



THE HERALD



The Methodist Church in Poynton

OCTOBER 2017

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

Cast your minds back to September 2013 and the first time you ever heard (or perhaps read would be more accurate) my mumble from the manse. Can you recall what I talked about? No, well as Tom Jones might sing 'it's not unusual' after all this time. In fact it might well work to my advantage because just like sermons can occasionally be adapted, edited and then repeated, so too can minister's letters in church magazines. Especially if the moment is appropriate.

Back in September 2013, just after my arrival here, I wrote about how life is like a series of trapeze swings. Most of the time, I hang on for dear life to my trapeze-bar-of-the-moment which carries me along with a certain steady rate of swing. As it does so I feel that I'm in control of my life. I know some of the right questions and even one or two of the right answers. But every once in a while, I look ahead of me into the distance, and see another trapeze bar swinging towards me. It is empty.

I know that in order for me to grow, to take the next step in becoming the person God knows I can become, I must release my grip on the present, well-known bar and for some moment in time hurtle across space before I can grab onto the new one. Each time this occurs, and it has already happened innumerable times in my life, I am filled with fear. Not so much the fear of the unknown but the fear of losing what I do know, the fear of letting go, the fear of change, the fear of being transformed.

Of course I could stay exactly where I am, doing exactly what I have been doing but if I am really honest, somehow to keep hanging onto that old bar, that old life, that old me, is no longer on the list of alternatives. So I take that physical and metaphorical 'leap of faith', with no guarantees, no safety nets, and no insurance policies. Well except that 'someone else' will always be there with me. And so for a moment that lasts a microsecond but can feel like a thousand lifetimes, I soar across the space that lies in between the

bars. The past is gone; the future is not yet here. I simply exist in the moment of change, the moment of transition.

Now to many people this transition zone can come across as a scary, confusing, disorienting nothingness that must be rushed through as fast and as unconsciously as possible. What a wasted opportunity! Between you and me I have a sneaking suspicion that these transition zones, these times of change, these moments of transformation are the only thing that is real, and it is the bars on which we spend most of our time swinging that are the illusions we dream up to avoid the occasions in life when real growth occurs.

Whether or not my hunch is true, it remains that these transitions in our lives are incredibly rich places even with all the pain, fear, disorientation and feelings of being out-of-control that can (but not necessarily) accompany change. They are still the most alive, most growth-filled, passionate, expansive moments in our lives.

Being transformed into new creations has nothing to do with making fear go away, but rather with giving ourselves permission to 'hang- out' in the space between trapeze bars. It's about resisting our need to grab that new bar, any bar as quickly as possible and instead just allowing ourselves to dwell for a moment in the only place where change really happens. It can be terrifying. It can also be enlightening, in the true sense of the word.

As we enter month two of 'Seasons Of My Soul', which deals with the issue of transition and change, and as I begin to look for a new home from September 2018 and you begin the search for a new minister, my question for you is simply this "Are you ready to join me in letting go?" Who knows, if we do it together, one day we, as a family of faith, might truly learn to fly!

Love and light
Reverend John



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.



*Oh, let me see Thy footprints, and in them
plant mine own;
My hope to follow duly is in Thy strength
alone,
Oh, guide me, call me, draw me, uphold me to
the end;
And then in Heav'n receive me, my Saviour
and my Friend.*



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

**SUNDAY SERVICES AT POYNTON
IN OCTOBER**

Date	10.30am UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED	
1st October	9.00am Med	Rev John Wiseman HC
8th	Rev John Wiseman HF / DS	
8th	6.00pm Circuit Service/CTIP Hannah Dobbins	
15th	9.00am Rev John Payne HC	Andrew Stoker
22nd	Martyn Bennett	
29th	Richard Baker	
5th November	9.00am Med	Rev John Wiseman HC

**SUNDAY SERVICES AT GREEN CLOSE
IN OCTOBER**

Date	2.30 pm	
1st October	Stewart Bradley	
8th	Catharine Hughes	
8th	6.00pm PMC Circuit Service/CTIP Hannah Dobbins	
15th	Rev John Wiseman HC	
22nd	Rev John Wiseman	
29th	Rev John Payne	
5th November	Stewart Blackledge	

DS **Dedication Service**
HF **Harvest Festival**

HC **Holy Communion**
CTIP **Churches Together**

Woodlands 11.00am. 8th October Alan Rashleigh

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 beside the front entrance. Jean Drinkwater would be happy to add your name to our rota.

