



**The Methodist Church**   
**in Poynton**

**DECEMBER/JANUARY 2017/18**

*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**

December 2017

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it."

I wonder whether you would classify the following moments in the nativity story as ones of light or darkness. "There was a man sent from God whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light. The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world" (John 1.1-6)

The opening words of John's gospel talk about a light coming into the world and I suppose for many of us that is exactly the kind of image that we have when we think about Christmas and the birth of Jesus 2,000 years ago: an image of light. But the nativity story is not just about light but also about darkness, with those two contrasting threads running through the warp and weft of the nativity narrative producing not a flat one-dimensional story but rather a full 3D, high definition tale showing a whole range of human emotions and character traits.

So your challenge this month is to look though some of the highpoints of the nativity stories as taken from Matthew's and Luke's complimentary but very different accounts and see whether you can see light, darkness or perhaps even a glimpse of both in the events you encounter.

The glow of burning incense; Zachariah being startled by the angel whilst on duty in the temple; Elizabeth's despair and shame at being

unable to have children and then her joy at being told she will expect a child; Zachariah struck dumb and his frustration at being unable to speak for months; The sense of pride at what their child will grow up to be.

Mary's reaction to the angel Gabriel appearing to her; Joseph's reaction to Mary's 'good news' and his dilemma as to what would be the honourable thing to do; The reaction of both sets of parents and the rest of the village; The sense of escape to be able to share being pregnant with your cousin and to feel a baby leaping for joy in a womb.

The sense of oppression of a foreign power that can order its citizens to go and be counted in a census; The long 80 mile journey only to find no lodgings available in Bethlehem; The kindness of one solitary inn keeper. A star moving across the sky; The moment of revelation to a group of magi used to studying the heavens.

A chorus of angels and the glory of the Lord against the blackness of the sky; The social standing of a group of shepherds; Ill lit back alleys and lanes; The flicker inside a stable door; The radiant joy on a young mother's face; The fear in a new father's eyes; The suspicions of a king whose rule was threatened; The glint of gold as a present is offered; The peace in the eyes of an old man and his foreboding words of prophecy; The echo of Rachael weeping for her children; The enlightenment of a dream; The terror of a midnight escape; The life of a refugee.

As we enter this season of Advent, one in which we are encouraged to prepare, to wait, to get ready, let us do so by becoming attuned to all the different shades and hues that await us in the weeks ahead. Perhaps it is only when we become aware of the darkness that we can fully appreciate the full extent of the light when it finally arrives.

May the peace of the Christ Child fill you, fill those you love and fill those you struggle to love this Christmas.

Love and light

**Rev John**

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

**SUNDAY SERVICES AT POYNTON  
IN DECEMBER/JANUARY 2017/18**

<b>Date</b>	<b>10.30am UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED</b>		
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> December</b>	<b>9.00am Med</b>	<b>Rev John Wiseman HC</b>	<b>4.00pm Café Church Catharine Hughes</b>
<b>10<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Theo Eaves</b>	<b>6.00pm District Service Venue TBA</b>	
<b>17<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>9.00am Rev John Payne HC</b>		<b>Mandy Hawkyard M FN</b>
<b>24<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Rev John Wiseman Carols</b>		<b>3.00pm Creative Christmas</b>
<b>31<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>Alan Rashleigh</b>		
<b>7<sup>th</sup> January</b>	<b>9.00am Med</b>	<b>Rev John Wiseman Covenant</b>	
<b>14<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Rev Dr Andrew Lunn (District Chairman)</b>		
<b>21<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>9.00am HC Rev Amanda Boon</b>		<b>Rev John Wiseman Café Church</b>
<b>28<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Rev John Payne</b>		
<b>4<sup>th</sup> February</b>	<b>9.00am Med</b>	<b>Rev John Wiseman HC</b>	<b>4.00pm Café Church Catharine Hughes</b>

