



THE HERALD



The Methodist Church in Poynton

FEBRUARY 2018

*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

February 2018

So, the moment you have all been waiting for. Where is Reverend John going next? The solution is in three stages and requires you to use your knowledge and wisdom

- 1) Simply answer all the bible-based questions below
- 2) Take the first letter of each answer
- 3) Rearrange those letters to fill in the blanks

Reverend John is going to _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ Circuit.
(10 and 4)

Questions

- Greek word for love often used in the New Testament
- Where did Jesus encounter a legion of demons?
- Paul wrote to them twice
- This king conquered Jerusalem and sent the Jews into exile
- This book of the bible begins...In the second year of King Darius, on the first day of the sixth month, the word of the Lord came through the prophet
- This happened to Reverend John in Portsmouth
- The first martyr of the Christian faith
- Jonah had a whale of a time after boarding a ship going here
- Would most likely be found at Twickenham singing 'swing low....'
- Thought by modern scholars to be a book in three parts which offers 'comfort to my people'
- This prophet criticises King David for his adultery with Bathsheba
- Ruth was one of these

- This book was written by one of the shepherds of Tekoa
- Paul brought tears to his eyes in Acts 16

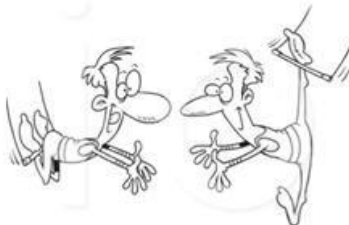
So, while you all beaver away working it out here are a few of the details. I will be going to a circuit of three ministers and 11 churches. I will look after three of those churches, each one being distinct in its location, context and culture. The main one has a membership of 133 and is diverse in age, ethnicity, nationality and culture with people from 16 different nationalities attending including a small Ghanaian fellowship. My second church has a membership of 20 families and meets every other week in a local primary school and uses models developed by the Fresh Expressions movement and Messy Church. My third church is semi-rural and alternates its worship every week with its local Anglican church. Their combined aim is to strengthen the Christian presence within the local village community

I will also have the chance to work alongside a 'Venture FX Pioneer', in his ground-breaking exploration of what it means to be disciples of Jesus with communities of people outside the traditional church model. This will involve supporting his work at a 'church' which is based around an allotment. And no, before anyone asks, I don't want a spade as a leaving present!

For those of you who need a little clue...

'Omar', dressed all in scarlet, wandered into the forest where he tucked into a little John West tuna sandwich made by disgraced sprinter Jones.

And the answer? oh! you'll have to wait for next month for that.



STATIONING UPDATE

After completion of the third round of stationing in early January, the Hazel Grove and Poynton circuit was unfortunately once again not matched with a prospective minister. As I have stated before this was primarily due to an imbalance of numbers, the fact that the District had 5 spots to fill, our falling into a 'need to fill' position and also a reluctance by some ministers to 'move north'.

This means that it is highly likely that from Sept 2018, when Rev Amanda Boon retires and Rev John moves to pastures new, the only full-time minister in the circuit will be Rev John Payne.

The Chair of District Andrew Lunn is in the process of arranging support for the circuit and some of the other churches are in the process of investigating the possibility of employing pastoral/family workers etc.

What this means is that for a period of 12 months there will be an added responsibility on the laity of the church. Thankfully, the Methodist Church is by and large one in which the laity normally have the greatest involvement and responsibility of any major denomination.

It will mean people putting their hands up to offer to help. This will be the case especially with regards the stewardship/leadership of the church and the area of pastoral visitors where we are currently short of active people even before Rev John goes.

If you feel the Holy Spirit is calling you to offer your services to the life of the church and Circuit, then please get in touch with Rev John as soon as possible.

Rev John

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

SUNDAY SERVICES AT POYNTON
IN FEBRUARY 2018

Date	10.30am UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED	
4th February	9.00am Med	Rev John Wiseman HC
4th	4.00pm Café Church with Catharine Hughes	
11th	Liz Delafield	
18th	9.00am Rev John Wiseman HC	Catharine Hughes MC
25th	Andrew Stoker	

SUNDAY SERVICES AT GREEN CLOSE
IN FEBRUARY 2018

Date	2.30 pm
4th February	Andrew Stoker
11th	Stewart Blackledge
18th	Rev John Wiseman
25th	Rev John Wiseman

HC Holy Communion

MC Messy Church

Med Meditation

Woodlands

11.00am.