MEDITATION

There will be a time of silent meditation on the first Sunday in each month at 9.00am. After 30 minutes of reflection, we share our thoughts if we feel able. We invite you to come along to a different experience of God's presence. All are welcome. Next time it is on **1st October and then on 5th November.**

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

WEEKDAY WORSHIP

First Tuesday The first Tuesday **in October is 3rd and in November is 7th.** There will be services 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.

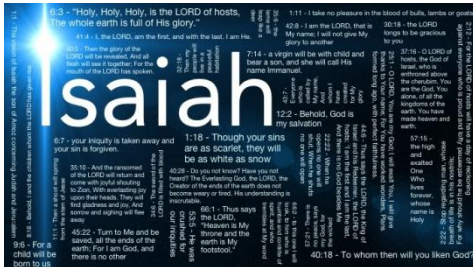
PRAYER GROUP

We meet as usual every Tuesday morning at 9.45am and on the third Tuesday (**19th October**) at 9.00am at the Kingfisher where we hold a prayer breakfast. This group is growing – why not join us?



THURSDAY COMMUNION

This is always on the **third** Thursday of the month at midday followed by a light lunch. See you there on **19th October**.



Soar on wings like eagles
Run and not grow weary
Walk and not be faint

Get round to the Dawson's any way you can (9 Charlecote Road) on Mondays at 7.30pm for Catharine Hughes' new House group studying Isaiah.

HYMNOLOGY ON A MONDAY MORNING - 25

'O love that will not let me go' Words by George Matheson (1842-1906)

The Reverend George Matheson could have spent time on the banks of the Firth of Clyde, in the Argyllshire village of Innellan. In his Victorian world, paddle steamers would pick up trippers regularly at the pier, no longer there, and take them to Rothesay on the Isle of Bute where the great Charles Haddon Spurgeon preached to crowds of 20,000.

As alcohol was only supplied on Sundays to 'travellers' at that time, it was reported that on one occasion fighting broke out, and the effects of much drinking were evident on the return journey.

A minister of the Church of Scotland, Ian Bradley, has studied Victorian hymns and given us a credible picture of Matheson. It is a well known tragic love story. When Matheson was only 18 months

old his mother realised that he had something seriously wrong with his eyesight. He always enjoyed singing and acting and at the age of seven he had stood on a chair, with his family as congregation, and preached a simple sermon. At the age of 18 he could barely see, but he was popular with his fellow students at Glasgow University where he was academically brilliant in his studies of Art and Divinity. But increasingly, as his eyesight worsened, he found himself isolated in a dark and lonely world. But this isolation helped him develop his imagination which made him a gifted poet and preacher.

His preaching was not the evangelistic style of Spurgeon, but he spoke of the hard road that led to God. To Matheson, God was ever present even in the wilderness of the Highlands and in his own parish of Innellan, sheltered from winter storms by the high land to the west.

The familiar story is that in his sadness he wrote the hymn 'O love, that will not let me go', on the day he was rejected by the woman he loved because she felt that she could not marry a blind man. Matheson described the poem as the quickest composition he ever wrote. It was done in three minutes.

The writer and broadcaster Ian Mackenzie, also a minister, sees the poem as all about love. In it he says, Christ's life and death can show us that in surrendering to God, we cannot avoid pain, but we will overcome it.

Even this hymn was censored by the Assembly of the Church of Scotland at one time. If the hymn was to appear in their new hymnal, the phrase, 'I climb the rainbow ' must become 'I trace the rainbow through the rain' 'Climb' was pure imagination and not possible! They failed to understand the vision of the blind preacher.

References: Gen.9.16; John 8.12; 10.28; Rom.8.38-39; 1Cor.13.

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

HARVEST SERVICE 8th OCTOBER 2017

The Harvest Service on Sunday 8th October is going to be messy in more ways than one. Given that our 'Seasons of My Soul' theme this month is Transition/Change, you are going to be given the chance to transition into doing something different.

We are all starting off together in worship and then there are various options; you can

- Engage with our youngest members in a craft activity.
- Help to write a couple of new hymns to familiar tunes which we will sing at the end of our service.
- Help to design and then make a Harvest floral arrangement.
- Help to prepare different sorts of soup for the lunch that we will share together after the service.
- Take part in a discussion group with our teenagers and maybe some of their friends (see separate article below for this new adventure)

We will then all come back together to conclude our worship by offering our tinned goods for Wood Street mission and for a very special thanksgiving/dedication of Lois Dawson. After which we can stay and eat lunch together.