**SUNDAY SERVICES AT GREEN CLOSE  
IN DECEMBER/JANUARY 2017/18**

<b>Date</b>	<b>2.30 pm</b>	
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> December</b>	<b>Ann Dawber</b>	
<b>10<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Elizabeth Delafield</b>	<b>6.00pm Dist Service Venue TBA</b>
<b>17<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Rev John Wiseman Carols HC</b>	
<b>24<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Please note: 2.00pm Rev John Wiseman</b>	
<b>31<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>Keith Tonge</b>	
<b>7<sup>th</sup> January</b>	<b>Rev John Wiseman Covenant</b>	
<b>14<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Stephan Rudolfer</b>	
<b>21<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>Adrian Law</b>	
<b>28<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Rev John Wiseman</b>	
<b>4<sup>th</sup> February</b>	<b>Andrew Stoker</b>	

**FN Family Nativity**  
**MC Messy Church**

**HC Holy Communion**

**Stepping Hill 10.00am**  
**Woodlands 11.00am.**

**21<sup>st</sup> January**  
**10<sup>th</sup> December**  
**14<sup>th</sup> January**  
**11<sup>th</sup> February**

**Keith Tonge**  
**Chris Hawkyard**  
**Alan Rashleigh**  
**Theo Eaves**

## PRAYER



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

Midday prayers are said every weekday in the church prayer corner at 12.00 noon. There is a prayer list on the cupboard door near the front entrance. Jean Drinkwater would be happy to add your name to our rota.

## 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. The next two dates are **3<sup>rd</sup> December and 7<sup>th</sup> January.**

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

## WEEKDAY WORSHIP

*First Tuesday* The first Tuesday **in December is 5<sup>th</sup> and in January is 2<sup>nd</sup>.** There will be a service at noon on these 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 this extra opportunity to worship.

## CAROL SINGING

This year we will be going Carol Singing around the Care Homes on **Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> December**, meeting at church at 1.25pm prompt to go across to Parklands.

Please make a note of the date – and if you can come, please tell **Jean Rashleigh** (877432) or **Hilary Parry** (873674) in advance.

## PRAYER GROUP



Meets every Tuesday morning at 9.45am and on the third Tuesday (**19<sup>th</sup> December and 16<sup>th</sup> January**) at 9.00am in 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 **21<sup>st</sup> December and 18<sup>th</sup> January**.



## A FURTHER CHANCE TO SEE AND HEAR...

'Shuffling to Santiago' on 7<sup>th</sup> January 2018



On **Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> January** I will be repeating my 'Shuffling to Santiago' talk. This will take place instead of Café Church on that day.

Starting at 4.00pm it will feature the usual coffee and cake and hopefully give people a chance to come along who couldn't make the original date.

**Rev John**

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



**'Professor Bumblebrain's Absolutely Bonkers Christmas'**, by Andy Robb Published by CWR at 90p.

This small booklet is in the style of a comic and would make an excellent stocking filler for a child aged 5 to 10.

It explains how Christmas began and what it really means. One page explains where five common Christmas customs came from. The booklet is eye-catching and colourful.

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**'God's Blessings of Christmas'**, by Billy Graham. Published by Thomas Nelson at £1.99

In this lovely booklet there are thoughts from Billy Graham, Bible passages and carols. It would be a great booklet to read during Advent. You will find hope, joy, love and peace here.

When Christ came into the world at Bethlehem there were lots of problems and the world into which Jesus came was complicated, much like the world is today. Billy Graham tries to show that for those without the joy of living, Jesus is their answer.

In one of his reflections Billy describes the scene in Bethlehem and gets us to understand what it would have been like to be there. The scene comes alive. Each section of the booklet is about a particular blessing and the booklet is a wonderful reminder of why we celebrate Christmas.

**'Networks for faith formation'**

Relational Bonds and the Spiritual Growth of Youth

By Steven Emery-Wright and Ed Mackenzie

Published by WIPF and Stock (ISBN 978-1-4982-3602-7)

The aim of the book is to describe and commend eight key networks, relational bonds that nurture and nourish faith. Each network draws on biblical and practical theology as well as aspects of the social sciences. Each network assists young people with ideas for positive encouragement within the others.

The book is very well researched, drawing on a wide-ranging bibliography, and shows the capabilities and experience of the co-author's work in ministry, theological education, and discipleship. I suspect that there are very few books which provide such a comprehensive overview of young people's relationships and their faith. There is much in the book that all people young (and older) can find useful in helping them grow in faith, or can provide leaders with tools to facilitate growing in faith.

