

# THE HERALD



## The Methodist Church in Poynton



### NOVEMBER 2017

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

**Our Church Family encourages everyone...**

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

**MUMBLINGS FROM THE MANSE**

November 2017

I wonder how you feel your memory is doing. Or can't you remember? Sometimes I can't even remember who I am. Thankfully I have my name sewn into all my shirts so all I need to do is have a quick peek inside my collar to discover my identity. Yesterday it transpires that I was in fact St Michael.

Throughout our lives we are shaped by memories that affect what and how we remember the past, so that we can live in the present and prepare for the future. Sometimes our memories can be an inspiration. Sometimes our memories can be a torment reminding us of things and events we would rather forget. Sometimes they can be a sanctuary, a passage back to what seems a better time and place; and let's be honest, who doesn't enjoy the occasional trip back down 'Memory Lane'? The trouble occurs when we begin to live constantly in the past.

Memories can be incredibly vivid and at other times as elusive as the Scarlet Pimpernel. Sometimes it is easier to remember to bring to God all the painful, unresolved situations in our lives and the lives of others, than it is to remember to give thanks for all the blessings we have received. Memory and memories are fragile and tragically, we can lose our memory at any moment due to neurological disease or sudden trauma. So I wonder what memories would you like to pass on to others, to family, to friends, to strangers. And perhaps equally importantly what and how would you like people to remember you?

Memory, remembering and being remembered is a recurring theme within the pages of scripture, with the Jewish people

constantly being reminded of God's covenantal relationship with them and unconditional love for them. During his life and ministry Jesus did and said so many memorable things that when it came to writing them down, the memories were deeply ingrained in those who had heard or seen. And on the last night he spent with his disciples, Jesus broke bread and shared wine, then told them to do this in 'remembrance of him'. Of course he told us to do lots of other things as well; care for the widow, the orphan, the child, the outcast, the poor, the disabled, the sick, welcome those that society doesn't etc – but I wonder if sometimes we have forgotten those things or maybe chose not to remember them too clearly.

Thankfully for us, if we open our hearts and minds, the Holy Spirit is around and alive not only to guide and counsel us but also to remind us. And let's hope that we are reminded, because if we aren't, the church might one day become exactly what you have been reading about today... just a memory

Love and light

**Rev John**

## A FURTHER CHANCE TO SEE AND HEAR... 'Shuffling (again) to Santiago'



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**

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Come to worship God who loves us...**

**SUNDAY SERVICES AT POYNTON  
IN NOVEMBER**

Date	10.30am UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED	
5 <sup>th</sup> November	9.00am Med	Rev John Wiseman HC
12 <sup>th</sup>	Rev Amanda Boon	
19 <sup>th</sup>	9.00am Rev John Wiseman HC	Mandy Hawkyard Café
26 <sup>th</sup>	Rev John Payne	
26 <sup>th</sup>	6.00pm Circuit Service Hazel Grove Rev John Payne	
3 <sup>rd</sup> December	9.00am Med	Rev John Wiseman HC

**SUNDAY SERVICES AT GREEN CLOSE  
IN NOVEMBER**

Date	2.30 pm	
5 <sup>th</sup> November	Stewart Blackledge	
12 <sup>th</sup>	Rev John Wiseman HC	
19 <sup>th</sup>	Stephan Rudolfer	
26 <sup>th</sup>	Rev John Wiseman	
26 <sup>th</sup>	6.00pm Circuit Service Hazel Grove Rev John Payne	
3 <sup>rd</sup> December	Ann Dawber	

**HC Holy Communion**

Stepping Hill	10.00 am	12 <sup>th</sup> November	Rev John Wiseman
Woodlands	11.00am.	12 <sup>th</sup> November	Chris Hawkyard

**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



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. Next time it is on **5<sup>th</sup> November**.

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

## WEEKDAY WORSHIP

*First Tuesday* The first Tuesday **in November is 7<sup>th</sup>**. There will be a service at noon on that day followed by a simple lunch. All are very welcome to this 30min service that caters for shoppers, passers-by and everyone who is available and wishes to take this extra opportunity to worship.