Rev John

EVOLVE TRANSITIONS INTO EVOLVED



Following a meeting between Rev John, Annie Truman and the leaders of our Young Church and Evolve groups, we are going to start something new beginning on 8th October. We need to find something appropriate to engage the teenagers we currently have in church as well as attracting others.

One of the current hot topics amongst teenagers is the Netflix series '13 Reasons Why' which looks at all of the separate and yet interlinked events that cause a young girl attending high school to take her life. This series picks up on many issues that are relevant to young (and older) people today i.e. social media abuse, bullying, love, self esteem issues, relationships, peer pressure, sexuality, gossip and lying.

On the second, fourth (and on occasions fifth) Sundays of each month, after starting off in church our youngsters will leave as normal, except that we are now inviting a group of interested individuals from across all ages of the church to join them in their discussions, linking the issues in that TV series to our Christian faith.

This might be within the church building or more likely in one of the cafés or eating establishments along Park Lane. Once these issues have been explored we will find something else that is currently 'trending' among our young folk and attempt to plug into that in the New Year.

All of those present at the meeting were very enthusiastic about the possibilities this new venture offers not just for our teenagers but across the generations within the church.

Rev John

CAFÉ CHURCH: AN EXPLANATION

You may have noticed a proliferation of 'café church' being advertised recently and wondered either (a) what is it or (b) why?

Put simply, Café Church is worship that is in a café-style setting: tables and chairs, drinks and cakes. After the first attempt as part of 'Worship' last October the feedback received from the teenagers was that it was the best worship experience for them. Many of us who like a cup of tea or coffee to hand would agree!

At the Worship Committee in January it was decided to develop Café Church, with a suggested time of **4.00pm** on a Sunday. It would be geared for Secondary age+ and there would be no Evolve on those Sunday mornings. Richard, Sally, Helen and I have

met several times and, though we are still experimenting and finding our feet, we now have the aim of organising this for the first Sunday of every month. It is discussion based, with lots of cake and upbeat music.

Parallel to this, Annie called a meeting in early May, one of the main purposes of which was (for her) to find ways of bringing the children she meets into church – finding worship that works for non-church families. It was proposed that one **morning** service a month was changed to accommodate a different style of worship: this has evolved to be the **3rd Sunday**. There will be two alternating styles:

- † 'Cafe Church' - designed for teenagers+, with more emphasis on modern music and a relaxed service around tables in church with plenty of tea and cakes.
- † 'Messy Church' - activities set out and organised outside the church itself (i.e. in Rooms 1-4 and garden) to which all church members regardless of age would be able to come and participate. Those who chose to remain in church would have a standard, traditional service. This is an even newer style of worship to us and so would be experimental, but has worked successfully elsewhere (John in Swansea, Dialstone Lane, Dave Holmes' father's church).

The net effect of this would be **one modern style worship service in the church sanctuary every two months**. It was thought that this might be manageable by most church members.

We cannot please everyone with worship styles (music, prayers, sermon, noise or craft) every week. One of the blessings of Methodism is its variety, and we thrive on flexibility and change. And if we are to be a growing church – a church with a plan for mission rather than an end-of-life plan – we must offer options that will appeal to new generations: to different age groups and cultural needs. This is a step in that direction.

If you have any further questions do feel free to ask me!

Catharine Hughes

HALLOWEEN - A TRICK OR A TREAT?

It was great to see so many people come along to the last café church and join in with our discussions around the topic 'Is Christianity just for Sundays?' We enjoyed some new music, some tasty cake, and interesting discussion. We talked about how one of the great things about our faith is how the diversity of people included within it is celebrated, and how we can use our skills to learn more and share more about our faith with others. If you're interested to know more about the service, there will be an article on the church chatter blog about it soon!

October brings us cold weather, pumpkins, the third instalment of café church... and Halloween. We found in our café church meeting that each of us had different opinions on Halloween, and thus decided to extend our discussions from a friendly debate into a café church service!

So the next service is on **1st October at 4.00pm**, and if you're interested, come along for songs, sweets and speaking (optional). We usually have some time for praise, a short talk, a tea break and then some discussion. This time it will be around the concept of Halloween and Good vs Evil. We look forward to seeing you there!

Helen & Sally Holmes, Catharine Hughes and Richard Baker



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



'Take care, Son' – the story of my Dad and his Dementia by Tony Husband. Published by Robinson at £8.99.

