



# THE HERALD



## The Methodist Church in Poynton

### MARCH 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**

March 2018

So, it is a tricky task to write something about Lent for a magazine that will only appear two weeks into that six-week journey; and also, to encourage people to think about the theme we are currently running. (The theme of course, as you all know, is about 'Finding a Voice', or perhaps to be more accurate, hearing God's voice and then responding by using your voice to proclaim the good news.)

Right at the start of his ministry, during his baptism by John in the River Jordan, Jesus hears God's voice. Well in Mark's account he does. In fact, the words "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased," seem to indicate that it is only Jesus who hears it.

A different tale is told by Matthew who has a far more open declaration: "*This* is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased," perhaps implying a wider listening audience. What is not in dispute is the fact that this voice acknowledges the close relationship between Jesus and God and also that the voice affirms Jesus. (It does not indicate his messiah-ship or divinity.)

Perhaps it is the echo of this voice that provides Jesus with the hidden strength to resist the temptations he faces in the wilderness. Maybe it is the memory of this voice that allows Jesus to find the voice to dismiss the lures of the Devil by quoting words of scripture. And perhaps it is the recollection of that voice at the River Jordan, which empowers Jesus to verbalise the manifesto of his ministry, when he paraphrases the voice of the prophet Isaiah hundreds of years earlier when he declares in his home town synagogue: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour."

The six weeks of Lent are for many a time of denial, a time when things are given up. The opposite can also be true; Lent can be a time to take things up. Above all else, it is hopefully a time of transformation, changing us from the people and families of faith we are, into the people God's wants us to become.

Last year, (yes, I know it's a long way to cast your minds back) we engaged in 40 acts of discipleship during Lent. This involved ideas such as reading the gospels; collecting loose change and donating it to a charity; getting fitter; buying Fair-trade; signing up to help out at church or in the community; inviting someone for a meal; reconnecting with family and friends; offering a safe space to someone in distress; visiting someone trapped inside their own home; doing something for someone who is sick; donating food to a food bank; easing someone's spiritual thirst by introducing Jesus, faith or the church into a conversation; de-cluttering your wardrobe and taking any unwanted clothes to a homeless shelter; fasting for a day or surviving on £5 for 5 days; buying a Big Issue seller lunch; picking up litter; making a phone call and telling someone that you love them; joining a study group; just stopping moaning and complaining; putting away any social media for a day; getting the right attitude by 'being' the beatitudes; giving away bars of chocolate to strangers; developing the fruit of the spirit (love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control); spending time in silence; attending a worship service you wouldn't normally go to; paying someone a compliment; sharing a skill; writing something for your church or circuit magazine. A whole gamut of things that seem far too good to just do once.

So perhaps this year as you undertake one, several or all of those activities, how is God speaking to you through those challenges? In what is God saying or calling you to become more involved?

And by responding to God's voice, how do your actions, words and simply 'being', help to proclaim the good news to friend and stranger alike? Who knows, you and those with whom you come into contact might just end up being transformed by the whole experience. After all, isn't that what Lent is really all about?

Love and light, **Rev John**

## STATIONING

Many of you will be aware that during the first 3 rounds of Stationing the Hazel Grove and Poynton Circuit was not matched with any prospective minister. This was due in the main to the imbalance in numbers between the number of ministers available and positions that needed filling.

Our Chair of District, Dr Rev Andrew Lunn, has been working hard to find a suitable solution to the situation that will arise from Sept 2018 when Rev Amanda Boon retires and Rev John moves to his new appointment.

On Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> February a potential candidate came to visit the Circuit and in particular Poynton, Green Close and Dialstone Lane churches. She spent most of the day in the circuit and was met by representatives from each church as well as members of the Circuit Leadership Team. After the visit had been concluded an offer was made by the Circuit and that offer was accepted.