The 10 chapters are relatively short and all are eminently readable.

The first chapter (Grace through Networks: A Theology of Relationships) is the most important, as it sets the tone of the book and its contents. Its format and that of subsequent chapters is similar, with an explanation of the points that are being made, a short conclusion, and (most importantly) "Putting it into practice". There follows a list of books for further reading.

The remaining chapters look at faith from its foundations, building faith through to deepening faith, by looking at relationships within the Church, families, friends, mentors, small groups, service etc.

The book is good – there is no other way to describe it. As an example of how easy it is to use, I received the book on a Monday morning, and after reading the first chapter, decided to use its contents on the Tuesday evening at an Air Cadets Padre's Hour to challenge the cadets (most of whom do not go to Church, except



for 2 parades a year). The results astonished, in that they all reflected seriously on the relationships they have and what they gain from them, but more importantly, what they can give.

The Commanding Officer was so impressed that he wanted to know how to get hold of the book. He is a secondary schoolteacher who is deeply involved in the personal development of pupils.

It is particularly relevant that in the last few weeks the media has been focusing on mental health issues among young people, and the lack of opportunities (or encouragement) to form relationships.

Every leader in the church should be encouraged to know that there are real, practical ways to help people grow in faith. It is an excellent book to have in your library.

**Alan Rashleigh**

## MORE THAN A BOOK

The Bible Society has a wide range of products available to purchase through its website:

**<https://www.biblesociety.org.uk/products/>**

These include their Christmas shop (yes, you've still got time!), a range of bibles (including dyslexia-friendly versions of the gospels) and other Christian books and DVDs.

Poynton Methodist Church has signed up under their 'More than a book' scheme so that any purchases made through the Bible Society will generate a donation of 10% to church funds. It is a win-win situation: you get the goods you wish, and church benefits from your purchase. Just remember to choose Poynton Methodist Church (Cheshire) from the drop-down box when you order.

**Catharine Hughes**

## HYMNOLOGY ON A MONDAY MORNING - 27

**'The day thou gavest, Lord, is ended'**, words by John Ellerton 1826-93. Tune: St. Clement, by C. C. Scholefield 1839-1904

It was described as one of the fifty tunes that 'every Englishman knows.' A BBC producer, Chris Mann, once illustrated Verse 4 on television. He showed the morning sunshine as choirs sang it in Tonga and choirs in Cornwall singing the hymn in unison at sunset, demonstrating that the voice of prayer is never silent.

The hymn is the work of a Cheshire vicar, John Ellerton (1826-93), who is said to have written it in 1870 as he made his nightly walk to teach at a Mechanics' Institute. It was written for missionary meetings to which curious Victorians came to hear about exotic faraway places.

It was an immediate success, and Queen Victoria chose it for her Diamond Jubilee in 1897 and was sung in thousands of churches throughout her domains –

*As o'er each continent and island  
The dawn leads on another day,  
The voice of prayer is never silent,  
Nor dies the strain of praise away.*

Even more poignantly, it was sung exactly a century later when Britain handed back control of Hong Kong to China in 1997, closing a final chapter in the imperial story.

Apart from Evensong the hymn is rarely sung nowadays, but the spirit of the words lives on.

### **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**

## CAFÉ CHURCH

3<sup>rd</sup> December at 4.00pm

"He's an absolute angel!" or "Isn't she angelic!"

Ever heard this said about someone? Ever described a baby as having a cherubic face?

What do we think an angel is?



And if we think of an angel as a good thing, to be welcomed and praised, why is it that the first thing they say to Zechariah, Mary and the Shepherds is: "Do not be afraid!"?

Come and ponder the Christmas story from an angelic viewpoint, with tea, coffee, mince pies and

shortbread, at Café church – **4.00pm Sunday 3rd December.**

**Catharine Hughes**

## TOILET TWINNING

Cliff College were delighted to announce recently that they'd twinned all of their 25 toilets. They are catching us up!

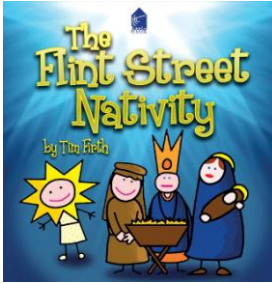
PMC's efforts have twinned over 30 across Poynton, and last month I had the pleasure of presenting Mr David Waugh, headmaster at Poynton High School, with a certificate for twinning a school toilet block in Pakistan.

