



THE HERALD




The Methodist Church
 in Poynton

JULY/AUGUST 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.**

A FINAL MUMBLE FROM THE MANSE

July 2018

For Winston Churchill, it is reported to have been the phrase "I'm bored with it all". Humphrey Bogart is said to have remarked "I should never have switched from scotch to martinis." Steve Jobs, founder of the Apple Empire simply exclaimed "Oh wow", while Joe DiMaggio expressed his belief that "I finally get to see Marilyn." Spike Milligan, as is fitting for a man in his profession, had the last laugh when he spoke from 'the other side' with words he had requested to be engraved on his tombstone when he declared "I told you I was ill." All of them famous last words.

As for Jesus, what were his famous last words? Well I suppose we have to ask whether we are thinking about his famous last words from the cross, his last words post resurrection, his last words just prior to his ascension or his last words spoken to Saul during his Damascus road experience. Or perhaps we are firmly of the opinion that Jesus continues to speak to us today, here and now (I hope so).

All of which made me wonder what my last words might be in these final mumblings before I head for pastures new? The trouble is it turned into a whole page of thoughts rather than a single pithy removable sentence.

I suppose the first words would be 'thank you'. Thank you to all those who have walked alongside me on this incredible journey over the past 5 years, offering words of encouragement and constructive critique. Thank you to all those who have helped me discover more about my beliefs and faith by sharing theirs with honesty and candour. Thank you for joining in/putting up with my spontaneous ideas and out of the box suggestions. Thank you for letting me into

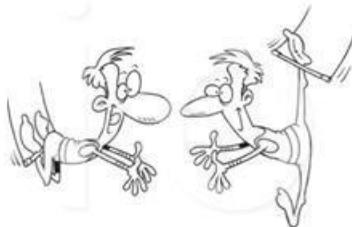
your lives with its ups and down, its moments of despair and also joy. Thank you to all those who covered for me when I wasn't here, covered up for me when I was and will cover up for me after I have gone.

I would also like to say...be bold, be brave, be adventurous. Become more than the people and family of faith you currently are. The path ahead may be uncertain and even uncharted but it is also **EXCITING!** During the next few months I hope people will step forward with new and innovative ways to 'be church' here in this place. And I have no doubt that you will make Rev Ros Watson feel welcome when she arrives next March and you set on the next stage of your journey together. And as you move forward, move from the old to the new, move from the past to the future, move from what was and what currently is, to what will be, remember that you follow in the footsteps of all those God has called to be God's people, walk alongside all those who have already responded and lead the way for all those yet to answer that call.

Finally, whatever you do and be, whether that be as individuals or as a church family, do and be it in love. Love for God, love for others, love for yourself. For to reheat a curry (think royal wedding) or paraphrase John Lennon and Paul McCartney...all you need is love.

And that is what I leave with you – my love. It is also what I shall take away with me, the love you have offered me during these past five years. May you all continue to grow in faith, grow in grace, grow in discipleship but most of all grow together in love.
Love and light

Rev John



CIRCUIT BOUNDARY CHANGES

Just to bring you up to date with the latest news re Circuit boundary changes. As you will be aware, we have been discussing the possibility of splitting the current Hazel Grove and Poynton Circuit into two with Poynton and Green Close becoming part of the Macclesfield Circuit and Hazel Grove, Dialstone Lane and Windlehurst forming a new Circuit with the eight churches that currently make up the Stockport Circuit.

In meetings that have taken place over the past few weeks, both the Stockport and Macclesfield Circuit Meetings have voted in favour of such mergers.

On Wednesday 20th June, our Circuit Meeting voted unanimously in favour of those changes going ahead. Lots of work and consultations will need to be undertaken over the next few months at Circuit, District and Church levels to iron out the final details of this process.

The splitting of this current Circuit and the forming of the two enlarged Macclesfield and Stockport Circuits will take place in September 2019.

Please keep this process and all who are involved in it in your thoughts and prayers at this time.

Love and Light

Rev John



THE METHODIST CHURCH – 3

The circuit

The circuit is normally a group of churches served by a team of ministers. Occasionally there are circuits with only one minister. A minister will have pastoral charge of one or more churches but will preach and lead worship in different local churches in the circuit, along with local preachers. The arrangements for leading worship in a circuit are drawn up in a quarterly Plan.

The circuit is led by the superintendent minister who presides over the circuit staff (both lay and ordained) and the circuit meeting, and with lay and ordained colleagues facilitates and encourages mission throughout the circuit. He or she is also responsible for drawing up the Plan and arranging the gathering of information about activities (e.g. baptisms, weddings, and funerals) and about membership statistics in the circuit.

Responsibility for the direction and policy for the circuit is shared between lay and ordained. Voluntary circuit stewards have responsibility for maintaining, buying and selling circuit property (usually manses), and for the general welfare of the ordained and employed staff in the circuit. There is also a circuit treasurer.