Theo Eaves

The closing down sale at St Denys' the last Christian Bookshop in Manchester, is proceeding at The Basement, 10 Cateaton Street (near Manchester Cathedral) and will continue until 28 February. Books, gifts and cards are available at reduced prices and the shop hours are 9.00am to 5.00pm each weekday and 9.00am to 2.00pm on Saturdays.

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 **4th February**.

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

WEEKDAY WORSHIP

First Tuesday

The first Tuesday **in February is 6th**. 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 **15th February**.



PRAYER GROUP



Meets every Tuesday morning at 9.45am and on the third Tuesday (**20th February**) at 9.00am in the Kingfisher where we hold a prayer breakfast. This group is growing - why not join us?

OUR NEXT CAFÉ CHURCH

Café Church on Sunday 4th February at 4.00pm will be looking at 'loving ourselves'.

We are hoping to promote this event across the village to try and attract people from the other churches who are looking for a more informal, conversational and contemporary service at this time of day.

It will also be promoted across the Circuit to encourage any who already run a café church or who might be thinking of doing so to come along and share their ideas. Hope to see some of you there.

Rev John

THE SERVICE WITH NO NAME

Many of you will be aware of the successful 'Family Fun Days' that the church organises during the half term holiday, when up to 40 families attend for a couple of hours of craft, games, song, fun and friendship.

What we are aiming to do, starting on Sunday 18th March at 4.00pm, is to try and launch something similar, but with a greater emphasis on the faith we share. It will be a 45-minute interactive service suitable for young families with under 8s.

It won't be called 'Messy Church' as it won't contain the things normally associated with that particular format. In fact, we are not sure what it will be called and so are asking YOU for suggestions (and your support).

Please send any ideas you have to Rev John or Annie via the usual means. And put Sunday 18th March at 4.00pm in your diaries.

Rev John

LENT BIBLE STUDY 'FINDING A VOICE'



Starting on Wednesday 14th February, Rev John will be running a Lent bible study course based on the film 'The King's Speech'. This will consider the theme of 'Finding a Voice'.

Details of the dates for the study session are displayed on the poster in the church foyer (Wednesday evenings at 7.30pm apart from one session on a Monday evening).

Rev John hopes that several other people will volunteer to host sessions on different days/times to enable a larger number of people to access this course.

It is hoped that the services during Lent will utilise bible passages that compliment and explore this theme also.

Rev John

Blurb: “*The King’s Speech* is the tale of Elizabeth II's father and his remarkable friendship with maverick speech therapist Lionel Logue. Fascinating, moving and often humorous it charts the personal relationship that developed between England's reluctant King George VI, plagued by a nervous stammer, and his irreverent Australian speech therapist.”

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



'Ordinary Miracles' Men, Meals and Meeting Jesus In Unexpected Places by Chris Lane. Published by Instant Apostle £8.99

If you want to know more about the area in Salford where our twin church Emmanuel is situated (the Langworthy Estate) then this is the book for you. It tells the story of an Eden Project (The Message Trust), a Church plant (Langworthy Community Church) and a Life Centre for young people set up on the estate.

It is a story of stickability (eighteen years) when it would have been easy to run away in the face of crime such as housebreaking, arson, stone throwing etc. Chris Lane says that he has long admired the Anglican Church for its vision of having a church in every part of the country.

The book also mentions the Eden Bus which goes near Salford precinct and encourages youngsters to play together, instead of causing damage and mayhem, which is what happened big time prior to its arrival. The police are so delighted with the success of the bus and the fact that crime has dropped dramatically since it started that they have helped to fund the project.

Food is a feature in this book and reaching the community with the love of Jesus began round a table, when the community wing of the local primary school was hired for a meal to celebrate Easter.

Communal meals were started by Jesus but did not last. They were banned by Augustine in the fourth century, by which time they had long become detached from the Sacrament and had largely lost

their purpose. Jesus' meal table was filled with the most unlikely people.

In Langworthy, eating together has been central and meeting as church around a table has made and deepened friendships. As in Jesus' meals there has been a motley collection of people all on a messy journey of faith together, hungry for Jesus and praying to meet him.