We continue to get generous donations through the Civic Centre collection boxes and in the blue box beside our own toilets, so if you know of anyone who might like their toilet twinned, do let me know!



**Catharine Hughes**

## FAITH THROUGH FILM



This beautiful 60 minute film is set in the fictitious inner city Flint Street Primary School, on the Welsh-Cheshire borders. It focuses on the seven and eight year-old pupils in that evening's sole performance of the school nativity play from classroom preparations and castings to the final stage performance, which culminates in calamity.

Featuring well known adult stars such as Dervla Kirwan, Josie Lawrence, Jane Horrocks, John Thomson, Frank Skinner, Mina Anwar, Stephen Tompkinson, Julia Sawalha, Neil Morrissey and Mark Addy playing the roles of the children, The Flint Street Nativity is a laugh out loud and yet touchingly poignant reminder of what Christmas is all about.

A PG certificate film that is suitable for all the family.

**Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> Dec at 3.00pm**

**Rev John**

## PRESCHOOL AT THE CHRISTMAS CHARITY MARKET



Preschool was delighted to be invited to hold a stall at the Christmas Charity Market held the church on 11<sup>th</sup> November and made a profit of £88.17. Our picture shows Scarlett in attendance.

Hilary Clare's handmade, appliquéd toy bags were popular, as well as our Christmas craft kits and handmade fancy Christmas sweet treats.

You can come back for more at the Christmas Fest Christmas tree festival, when there will also be a 'Guess the weight of the Christmas cake' competition. Contenders this year will have to try to match Judith's 100% accurate estimate last year.

**Sarah Parker**

## FAMILY WORSHIP AT 10.30am ON SUNDAY 17<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER



Have you ever wished you could have had a part in the Nativity Play? Now's your chance!

During this Service there will be a pop-up-nativity in which all those who wish can join. No lines to learn, no rehearsals, it will just happen!

Some props will be available - e.g. crowns, crooks, gifts (or have you something at home that would depict who you are?) - a sheep (toy!), an animal onesie! It would be great to have a new baby - has anyone a new grandchild?

It will be based on Scripture Union's book "The Greatest Journey" which will be given as a gift to all the young families attached to our Church.

Here is our chance to joyfully celebrate Christ's birth **together**.



**Mandy Hawkyard**



## *Saturday 11th November Charity Christmas Market*

*THANK YOU so much to all those who helped at the market. A special thanks to John Lunt, Derek Garner and Chris Hawkyard for getting the Church ready before the event and those who put it all back afterwards. And what a sterling job the team in the kitchen did keeping us all fed and watered. No easy task with the record number of people who attended.*

*Arnold always asks me for a record of the money taken –*

<b>Refreshments</b>	<b>£ 277.10</b>
<b>Traidcraft</b>	<b>£ 300</b>
<b>Cancer research</b>	<b>£ 140</b>
<b>Belarus</b>	<b>£ 165</b>
<b>Church cards</b>	<b>£ 84</b>
<b>Francis House</b>	<b>£ 344</b>
<b>East Cheshire Hospice</b>	<b>£ 190</b>
<b>Ladies Fellowship</b>	<b>£ 110</b>
<b>Green Close</b>	<b>£ 143</b>
<b>Red Cross</b>	<b>£ 200</b>
<b>Save the Children</b>	<b>£ 235</b>
<b>Windyway/Red Cross</b>	<b>£ 100</b>
<b>Embrace the Middle East</b>	<b>£1582 including gift aid</b>
<b>Dialstone (Dementia)</b>	<b>£ 75</b>
<b>Preschool</b>	<b>£ 105</b>
<b>Children on the edge</b>	<b>£ 40</b>
<b>Chifundo</b>	<b>£ 198</b>
<b>MHA</b>	<b>£ 85</b>
<b>Tables</b>	<b>£ 120</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>£4493.10 – WELL UP ON LAST YEAR!</b>

*The teddy's name was  
Zebedee and was won by  
Nora who was there with  
her great granddaughter  
Orla – lucky girl!*

**Mandy Hawkyard**

# CHRISTMAS CHARITY MARKET 11<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2017



Remembrance



Orla and her GreatGran



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

## THANK YOU LETTERS

I wish to thank the church for the beautiful flowers given to me recently. They were very much appreciated and cheered me up at a sad time.