Our appointee is Rev Ros Watson, currently a minister in the Altrincham Circuit. She will have pastoral charge of Poynton, Green Close and shared charge of Dialstone Lane alongside Rev John Payne

The arrangement has been made within the Manchester and Stockport District and will involve her leaving her current appointment 6 months early. This means that she will not be starting here until **March 2019** i.e. we will have a period of 6 months without a minister. Suitable steps are being put into place to provide cover during that time

The news was announced in both Circuits at the same time. We express our thanks especially to Dr Rev Andrew Lunn for all his hard work in bringing this match about, to both Circuit Leadership Teams and those who met Ros and her husband during their visit and also to the current Superintendent of the Altrincham Circuit, Rev Janet Aspey as we all prepare for an unexpected six month's period of transition from March 2019. We continue to hold all those involved in this process in our thoughts and prayers.

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

**SUNDAY SERVICES AT POYNTON  
IN MARCH**

<b>Date</b>	<b>10.30am UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED</b>	
<b>4<sup>th</sup> March</b>	<b>9.00am Med</b>	<b>Rev John Wiseman HC</b>
<b>4<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>4.00pm Catharine Hughes Café Church</b>	
<b>11<sup>th</sup> MS</b>	<b>Rev John Wiseman CA</b>	
<b>18<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>9.00am Rev John Wiseman HC</b>	<b>Stewart Bradley</b>
<b>18<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>4.00pm Rev John Wiseman MC</b>	
<b>25<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Mandy Hawkyard Café Church</b>	
<b>1<sup>st</sup> April</b>	<b>9.00am Rev John Wiseman HC</b>	<b>Rev John Wiseman</b>

**SUNDAY SERVICES AT GREEN CLOSE  
IN MARCH**

<b>Date</b>	<b>2.30 pm</b>
<b>4<sup>th</sup> March</b>	<b>Rev Amanda Boon</b>
<b>11<sup>th</sup> MS</b>	<b>Rev John Wiseman HC</b>
<b>18<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Adrian Law</b>
<b>25<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Stewart Blackledge</b>
<b>1<sup>st</sup> April</b>	<b>Rev John Wiseman</b>

<b>CA</b>	<b>Church Anniversary</b>	<b>HC</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b>
<b>MC</b>	<b>Messy Church</b>	<b>MS</b>	<b>Mothering Sunday</b>

**Woodlands      11.00am.    11<sup>th</sup> March 10.00am    Theo Eaves**

## PRAYER



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

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

## MEDITATION

There will be a time of silent meditation on the first Sunday in each month at 9.00am. After 30 minutes of reflection, we share our thoughts if we feel able. We invite you to come along to a different experience of God's presence. All are welcome. Next time it is on **6<sup>th</sup> March**.



## CRUCIFIED!

As dawn slipped into the horrific scene,  
despicable, desperate, hopeless.

Revealing Jesus nailed to a Cross,  
tortured, in agony, dying.

“Father, please save Him from this brutal death.

We need His love and guidance every day”.

Yet still there was raucous blasphemy, hatred

In the final moments of  
His Life of Love on Earth.

**Christina Thompson**



**Church Easter Cards now available £1.00 each**

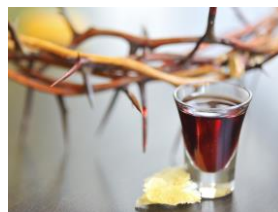
## WEEKDAY WORSHIP

Tuesday  
Fellowship

The first Tuesday in March is the 6<sup>th</sup>. There will be a half hour service based on the Lent theme followed by a light lunch with delicious home-made cakes. Come and join this warm and friendly fellowship.

## THURSDAY COMMUNION

This is always on the **third** Thursday of the month at midday followed by a light lunch. See you there on **15<sup>th</sup> March**.



## PRAYER GROUP



Meets every Tuesday morning at 9.45am and on the third Tuesday (**20<sup>th</sup> March**) at 9.00am in the Kingfisher where we hold a prayer breakfast. Have you bean yet? Let us egg you on to make this a cereal date! Come and sample their new menu.

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



**“Finishing our Course with Joy”** Ageing with Hope by J I Packer, published by IVP at £6.99.

J I Packer, now in his 80s, is the author of over 40 books and served as General Editor of the English Standard Version Bible and the Theological Editor of the ESV Study Bible.

One thing I particularly like about this book is the large, clear print. It is an easy book to read and challenges us to please God rather than ourselves with our eyes on the ‘Hope of Glory’.

