

# Communion

**The Magazine of the  
Hazel Grove and Poynton Methodist Churches**

**Sept 2017 – Nov 2017**



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



# Our Calling

The **Methodist** Church 

The Church exists for:

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

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

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

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

## **Priorities for the Methodist Church**

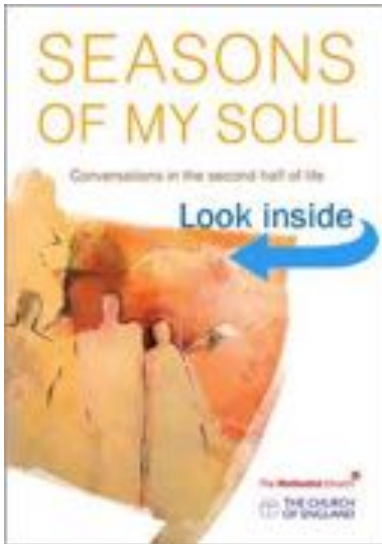
In partnership with others wherever possible, the Methodist Church will concentrate its prayers, resources, imagination and commitments

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

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

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

## Mumblings from the Ministers



Okay a slightly different mumble to start off the new connexional year. In fact it's not a mumble at all but a promotion, an advertisement, an offer if you like to come along and be part of something new and exciting happening in the circuit over the next 12 months.

I wonder how many of you think that perhaps the church spends too much of its time and resources aimed at trying to attract children and young families when in fact most of our congregations are composed of folks who are, now what's the politically correct phrase, ah yes 'chronologically blessed'.

Seasons of my Soul is a new 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 is 90% of our congregations. So that means it's aimed at **YOU**. Yes, I mean **YOU** reading this article right now. 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 do we think it means to be wise, how have we discovered wisdom and who has helped us make those discoveries
- **Roles and relationships**:- what is our purpose and priorities 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 can we move towards the end of life with purpose, grace and dignity
- **Celebration of Life**:- how can we celebrate life in all its fullness



This will be run as a **circuit event** with sessions moving around our 5 churches. Each session will be repeated so you 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. These sessions will avoid Advent and Lent to allow churches to hold their own bible study groups during these times of the year.

### **Theme 1 Identity**

Poynton Methodist Church Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> Sept 10.30am – 2.30pm

Windlehurst Methodist Church Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> Sept 10.30am – 2.30pm

### **Theme 2 Transition times / Change**

Dialstone Lane Methodist Church Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> Oct 10.30am – 2.30pm

Green Close Methodist Church Friday 20<sup>th</sup> Oct 10.30am – 2.30pm

### **Theme 3 Memories**

Hazel Grove Methodist Church Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> Nov 10.30am – 2.30pm

Poynton Methodist Church Monday 13<sup>th</sup> Nov 10.30am – 2.30pm

I will publish the dates and times of the next three sessions in the next edition of this magazine.

There is a book that accompanies the course currently available from [www.methodistpublishing.org.uk](http://www.methodistpublishing.org.uk) for £3 plus postage should you wish to get hold of one. I have left one copy of the initial A3 glossy version of the book with your senior church steward so you can have a look at it. And if you are not happy / able to order on line I am sure there is someone in your church family who can do it for you.

It promises to be an exciting time with people from our five families of faith coming together to share their own experiences and insights. All you have to do is come along, bring a packed lunch with you and be prepared to join in. For further details just contact Rev John Wiseman.

## *A life full of Justice and Holiness*

On Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> May a group of 9 worship leaders and local preachers met at Dialstone Lane Methodist Church for a study day looking at how the themes of justice and holiness could become part of their day to day lives.

# Connexion

The material was a re-working of that presented to a group of preachers from the Manchester District by the President (Revd Dr Roger Walton) and Vice-

president (Rachel Lampard) on 3<sup>rd</sup> December last year. At the end of the session it was felt that this material should be made more widely available to our wider congregations so here is a summary of what we did. For any more information please contact either **Andy Stoker** or **Richard Baker**.

## ***Hallmarks which distinguish a church of holiness and justice***

We started off in groups exploring four *Hallmarks of a church of holiness and justice* through reflecting on four works of art that the President and Vice-President had commissioned from Sheffield artist and Methodist minister Ric Stott.