Like the one reviewed last month, this book is also unlike anything I have seen before.

Tony Husband is a cartoonist and his book contains delightful illustrations and is very colourful. He draws and writes from the heart and his book is emotional and honest. It would be good to use with older children and teenagers as a way of explaining dementia and what it means.

At the end there is a list of dementia help lines in the UK and tips for what to do if you or someone you know has dementia.

LET THERE BE LIGHT



With the evenings drawing in, the hips and haws in the hedgerows and the leaves turning from green to orange red brown and yellow, it is approaching that time of year again...Halloween.

This year at Poynton Methodist Church we are holding a children's 'light party' as an antidote to the dark and frightening things that are often the focus of this season.

The date is 26th October 10.00am – 12.00noon and there will be crafts, story, and food. So if you know of anyone with children who is looking for something fun to do, just point them in our direction.

Annie Truman

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

THANK YOU LETTERS



Thank you very much for the lovely flowers that Liz Baker delivered. They lifted my spirits at a rather low time, as my dear friend Dot had just passed away. Thank you for thinking of me.

Anne Horrocks

I would like to say a great big thank-you to those people who help me to bring and/or take back the three people who come to church from Parklands Care Home. None of them would be able to come across to church without help. Two need a wheelchair and one needs an arm to hold on to. Sometimes people get 'jumped on' after the service. Your help is much appreciated. It is a privilege to bring people across to church and I feel that I have one of the best jobs in church.

Hilary Parry

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

We extend our congratulations

to **Ken & Mavis Burnett** who celebrated their Diamond Wedding Anniversary on 20th September.

Happy Birthday to:

William Garrett, who will be 16 on 4th October;

Thomas Horobin, who will be 14 on 7th October;

Eleanor Hughes, who will be 15 on 27 October.

A policeman was at the local elementary school on a liaison visit. A little girl of about 6 stopped him in the corridor and asked, "Are you a real policeman?" "Yes," he answered and she went on, "Well, my mother said that if I ever needed help, I should ask a policeman. Is that right?" "Yes, that's right," he replied. "Well then," she said extending her foot towards him, "would you please tie my lace?"

LADIES' FELLOWSHIP

On **7th September** we were entertained by the Offerton Methodist Choir, led by Linda Houston and what a fantastic night we had! We could have sat and listened to them all evening! It was so uplifting, and you could see how much the choir loved their music. We would love to have them back again.

On 5th October, Prestbury Plant & Garden will be with us to give details of what to grow in the autumn garden. The meeting will be led by Barbara Dixon and will commence at our usual time, 7.45pm. **Members attending are asked to bring a piece of fruit or a vegetable with them** to make a harvest arrangement.

Then on 19th October Mr. Neil Mullineux is coming along to give us a talk on 'Marple Hall'. Julie Hallworth will be leading the meeting.

In November, on 2nd we will be welcoming back Mrs Fraser, who is going to give us a talk on 'Jewish Festivals'. Anne Hindle will be leading the meeting.

Sandra Townsend

'Shuffle'

There was a large attendance on **21st September** when Ladies' Fellowship opened the meeting to all genders for **Rev John's** video account of his '**Shuffle to Santiago**'.

It had everything – wonderful scenery, sun, towns, villages, great characters, rocky paths, multilingual meals, cowbells through the mist, great cathedrals, blisters, moments of emotion, a cooling stream and an interesting commentary – all suffused with Rev John's ready humour. There was also a flash of great art when we were introduced to a significant improvement on Marcel Duchamp's 1917 "Fountain" which at last gave the piece some real meaning.

FLOWER MINISTRY



I would like to say a big thank-you to the flower team who arranged the baskets for the final weekend of Holy Habits, when we replicated the colours from the banners. Thanks also should go to Mandy Hawkyard and Linda Grant for the lovely banners which have been very greatly



appreciated and admired throughout the past year.

Further thanks go to Mandy and Hilary Clare who devised the accompaniments to the baskets which really enhanced our arrangements.



Yet more thanks to everyone who made the donations which enabled us to fill the baskets with such lovely flowers.



We are very grateful to our flower distributors, but **please**, if you cannot do your turn when you are scheduled, would you arrange to exchange your date with another distributor and also amend the calendar, letting Betty Law know of the change for the Notices.

Sandra Townsend.