The readers J I Packer is addressing are Christian seniors at or near his own age. As we age, we all face temptations from three sources: the world, the flesh and the devil. We need to be aware of these as we look at the path for godly ageing.

There are temptations to conform to what is already taking place and just go with the flow, following the path that the secular community and the church to which we belong is on already. There can be a tendency sometimes, if we have a very busy stressful job, to think that when we retire we can take it easy, Billy Graham said the word ‘retire’ is not in his Bible.

In this book, the point is made that many countries have drifted away from the Christian faith and so have lost touch with Christian hope. This is a huge loss because we have the Hope of Glory. The Roman Empire was a world that, like our own today, seemed to lack any hope, which explains why so many listened to the Christian Message.

Paul’s spirit was not broken by the state of his body and as we age, we must not allow our bodies to break us. We must do the best we can with what we have and press on with hope, enabling us to finish our lives with joy and glorify Jesus, no matter how old we are.



## HYMNOLOGY ON A MONDAY MORNING - 29

**'What a friend we have in Jesus'** Words by Joseph Scriven (1819-86)  
Tune Converse, by Charles Converse (1832-1918).

The hymn was first published in the Sankey Hymn Book. The tune Converse can be made to fit all sorts of hymns: - 'Blessed Assurance, Jesus is mine' for example, a great Moody and Sankey favourite.

There cannot be many hymns intended for the writer's mother that turn up in Hymn books all over the world. Ira Sankey said that Joseph Scriven wrote the words for his mother in 1855 at a time when she was feeling extremely upset. Apparently, he summed up his verses for her with the words. 'Pray without ceasing.'

No one knows what had upset her but the tragedy that later struck her son is well known. Not long before their wedding the girl who was the love of his life was drowned, and he never got over it and later emigrated from his native Ireland to Canada.

It is the sort of hymn that was sung in air raid shelters during the Second World War blitz, and was sung often by the Salvation Army on street corners in happier days. Thora Hird wrote how this hymn had helped her in times of loneliness and despair. She said she always sang it in her garden and on one occasion she looked up to see a row of curious cows looking at her over the fence obviously enjoying it too.

A BBC Songs of Praise book from which I gained much of my background for this hymn, points out that at Victorian Revivalist Meetings it must have sounded intriguing. Hymns were given out two lines at a time, since many of the people could not read. The whole verse was read to begin with, and gave the impression that as 5,000 or 6,000 voices sang it was strangely gentle as though all were wrapped in thought.

When visiting care homes in the 1980s John Bell, a hymn writer, realised that all too quickly old people ran out of breath and so used the tune 'Scarlet Ribbons'. This was a popular song about a father and daughter made famous by Harry Belafonte in the 1950s.

This suited the original purpose of the hymn. The late Harry Secombe sang 'What a friend we have in Jesus' to the tune 'Scarlet Ribbons' in a programme in the 1980s.

**References:** Matthew 11.28 - Jesus' gracious invitation to 'Come to Me', for all who are weary and heavy burdened with the troubles of life and the sins of their own human nature. By coming to Jesus, we receive help and peace and the presence of the Holy Spirit to lead us through.

Hebrews 4.16

John 15.15

1 Corinthians 10.13

Ephesians 6.18

Philippians 4.6

1 Peter 5.7

### 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 CHRISTIAN INSTITUTE

The Christian Institute (<http://www.christian.org.uk/>) held (if you are reading this on or after 2<sup>nd</sup> March) a meeting at Ford's Lane Evangelical Church on Thursday evening 1<sup>st</sup> March where speakers gave the latest news on:

- **Family** and the growing tendency of the State to undermine parental authority when the Bible teaches that parents should have the primary responsibility for raising their children;
- **Gospel Freedom:** free speech and religious liberty are under threat, e.g. the example of Franklin Graham (son of Billy) being investigated by the Home Office to see if he will be allowed to enter the country to speak at meetings organised by Lancashire churches at the Winter Gardens, Blackpool in September;
- **Gender ideology:** this is being pushed by the government and transgenderism is being promoted in schools.

How Christians should respond was considered.