## THURSDAY COMMUNION

This is always on the **third** Thursday of the month at midday followed by a light lunch. See you there on **16<sup>th</sup> November**.





## PRAYER GROUP

Meets every Tuesday morning at 9.45am and on the third Tuesday (**21<sup>st</sup> November**) at 9.00am in the Kingfisher where we hold a prayer breakfast. This group is growing - why not join us?

## STATIONING UPDATE

Just to let you all know the stationing process is now in full swing. Ministers are currently looking around various churches/circuits and circuits/churches are hoping that their profiles will entice potential ministers.

The first matching group meets in early November and if we have been matched with a potential minister it is hoped he/she will come to visit us sometime that month.

If all goes well and a match is made, that's great. If not, then we will enter the second matching group that takes place at the end of November with any visit taking place in early December.

The various vacancies are classified as must fill/need to fill/hope to fill and we believe that as a circuit we fall into the 'need to fill' category.

There are however 141 vacancies to be filled and only 95 ministers looking to move, so we all need to hold this process in our thoughts and prayers, especially those who will be meeting any potential minister when he/she comes to visit.

**Rev John**

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



**'Old but not Out'** – Purpose and discipleship in old age by James Taylor, published by Day One at £6

I found this book very encouraging. 'Old but not Out' is not just for older people. I would recommend it to all who care pastorally for older people.

Retirement is not the end of life or the end of service for God. There is no age limit when it comes to claiming God's promises, relying on his power and entering into full possession of Christ's riches. We need to remember that the promises of God are greater than our willingness to claim and accept them.

The book mentions well known Christians such as C. T. Studd, who have taken on enormous challenges when they were older. There is careful reflection on key biblical characters such as Abraham and Sarah, Naomi, Caleb, Eli, Simeon and Anna. Caleb was not ready for a rocking chair or a tent in some retirement village in the Jordan Valley. He wanted more adventures in his retirement years. He is an example to all who, in their later years, are prepared to sit back and leave things to younger Christians.

There is no retirement in the life of faith. Some people in their senior years talk of the 'good old days' as if the future will be second best, when in reality God has promised us a wonderful future. Life must have been hard for Anna. She was a widow for many years. There was no widow's pension or social security yet she did not sit back and rage. She gave herself to fasting and prayer in the temple and her undoubted love for God and for worshipping him is an example

to us all. Anna walked closely with God and her last years were her best, years of thankfulness and contentment.

At the end of the book is a recap entitled 'So What Have We Learned?' This is a good place to reflect on the book as a whole.

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## MONDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY AND DISCUSSION GROUP – 10.00am – 11.00am at PMC

We have come to the end of our study of the Acts of the Apostles. It has been an exciting story of the Acts of God's people, empowered by the Holy Spirit.

It was written by Luke, not just as an historical record, but to encourage the church in every age to be faithful to the Lord and carry the gospel to the ends of the earth, as commanded by Jesus (Matthew 28.19).

Our new study started on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> October, is Handel's Messiah. We will listen to recordings of the work, and examining the scriptures which make up each Recitative, Chorus, and Air.

Charles Jennens, a friend of Handel drew upon the Gospels, the Epistles, the Psalms, and Isaiah, Job, Haggai, and Zechariah, for his texts. I am looking forward to an enlightening series.

Everyone is very welcome to join us, whether for the whole series or just the odd days when you are available, for the study will be based on each individual part of the score.

Any questions? Contact **Theo Eaves, 01625875162**



## HYMNOLOGY ON A MONDAY MORNING - 26

**'When I survey the wondrous cross'** Words by Isaac Watts 1674-1748;  
Tune Rockingham by Edward Miller 1731- 1807.

Matthew Arnold, the Victorian poet, writer and critic, called this hymn, "the finest in the English language".

When he wrote it, Isaac Watts' hymn heralded a dramatic change in church worship. Watts is said to have complained to his father that church worship was monotonous. His father's response was to tell him to write something better. The result was a hymn which for the first time allowed singers to address God in the first person.

This caused consternation among some clerics. Isaac's brother told him that "there was a great need for a piece as vigorous and lively as yours to help revive the dying devotion of the age". A personal hymn such as this contrasted with the tradition for metrical psalms set to a mere handful of tunes.