SWISS ADVENTURE



Twenty members of 3rd Poynton Rangers and 1st Poynton Guides had a once-in-a-lifetime trip to Switzerland staying in a chalet in Adleboden amidst breathtaking views.

The group, headed by six leaders, spent a week visiting the

fantastic sites of Switzerland including Oeschinen Lake where they also whizzed down the mountain on the 750 ft Toboggan run, Trümmelbach falls, a series of 10 natural glacier waterfalls inside a cave, a beautiful river cruise on the picturesque river Thun, a visit to the international Scout Centre in Kandesteg and an exhilarating afternoon in an adventure park where they zoomed along zip lines which got higher, over a river, until the last challenge, which was a jump off a bridge! They even had a trip to the top of a mountain to watch how cheese is made!

Everyone had a fantastic time, including the 7 year-old Brownie who went with them. A highlight of the trip for all was a visit to Our Chalet, one of the Girl Guiding World Centres.

Huge thanks are due to all our parents, friends and family who supported the fundraising for the trip and to the leaders who led it. Next stop, Sangam, the World Centre in India!

Sounds like your kind of thing? We have spaces in our Guide unit for girls aged 10+. Contact me, lyndsay.lamb@hotmail.co.uk

Lyndsay Lamb

ANNUAL CHURCH MEETING REPORT

During the morning service on the 30th July, we held our Annual Church Meeting, the occasion when we review what we have done over the past year, and look forward to the year ahead with all its challenges. It's an occasion for everyone to listen to reports from the various groups within the life of the church, and to elect various members of the Church Council.

Finding a suitable time for such a meeting, towards the end of the church year is a challenge. However, holding it within the main act of worship of the day seems wholly appropriate. It's God's work that we are about, and dealing with the business of the Church within worship enables us to offer our successes, our failures, our plans and our visions to God, and to give thanks for all the good things that have happened during the year. We can also pray as a church family that our work and our mission will be blessed by God, and be fruitful.

We had reports from the worship group, the pastoral committee and the stewards. There were reports on all aspects of our work with children and young people – Young Church, toddlers and pre-school. Annie, our Children and Families worker told us of all the work that she has been doing since she joined us, including work in local primary schools. We were reminded of the importance of ensuring that our church is a safe place for children and vulnerable adults. And there were the mundane matters of finance and property – a reminder of the need to review our giving and the hard work put in by all who help maintain the bricks and mortar of God's house.

We remembered those members and adherents who had died since the last Annual Church meeting - Geoffrey Sharp, John Deighton, Elsie Faulkner, Margaret Barber, Lily Blocksidge, Irma Bates, Norma Battle, Hilda Hallworth and Ken Coombs.

There was a review of what we had done during the past year. Rev. John reported on many of the things that have taken place or

happened, apart from 'Holy Habits'. The weekly Tuesday prayer group, who also meet once a month at the Kingfisher. There was a prayer day earlier in the year and many people participated in the "31+ things to do" prayer cycle.

There have been film nights and discussion on the films, the Craft Fair, the Charity Market, Theatre trips, and the provision of refreshments on Remembrance Sunday. We held a worship event with a bonfire; we became a 'Toilet Twinning Town'. We held Charity collections, and coffee mornings for Green Close. There were board games days and 'Search for a Star' in the shops at Christmas.

Our new Children and Families worker, Annie Truman, began working with us early in the New Year. Easter angels appeared in Park Lane. There were family fun days, we worked in pre-school, and participated in school assemblies. Dads were allowed freedom with 'Who let the Dads out'.

Our presence on Social Media was developed. Groups met for craft, and book reading and discussion. Ladies' Fellowship met regularly. We hosted the District Synod, held Safeguarding courses, and various house groups met. Hilary Parry carried out a faithful ministry ensuring that those residents of Parklands, who wished to and were able, could attend the 10.30am service on Sunday mornings.

We have done an awful lot as a family of faith.

The year ahead will be one of challenge. We will be subject to the stationing process, to find a replacement for Rev. John when he leaves us in July. We may have to face the prospect of being without a minister for a while. We need to consider new ways of being 'church' to be relevant to future generations.

On 31st August Chris Hawkyard retired from the post of chief steward. Thanks Chris for all you have done during your term of office. Marie Moncaster has agreed to serve as a steward from 1st

September. Margaret Martin, Christine Ding and Alan Rashleigh stood down from Church Council and Theo Eves, Hilary Parry and Jean Drinkwater were re-elected as representatives to the Council from the membership.