**Rita Drew**

*Just to say a big "thank you" for the flowers that Evelyn Shepherd kindly brought round following my recent fall. I am glad to say I am on the mend and look forward to seeing you all soon. With best wishes and thanks for your kind thoughts,*

*Sincerely, Mary Thorpe*

*Thank you to Poynton Town Council, The British Legion and especially to Men in Sheds for making and painting the lovely wooden poppies that grace the lamp posts on Park Lane and along Macclesfield Road. We have no castle wall for them to cascade down but we can still remember.*

**Judith Ridgway**

## FLOWER MINISTRY

Thank you to you all for your kind donations to the Flower Fund over the past twelve months. The new calendars are now pinned near to the Flower Ministry Rotas. If you have a special Sunday on the calendar e.g. Birthday, Anniversary, Memoriam or any other occasion, please write your name on the appropriate date, and one of our flower arrangers will be happy to arrange them for you. Gill Oldham or I will be happy to receive your donation.

Thank you also to all the dedicated flower arrangers and flower distributors. This is a worthwhile service and is much appreciated by all those in receipt of flowers each weekend (we receive numerous thanks). When folk are a bit down, a cheery face with a plant or flowers certainly makes their day.

**Sandra Townsend**



## FUNERAL SERVICE

The Funeral Service for **Olive Haygarth** took place at Poynton Methodist Church on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> November and was followed by a Committal Service at Macclesfield Crematorium.

Olive was originally a member at Hockley Methodist Church for many years before she became a member at PMC when this church was inaugurated. She lived with her sister Rose, who predeceased her, in a bungalow behind where Woburn Court was later erected long before that accommodation was built. Latterly she has lived at Prestbury House Care Home, Macclesfield. We are indebted to Jean Drinkwater who, as her pastoral visitor, has regularly kept in touch with her over 40 years.

We keep Olive's family in our thoughts and prayers at this time.

## Happy Birthday to:

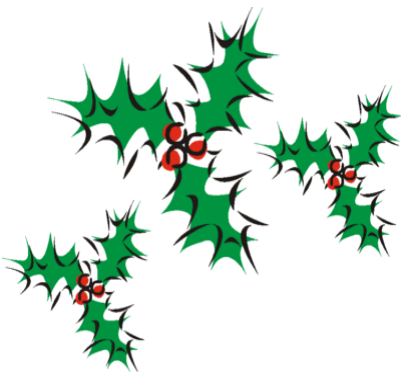
**Lois Dawson** who will be 2 on 15<sup>th</sup> December

**Matthew Hughes** who will be 17 on 22<sup>nd</sup> December

**George Woodhouse** who will be 9 on Christmas Day

**Georgie Wilbourn** who will be 12 on 17<sup>th</sup> January

## Church Cards



Our handmade Christmas and New Year cards are now available in the coffee area with all proceeds going to church funds and we thank you in advance for your continued support.

Apologies for mentioning this so early but yes, we would like to recycle your old Christmas cards when you have finished with them and would ask that you leave them on top of the pigeonholes for our collection.

Thank you, **Hilary King and Linda Grant**

# POYNTON METHODIST PRESCHOOL

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS



**Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> December 2017 - Craft and Games Stall at Poynton Christmas Fest, 6.30pm to 9.00pm, Poynton Methodist Church.**

*Visit our Christmas Craft and Games Stall at the very popular Poynton Christmas Fest.*

*Enjoy our games "Name the Teddy", "How Many Sweets in the Jar", "Guess the weight of the Cake" and peruse our Craft Bags, Sweetie Cones and more! **Excellent as stocking fillers.***

*Enjoy our Preschool Christmas Tree at the Christmas Tree Festival. EVERYBODY WELCOME*

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**Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2017 – Meet Father Christmas  
3.30pm to 5.00pm, Poynton Methodist Church Hall**

*Excited for Christmas? Come along and meet Father Christmas! FREE Christmas Fairy Cake for ALL children and more, EVERYBODY WELCOME! See our Facebook page for more details.*



**Purchase tickets in advance at**

**[www.jumblebee.co.uk/PMCPchristmas2017](http://www.jumblebee.co.uk/PMCPchristmas2017), also available on the door at £5.00 per child for walking babies to age 8.**

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Crackerjokes

Knock, knock      Who's there?      Arthur      Arthur who?  
Arthur any mince pies left?

