 1790s and with John Wesley dead, Wesleyan Superintendent Ministers were establishing their powers and authorities. Circuit plans (indicating who was preaching where and when) were well established and often printed; preaching was ordered, and new societies and new preaching places could not be set up without the approval of the Superintendent. Classes (the sub-groups organised within a society to encourage accountability and nurture the faith of smaller numbers) were well-defined and ordered, and the issue of 'class tickets' (i.e. a membership card) firmly established - and in the hands of the Superintendent.

By this period, relationships with the Church of England were nowhere as extreme as they had been. Active persecution had died out many years before. And although Methodism in John Wesley's eyes was a reforming movement within the Church, in Cornwall it was separated from the Church almost from its conception - Anglican churches just wouldn't have many of the Methodist converts - and the Methodists had a very low opinion of the largely absentee clergy who were their landlords!

When the Cornish mining industry collapsed the miners sought work elsewhere and many emigrated, discovering that their skills in identifying metal-bearing ores would be highly prized in Australia,

Canada and southern Africa. They took Methodism (and the Cornish pasty!) with them.

Methodism in Cornwall today

Cornwall is one of 31 modern Methodist 'districts' in Britain supporting and equipping 16 circuits of local churches of more than 6,000 people. Today, Historic England state that "Over 900 (chapels) are recorded on Cornwall's Historic Environment Record. The great majority (over 80%) are Methodist... The most active period of chapel building fell between the 1820s and 1860s, but most chapel interiors date from the 1860s. Many chapels were refronted and remodelled after the 1880s, reflecting the growing confidence and aspirations of their communities."

With thanks from the Connexional Engagement Team to the Revd Colin Short for his insights and advice about the history of Cornish Methodism.

RESULTS OF HOLIDAY WORD-SEARCH

The July/August word search was based on rivers which "lie in bed all day but never sleep". The 28 names are as follows:

AMAZON, BRAHMAPUTRA, COLORADO, DANUBE, DARLING, DELAWARE, DNEIPER, EUPHRATES, GARONNE, IRRAWADDY, LIMPOPO, MACKENZIE, MEDWAY, MERRIMACK, MEUSE, MEKONG, MISSISSIPI, MISSOURI, ORANGE, ORINOCO, PIDDLE, RIBBLE, SCHELDT, SHENANDOAH, THAMES, TIBER, TIGRIS, TWEED.

The unused letters in the grid combined to form a sentence in Psalm 46, verse 4: "There is a river that brings joy to the city of God".

I hope you enjoyed the challenge.

John Turner

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



LATEST COLLECTION LIVES UP TO EXPECTATIONS!



We are pleased to report that the latest 'Mind' collection was well supported with your usual generosity and piles of items were transported to those who need them on 24th July.

A section of the church was used to corral bags of goods which might otherwise have spilled over or escaped and various volunteers could be seen at work on sheepdog-like tasks before and after Sunday's morning service.



Even the minister's office was used to contain banana boxes full of items piled up neatly by qualified sorters and stackers. They were so busy with the many items that came in that when the minister arrived there was scarcely room to park his colourful vehicle.

We are very grateful to all who contributed to this latest collection. It serves the dual purpose of providing those who will use them with goods which we no longer require and bringing a modest addition to church funds.



SMART START via Wood Street Mission

Due to the current economic climate, for many children today being able to start school in a brand new uniform is just a dream.

Thanks to the generosity of Poynton Methodist Church that dream is about to come

true for scores of youngsters. Teaming up with Wood Street Mission in Salford, we have been able to provide school uniforms including 38 shirts, 30 polo shirts, 26 pairs of trousers, 20 pairs of socks, 11 skirts, 3 pinafores, 2 pairs of short trousers, 2 cardigans, 2 PE shorts, 1 jumper, 1 pair of pumps plus additional items of clothing and trainers.

We have also donated £261 (from Sunday's and Tuesday's congregations and the prayer group), which Wood Street Mission will use to buy any specific items of uniform that families need. Thank you to everyone who was so generous.

Zoë Dawson

COMING BEFORE YOU KNOW IT!



Sorry to mention the C word so early in the year, but here's a date for your diary:

This year's Charity Christmas Market will be on Saturday 11th November from 10.00am – 12.30pm.

It is always good to have new stalls – could you run one for your favourite charity or do you know someone who could? If the latter is true please invite them – a table costs £10. Just ask them to contact me on 01625 875032 or by email – mandy.hawkyard@btinternet.com

Thanks, **Mandy Hawkyard**

The only reason they say "Women and children first" is to check the seaworthiness of the lifeboat. – Jean Kerr

A computer once beat me at chess, but it was no match for me at kickboxing. – Emo Philips

THE OCTOBER HERALD

Closing date for submissions will be **20th September (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 **October** Herald will be available for you to pick up from **29th September**. There are events taking place in the first week of each new magazine and we hope that as many readers 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.

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Many thanks once again to all our contributors. We have no problem with those that are the work of the sender, but sometimes we receive pieces for inclusion that have appeared elsewhere. These too are welcome. If you wish to contribute in this way, please obtain permission and let us know the source so that due acknowledgement can be made.

The back page contains a list of useful contacts. You will find others in the Church Contact List, the Circuit Plan and the Circuit Directory. Our website is: **<http://www.poyntonmethodist.org>**, find us on Twitter by searching for @PoyntonMC or on Facebook via [facebook.com/poyntonmethodist](https://www.facebook.com/poyntonmethodist)

The connexional website: **<http://www.methodist.org.uk>** contains a wealth of useful and interesting information including President and Vice-President blogs about the visits they are making.

To donate furniture or arrange a house clearance and help Romania and other countries, contact Jeff Stoker, LIM Distribution Manager on 0796 7751494.

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

EVERY WEEKDAY

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

MONDAY

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

TUESDAY

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

WEDNESDAY

- 5-6.00pm #2nd Poynton Rainbows (Sue Dyson 07515 883 585)
- 6.00-7.30pm #2nd Poynton Brownies (Catherine Potts 07979 955 804)
- 7.30-9.00pm #4th Poynton Guides (Alison Southern 07905 133 073)

THURSDAY

- 9.30-11.30am Parents & Toddlers (Judy Gibbons 878016/Margaret Martin 874883)
- 12.00 noon *Communion and lunch 3rd Thursday (Rev J Wiseman 871592)
- 7.30-9.00pm #1st Poynton Guides (Georgia Eyre 07989 360 850)
- 7.30-9.30pm *Ladies' Fellowship (Sandra Townsend 878563)

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.