The service finished with us singing "We are people on a journey". A new leg of that journey is just beginning.

Stewart Bradley (Church Council Secretary)

BEING A LEADER OF 2nd POYNTON BROWNIES

Being a leader at 2nd Poynton Brownies is great. We partake in many different activities weekly which include anything from sports, to eating food, to charity events. We enjoy following the Brownies ethos of helping others whilst having fun and trying out new activities.

At Brownies we share in a number of varied activities and try to include the girls' interests when planning an evening. We try to make sure they're trying new things as well as mixing in things we know they enjoy and ask their opinions on what they've enjoyed doing at the meetings and what they'd like to do again. We also plan trips out of the meeting place. Recently, we went bowling in Macclesfield which was loved by the girls.

One of the activities the girls enjoy the most is baking things and decorating cakes. We have recently baked scones at our meeting which went down a treat – the girls liked it and took it in turns to crack eggs, weigh out ingredients and mix the scone mixture. This night was a great success and we have had more baking evenings requested for future meetings. We also love decorating cakes and biscuits with a theme, such as our Saint George's Day English flag Digestives! These were mainly eaten before we left the church to go home!

We also love going for badges at Brownies; we recently completed our Entertainers badge, for which we hosted 'Brownies Got Talent'

where the parents were invited to watch Brownies do a talent show, either in pre-selected groups or as solo acts. It always entertains us having BGT shows, getting to see how talented the girls are and watching them have fun with their friends. As well as trying for badges showing off the girls talents we also look into badges which show the girls' interests. After the summer break we will be starting on our Collectors Badge, where the girls are going to bring in one of their collections and talk to us about it.

Furthermore, we enjoy looking into charity nights and possible fundraising ideas. As a member of Poynton Methodist Church, I have always been interested in the Twinning Toilets project our Church supports. So, when the other leaders and I planned a charity night for the Brownie unit, we thought it was a perfect charity for which to raise money, as we use the Methodist Church for our meetings. The charity night was a great success, Catharine Hughes kindly sent us some information on the charity and toilet hats which the girls loved making! The Brownies enjoyed learning about what would happen when we raised our goal of £60 for the toilet and liked the thought of helping people less fortunate than themselves.

We spent the rest of the term raising money by making small donations every time we used water by using the toilet, having a shower and brushing our teeth, amongst other activities. We have hit our target and donated the money to the Twinning Toilets project when our term started again in September. I am very proud of the girls for their enthusiasm and passion for raising money for the charity.

Being a leader at 2nd Poynton Brownies is very rewarding. It is great being able to be a part of a group of young girls who are always so enthusiastic and thoughtful of others.

Bethan Hollowood

FLASH, SLASH, DASH

Once upon a time, a family of mice took up residence in a farmhouse on the side of a three acre field. They were a distinctive family on account of the pattern of their fur, which was not uniform but of a piebald appearance. That is, it had patches of two contrasting colours – like the Pied Piper.

The three boys were all the same age, which often happens with mice, and had developed into such good runners that they entered all the local races, invariably beating the local field mice throughout the three acres.

One day they were coming home from a fancy dress party where they had won first prize dressed as the three mouseketeers with elaborate hats and riding coats.

Little did they know as they crossed the three acre field that the farmer had released his young bull into the field to graze. He soon caught sight of them and, forsaking the tasty grass, ran after them to see this curious sight for himself. Scared, they started to run, but their coat tails got tangled with their legs and slowed them down. The bull was gaining, but the farmer's wife who had been cutting the umbilical cords of newly-born calves in the shed, was nearby and sensed the danger. Quick as a flash, she overtook the bull who was still not fully grown and reaching the mice, leaned over as she passed them and slashed their coat tails with the knife that was still in her hand. Now unimpeded, the mice soon pulled clear of the bull as they followed the farmer's wife to safety.

You may have heard the rhyme that was written about the event:




Three pied mice, three pied mice
See how they run, see how they run
They all ran after the farmer's wife
Who cut off their tails with a calving knife.
Did you ever see such a thing in your life
As three pied mice?

POP UP CRAFT GROUP



Our first meeting to create the Christmas Stars (which will be used to decorate Park Lane), is on Monday 2nd October 2.00-4.00pm at the church and thereafter on Monday afternoons until completion.