Watts used the letter of Paul to the Galatians to create a hymn of private devotion which would fix the singer's eyes upon the cross of Jesus.

Miller was at one time a flautist for Handel. Like Watts, Handel was also dissatisfied with the 18<sup>th</sup> Century church worship of the time. Once, Archbishop Temple ended a huge service with this hymn. "Sing it loud, if you believe the last verse," he said, adding "but sing it softly, if you want to believe it." With one voice, they sang it softly.

### References

Galatians 6.14 see verse 2.

Matthew 27.29, mocked by Roman soldiers – see verse 3

Romans 12.1 - honour Jesus in every aspect of your life.

### **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**

# FROM A SPARK TO A FLAME

## - Bonfire Worship

Tired of being able to sit down for worship? Fed up with a nice warm church building? Feel that worship nights aren't the same without the risk of torrential rain? Then our up-coming Bonfire Worship night sounds perfect!

This November, we are holding another bonfire worship service outside, around a bonfire, which will include worship songs, some active prayer and some toasted snacks! The idea behind the 'campfire approach' to worship is all about releasing the gospel from the confines of the church building. It's about remembering that our church is not a building, but our community, and that we can worship anywhere.

This time, we are using bonfire worship as an opportunity to engage fully with God and explore how we can strengthen our faith and our connection to God. It may seem daunting to some of you to be without the usual structure of church, but I would urge you to come along – you might surprise yourself! Consider this a chance to really connect with God and with others in our church community. The idea of bonfire worship surrounds the fact that we praise God **as a community**, so do please come and join the party!

We will be singing a mixture of songs, mostly those we already know, but with one or two that may be new to some of you (words will be provided for all). A playlist of the songs we will be singing will be provided beforehand via email, Facebook and Twitter so do make sure to check the PMC pages if you're technologically minded.

The service will be on **Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> November at 7.00pm** up at Hilltop Farm (Christine Ding's). If you'd like to come but aren't sure how you will get there, please contact me or another member of the café church team (Catharine Hughes, Sally Holmes, Mandy Hawkyard or Richard Baker) and we will sort out a lift for you. We'd

love you to come and praise God under an open sky and experience worship in the great outdoors.

So, if this sounds like something you'd be interested in, wrap up warm, pray for good weather, and let me know if you need a lift.

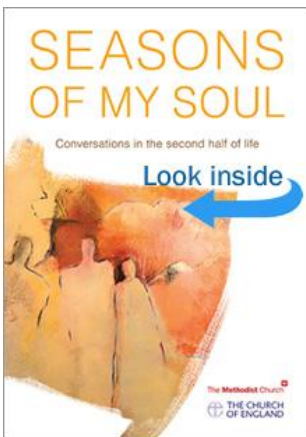


Do come along and turn your spark for God into a flame. Bonfire snacks and sparklers will be provided! If you have any questions, please email me at: [helenbeth@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:helenbeth@hotmail.co.uk). We'd love to see you there!

Remember, for those of you who come along to café church, this service will be our café church for the month!

**Helen Holmes**

## SEASONS OF MY SOUL



The third round of 'Seasons of My Soul' will focus on the theme of memory and remembering.

The repeated session will take place at Poynton Methodist Church on **Monday 13<sup>th</sup> November** and at Hazel Grove Methodist Church on **Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> November**.

Both sessions will run from 10.30am and finish at 2.00pm.

Don't forget your lunch.

**Rev John**

## THE BEGINNING OF A VERY LONG JOURNEY

I had a brother Gordon, 10 years older than me, and when I was 17 he married and he and his wife bought a house in Surrey. Each summer, Mum and I would go by train from Stockport to London to stay with them for a week. Gordon would meet us at Euston and drive us to their home.

One year, Mum and I got into a carriage at Stockport station and it was occupied by an elderly nun. We soon got chatting and she started to question me about my Christian beliefs. At that time, I attended our local Congregational Church and had for several years been teaching the beginners in Sunday school. I thoroughly enjoyed telling them the stories of Jesus but realised that my love of little children was stronger than any true Christian belief I had at that time.