**Hilary Parry**

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

## THANK YOU LETTERS



I owe a huge thank you to all those people who sent cards, flowers and visited when I had an operation before Christmas and further surgery in January. When I was unable to drive so many people offered lifts and transported my shopping as well as keeping a strict eye on me to make sure I wasn't overdoing things. How fortunate I am to belong to this church.

We hear so much criticism of the NHS but I have only praise for the care I have received at Macclesfield Hospital for which I am immensely grateful.

**Helen Ives**

Thank you for the lovely bunch of alstroemaria which Christina and Keith brought to help us celebrate the safe delivery of our great grandson, Ethan James. As well as the white flowers the bunch also contained some in a lovely shade of burgundy - a colour that we haven't seen before. It was very kind of you.

**Pat and Malcolm Burgess**

We would like to thank you all for the lovely flowers and "get well" cards delivered to us, also for your prayers and good wishes for our Golden Wedding Anniversary. We are pleased to be able to say that Jan has now been transferred from Salford Royal to the Devonshire Rehabilitation Centre in Hazel Grove, and is making steady progress.

**Jan & Gerry Chartres**

### **Quotation:**

"There's always something to be thankful for. If you can't pay your bills, you can be thankful you're not one of your creditors." -

Anonymous

## CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

**Congratulations to Pat & Malcolm Burgess** on the birth of their first great grandson Ethan James (6lb 14ozs), who is the firstborn to Matthew and his wife Lori, living in Redditch. Malcolm tells us that Ethan slept peacefully, unaware that Great Grandma and Great Granddad were visiting.

**Happy Birthday to Harry Wilbourn** who will be 9 on 30<sup>th</sup> March

It was Jimmy Armfield's funeral on 30<sup>th</sup> January and we are so proud that he was a Christian. Included in one of the many tributes to his life and character was one from Rev David Maddock from Eastbourne who wrote, "Jimmy Armfield, the Blackpool footballer (was) a man much loved by those who knew him both on and off the field. An illustration of his service to the community is that for many years he faithfully played the organ at St. Peter's church in a deprived part of Blackpool."

**Martin & Janet Rodger**

## WEEKLY OFFERTORY ENVELOPES

The new sets of weekly offertory envelopes will be available for collection from the foyer at the end of March.

Some of you will notice that your number has changed. This is due to the fact that I have had requests from some contributors to change their method of giving to pay by standing order. Please let me know if you would also like to pay this way and please do talk to Jane Robson if you are able to gift aid your donations. The only requirement is that you are a taxpayer, so even if you only pay a small amount of tax, the Church can still claim tax relief on your behalf. Every little really does help.

If you have any queries then please contact me or leave a message in my pigeon hole at the back of the Church.

**Carole Clarke**

## PUZZLE SOLVED!

Reverend John is going to...

- A Greek word for love often used in the New Testament...Agape
- Where did Jesus encounter a legion of demons... Gerasenes
- Paul wrote to them twice.... Thessalonians
- This king conquered Jerusalem and sent the Jews into exile...Nebuchadnezzar
- 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...Haggai
- This happened to Reverend John in Portsmouth...Ordination
- Jonah had a whale of a time after boarding a ship going here...Tarshish
- Would most likely be found at Twickenham singing 'swing low...Ezekiel
- Thought by modern scholars to be a book in three parts which offers 'comfort to my people'...Isaiah
- This prophet criticises King David for his adultery with Bathsheba...Nathan
- Ruth was one of these...Moabite
- This book was written by one of the shepherds of Tekoa...Amos
- Paul brought tears to his eyes in Acts 16...Timothy
- The first martyr of the Christian faith...Stephen

All of which should have given you the letters...AGTNHOTEINMATS

Which when rearranged should hopefully produce NOTTINGHAM EAST

(Suggested new blog title – “Lace under pressure” - Ed.)

## ALZHEIMER'S SUPPORT - Sew Easy Kits

Ivy Kilshaw was my next door neighbour for 26 years. She died last year having been a resident at Woodlands. I received a Christmas card from one of her daughters, who lives in Halifax. In it she told me how she is raising money for the Alzheimer's Society. She wrote, "After losing Mum last year I decided I wanted to do something to raise awareness of Dementia, and raise money to fund research and support sufferers and their families as they live with the disease on a daily basis."