**A Community Centred and Saturated in Prayer**



**Worship that enables people to face themselves and the reality of the world in the presence of God**



**Community that lives as a sign of the kingdom**



**Mission always alert to issues not only of need but also of justice**

We then had a brief presentation on *New Monasticism*. This is a rather loosely defined movement within modern Christianity inspired by some, but not all, of the features of earlier monastic movements including prayer,





establishing a rhythm of work and prayer, rules of living together, special places, special tasks or work and hospitality.

Such 'new Monastic communities' tend not to live in a specific geographic location but within the community of which they are a part. Most are characterised by having some sort of rule that members accept and are held account for in some way. This is similar in some ways to early Methodism with what became known as John Wesley's rule and the development of the class system in which individual Methodists were expected to account for how they had lived to a class leader on a weekly basis.

**Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as you ever can<sup>1</sup>.**

The Iona community is another example and Stuart Blackledge (Full Member) and Liz Delafield (Associate Member) gave a brief account of how it operates and how its rule is formulated. Members are asked to account for how they have observed the rule to a small group of members annually and follow this up with a personal "with-us" letter to the leader of the community. Following this there was discussion about whether it might be interesting to develop a rule which we, as a community of worship leaders and local preachers, and indeed any group of Christians could choose to observe over the next year. Our local preacher's meetings could be used as the forum at which we could account to each other for those aspects of the rule that we had been able to observe and those which we had found more challenging.

One aspect we discussed was our need to support each other in developing our gifts as preachers. There was a strong feeling that we should all be prepared to listen to one another and to both give and receive feedback in relation to our worship leading. Those who had recently been accepted as local preachers commented on how useful this had been as they were on trial and how they had missed this since.

The feeling of the meeting was that some form of informal scheme where the person taking the service asked a colleague to listen with a view to providing such feedback would be a good starting point.

It was suggested that the feedback might focus around the listener noting down two aspects of *what went well* (WWW) and two aspects of the service that might have been *even better if* (EBI). This could then be the focus for a short discussion.

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<sup>1</sup> Note that there is no record in John Wesley's writings of him having written this personally although it is very definitely in line with many things he did write or say.

# Connexion

The question the local preachers and worship leaders asked themselves is *how this could be put into practice? It was suggested that we make this the focus of local preacher's meeting for the next year, looking at its practicalities, putting it into practise and then reflecting back on how the process had gone. Hopefully it might even help our leading of worship and preaching!*

But how would a church, a house group or any fellowship gathering benefit from being communities centred and saturated in prayer, engaging in worship that enables people to face themselves and the reality of the world in the presence of God, living as a sign of the kingdom and being involved in mission that is always alert to issues of and the need for justice? Perhaps it is time for us all to find out!

For further info and a list of resources please contact **Andy Stoker** or **Richard Baker**

## A Different Pilgrimage

For our holiday this year Mike and I booked a tour of Northern Portugal, a country we had not been to before. On a free day we took the option of a trip to Santiago de Compostela being warned beforehand that it would be a long day, a 3 hour drive there and 3 hours back.



The coach arrived and we set off at 8am on a warm, sunny morning. We settled back for the drive through beautiful countryside, passing picturesque villages on surprisingly quiet roads. Once we crossed the border into Northern Spain the terrain became more mountainous and rugged. It was then that we began to see pilgrims who had taken the Portuguese route walking the

trail which followed the road into Santiago de Compostela.

We arrived there at 11am and before departing the coach the tour guide gave details of the places we should visit starting off at the 13<sup>th</sup> Century cathedral dedicated to St. James and which is the culmination of the pilgrim's journey. The front of the cathedral stands on the whole of one side of a huge square but unfortunately it was covered by scaffolding and tarpaulin for renovations to the stonework.

The entrance was through a side door and as we turned the corner we saw the queue of people waiting to go in (there was a mass taking place inside).

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We joined the queue and by this time the sun was directly overhead and it was very hot and consequently I did get sun burnt despite the sunscreen and sun hat. It was a relief when the queue started to move and we got into some shade.

Once inside I can only describe what greeted us as breathtaking I have never seen so much gold in one place before. I am sure the Rev John will be telling us lots more about this. We did sit for a while just to take in the magnificence of it all but as there were hundreds of people walking round the atmosphere was not conducive to quiet prayer and reflection.