One story in the book amazed me – the story of 'Britain in Bloom' – in Langworthy! A local lady suggested entering. A team was formed and funding secured for thousands of hanging baskets – one for every home on the estate plus large planters – to be attached to fences on the main roads and filled with flowers. Shopkeepers on both sides of Langworthy Road got on board and did their bit and local schoolchildren joined in too.

Amazingly the flowers and decorations stayed in place, while amid the rubbish and boarded up properties, the judges inspected. Against all odds Langworthy were awarded first prize in the North West in its category! This was a great encouragement to the people on the estate.

I liked especially the chapter called 'A week in Langworthy' in which are the details of all that is going on in the area with some wonderful stories there.

I hope I haven't given the impression that everything in Langworthy is wonderful every day. This is a 'warts and all' story and there are dark and desperate situations mentioned, but the point is made that if we want to experience the power of Christ we must be willing to suffer too as stated in Philippians 3.10.

Many lessons have been learned including the need to keep plodding on. Of course, it goes without saying that prayer underpins everything that happens. The churches in Salford work together, having regular worship and prayer gatherings, taking part in Party in the Park etc. as well as Langworthy Community Church having twice

weekly morning prayers and small groups for Bible teaching and prayer.

I highly recommend this exciting read but be warned it is one of those 'impossible to put down' books.

“ENGAGING THE WORD”

(Biblical Literacy and Christian Discipleship)

By Peter M Phillips. Published by The Bible Reading Fellowship

To save readers from becoming stressed by trying to understand the sub-title, Peter has very helpfully opened his Introduction with the words, “This book is about the relationship between the reading of the Bible and following Jesus”.

Later he asks the question, “Can we be better Christians by engaging more with the Bible?” The fundamental purpose of the Bible is surely to inspire mere mortals to aspire to be more like our Saviour and to follow in his footsteps. The problem comes with many being unfamiliar with Biblical language, as it is couched in terms not in everyday use. Hence the purpose of the book is to help the reader to understand what the Bible is really about, and how we should use it.

The book is a call to action, it looks at the way that by engaging the Bible our understanding of our journey through the Christian life will be transformed.

There are similar books which seek to achieve the same objectives, mainly by exhorting their readers to follow the instructions laid down in the Bible. This one is different, and to some may seem to be controversial, in that it argues that the Bible is not a rule book or instruction manual, but a guide to enable followers to ‘crank up’ their own engines of Christian discipleship, with a few additives.

It explores Biblical literacy (engagement with the Word of God) and discipleship (engagement with the world) – this is not surprising as Peter was a tutor at Cliff College, and among his other ‘duties’ was

encouraging students to engage with the world. He uses examples of the writings of Augustine, Aldred and Erasmus, as well as the way in which mystery plays have helped people understand Biblical stories. Being a Methodist, it would be remiss of Peter not to include passages written by John Wesley to interpret the Bible as an aid to discipleship.

Also explored is what it means to engage with the Word of God in a world in which contemporary communication is focussed on digital means.

This is a well-written, readable book, which provides practical advice to those reading the Bible who want to put what they have read to practical use in the world. It is in itself an 'Engaging Book', and very worthwhile reading.

Alan Rashleigh

CAFÉ CHURCH ON 19th NOVEMBER

Thank you to all who contributed to the Café Church led by Mandy Hawkyard in November, all of the furniture movers, coffee makers and all those present who started us off on our Christmas Tree decoration theme.

Mandy shared her Christian journey and we discussed who had been influential in our own journey, the places where God had been very close and bible readings and hymns that have spoken to us. These memories were written on the back of paper candles and our tree at Christmas became a tree of thanksgiving. It might have been a little different but there was a lovely atmosphere in the building and it gave us a great deal to think about.

Judith Ridgway

HYMNOLOGY ON A MONDAY MORNING - 28

'I, the Lord of sea and sky' (Here I am, Lord). Words by Daniel L. Schutte 1947-

Coming out of the clouds a helicopter emerges over the North Sea as it returns successfully from another rescue mission. For a Christian seaman, a mountaineer, or a pilot in danger out at sea, there are times when the words of this hymn must have a special meaning.