Why does Santa have three gardens? So he can 'ho ho ho'!

## PROPERTY UPDATE

- \* LINCAT boiler repaired; new pipe 'elbow' fitted to the internal water supply of the unit to prevent an on-going leak.
- \* New lock fitted to the fire door in Room 2. (Outside contractor)
- \* Window restraint in gents WC repaired.
- \* New twin light unit fitted in kitchen.
- \* Two new outside lights fitted in play area to replace 37 year old units.
- \* New lamps fitted in Room 4 and ladies WC.
- \* Repairs to both piano stools in church and coffee tables in coffee area.
- \* All clocks adjusted for end of British Summertime and new batteries fitted where necessary.



### NOTE:

The lock to the fire door (see above), has now been replaced twice in recent years, (total cost about £190.00). Most of the causes of damage are down to basic misuse; viz. the key being broken in the lock and impossible to remove. Most door keys are made from soft metal and require a little TLC. Removing the keys from the lock after opening and locking the door helps to prevent these expensive repairs. Just putting them on the hook provided adjacent to the door keeps the costs down.

Various lights are being left on in the church on very regular occasions when the building is not in use. There is a cost element to this and church funds would benefit from a little more care in this area. We would value the co-operation of ALL church users.

Helen Ives has been asked to circulate the various room hirers highlighting these issues.

**Derek Garner** (PMC Property Committee)

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**Crackerjoke**

**What does Santa suffer from if he gets stuck in a chimney?  
Claustrophobia!**

Invite your friends to our  
**Christmas Tree Festival**



On Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> December from  
 7.00pm-9.00pm and  
 Wednesday and Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup>  
 from 10.00am - 6.30pm

Members of our community have decorated a  
 Christmas Tree to depict a Christmas Carol



Those involved include the Library, Pre  
 School, Toddlers, Green Earth, Mates, Poynton  
 Flower Club, Kids Zone, Able Living, NWR, WI,  
 Waitrose, Morrisons, Ladies Fellowship,  
 Headway and Magnolia tree Crafts.

## WHAT'S IN A NAME?

Well, Shakespeare may have thought that a rose by any other name would smell as sweet, but any PR expert will tell you the value of a brand or logo. As a shorthand for a style of worship that allows different activities for all age groups, we have been using the term 'Messy Church', though at Church Council it was agreed that we didn't like that much! Two other terms have also been suggested: Breakout church, and Mosaic church.

Can you think of anything better? There may be a prize for the best suggestion! (It will probably involve chocolate). Leave it for me in the 'H' pigeonhole before the end of January. Let's aim to make our modern worship style even more attractive to families currently outside the church.

### Messy Church – 18<sup>th</sup> February

It may seem a long way away when you receive this magazine at the end of November, but before the next Herald some of the activities for Messy Church will need to be planned. What have you liked so far? Flower arranging? Cooking? Hymn writing? And what might you like to do, to offer worship to God?

- singing?
- banner making?
- craft activities?
- knitting?
- prayer walk?
- other suggestions...??

Everyone has a talent they can use for God. What can you offer to help the whole church community worship? No-one will be left on their own, but it is good to share and to enjoy learning new ways to worship God.

It's time to vote! Please let me know what your thoughts are so we can offer the broadest range of options to make church fun for all!

Thank you!

**Catharine Hughes**

## LADIES' FELLOWSHIP

We wish everyone in the Church family a Happy and peaceful Christmas and a good New Year.

Two dates for **December**: firstly **7<sup>th</sup> December**. Gaynor Cooper is going to give us a talk. Her interesting subject is 'Live, Laugh, Love'. Christina Thompson will be leading the meeting.

**21<sup>st</sup> December** will be our Christmas Meeting, which will include Carols and readings, and we will also be looking forward to our faith supper. Sandra Townsend is leading the meeting.