Alyson has so far made 1,700 Sewing Kits selling at £1 each. To date she has raised nearly £1,400. She says her long term target is a million pounds! Each kit contains a needle threader, a large-eyed needle, some cotton and a safety pin.

I have purchased 20 kits so far, and as instructed by Alyson, have sent a cheque to the Alzheimer's Society, at their York address. I hope to sell them. If you would like to buy, please let me know.

If I can sell my twenty, I can give anyone else who wants to support this scheme and sell some, the address details required.

Nine years ago, my dear wife Marianne, after 62 years of marriage died of Alzheimer's, so I have a very personal interest in advertising this scheme

**Theo Eaves** 01625 875162

## SEASONS OF MY SOUL (10.30am – 2.00pm)

Starting again after Easter, the next session of Seasons of My Soul will take place on **Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> April at Hazel Grove** and will be repeated on **Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> April at Green Close**.

The session will look at 'Roles and Relationships'  
**Rev John**

## FILM: MADE IN DAGENHAM

In 1968, the Ford car factory in Dagenham was one of the largest single private employers in the United Kingdom.



In addition to the thousands of male employees, there are also 187 underpaid women machinists who primarily assemble the car seat upholstery in poor working conditions. Dissatisfied, the women, represented by the shop steward and Rita O'Grady, work with union rep Albert Passingham for a better deal.

However, Rita learns that there is a larger issue in this dispute considering that women are paid an appalling fraction of the men's wages for the same work across the board on the sole basis of their sex. Refusing to tolerate this inequality any longer, O'Grady leads a strike by her fellow machinists for equal pay for equal work.

What follows would test the patience of all involved in a grinding labour and political struggle that would ultimately advance the cause of women's rights around the world.

**We will watch the film on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> April in Room 3 at 7.30pm and then meet to discuss it on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> April at 7.30pm**

**Rev John**



**Mart Rodger Manchester Jazz  
Concert on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> March  
at 7.30pm Tickets £8**

**Supporting "Joseph's New Wheels"**

## LADIES' FELLOWSHIP

On the 1<sup>st</sup> February, 22 ladies plus our Minister Rev John, enjoyed our usual meal at Ciao. Plenty of chat and laughter accompanied the meal. Special thanks go to Vernice & Barbara for sorting out the programmes as usual.

Gail Thomas is coming along on **1<sup>st</sup> March**. Her subject is 'Busy Lizzies – Flower Arranging' This meeting is to be led by Julie Hallworth, and as usual will begin at 7.45pm.

**2<sup>nd</sup> March** is **Women's World Day of Prayer**. The Ladies' Fellowship will be in charge of the refreshments, cakes will be gratefully received.

**On 15<sup>th</sup> March** Brenda Oakley will be leading the meeting when staff from "Riding for the Disabled", will be coming along to give us a talk on how they help disabled people to ride horses. (This is our Charity for 2017/2018.)

Looking ahead to **5<sup>th</sup> April**, this meeting is going to be **open to all** when Mr. John Ramsbottom, our organist, will play for us. His title will be "The Best of British" and it would be lovely to see a full Church. The meeting will be led by Sandra Townsend.

**Sandra Townsend**

## THY KINGDOM COME



*Thy Kingdom Come 2018* has been launched by the Archbishop of Canterbury. This is a worldwide, ecumenical prayer movement calling on all Christians to pray that people might come to know Jesus Christ. The Methodist Church is a major partner in the initiative. The prayer is focused between Ascension Day and Pentecost from Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> May 2018.

**(E-news February 2018)**



## KEEP SAFE ONLINE

We had a talk from Cheshire Police about **online security** at Ladies' Fellowship on 15<sup>th</sup> February and I have been sent a list of websites that might be useful to anyone with any kind of device that can access the internet such as a smartphone, laptop etc.

<https://www.getsafeonline.org/>

<https://www.cyberaware.gov.uk/>

<https://www.cheshire.police.uk/advice-and-support/fraud-and-scams/the-little-book-of-big-scams/>

<https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/guidance>

<https://www.actionfraud.police.uk/>

[www.thatsnonsense.com](http://www.thatsnonsense.com)

[www.snopes.com](http://www.snopes.com)

[www.scamadvisor.com](http://www.scamadvisor.com)

[www.hoax-slayer.com](http://www.hoax-slayer.com)

**Carole Clarke**

### Where?

In golf, where did the term 'Caddie' come from?