I remember a 'Songs of Praise' programme from Lossiemouth, Scotland when we saw the presenter Diane-Louise Jordan being winched up to a rescue helicopter. It was a dramatic prelude to the hymn. An R.A.F. corporal sang the opening verse as a solo and then the congregation joined in with the chorus 'Here I am Lord.' This was just a practice rescue but often it is a matter of life and death.

Schutte is a Roman Catholic and much of his inspiration comes from many years as a parish musical director. He is composer in residence at the University of San Francisco. He wrote it to lead people into prayer and for general participation.

References: Isaiah 6.8; "Whom shall I send?" the commissioning of Isaiah, after God had purified and prepared him spiritually.

Matthew 28. 16-20; the Great Commission from Jesus.

Ezekiel 11.19; "a new spirit in them" fulfilled at Pentecost to enable the disciples to be sent out.

Ezekiel 36.26; "a new heart" God promises to restore Israel not only physically but spiritually.

Psalms 51.7-12

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

THE METHODIST ART COLLECTION

From the early church to the present day, images have played a crucial role in the exploration of the Christian faith. Since the catacombs of Rome, the gospel has been articulated as much in image as it has in word.

The Methodist Modern Art Collection takes its place in this long tradition, providing an opportunity for new encounters, vibrant expressions of God's love, and a whole range of conversations that are both missional and pastoral.

We are enriched by the Collection.

The Rev Canon Gareth J Powell Secretary of the Methodist Conference



Mark Cazalet (1964-)

'Nathaniel (asleep under the fig tree)' Oil on paper 18 x 18 cm 1993

Methodist Modern Art Collection CAZ/1994/1

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John 1.45-51

The story of Nathaniel is an unusual subject for a painting. Here, he is lying under a fig tree, prior to his calling by Philip, apparently naked.

Cazalet suggests Nathaniel knew that Jesus had seen him in his entirety. The modelling of the figure, which is an unrealistic deep reddy-brown, is very sculptural. The ground is sketched in, with the dappled shadow of the fig tree. The tree is botanically inaccurate but fits the artist's purpose to portray it as an image of fruitfulness and consistency.

Cazalet has tried to capture the nub of the story, particularly Nathaniel's bizarre response to Jesus' comment, and to suggest something unusual about the narrative.

The simplicity of the composition captures the simplicity of the story, the 'metaphysical moment when every part of Nathaniel was "seen" by Christ'.

Commentary based on ***A Guide to the Methodist Art Collection***.

This image was used by Rev Dr Andrew Lunn, Chair of the District as an illustration during his service when he preached at PMC on 14th January.

Full details of the Methodist Modern Art Collection can be found on the Methodist Church website at <http://www.methodist.org.uk/our-faith/reflecting-on-faith/the-methodist-modern-art-collection/>

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Grow in Fellowship, joy and love...**

THANK YOU LETTERS



Thank you for the lovely flowers I received in December and brought by Pat Burgess. They really lifted my spirits. The colours were beautiful.

Rita Drew

I am feeling very blessed to welcome my gorgeous granddaughters to our family. They are sisters to Elliot and cousins to Skye (two and a half) & Sienna (3months). God is very good and has blessed the family with five grandchildren. I would like to thank everyone for all the well wishes, cards, prayers and flowers. I really appreciate it.

Marie Moncaster

Many thanks for all the messages and cards of sympathy we received after the death of my father Malcolm, on New Year's Eve. Also thank you to the church family for the flowers delivered by Liz which were much appreciated.

Margaret Martin

FLOWER MINISTRY

In the October Herald, I placed a notice to our flower distributors, expressing many thanks for all their help over the past 12 months. Unfortunately, we have noticed that from time to time, the flower distributors who have been on the rota for a particular Sunday have not turned up and have not informed me, Gill or Betty.

If you cannot do your Sunday, would you **please** let us know in advance, otherwise the flowers are left in Church and are not distributed. When our members are not feeling well or need to be remembered for other reasons, they do appreciate some lovely flowers, a smiling face and some words of encouragement.

We now have the calendars for 2018 pinned up on the large notice board in the corridor. If you have a special Anniversary, Birthday, Memoriam or any other special 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 donations.

Sandra Townsend

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

Congratulations to **Marie Moncaster** on the birth of her new granddaughters, Nora Jean (5lbs 13ozs) and Olive Marie (3lbs 11ozs) born on Thursday 4th January to Abi and Chris Madden, sisters to Elliot (19months).