Sister Lillian and I talked about Christianity for much of the journey and as we approached London, she asked me for my address. Mum and I hadn't long been back home in Edgeley when a parcel arrived for me; Lillian had written to me and had enclosed an Authorised Version of the Bible.

By chance, the first thing I read was Psalm 121. It is very beautifully written in the AV and I learnt it by heart. However, life was very good for me at that time and it was 10 years later when my self-sufficiency fell apart that I found my faith in God.

Sister Lillian sowed the first seed of my long journey towards a personal faith and I feel so blessed to have spent some three hours in her company.

**Christina Thompson**

# SUNDAY NOVEMBER 19<sup>th</sup>

## – Café Church at 10.30am

Please can I explain what will be happening at our morning worship on November 19<sup>th</sup>? As you enter the building please get a cup of tea or coffee and come and sit in Church around a table. When you are settled, join in the hymns and songs of praise and thanksgiving – you will know them. (You can guess what one will be!)



There will be a short Bible reading after which the younger children will leave us for their own activity. If anyone wants to go with them – that's fine. For the rest of us there will be a short sermon which will lead into discussions around your table. No-one will be forced to speak – some like to listen and consider. On the table will be small paper Christmas tree decorations, already made, representing light – candles and stars, on the back of which you can write

The theme for Advent and Christmas is 'Light'; the theme for this month's 'Seasons of my Soul' is 'Memories' – my aim is to combine the two. "Who convinced you to follow the light of Christ?" Or maybe it was a certain bible passage, a hymn or something you saw. Are there stumbling blocks that prevent you believing? By sharing, just maybe, we will be challenged or helped to introduce someone else to Christ.



All the usual elements of prayer will be in the Service, the music we love, even the collection! It will just be more relaxed. The symbols of light with our thanks for those who led us to Christ written on the back will eventually be hung on our Christmas tree. See you there!



**Mandy Hawkyard**

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

## THANK YOU LETTERS



Anthony and I would like to thank the church for the beautiful flowers delivered to our house and now in pride of place in the conservatory. 3 weeks ago our caravan caught fire and destroyed the front of our house. We are living in the back of our house and will get back to normal one day. Thanks for the prayers and concern shown.

**Rosalyn and Anthony Parkinson**

*I would like to express my thanks for the flowers I received and the thoughts and prayers for my son, Barry, who is going through a difficult period of biopsies and investigations for a rare blood cell disease. It is lovely to know others are thinking of us at this difficult time. Thank you,*

**Anne Horrocks**

*Thank you all very much for the lovely flowers, cards and kind words following the death of my Mum. It is good to feel the support of friends.  
Love,*

**Rowena Thorp**

*What a pleasant surprise when Julie presented me with a lovely birthday card from Ladies' Fellowship. And that's not all - I also received a bunch of flowers from Margaret Wilson on behalf of the church. They certainly brightened my day! Love to you all,*

**Lorna Samuels**

*Many thanks to everyone at church but especially to Gill for the lovely flowers sent to me for my birthday and to Marjorie for delivering them. It was so lovely to receive them, particularly as the church was so very busy on that day. My thanks also to Ladies' Fellowship who sent me a birthday card to add to the celebrations. I am truly grateful to all involved.*

*Yours sincerely,*

**Pat Musgrave**

# CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

## Dedication & Thanksgiving

We send our love to **Lois Dawson**, whose Dedication and Thanksgiving Service was held here on **8<sup>th</sup> October 2017** during our Harvest Festival Service – a happy juxtaposition!

## From Ray & Barbara Brown

Barbara and I are so grateful for the many expressions of good wishes we have received since arriving at our new home. We have settled well, with our furniture arranged just about as we like it, Sally's pictures on the walls. It now feels like home, and we have already explored some of North Norfolk's beautiful coastline.

Unfortunately, it was only yesterday (9<sup>th</sup> October) that we were finally set up with wi fi, phone, television and mobile. In spite of promises from SKY to have everything in place for the 18<sup>th</sup> September, it has taken this long.

Without imposing my worsening hand writing on you all, this is the first opportunity to make contact with you and thank you for the many cards and letters we have received from so many friends. Having just nicely settled in, we are off to South Africa on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> for six weeks! It will be a very special visit this year, as we are celebrating our son Adam and his wife's joint 50<sup>th</sup> birthdays and will be joined by two of our Australian grand children, Amie and Jack, for part of the time.