Answer

When Mary Queen of Scots went to France as a young girl, King Louis learned that she loved the Scots game 'golf.' So he had the first course outside of Scotland built for her. To make sure she was properly chaperoned while she played, Louis hired cadets from a military school to accompany her. Mary liked this a lot and when she returned to Scotland (not a very good idea!) she took the practice with her. In French, the word cadet is pronounced 'ca-day' and the Scots changed it into caddie.

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To go out, share the Good News and serve in the world.**

## LONG WAY TO GO, JOHN!

### ORGANIST'S 100<sup>th</sup> BIRTHDAY



The most senior active organist at May Hill Methodist Church, Joyce Morse, celebrated her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday recently and received a card from the Queen. Joyce entertained the congregation by playing Sunday morning worship.

Joyce was born in Gloucester and spent her career as a teacher for 42 years. She enjoyed being an organist at Longhope Baptist Church and also helped out occasionally at May Hill Parish Church. When the organist at May Hill Methodist Church retired in 1980, Joyce took over.

Despite her significant birthday, Joyce has no plans to retire from her duties.

Minister at May Hill Methodist Church the Rev Denise Hargreaves said: "Joyce's contribution to worship is unrivalled. She is an amazing lady and has a heart of gold!"

Joyce Morse is pictured with the **Rev Dr James Tebbutt** and her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday telegram from the Queen.

**(The Buzz February 2018)**

# RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

Our religious freedoms are under threat.

I have just received information and a petition from a well-known Charity (<https://barnabasfund.org/en>) who provide hope and aid for the persecuted church.

The church in the UK is now being persecuted and freedom of religion and other historic freedoms such as freedom of speech, freedom of the press and academic freedom are all increasingly under threat.

There are seven important aspects of freedom of religion which have become central to our national identity and values which needed to be specifically protected:

1. *Freedom to read the Bible in public (achieved 1537)*
2. *Freedom to interpret the Bible without government interference (achieved 1559)*
3. *Freedom of worship (achieved 1689)*
4. *Freedom to choose, or change your faith or belief (achieved 1689)*
5. *Freedom to preach and try to convince others of the truth of your beliefs (achieved 1812)*
6. *Freedom to build churches and other places of worship (achieved 1812)*
7. *Freedom from being required to affirm a particular world view or set of beliefs in order to hold a public-sector job or stand for election, work in professions such as teaching and law, or study at university (achieved by the repeal of various Test Acts between 1719 and 1888)*

As mentioned earlier, I have a petition. Please see me and ask to sign it. It has to be returned by 30<sup>th</sup> September. You may also wish to help to get copies of the petition signed. This is not a demand for special rights for Christians, but the petition arises out of a concern that the space for religious freedom is shrinking as an increasingly intolerant secularism takes hold. If you do sign, you will be calling upon the

British Government to make a new law to enshrine fully and permanently the religious freedoms we have gained in the UK over the past five centuries.

Above all, please also pray about the current situation.

**Hilary Parry** (873674)



## 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 2<sup>nd</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> March  
at 2.00pm**

**Poynton Methodist Church**



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

Following our previous collections of items for the charity Mind we are planning a repeat collection on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2018. As in the past, Mind will make a small donation to church funds. Charity bags are available in the church foyer. 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 10<sup>th</sup> 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 12<sup>th</sup> 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

## METHODIST YOUNG PEOPLE LAUNCH MANIFESTO



The need for the Methodist Church to keep God at its centre and to be brave, inclusive and dynamic has been expressed by young Methodists as part of their manifesto to the Church.

The manifesto was published following the 3Generate event last November, where more than 1,000 young people aged 8-23 and their leaders discussed the issues concerning them in relation to the Church and society.

Michael Pryke, Youth President of the Methodist Church, said: "Within this manifesto we hear the combined voice of the Methodist young people. This is a call to grow the work of the Church and to develop even more church communities that are accessible, inclusive and working to challenge injustice."