We are sad to report the death of Val Matthews who died on 19th December in Macclesfield hospital. Val has been resident at Belong in Macclesfield for the last 2½ years.

She was a regular worshiper and a member of the Ladies' Fellowship since 2002 and served as a Communion Steward. Her funeral service and committal were conducted by Rev John Wiseman at Macclesfield Crematorium on 9th January. Please keep Alison her daughter and Phil her husband in your thoughts and prayers.



We are also sad to report the death of Betty Scarratt, initially of Booth Green Methodist Church, long time member at Wood Lanes which she loyally supported and where she held practically every lay appointment in her time there and latterly at Green Close. She died on 18th December after a short illness.

Please keep Lawrence her son, Dennis her brother and all the rest of the family in your prayers. Her funeral service was on Monday 15th January at PMC and committal at Macclesfield Crematorium.



We were very sorry to hear of the death of Dorothy Brandreth. Her funeral was on 10th January. at Overdale Crematorium (East Chapel), Bolton. Dorothy was a member here for many years before she and Arthur relocated to Adlington, Chorley where they were nearer to Kathryn and family and where Arthur died in November 2014. Please keep David, Shirley and Kathryn in your prayers at this sad time.

INFORMATION REQUEST

We have received the following letter via Rev Dr Andrew Lunn, our District Chair:

"I am writing to ask if your Hazel Grove/Poynton churches have a newsletter or magazine through which I could appeal for a little help?

March 22nd 2018 will mark the 100th anniversary of the death of **William Hallworth**, a Hazel Grove man who is commemorated on the HG War Memorial and listed on the Pozieres memorial to the missing, having no known grave.

He was a member of HG Wesleyan Chapel and a member of the Young Men's Class at Sunday school. His parents David and Annis Hallworth lived at 39 Chapel Street and William's married home was 13 Bramhall Moor Lane.

My brother and I do not know whether he was related to us, but this March we would like to honour his memory by placing a wreath in the HG War memorial, and I just wondered if we might find anyone living in the area, who is related to him.

If you have a suitable method of communication please let me know who to send further details to.

Yours faithfully Christine Swain, Barnsley, South Yorkshire."

If you have any information about William Hallworth, please pass it to Rev John Wiseman for onward transmission.

LADIES' FELLOWSHIP

On 4th January, Rev John Squares gave a most interesting talk on how he came into the Ministry, first through his mother, then through his friend Brian who was also a minister. After a short while we went into groups and talked about our faith and whether we think we are worthy enough to be able to talk to family members who didn't come to Church, and to people outside of Church, to express how the Lord was able to lead us.

After our discussions, we put questions to John and many of his answers were accompanied by anecdotes and our laughter through which he was able to give us an insight into his current life and his hopes for when he takes up his new appointment in September at a church in Durham.

On 18th January Jean Crouch and Peter Hugo gave us a talk on "The Big Garden Bird Watch". They showed slides accompanied by recorded birdsong which we all enjoyed. Barbara Dixon led the meeting.

Thursday 1st February is the date for our usual visit to Ciao for our lunch, 12.30 for 1.00pm and Barbara Dixon is in charge of the details and menus.

On 15th February Mark Cotton, a 'Designing Out Crime Officer' is going to talk to us about "**Get Safe Online**". Marjorie Harrop is leading the meeting and we begin at our usual time of 7.45pm.

Saturday 17th February is our Charity Coffee Morning. This year our Charity is **Riding for the Disabled**. Please come along and support this worthy cause. The coffee morning starts at 10.00am and ends at 12 noon.

Sandra Townsend

LET'S TALK ABOUT MESSY CHURCH

Happy New Year to all at Poynton Methodist Church and thank you all for your support during 2017!

Throughout last year we have been establishing a 'Messy Church', which gets together once every school holiday, and it has struck me that many of you may not have a clue as to what goes on at these mysterious meetings.

So here is a brief Messy scenario. To begin with it is messy! Some of the crafts are messy and there is very little structure during the first part of the morning. The charge per family is £2.00 and everyone is welcomed at the door and given some idea as to the format and the content of the session. As people arrive they are directed towards craft tables/ activities, but they are free to choose just to chill with a cup of coffee; the only thing we ask is that they take responsibility for the children that they have brought at all times. (This needs some gentle reiteration throughout the morning!) We tend to attract those with younger children and have in the past specified its particular suitability for the under eights.