We will also be making contact with World Vision South Africa, who now manage Sally's Place. We have just received a very moving and exciting report from Sally's Place, telling us that as a result of the continuing support of so many of you, it has grown from initially caring for 13 children when we first set it up, to care for, teach and feed 65 pre-school age children! We continue to support them, and there is still need for further teachers, building maintenance, etc. Now that it has been transferred from Word Vision UK to South Africa, it is more complicated to send money to them. However, if donations are sent to me, I can arrange transfers of money to their bank account.

We have settled into the Methodist church here. It is a small congregation, but very welcoming and occupying a beautiful, peaceful worship area. We are open for visitors, whenever you are able to call. There is a guest suite here which we can reserve for just £22 per night (as well as a bed settee with us, but only suitable for younger, more supple creatures!)

For anyone who wants to keep in touch, our contact details can be obtained from John Turner.

Hope you are all well, with our greetings, and all best wishes,

**Raymond and Barbara Brown**

## CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL



As part of Poynton Fest we will be hosting a Christmas Tree Festival in the worship area. So far we have approx 16 local groups and organizations who have agreed to decorate a tree based on a familiar Christmas carol or on characters from the nativity story.

This display will be open on the night of the Fest (Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> December) and will remain open between 10.00am and 6.30pm on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> December when we hope to attract further visitors. We have already had interest from Vernon school (60 children) and the Age Concern group that meet in the Civic Centre to come across and view the trees on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup>.

The Family Committee is coordinating the event but will need help clearing part of the church after the service on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> December and putting it back again on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December.

There is also a need for volunteers to be on hand to serve refreshments and offer assistance to anyone who comes to visit especially in the afternoons and early evening.

**Rev John**



## REMEMBRANCE

I remember - though I'm too young to remember:

- an unknown uncle
- a sister's grief
- a silent granddad
- a creased letter
- a sepia photograph
- a khaki tie
- a family gap
- a silent moment
- a sudden tear



I do remember – I'm not too young:

- 1939-1945
- more bereavement
- more grief
- more gaps
- more tears
- evacuees
- darned socks
- patched clothes
- hand-me-downs



I remember:

- war's beginning – war's end
- war's beginning – war's end...



Let us remember:

- the bravery
- the fallen
- the folly
- our neighbours far and wide
- our brothers and sisters all over the world
- the golden command: 'love one another'
- to look to Jesus
- to pray for peace
- and to seek it constantly.



A. S.

# HALLOWEEN

The nights are drawing in and the temperature is dropping and Annie's thoughts are turning to?? That's right, Halloween...

As I am writing this I am busy preparing for our Light party in the church, which, by the time this goes to print, will have come and gone.

But how should we, as Christians respond to the "trick or treat-ers" arriving on our doorsteps on 31<sup>st</sup> of Oct? I do not have the answers but would like to share some thoughts.

I am concerned that there seems to be a much greater emphasis on promoting Halloween as a festival than ever there was when I was a child. As far as I am concerned trick or treating is nothing more than demanding sweets with menaces (!) and I question whether that is really something we should be teaching our younger generation? That said I will probably be sharing sweets and marvelling at costumes before October's close.

Dressing up can be fun, as can any excuse for a silly party, but some of the costumes provided for children are very grim indeed and quite distasteful. A fantasy witch on a broomstick? Well, maybe, but do we really need to see children dressed as rotting corpses?

That said autumn in this country is an obvious time for us to be considering the natural cycle of life and death. No wonder our pagan ancestors saw this as a thin time where the dead and the living draw closer together. Should we perhaps revive the celebration of All Saints and All Souls which give us an opportunity to remember our dead loved ones, something which we tend to overlook these days but which seems to be a need rooted in the human psyche? I am not advocating ancestor worship just a quiet memorial.

Over the years I have struggled with this time of the year. When my own children were small we celebrated All Saints Day with

traditional games such as apple bobbing and we made pumpkin lanterns with smiley faces and lit candles. We tried to think happy thoughts and told stories about saints, not always so successfully I must admit.