**(E-news February 2018)**

## MINISTER HONOURED AS GOSPEL DJ

Methodist Central Hall Westminster



A minister from London has won an award for spinning the gospel! The Revd Tony Miles won the 'International Honouree' award that was presented at the Spin Awards 2017, for his Premier Christian Radio show 'Saturday Quiet Time'.

The ceremony was held in Atlanta, Georgia, USA and was established to honour those who spin the gospel message.

Tony is the Deputy Superintendent Minister at Methodist Central Hall Westminster and is also a regular contributor to 'Pause for Thought' on BBC Radio 2 on Vanessa Feltz's breakfast show. The Rev Miles said: "This was a very unexpected start to 2018. It is humbling to receive the award."

**(The Buzz February 2018)**

"On my holiday to Goa in India, I was disgusted to find that every restaurant served curry. I don't like spicy food."

"The beach was too sandy. We had to clean everything when we returned to our room."

## THE APRIL HERALD

Closing date for submissions will be **21<sup>st</sup> March (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 **April** Herald will be available for you to pick up from **30<sup>th</sup> March**. There are events taking place in the first week of each new magazine and we hope that as many readers as possible receive the details in time.

### **To all those who are listed as contacts on our back page**

Please tell us via a note in the Herald pigeonhole whenever there are changes to times or contacts. We only know when we are told.

### **Copyright**

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

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

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

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

Our Minister, Rev John Wiseman, is available in the church office (871592) on Tuesdays and Thursdays. The light by the door shows red when he is engaged. You can leave messages for him in the Minister's pigeonhole, or please call him or leave a message at home on 261769 or via his email [jwiserev@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:jwiserev@hotmail.co.uk) If there is no reply and there is an immediate emergency, phone Rev John Payne 0161 483 4952. The church office is open on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9.00am until 1.00pm. For Church Notices and office queries please contact: [office@poyntonmethodist.org](mailto:office@poyntonmethodist.org) Our Children and Young People's Worker, Annie Truman may be in the office between 9.00am and 3.00pm on Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday and her email is [annie@poyntonmethodist.org](mailto:annie@poyntonmethodist.org)

#### EVERY WEEKDAY

8.30am-3.00pm Preschool. Varying sessions also available. (Sarah Parker 871115 and [pmcpreschool@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:pmcpreschool@hotmail.co.uk)) Extended hours available 7.30am - 5.30pm  
 #Kids Zone - (Pam Dowd 07717 003 322, [kidszonepoynton@btinternet.com](mailto:kidszonepoynton@btinternet.com))  
 7.30am and 3.00pm - Before & after school club  
 7.30am to 6.00pm - Holiday care  
 10.00am to 12.30pm #Open Hands Room 4 (878589) Coffee in the Lounge

#### MONDAY

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

#### TUESDAY

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

#### WEDNESDAY

5-6.00pm #2<sup>nd</sup> Poynton Rainbows (Sue Dyson 07515 883 585)  
 6.00-7.30pm #2<sup>nd</sup> Poynton Brownies (Catherine Potts 07979 955 804)  
 7.30-9.00pm #4<sup>th</sup> Poynton Guides (Alison Southern 07905 133 073)

#### THURSDAY

9.30-11.30am Parents & Toddlers (Judy Gibbons 878016/Margaret Martin 874883)  
 12.00 noon \*Communion and lunch 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday (Rev J Wiseman 871592)  
 7.30-9.00pm #1<sup>st</sup> Poynton Guides (Georgia Eyre 07989 360 850)  
 7.30-9.30pm \*Ladies' Fellowship (Sandra Townsend 878563)

#### SATURDAY

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

#### SUNDAY

10.30am Crèche - 0-3 years (Denise Reid 871961)  
 10.30am Young Church - 3-11 years (Rachel/Ian Hall 872062)  
 10.30am Evolve - 11-18 years (Sally Holmes 260451/Jane Robson 879998)  
 4.00pm \*Café Church First Sunday (Helen Holmes 260451)

All the activities listed here take place weekly on Church premises except for:

\*fortnightly or monthly +not on Church premises #not PMC organised  
 (Please see the weekly notices or the notice board in the corridor for details).

**ROOM BOOKING APPLICATIONS** – Helen Ives (872465) 14 days notice requested if possible.