After lunch (Spanish omelette, of course) we started to explore the old city but soon began to flag because of the heat. However, we came across the lovely Alameda Park which had plenty of seating in shaded areas so we were able to spend time in this peaceful setting contemplating what we had seen earlier. It was soon time to catch the coach for the journey back to our hotel arriving in time for a shower before dinner.

Our pilgrimage was hot, tiring yet inspiring – a quite different journey of faith.

**Beryl Keeley HGMC**

P.S. Let us not forget that we are all pilgrims on a journey and God is with us every step of the way.

## ‘Shuffling to Santiago’

If Beryl’s article has wetted your appetite to hear more then why not come along and here about Rev John’s 500 mile walk across northern Spain following the pilgrimage route of the Camino de Santiago

**Poynton Methodist Church**

**Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> September @7.45pm**

£3..all proceeds will go to the Ladies Fellowship charity for 2017-18 which is ‘riding for the disabled’







## Summer Suns are Glowing A Bloomin' Success!!

We were absolutely delighted at the success of the Flower Festival weekend at Hazel Grove. We welcomed more people through the door than usual – due, we're sure, in part, to the "Sunflower" advertising campaign, and so a sincere thank you to all those who knitted sunflowers for us, labelled them and distributed them throughout the Grove and surrounding areas.

Looking through the "Visitors' Book" there were many people who wrote 'beautiful' or 'well done' but also many more superlatives such as 'Wow!' 'Inspirational', 'Fantastic', 'Wonderful', 'Gorgeous', 'Awesome', 'Peace with Flowers', 'So beautiful, it made me cry', 'So much love' and many, many 'Thank You's'. From this, we can assume that people were inspired by the flower arrangements and by the welcome that everyone received, and felt that their visit was well worthwhile.



We enjoyed a week of preparation before the Festival full of laughter, friendship, and camaraderie. The flower arrangers from the other churches who helped were aware of this atmosphere and remarked on the friendliness and laughter in our church.

The Festival, named "Summer Suns are Glowing" was to thank God for summer and everything we enjoy in the summer months. The flowers began outside with two sunshine arrangements, the entrance hall was a beach scene with a beautiful flower arrangement representing a waterfall, it continued in church with the centre aisle forming a rainbow, a knitted picnic followed by flower arrangements representing tennis, walking, holidays and a wonderful garden in the communion area. Here there was a prayer table where visitors could light a candle and place a prayer or thought on the rainbow, written on a sunflower. Then more arrangements - ballooning, Chelsea flower show, a regatta, cricket, fishing, cycling and a garden party – in memory of flower arrangers from our team who are no longer with us – Avril White, Mair Williams and Joan Jones. This was followed by bird watching and summer weddings.

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The arrangements continued along the link corridor, which was transformed into a country lane with an arrangement at the end sponsored by Green Close – a church in the countryside. Outside the coffee lounge was an ice cream stand with cones filled with flowers – what more could one ask of summer?

A Methodist occasion however, wouldn't be complete without refreshments, and so the coffee lounge was the "Cafe" and was buzzing with activity as it served sandwiches, cakes, tea and coffee.



The entrance Hall to the Sunday School building was also a hive of activity with its craft stall, cake stall and raffle.

We were also blessed by having live music throughout the Festival on the organ, the piano and recorders and also the voices of St Peter's Junior choir – this was all arranged by Stella Molton.

Martyn Bennett led a lovely closing service to the Festival with singing by Offerton Methodist Choir.

The profits from the Festival were for MacMillan Cancer Care and a cheque for £1,887.81 has been sent to MacMillan whose nurses have looked after many in our community.

**Doreen Sykes HGMC**

## What's the Connexion?

Seeking something in response to our editor's cry for contributions I found an article by Rev Phil Clarke written in 2008 in the MET magazine headed 'A future for Methodism – a proposal.' I quote a couple of paragraphs to give you a flavour of it.

"Fundamental to our handling of this issue is whether we believe God has a future for Methodism. It is not necessarily pessimistic or negative to conclude that, in his plans, Methodism will die out in order for new movements of renewal to grow. In fact there is much evidence that this is already the case. However, if we assume, rightly or wrongly, that God has a future for



Methodism we must be clear that very radical change is needed – much more radical than appears so far to be envisaged by those within or operating the system.”