In the past I have given out Christian stickers to children who came knocking at my door, explaining that I do not like the way we emphasise the dark side of things at this time of year. Said stickers were always to be found stuck along my wall the following day!!

I am a great believer that if we take things away from our children because of our faith we must replace them with something even better so that they will not feel left out. So here's to all those putting on light parties all over the country and beyond and to all of you, however you decide to tackle this issue.

Remember that our light (Jesus) shines in the darkness still and the darkness cannot and will not ever overcome that light.

**Annie Truman**

## VICAR OF DIBLEY: THE SECOND COMING



If you get this Herald in time, can I remind the following people that they have reserved tickets to go and see this production at Poynton Players on Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> October?

Gill O, Helen I, Pauline, Keith and Christina T, Marie M, Anne B, Maxine M, Dot M, Joyce D, Alison C, Dulcie L, Sue B, John and Jean L, Jane and Chris R and Marjorie H.

Tickets are £9 and can be paid for on the day.

**Rev John**

# POYNTON METHODIST PRESCHOOL

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

### **Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2017 – Charity Christmas Market, Poynton Methodist Church, 10.00am – 12.30pm**

Visit our Charity Christmas Market Stall as part of our Christmas Festivities. Enjoy our craft activities; decorate a mug/plate with chocolate etc. Buy your Christmas stocking fillers; Sweetie Cones, Craft Bags and more.  
EVERYBODY WELCOME



### **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

### **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.



## THANK YOU, SOUPER PEOPLE!



On Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> October, PMC held a harvest celebration including a Thanksgiving for Lois Dawson. Following this, there was an 'RHS Big Soup Share'. Bowls of soup and some fresh bread was enjoyed by our church community.

We are school members of the Royal Horticultural Society and receive some free seeds and garden support and advice. The Big Soup Share is a national initiative to celebrate 10 years of the RHS School's Garden Campaign. Preschool children had made some tomato and pumpkin soup on Friday, using produce from the preschool garden.

On the day, as part of the service, church members made soup to share, so there was plenty of delicious soup to go round.

Preschool would like to say a big thank you to the church community for raising money for preschool at the harvest celebration.

**Sarah Parker** (Poynton Methodist Church Preschool)

## LADIES' FELLOWSHIP

**On 2<sup>nd</sup> November** we welcome back Mrs Fraser, who is going to give us a talk on Jewish Festivals, if you missed her the first time she came to us, you missed a most enjoyable evening, and I am sure we will not be disappointed this time, the meeting will begin at the usual time of 7.45pm, and will be led by Mrs Anne Hindle.

Then on **11<sup>th</sup> November** we will be having our usual cake stall at the Christmas Charity Market. Our charity for this year is 'Riding for the Disabled'. Come and visit us for lots of home-baked cakes.

Boots on when Stewart Bradley visits us on **16<sup>th</sup> November**. Stewart's title is 'Ramblings from the Footpath'. Mrs. Brenda Oakley will be leading the meeting.

Two dates for December: **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.

**Sandra Townsend**

## BOOK OF THE MONTH



As part of the Seasons of My Soul theme of 'Memory' this month, we shall be reading the Booker Prize winning book 'The Sense of An Ending' by Julian Barnes.

Tony Webster leads a reclusive and quiet existence until long buried secrets from his past force him to face the flawed recollections of his younger self, the truth about his first love and the devastating consequences of decisions made a lifetime ago.

The discussion will take place on **Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> November** at 4.00pm.

**Rev John**

## HARVEST SERVICE

Our Harvest Service on 8<sup>th</sup> October was a busy occasion. The opening section was followed by six opportunities to continue outside the worship area in activities of our choice:

A craft activity with our younger children

To write a hymn to sing to end our service

Produce a floral display to enhance our closing worship

To prepare the soup for our communal lunch afterwards

To join our teenagers in a local coffee shop for a discussion

To join the morning service at Woodlands, our local MHA

A further option was to remain in the worship area to continue to worship there, led by Catharine Hughes.