**4<sup>th</sup> January**: Rev. John Squares is coming along to speak on a subject to be announced later.

18<sup>th</sup> January: **Jean Crouch** and **Peter Hugo** will inform us on "**The Big Garden Bird Watch**".

**Sandra Townsend**



## Poynton Board Game Day

Saturday  
13 January  
2-10pm



[www.facebook.com/PoyntonBoardGameDay](http://www.facebook.com/PoyntonBoardGameDay)

**Awesome games and fabulous cakes**

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

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

## TOY GIFT SERVICE – Advent Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> December

Wood Street Mission is a registered children's charity based in the centre of Manchester **at 26 Wood Street, Manchester M3 3EF**. They help children and families living in Manchester and Salford with everyday items most of us take for granted. All the families they support are affected by poverty.

Wood Street's **mission** is to help alleviate the effects of poverty on local children and their families through practical help.

Wood Street's **vision** is that all children in Manchester and Salford should live a life free from poverty.

At Christmas they provide children up to the age of 18 with new toys and gifts. The presents are new as they want the child to feel no different from any other children opening their gifts on Christmas morning.

### How can we help?

Donate a new toy, gift, book, toiletries or new clothes suitable for children and young people up to 18 years old and bring them to Church on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> December. The suggested value is £10 or we can combine gifts of a lesser value. Please remember the older children - they struggle to secure enough donations for them.

Please do not wrap presents – they will have to be unwrapped before distribution. If you wish you can donate a sheet or roll of wrapping paper which families can use to wrap your gifts themselves without extra cost.



**Let's help make a child smile this Christmas**

## CHRISTMAS CHARITIES: JOSEPH'S WHEELS



Joseph Whitworth is 9 years old and has SMA Type 2 (Spinal Muscular Atrophy). SMA is a life limiting condition which results in generalised progressive muscle weakness. He has never been able to crawl or walk, and over the years has lost strength in his arms, hands, neck and swallowing. He has a gastrostomy to help ensure he receives the calories and nutrition to keep him well. He also uses non-invasive ventilation at night to help with his breathing and to steer off potentially life threatening chest infections.

He has driven a powered wheelchair since he was 3 and loves participating in wheelchair football. He is also a very keen Manchester United supporter and he was lucky enough to meet the team at a dream day in October 2016.

Joseph has had his current wheelchair since he was 4 years old. It became obsolete a few years ago which makes finding parts for any repair work increasingly difficult.

Joseph is due to start Poynton High School in September 2018. After discussion, it appears that the best way forward is a sit-to-stand chair since it would be difficult to accommodate both his chair and a stander, which he uses daily for physiotherapy. A sit-to-stand chair is not available on the NHS and will cost at least £20,000.

Currently, nearly £14,000 had been raised and the family is hoping to raise the full amount in time for Joseph to start at PHS in September 2018.

The Church Council has voted to support this local cause as one of our Christmas Charities this year. His mother, Nicola, will be coming to speak to us during our 10.30am service on **Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> December**, when she will introduce us to Joseph and explain more about what he needs.

There is a fundraising page if you wish to donate privately online:  
<https://gogefunding.com/josephs-wheelchair-fundraising/>



## CHURCHES AND FAITH GROUPS URGE GOVERNMENT TO BE STRONG AND NOT TO FUDGE REFORM OF FOBTs

31 October 2017

**A group of Churches and faith-based organisations have welcomed the Government's announcement of a consultation on proposals for changes to gaming machines and social responsibility measures, but warned that the range of options presented for a maximum stake for fixed-odd betting terminals is too wide.**

In a statement, the Salvation Army, the Church of England, the Methodist Church, the United Reformed Church, the Baptist Union and the Church of Scotland, CARE, the Evangelical Alliance and Quaker Action on Alcohol and Drugs said:

**"Fixed odds betting terminals (FOBTs)** present serious problems in society and for local communities, families and individuals. Evidence links them to patterns of addictive behaviour, large financial losses and anti-social and criminal behaviour. While we welcome the Government's consultation, anything approaching an upper limit of £50 would not go far enough to reduce the negative impact these machines can have on individuals, families and the wider society."