After about an hour (or sooner if the natives begin to get restless) we stop for a brief talk/story, a song and a prayer before getting together for a snack. And there we have it. Messy in a nutshell!

I just want to write a little about the Messy approach.

- It is nationwide and has proved very successful at getting young families to engage with church. As it takes a specific format it means that if people are new to an area and have attended Messy church in the past they have some idea what they are coming to. Conversely if we want to invite people to come we know what we are inviting them to.
- The aim is to provide an alternative style of church and build up a Messy congregation. This is best done on a day other than a Sunday, although I have known a Sunday Messy church to work. It

is not necessarily the case that attendees will start to come to an ordinary Sunday service but as far as I am concerned the closer the links between the two congregations the better. Some Messy churches have gone on to have their own communion services (led by an ordained minister of course) and baptisms.

- Messy Church has tended to attract those who are on the 'messy margins' rather than the completely unchurched. It is for all regardless of age/race/ gender etc.
- There should always be a chance for everyone to eat together in some way, shape or form. A proper meal is the ideal and the suggestion is that the whole of messy church including the meal should be free. (Obviously if **we** decided to go down this route we would have to consider how MC could be funded).

To finish I am pleased with the way this initiative is going here at PMC but would like to see it develop further. My gifts tend to be with the little ones, so no matter how hard I try, it seems to be families with younger children that we attract. If anyone has talents which would help to include the adults and older children a little more in the crafts/activities do please come and say. Any suggestions/help would be gratefully received!

There is huge scope here for us to draw alongside young families especially when we eat together. (Remember Holy Habits.) Maybe when we provide snacks/a meal we could be more intentional about sitting alongside and eating with those who would not normally come to our church worship. (I am talking to myself here as I sometimes see this as an opportunity to start clearing things away!)

Do please support us in whatever way you can and help to make Messy Poynton Methodist Church a truly Christian community.

Annie Truman

PROPERTY UPDATE

- *New twin light fitting installed in Church kitchen.
- *Repair to door holding device in Room 1.
- *Filter change to Lincat boiler in Church kitchen.
- *Lock to main entrance to Worship Area repaired.
- *New Brabantia flip lid waste bin introduced to Church kitchen.
(Soft close lid...do not force it).
- *All Church radiators bled and emergency lights tested.

PAT TESTING (Portable Appliance Testing)

This will take place at PMC at 10.00am. Wednesday 7th February. This is a test of all PORTABLE ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES at PMC by outside contractors.

If you use any electrical appliances in the Church premises, these need to be tested. This includes any appliance you may own personally, viz. computers etc. If you attend Church at the above time this can be carried out at a cost (personal items) of £1.00.

If you are a member of a group within the Church and you have items tucked away, please make them available on the day. They can be left in the Church office, if clearly marked, and they will be tested.

Any monies can be left with the items in an envelope, if not Church property. These tests are relevant to Health and Safety and additionally there are obvious insurance implications.
(Ring Derek Garner if you wish further information).

QUINQUENNIAL INSPECTION

This is the 5-year inspection/survey of all PMC Church premises, covering a wide range of issues connected with the fabric of the Church such as its internal and external condition; for example, the building/ roof/ heating/grounds/systems/general condition etc. This is a compulsory Methodist Church requirement for all Churches and PMC was due in December 2017. The first part of the inspection, a

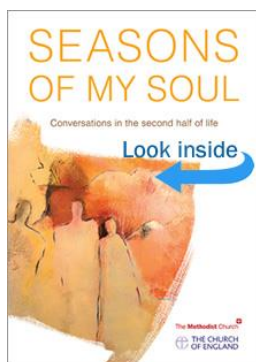
physical survey took place last December and there will probably be follow up visits as well in the near future. At the end of the process PMC will receive a report with recommendations and observations for potential further action.

PROPERTY COMMITTEE

There will be a meeting of this committee at PMC at 7.30pm. on 8th February 2018. If you feel there are relevant items you wish to highlight, please advise the Property Secretary, John Lunt, as early as possible. We are often aware of issues that do need attention, but these are not always actioned for a variety of reasons, often financial.

Derek Garner for Property Committee PMC.