When we returned, we were pleased to participate in the Thanksgiving and Dedication of **Lois Dawson**, having already welcomed a number of Zoë and Stephen's relatives and friends at the outset. Although **Lois** was the star of the event, **Elizabeth** shared the flashes of smart phones and more serious cameras, enough to fill yet another digital file in the Dawson cloud.



The concluding display of the harvest of tinned food to fill the cupboards of our friends in Salford, and the colourful knitted clothing destined to be distributed further afield by International Aid Trust were sufficiently complemented by the wonderful flower arrangements of our talented flower team to provide indeed

an atmosphere in which we could all echo "Thanks be to God!"



Yet there was more! This autumn, the RHS Campaign for School Gardening turned 10 years old. To mark this milestone birthday, the RHS invited everyone to celebrate between 2<sup>nd</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> October, by hosting a celebration as part of the first ever Big Soup Share.



Since our Preschool has a vegetable garden, they suggested we all join in and so it came about that we continued our fellowship together after the service by lunching on a variety of vegetable soups made during that morning as one of the activities.

The soup supping was soupervised by Rev John acting in the rôle of Souperintendent. Soup and a roll were souper-a-bun-dent. (Bread was present in the roll of soup souplement.) Every soup was declared souper by all who supped it (all were



considered souperior) and some suppers were souplied more than once, but not by any soupterfuge, so that considerably more than a soupçon was consumed. It serves to confirm that truly all men are broth-ers. Eventually the souply proved souperfluous and it would not be souprising to know that some of it might have been used to souplement a light souper or two later in the day.



On a future occasion, might one hope that we invite Mother Clanger to dish up and the Soup Dragon to preside? Oh, and could we finish with some Blue String Pudding?

**Arnold Samuels**

## EXPLORING FAITH THROUGH FILM



The theme of the film we shall be watching in November as part of Seasons of My Soul is 'Memory'.

It's not that I am unable to remember the title; it's just that at the time of going to press I haven't decided what it might be. It could be Rashomon or Vertigo or 50 First Dates or The Notebook or Remember.



What I do know is that due to other commitments and church bookings we will be showing the film on **Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> November** at 7.30pm with the review/discussion taking place on **Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> November** at 7.30pm.

**Rev John**

## ELECTRICITY PRICE HIKE

Just a note of warning that the price we pay for our electricity has gone up a lot since 1<sup>st</sup> July this year. We pay at 3 different rates for weekdays, Evenings and weekends and nights. The prices we paid last year went down slightly but this year they have risen a lot (see table).

Time	16/17 rate	17/18 rate	% increase
Weekdays	11.558p/kWh	13.179p/kWh	14%
Evenings and weekends	10.636p/kWh	11.932p/kWh	12.2%
Nights	7.046p/kWh	8.484p/kWh	20.4%

Last year we used 7489 kWh days, 3411kWh evenings and weekends and 3655kWh nights and paid £1,578.40, including 5% VAT, for the year. The price increases shown above indicate that the bill for the current year will be considerably higher **so please do all you can to reduce our electricity usage.**

The good news is that the amount we generated from our solar panels (8,637kWh) almost matched the total of the weekdays and evenings and weekends usage (10,900 kWh).

In the summer we generate more power than we use. The feed-in tariff rate was 44p/kWh and together with the export payments we were paid £4,020 for the year 2016/17. This does not include the money we save by the reduction in usage because of the power we generate from the panels. This saving will be at the higher rates above, since we do not generate power at night!

**Chris Hawkyard**

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

## HARVEST THANKSGIVING SERVICE

Thank you to everyone for your incredible generosity and hard work in providing knitted blankets and clothing and toiletries for International Aid Trust. We sent 30 bags altogether including 7 bags of blankets, 4 bags of hats and scarves sets, 2 bags of scarves, 4 bags of hats, 2 bags of sweaters and jumpers, 1 bag of gloves, 1 bag of socks, 1 bag of baby clothes and 1 bag of knitted squares which volunteers make into blankets. We also sent 1 bag of facecloths, 3 bags of soap, 1 bag of toothbrushes and 2 bags of toothpaste!!! We sent £220 towards transport costs including £40 from Green Close).