Not only is there a major challenge presented by FOBTs, there are also wider issues associated with gambling that require serious political commitment to address.

"We stand by the belief that the maximum stake on fixed odds betting terminals must be radically reduced from the current maximum stake of £100. We believe that this will help to reduce the potentially enormous financial loss that some people experience, and therefore the consequences including debt, depression and crime. Most of us are committed to a £2 maximum.

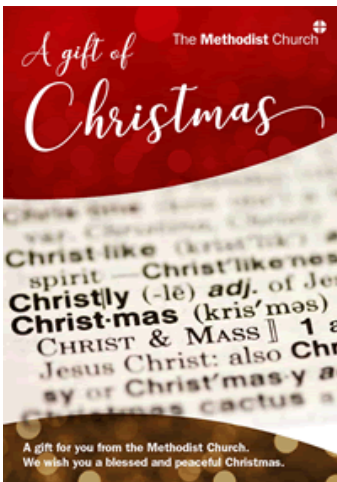
"We urge the Government to view gambling addiction as a public health issue. The Department of Health must engage with gambling addiction strategically, at the levels of both prevention as well as treatment for individuals.

"Evidence showing that problem gambling causes harm to a disproportionate extent in disadvantaged areas and amongst ethnic minorities. Local authorities must be empowered to combat the increase of gaming machines and their clustering in disadvantaged areas.

"There is also evidence of a strong association between problem gambling and online play. In this context it is very important that the long awaited multi-operator self-exclusion system for online gambling, first promised by the Government in March 2014, is now implemented as quickly and as robustly as possible.

"We are profoundly concerned about the marked growth in gambling advertising and urge the Government to adopt a 9.00pm watershed, which includes the promotion of gambling through sports events."

## GIVE A GIFT OF CHRISTMAS



**'A Gift of Christmas'** (2017 edition) is now available to order from [Methodist Publishing](#).

This A6 booklet tells the Christmas story using Bible quotes and hymn verses. Filled with gorgeous images and theological reflections, you can use this booklet for personal meditations and to keep with you during this festive period.

*A Gift of Christmas* is perfect to give away to family, friends, small groups and your community.

Share the story of our Lord Jesus Christ this Christmas.

Is there a charity that collects surplus charity bags?

A small boy noticed a dog in the back of a police van. Not knowing it was a police dog, he went to the driver and asked him "Is he under arrest?" Back came the reply, "No, but we have a lead!"

## THE FEBRUARY HERALD

Closing date for submissions will be **25<sup>th</sup> January (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 **February** Herald will be available for you to pick up from **28<sup>th</sup> January**. 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:annie@poyntonmethodist.org)

#### EVERY WEEKDAY

- 8.30am-3.00pm Preschool. Varying sessions also available. (Sarah Parker 871115 and [pmcpreschool@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:pmcpreschool@hotmail.co.uk)) Extended hours available 7.30am - 5.30pm
- #Kids Zone - (Pam Dowd 07717 003 322, [kidszonepoynton@btinternet.com](mailto:kidszonepoynton@btinternet.com))
- 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

- 10.00-11.00am Discussion Group/Bible Study (Theo Eaves 875162)
- 7.30pm - \*+ House group at the Dawson's led by Catharine Hughes

#### TUESDAY

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

#### WEDNESDAY

- 5-6.00pm #2<sup>nd</sup> Poynton Rainbows (Sue Dyson 07515 883 585)
- 6.00-7.30pm #2<sup>nd</sup> Poynton Brownies (Catherine Potts 07979 955 804)
- 7.30-9.00pm #4<sup>th</sup> 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 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday (Rev J Wiseman 871592)
- 7.30-9.00pm #1<sup>st</sup> Poynton Guides (Georgia Eyre 07989 360 850)
- 7.30-9.30pm \*Ladies' Fellowship (Sandra Townsend 878563)

#### SATURDAY

- 9.00-11.00am Who let the Dads out? 4<sup>th</sup> Sat. (Rev John Wiseman 871592)
- 7.30pm \*Exploring Faith through film (Discussion on Monday - Rev John Wiseman))

#### 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)
- 4.00pm \*Café Church First Sunday (Helen Holmes 260451)

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.