Not sure if this group is for you? All you need is:

-  **Enthusiasm**
-  **An eye to detail (i.e. can place lolly sticks in correct position)**
-  **OK about getting a bit of PVA or glitter on you.**

Join us as and when you can on a Monday, suggest warm clothing as we will be fitting into a vacant space to work and if possible bring a small paint brush suitable for applying PVA to lolly sticks. Tuition will be given.

Looking forward to seeing you on the 2nd October and not to worry if Monday is not a convenient day for you as our next project could well be on a different day.

Hilary King and Linda Grant



CHURCH CARDS

With your support church cards/second-hand books raised £977 for church funds at the end of our financial year 2016/17. Thank you for your support.



Have you noticed how prices have increased recently? Our basic materials have not been excluded. With this in mind we are happy to continue recycling your old greetings cards and appreciate the return of our cellophane wrappers to reuse.

Once again we are selling our Christmas Cards at the Charity Market (11th November) and thereafter they will be available in the coffee area.

Linda Grant & Hilary King

CROQUET ON THE LAWN

On a bright sunny afternoon in August, twenty ladies gathered on Helen Ives' lawn to play croquet. For some it was the first time they'd picked up a mallet and ball, whilst others had the advantage of playing in this social event last year.

Our tutor, Alison Court, exhibited patience and understanding when, despite our efforts, the ball sometimes refused to roll very far!

Fortified with tea and cake we persisted and gradually improved ...well most people did!! Lots of chatter and laughter could be heard with loud applause for good efforts.

The magnificent garden was much admired and 'a good time was had by all'. As we left, we prepared ourselves to negotiate the various roadworks, including warm tarmac, cordoned-off areas and the dreaded orange cones that covered Dickens Lane that day.

Many thanks go to Alison and Helen for arranging and hosting this most enjoyable event.

Margaret Meekley

SEASONS OF MY SOUL

Film of the month 'Transitions and Change'



'Sunshine on Leith' is based on the sensational stage hit of the same name, featuring music by pop-folk band 'The Proclaimers'.

The film follows the stories of Davy and Ally, who have to re-learn how to live life in Edinburgh after coming home from serving in Afghanistan.

Both struggle to learn to live a life outside the army and to deal with the everyday struggles of family, jobs and relationships.

Described as the Scottish Mama Mia, Sunshine on Leith is a real feel good film that one can sing along too.

Sunday 15th October at 7.30pm – (come and see it).

Mon 16th October at 7.30pm – (come and discuss it).

'SEASONS OF MY SOUL'

Book of the Month -Transition & Change

This is a funny, poignant, observant, human and uplifting tale of love, community and second chances.



'Britt-Marie Was Here' celebrates the unexpected friendships that change us forever, and the power of even the gentlest of spirits to make the world a better place.

At first sight, Britt Marie is a fussy, passive-aggressive busybody. But hidden inside her is a woman who has bigger dreams and a warmer heart than anyone can imagine.

When she finds herself alone for the first time in decades, she realises she's spent her life making choices for the sake of other people. Is it now too late for her to change?

Discussion **Sunday 29th October at 7.00pm.**

Rev John

SEASONS OF MY SOUL

Looking both ways

A huge thank you to everyone who has picked up on the 'Seasons of my Soul' initiative which began last month. The two sessions here at PMC and at Windlehurst attracted over 45 people, which is a great start. Each theme 'stands alone' so don't worry if you couldn't make the first one in which we looked at 'Identity' by attempting to answer the questions

- Who am I?
- What or who has affected my identity and how has it changed over the years?
- How does God see us?
- What should our identity be as members of the body of Christ?
- How does society view people of 'a certain age' ...as a burden or as a benefit?
- And last but by no means least, how does society view the identity of the church?

The next session will be at **Dialstone Lane** on **Tuesday 17th October** and repeated at **Green Close** on **Friday 20th October**. Timings are 10.30am – 2.00pm. Bring your own lunch.

The October theme will be '**Transitions and Change**'.

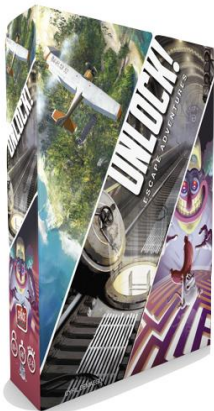
Rev John

PROPERTY UPDATE

- * Leak repaired on LINCAT boiler in kitchen and new filter fitted.
- * New cover made and fitted to the church font.
- * Problem with kitchen fridge freezing up resolved and new internal light bulb fitted.
- * New notice board bought/fitted to large corridor wall for 'Safeguarding' information.