“What would it look like then? One thing is certain; we would not be designing a four fold structure of congregation – circuit – district – connexion. We need a structure that is driven by mission not pastoral care. I suggest the classical

cell church model which in fact has its origins in early Methodism i.e. Cell – Congregation – Celebration

- Cell - small primary units of Christian belonging which express New Testament models of discipleship, church planting and evangelism designed for the multiplication of Christ’s kingdom based on every member ministry
- Congregation – viable groupings of cells
- Celebration – occasional large gatherings with minimal central control

We would in doing this abandon the structural terminology of Methodism and return to the looser network of our movements founding dream”

So how much does our average member know about the current structure and organisation of the British Methodist Church? The answer is probably “Not a lot!” Ask her/him some basic questions and what would the response be? Try these.

- What is the Connexion?
- Who is the General Secretary?
- How long does she/he serve?
- Name the President of the Conference.
- How long does she/he serve?
- What is the title of our District?
- Who is the Chair of the District?
- How long does she/he serve?
- How many churches are there in our Circuit?
- Name the Superintendent of our Circuit.
- How long does she/he serve?

Well, what did you score? OK some of us would resort to Google and the Methodist Church web site, but if this were an edition of the TV show Pointless we would get a low score if we knew all the answers. You may say what does all this matter, but our Circuit is approaching a critical time. It has recently reduced in size from 7 to 5 churches and our presbyters are set to fall from 3 to 2 within 2

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years (if we are lucky.) It seems quite likely that the Circuit will split up and any remaining churches will join larger ones nearby. If we stay as we are, and our Circuit membership figures continue to fall at the current rate, what will remain in 10 to 15 years? And this question applies to the whole of the British Methodist church. Is it time for a radical restructuring? **Chris Hawkyard PMC**

## Well There's A Challenge!

Can you make a banner every month for the next year to match the themes in "Holy Habits", a book by Andrew Roberts, based on the life of the early church described in Acts 2:42-47? The answer – yes we could! The alleluias that resounded from PMC as the last one was put up could be heard all over the village! It was a mixture of sheer relief, satisfaction and joy that we had managed it!

Holy Habits as we used it had 11 themes – we needed an illustration(s) and a short phrase to go with each of these – eating together, worship, prayer, joy, the Bible, service, discipleship, breaking bread, giving, fellowship, and evangelism. Well, what would you have done? The answers came remarkably quickly for most banners and as they spread all around the



Church served as a constant reminder of each theme.

The favourite banner of many people was the one opposite 3 identical shapes, 3 people, identical but coloured differently, dancing together forming the shape of a heart. They could be Father Son and Holy Spirit – who's who you have to decide – it doesn't much matter, or it could represent you, me and one other. What is important is that they exist in an eternal loving community.

And I was surprised to find there is a word to describe this - Perichoresis – peri which means around, Choresis from which we get choreography – dancing around. Joyful dancing around each other in complete unity.



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The phrase written on the banner is a quote of Gladstone and what sentence could be more powerful in this day and age.



We invite you to come and see all the banners with flowers arranged beneath each one on Sat Sept 2<sup>nd</sup> from 2pm. You are then welcome to stay for a barbecue at 5pm – Tickets are now available - £4 per person or £12 for a family ticket. To reserve a ticket please Email [mandy.hawkyard@btinternet.com](mailto:mandy.hawkyard@btinternet.com)

## Greenbelt 2017 - theme "Common Good"

Back in May I got an email from Church Action on Poverty asking for contributions to the bunting to decorate the big tent they'd be sharing with the Iona Community at Greenbelt. Their theme being "Northern Lights " the flags needed to be purple, green or turquoise.

This was a wonderful opportunity to do some recycling as I hunted through my blanket chest full of material. Out came an old bedroom curtain, sunned into holes in places, but plenty to make 30 flags. Left over pieces of purple lining material from a waistcoat a friend made me in return for a homemade Christmas cake came next.

Finally, the bits left over from a turquoise shirt I made myself using a pattern my Mum had used so often it was more pinhole than paper. It was amazing the memories these pieces of material prompted and I was delighted to be able to post off 48 pieces of bunting for the project.

So did anyone from the circuit go to Greenbelt this year? I'd love to hear about it. And did you notice the Northern Lights bunting? **Cat Stoker, DLMC**

## KAMLA FOUNDATION

The year of fundraising for the Kamla Foundation finishes at the end of August and what a successful year it has been.

We began in September last year with an authentic Indian meal, followed by a Fosbrooks Concert, baby goods sale, fashion show, St David's Daffodil tea and a coffee day at Connie's.