Thank you to all the people involved in setting up the display, the stewards on duty and all those who helped bag everything up for transportation. In planning for next year, we still need donations of double knitting wool and will be collecting knitted or crocheted items as above, particularly knitted clothing for men and boys. To clarify, knitted squares can be of any size as can blankets. (Knitted items can be given to Hilary Parry.)

Please continue to support this very worthy cause.

Many thanks, **Liz Baker** (403787) and **Hilary Parry** (873674)

*Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> November*  
*Poynton Methodist Church*



*Charity Christmas Market*  
 10.00am – 12.30pm

*Christmas Gifts, Cards,  
 Alternative Gifts, cakes and pastries.*

*Bacon Butties on sale all morning*

*Supporting:*

**GIVE A  
 GIFT THAT  
 COUNTS**



*Belarus                      British Red Cross*  
*Cancer Research UK, Cifundo UK*  
*Dementia East Cheshire Hospice*  
*Embrace the Middle East*  
*Francis House                      Green Close*  
*Macclesfield live at Home Scheme*  
*Middlewood House*  
*Poynton Methodist Preschool*  
*Riding for the Disabled*  
*Windyway kennels*  
*Traidcraft*

*Save the Children*

## 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!**

## PMC WORLD MISSIONS REPORT

My special thanks go to Jane Robson, our Church Treasurer, who has been my helper all through this year. She has counted and banked all the money whilst I have just tried to publicise our activities and encourage people to support our efforts.

Our Self Denial Envelopes raised £178.56. Our boxes were collected in January and August raising a total of £1,034.38. The grand total of these figures comes to £1,444.4 including Gift Aid.

As one of our Devotional Meetings in spring this year Poynton Ladies Fellowship invited Sheila Tonkin to talk about 'Methodist Women in Britain'.

Rev. John has organised many projects for bringing our church out of the building and making it visible in Poynton. Our 'Angels in Park Lane' project was reported nationwide in the 'Methodist Recorder' at the beginning of the year.

Despite not having a Methodist Women in Britain Representative for the Circuit, after a lot of last minute arrangements we held a very successful Easter Offering Service on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> May. It was very well attended by Circuit members and Catriona Stoker stepped in at the last minute and held it all together. The collection amounted to £231.20p.

Liz Middleton organised a mini bus to take a Circuit group of about a dozen to The Avenue Methodist Church in Sale on 17<sup>th</sup> June to their 'At Home' where Dr. Jill Barber gave a talk on 'Inspirational Women'. The Sale ladies prepared a delicious tea for us all.

Very many thanks for all your support.

**Marjorie Harrop**

## GET THE APP FOR...

### Android

**iPhone** (note - this is a new app rather than an update: users of the original iPhone app will need to delete it and install the new one)

### Other phones and devices (Web app)

A brand new app from the Methodist Church in Britain is now available on all mobile devices. The app offers users a daily Bible study, as well as all the latest news, audio and video from the Church.



Features include:

- Daily Bible studies, featuring a different author each week
- Prayer of the Day from the Methodist Prayer Handbook
- Lectionary readings and suggested hymns to help with planning worship
- The latest news stories from the Methodist Church in Britain
- Topical podcasts from Methodist Web Radio
- Resources for Christian discipleship
- Blogs from the President and Vice President of the Methodist Conference, Methodist Youth President and World Church Relationships team
- View videos through the Church's YouTube channel
- Interact on Facebook and Twitter
- Information about the latest campaigns
- Find your nearest church

"With the rise of the smartphone, we're more connected than ever before, and that's something to celebrate," said David Webster, the Church's Internet Communications Coordinator. "We want people to be able to make use of our resources across a wide range of platforms. Our goal is to support Methodists and other Christians as we make our way as disciples of Jesus in the modern world."

- **Sign up for e-newsletters** Keep in touch with what interests you

<http://www.methodist.org.uk/news-and-events/methodist-church-app>

A little boy opened the big family bible and a leaf that had been pressed between the pages fell out. "Mum, see what I've got" he called out; I think I've found Adam's underwear!"

## THE DECEMBER/JANUARY HERALD

Closing date for submissions will be **15<sup>th</sup> November (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 **December/January** Herald will be available for you to pick up from **23<sup>rd</sup> November**. 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

- 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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)

#### 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.