SEASONS OF MY SOUL



There will be no SOMS sessions during Lent to allow the various churches to run their own study courses.

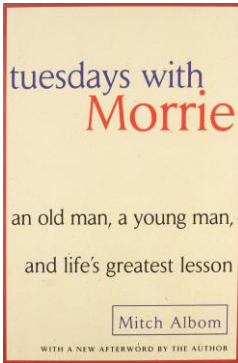
The next SOMS sessions will take place straight after Easter and will look at the topic of 'Roles and Relationships'. The dates for these sessions are...

Wednesday 4th April at Hazel Grove
Thursday 5th April at Green Close

Both sessions will run from 10.30am till 2.00pm. Don't forget to bring your lunch with you.

Rev John

SEASONS OF MY SOUL BOOK: 'TUESDAYS WITH MORRIE'



Maybe it was a grandparent, or a teacher or a colleague. Someone older, patient and wise, who understood you when you were young and searching, and gave you sound advice to help you make your way through it.

For Mitch Albom, that person was Morrie Schwartz, his college professor from nearly twenty years ago.

Maybe, like Mitch, you lost track of this mentor as you made your way, and the insights faded. Wouldn't you like to see that person again, ask the bigger questions that still haunt you?

Mitch Albom had that second chance. He rediscovered Morrie in the last months of the older man's life. Knowing he was dying of ALS - or motor neurone disease - Mitch visited Morrie in his study every Tuesday, just as they used to back in college. Their rekindled relationship turned into one final 'class' together. The subject: Lessons in how to live.

Discussion Sunday 11th February at 4.00pm

Rev John

FATHER HARRY STATTON

Father Harry – a much loved man of our time.

It was with great sadness that we heard the news of Father Harry Stratton's death, and it has been amazing to read the comments on Social Media from such a wide variety of people. There is a consistent theme – Harry really was someone very special. A man full of wisdom.

I shared a funeral service with him many years ago at St Paul's and was very touched that throughout the ceremony he explained everything that he was doing so that the gathered Methodists felt completely at home. Then with his characteristic humour he asked me to read from the Book of Wisdom which of course isn't in the Bible we use. "You Methodists don't have wisdom ", he explained with a wide grin!

Father Harry was much missed from Churches Together when he retired. He had such a warm smile, friendly greeting, listening ear and shared the love for his Lord at every opportunity. He united us all as we journeyed together. He will never be forgotten.

Mandy Hawkyard

POYNTON FEST AND CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

On a dark January morning it seems such a long time ago that our church was welcoming so many people from our local community to the Poynton Fest and Christmas Tree Festival. The Christmas trees were so varied but spectacular and were a joy to behold together with the various stalls to celebrate Poynton Fest.

December was a very busy month and so many people worked extremely hard, planning, moving furniture, clearing up, making cups of tea, baking such amazing cakes and many other duties. We are so blessed with such willing volunteers (hopefully willing!) who made such a success of each event. I would like to say thank you to everyone involved.

Carole Clarke

GREEN CLOSE COFFEE MORNING

On **Saturday 3rd February** Green Close Methodist Church will be holding one of their world-famous coffee mornings.

This will be here at Poynton Methodist Church, in order to accommodate the HUGE number that are expected, and will run from 10.00am to midday.

A chance to chat over coffee with friends from across the Circuit.

I suspect the usual goodies might well be available to buy.

Rev John



Mart Rodger Manchester Jazz Concert on Saturday 10th March at 7.30pm Tickets £8

There will be a concert at the Church on **Saturday, 10th March** by the seven-piece traditional band, Mart Rodger Manchester Jazz.

Mart and the band travelled to Norway on 18th January to play at the Stavanger Traditional Jazz Festival. This was the 37th time that the band has travelled to play in Norway. They entertained in the celebrations there at two of the Tall Ships Races in 1997 and 2004!

The band has also played in Germany, Belgium, The Netherlands, U.S.A. and Canada as well as playing on six Caribbean cruises. In 1986 they were invited to play at the Dresden International Jazz Festival, which was part of East Germany then. They did a tour of East Germany in 1989, only six weeks before the fall of the Berlin Wall. At one stage in the tour their coach had to wait at a junction while 83 Russian tanks crossed the road!