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Our last big fund raiser was the Hoe Down held at Banks Lane School with Liza Austin calling the dances.



This was a huge success attended by both our church supporters and families and friends from the wider community.

So many people have helped us during the year and boosted our funds by their generous donations. Money from the Christmas Quiz, the second hand bookstall, knitted toys, a charity lunch and the Sunday coffee donations have all

added to the total so far, which is £4809.

We give a big thank you to all those who have donated and helped in so many different ways at all our events and finally to the Mistry family who gave us the inspiration in the first place.

Lisette Milner and Sue Judson Dialstone Lane

## Dialstone Lane Charity

Each year the members of Dialstone Lane choose a charity to support through their fundraising events. We alternate between world and local charities and over the coming year the focus will be on local dementia support groups.

We begin on September with a Beetle and Baked Potato social for all ages. Contact Sue Conlon 258 8743 for details.



## 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. Thank 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 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.

**Zoe Dawson PMC**



## GREEN CLOSE HARVEST FESTIVAL SERVICE



**SUNDAY 17<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2017**

Afternoon at 2:30pm

Preacher: Rev John Wiseman

A warm welcome is extended to everyone

Tea available after the Service

Lord Jesus be among us  
For it's you that we adore:  
Lord Jesus be among us  
And stay with us evermore.

Lord Jesus be near us  
Around us and within:  
Make us pure and holy  
And free us from all sin.

Lord Jesus be among us  
Be the beauty of our lives:  
May our actions show your goodness  
And pleasing to your eyes.

Be our friend Lord Jesus,  
Who is with us every day:  
As our Companion and Guide,  
Walk with us all the way.

Diane R. Duff, (DLMC)



**Windlehurst Methodist Church  
Thurs.21<sup>st</sup> Sept. 10.30am – 12.30 pm  
Coffee morning**

Hosted by Active £1 including refreshments.  
A warm welcome is guaranteed from our members who will be acting as waiters and waitresses, please try to come and join us. All proceeds towards further redecorating at Windlehurst

**Circuit service @ 6pm Poynton Methodist Church  
8<sup>th</sup> October**

This will be a combined circuit and Churches together in Poynton event and will feature as guest speaker Hannah Dobbins, North West coordinator of the 'Bible Society' who will be using the theme 'Bible Across Borders'



Sat. 11<sup>th</sup>Nov 11.30am – 1.30pm  
Autumn Fair at Windlehurst M.C.  
Stalls, seasonal lunches etc. All warmly welcome

**Hazel Grove Orchestra Concert** Saturday 25th November 2017 @7:30 pm

**Place:** Hazel Grove Methodist Church, Wesley St

**Tickets:** can be purchased on the door on the night of the concert. Admission £7, concession £6, accompanied children under 12 are Free

**Concert Programme:**

- **Weber** - Overture 'Der Freischütz'
- **Saint Saëns** - Cello Concerto No.1 in A Minor

- **Sibelius -** **Connexion**  
in D Major (Op.43)

Symphony No.2

**Connexion**





## HOW TO FIND AND CONTACT US

- **Dialstone Lane Methodist Church**, 161 Dialstone Lane, Offerton, Stockport, SK2 7LQ

Rev Amanda Boon (0161 285 1431) [www.dialstonelanemethodistchurch.co.uk](http://www.dialstonelanemethodistchurch.co.uk)

- **Hazel Grove Methodist Church**, Wesley Street, Hazel Grove, Stockport, Cheshire, SK7 4JQ

Rev John Payne (0161 483 0150) [www.wesleystreet.org](http://www.wesleystreet.org)

- **Windlehurst Methodist Church**, Windlehurst Road, High Lane, Stockport, SK6 8AF

Rev John Payne (0161 483 4952) [www.windlehurstmethodistchurch.co.uk](http://www.windlehurstmethodistchurch.co.uk)

- **Poynton Methodist Church**, Civic Car Park, Park Lane, Poynton, Stockport, Cheshire SK12 1RB

Rev John Wiseman (01625 871592 or 01625 261769) [www.poyntonmethodist.org](http://www.poyntonmethodist.org)

- **Green Close Methodist Church**, Shrigley Road, Pott Shrigley, Macclesfield, SK10 5RU

Rev John Wiseman (01625 871592 or 01625 261769)

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

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

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