- * The entire church roof was manually cleaned by outside contractors in August to remove moss and debris.
- * The church fire alarm systems and all extinguishers were inspected and certified in August by qualified outside contractors.
- * The church gas heating boilers in the Plant Room were inspected and certified in September by qualified outside contractors.

Derek Garner (for PMC Property Committee)



Poynton Board Game Day



The **Methodist Church**
in Poynton
Civic Centre Car Park
Park Lane
SK12 1RB

The quarterly Games Day is happening at the Methodist Church in Poynton on **21st October**. Everyone is welcome to come and enjoy tea, cake and games. You are welcome to come with family or friends, or on your own. There will be over 100 games to choose from, including many new and exciting releases.

Some games require dexterity, others require planning and strategy, a few rely on deduction, many on creativity, one or two depend on luck. There is enough for everyone to enjoy something, laugh and win.

Stephen Hughes

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

JOINT CHURCHES TOGETHER IN POYNTON AND CIRCUIT SERVICE

Poynton Methodist Church at 6.00pm
Sunday 8th October



Hannah Dobbins will speak to us about the 'Bible across Borders' project...providing scripture to refugees.

From the Bible Society website...Around the world

"Back in 1804, when our founders laid the foundations of Bible Society, they asked a question that would change the world. Affordable printed Bibles had just arrived for Welsh speakers, but why stop there? If for Wales, why not for the kingdom? And if for the kingdom, why not for the world?"

This was the moment our global mission was born, and as part of United Bible Societies, we're now active in over 200 countries and regions. Through our translation work, we make the Bible available in new spoken and signed languages, as well as revising existing Bibles to bring the language up-to-date. To meet the individual needs and demands of the millions wanting the Scriptures,

our production facilities not only print physical copies but also produce visual, audio and digital forms.

Our distribution network takes the Bible to places it might otherwise be hard to come by, and we improve literacy by empowering people to read, using the Book as a reference.

We also work to affirm the place of the Bible in society, challenging ill-informed thinking and demonstrating that the Bible can be a force for positive change in today's world."



Something different for the family – An 'Alternative Advent Calendar' from 'Embrace the Middle East'.

Each window reveals one of life's necessities which the £25 purchase price could fund.

Whether it's a portion of rice, a warm pair of gloves, medicine or even a toilet roll, each picture is the perfect reminder of the small things we give to bring comfort and hope to people waiting for an end to war and poverty.

I will be once again selling alternative Christmas gift cards from 'Embrace' at the **Charity Christmas Market on Saturday 11th November** but these can be ordered in advance from me at: mandy.hawkyard@btinternet.com

DIARY DATES

Every weekday at Midday:

Prayers in church at 12.00 noon p 6

- 1st **Oct** Meditation p 6
- 1st Café Church p 12
- 2nd Pop up and pop in p 23
- 3rd Weekday Worship and lunch p 6
- 4th Happy Birthday Will p 14
- 5th Ladies' Fellowship p 16
- 7th Happy Birthday Thomas p 14
- 8th Harvest including knitting for IAT collection p 9
- 8th Evolve evolves p 9
- 8th Circuit/CTIP Service at PMC p 28
- 15th Film of the month – Showing p 25
- 16th Film of the month – Discussion p 25
- 17th Happy Birthday Eleanor p 14
- 17th Seasons of My Soul Session Dialstone Lane p 26
- 18th Herald deadline p 31
- 19th Prayer Group Breakfast p 6
- 19th Tuesday Communion and lunch p 6
- 19th Ladies' Fellowship p 16
- 20th Seasons of My Soul Session Green Close p 26
- 21st Poynton Board Game Day p 27
- 28th Let there be Light p 13
- 29th Book of the month – Discussion p 25
- 2nd **Nov** Ladies' Fellowship p 16
- 11th Charity Christmas Market p 29

Just time for a smile

A woman was trying hard to get the ketchup out of the jar when the phone rang, so she asked her 6 year old daughter to answer the call. She was horrified to hear her say, "Mummy can't come to the phone right now, she's hitting the bottle."

Wood burns faster when you have to cut and chop it yourself.

(Harrison Ford)

The best cure for sea sickness is to sit under a tree.

(Spike Milligan)

THE NOVEMBER HERALD

Closing date for submissions will be **18th October (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 **November** Herald will be available for you to pick up from **27th October**. 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.

Copyright

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

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

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

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

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.