Janet Rodger

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

SEED TIME FOR HARVEST

Dear Friends

We are thinking ahead to our Harvest celebrations in 2018. Our guest preacher is from our twinned church Emmanuel in Salford. She will speak to us about the church and its mission. Our gifts of food and household goods will be donated for use in their coffee bar and for distribution in the community. It is never too early to start gathering your gifts!

The local supermarkets advertise upcoming offers and coupons can be used in many stores. If you venture further, stores such as Farm Food, Iceland and Pound shops stock staple goods cheaply, not to mention the B.O.G.O.F. offers!

The need is for jars or packets of dried foods – pasta, rice etc. Tinned goods – **ring pull** please. It is important to check the use by dates. Could we fill a van this year? **This is the challenge!**

Erica Evans 01625 876499 and **Nadia Garner** 01625 876336.

Hilary and Liz are also thinking about the Harvest service and have wool available for those who would like to make knitted squares or other knitted items. We are also grateful for any further wool donations. Thank you in advance for all your ongoing support.

Liz Baker 01625 403787 and **Hilary Parry** 01625 873674

WORLD CHURCH

Please would all our friends who hold **World Mission Boxes** hand them in for the half-yearly count?

In order that Gift Aid can be claimed, any cheques should be made out to 'Poynton Methodist Church.' Boxes can be brought to church and handed to the Stewards or arrangements can be made for them to be collected by ringing 873331.

Congratulations, we did really well last year.

Very Many thanks to you all.

Marjorie Harrop

GREAT BRITISH SPRING CLEAN



The Great British Spring Clean is a campaign with a simple aim: to bring people across the country together to clear up the litter that blights our towns, villages, countryside and beaches.

On the weekend of 2nd – 4th March 2018, we want to inspire 500,000 people to get outdoors, get active and help clear up the rubbish that lies around us.

Churches Together in Poynton are hoping to facilitate the clean up here in Poynton on Saturday 3rd March. Mark the date in your diaries with further details to follow in the church notices.

Rev John



Women's World Day of Prayer 2018 **Friday 2nd March at 2.00pm** **Here at Poynton Methodist Church**

The service, which travels across the world, has been written by the people of Suriname and concentrates on the beauty of creation and our need to care for it. Please join us to explore this **very topical subject**. Here is another opportunity for the Churches of Poynton to unite in **prayer and action**, so there will be a Traidcraft stall available. Come and hear what other actions are suggested. Tea/coffee and cake will be shared after the Service.



**OUR NEXT COLLECTION
OF ITEMS FOR THE
CHARITY MIND WILL ON
SATURDAY 10TH MARCH
2018**

Following our previous collections of items for the charity Mind we are planning a repeat collection on Saturday 10th March 2018. As in the past, Mind will make a small donation to church funds. Charity bags will be available in the church foyer from Sunday 11th February. Please help yourself to as many as you need. Of course, any strong bag may also be used.

As with previous collections we will be collecting all items that you would normal give to a charity shop **with the exception of books.**

Shoes should be secured together in pairs, whilst all toys and bric-a-brac should be in separate bags or better still in a tomato box or similar box (available from supermarkets. (The smaller flatter boxes are easier to move and stack in the van when collected as this will save us having to repack your items.)

As you are aware we have very little room to store and it is for this reason that we **are asking the congregation to return their bags on Saturday 10th March between 10.00am and 12 noon**, when the Family Committee will be holding a coffee morning. Mind will be collecting our items late morning on Monday 12th March.

Please support the charity Mind and our church by donating and asking your family and friends for unwanted items.

If you need any assistance with getting your filled bags to church, please speak to a member of the Family Committee. Thank you

Hilary King for Family Committee

Holiday Complaint

"It's lazy of local shopkeepers in Puerto Vallarta to close in the afternoons. I sometimes need to buy things during 'siesta time'. This should be banned."

THE MARCH HERALD

Closing date for submissions will be **14th February (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 **March** Herald will be available for you to pick up from **23rd February**. 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

8.30am-3.00pm Preschool. Varying sessions also available. (Sarah Parker 871115 and pmcpreschool@hotmail.co.uk) Extended hours available 7.30am - 5.30pm
 #Kids Zone - (Pam Dowd 07717 003 322, 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 1st First 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)

SATURDAY

9.00-11.00am Who let the Dads out? 4th 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.