The circuit is the place where new initiatives and changes in the pattern of church life need to happen. This is where the staffing capacity, where closures of chapels are debated, and where fresh expressions of church or new pioneer ministries are launched.

<http://www.methodist.org.uk/about-us/the-methodist-church/structure/the-circuit/>

The Christian Resources Exhibition will take place at Event City (part of the Trafford Centre) on Wednesday 13th and Thursday 14th March 2019.

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

**SUNDAY SERVICES AT POYNTON
IN JULY/AUGUST**

Date	10.30am UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED	
1 st July	9.00am Med	Rev G Hawley HC
8 th	Rev John Wiseman Church General Meeting	
15 th	9.00am Rev John Wiseman HC	Catharine Hughes Desert Island discs
22 nd	Rev Amanda Boon	6.00pm CS at PMC
29 th	Rev John Wiseman	
5 th August	9.00am Med	Rev John Payne HC
12 th	Theo Eaves	
19 th	Martyn Bennett	
26 th	Phil Maltby	

**SUNDAY SERVICES AT GREEN CLOSE
IN JULY/AUGUST**

Date	2.30 pm	
1 st July	Andrew Stoker	
8 th	Rev John Wiseman HC	
15 th	Phil Maltby	
22 nd	Keith Tonge	6.00pm CS at PMC
29 th	Rev John Wiseman	
5 th August	Mandy Hawkyard	
12 th	Rev John Payne HC	
19 th	Alan Rashleigh	
26 th	Richard Baker	

HC Holy Communion

Stepping Hill 10.00am
Woodlands 11.00am.

CS Circuit Service

29th July Alan Rashleigh
8th July Alan Rashleigh
12th August Chris Hawkyard

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 times on **1st July and 5th August**.



WEEKDAY WORSHIP



The first Tuesday **in July is 3rd and in August is 7th**. There will be a service at noon on those days followed by a simple lunch. All are very welcome to these 30min services that cater for shoppers, passers-by and everyone who is available and wishes to take an extra opportunity to worship.

THURSDAY COMMUNION

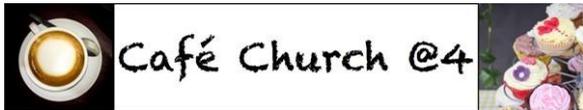
This is always on the **third** Thursday of the month at midday followed by a light lunch. See you there on **19th July and 16th August**.



PRAYER GROUP



Meets every Tuesday morning at 9.45am and on the third Tuesday (**17th July and 21st August**) at 9.00am in the Kingfisher where we hold a prayer breakfast. This group is growing - why not join us?



Cafe Church @4 will not be meeting on the first Sunday of the month from September.

Instead, please support the fundraising "A House for Haiti" church lunch after the morning service.

A SPECIAL CIRCUIT SERVICE

Although Rev John's final services at PMC will be on 29th July, The Circuit Service at Poynton on 22nd July (6.00pm) will enable the Circuit and CTiP to say its collective official farewells to Rev Mandy Boon and Rev John Wiseman. Amanda of course will also be conducting our morning service on that day.

Needless to say, this will be a very special occasion and although Circuit services do not normally attract large congregations these days, it is to be hoped that there will be a good attendance in this instance to say our goodbyes and express our gratitude for all that Amanda and John have meant to the life and faith of the churches for which they have had pastoral oversight – and indeed for the whole Circuit.

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



“God’s Great Plan” by Damaris Harrison. Published by Rickford’s Hill Publishing at £1.50.

This delightful hardbacked children’s book aims to present the gospel in a way that very young children (I would say between 4 and 6) can understand.

I like the way the book starts. The first page of the story simply says “In the beginning, God.” The type is really clear and opposite each page of text is a lovely picture which illustrates the words.

The book covers the story of disobedience in the Garden of Eden and goes on to the story of Jesus on the cross. Four pages simply say “Oh dear!” – However, there are pages that say “Hooray!” as the story does not end with the death of Jesus but with the good news that Jesus came alive again.

At the back of the book are prayers for the children to say and there is a list of Bible passages where the truths taught in the book can be found.

There is a copy in the church library.

“Who is my Neighbour?” – the global and personal challenge.

Edited by Richard Carter and Samuel Wells. Published by SPCK Publishing

The reasons for examining the question of “Who is my neighbour?” together with the response of Jesus – “Love your neighbour” is beyond doubt. To respond to the exhortation, it is necessary to

identify (and understand) the problem. We may think we understand the question – but...

The book consists of 14 'essays' based on a series of lectures presented at St Martin's-in-the-fields, on the same theme. The 14 diverse contributors are theologians, scholars, clergy, politicians or aid workers, and they try to answer the question by looking at and using a whole range of differing perspectives, backgrounds and writing styles.

They examine what the injunction means in today's world, especially with its bearing on the effects of poverty, conflict, discrimination, and migration as well as the fallout of political upheavals. This timely and eminently readable volume invites us to address this most urgent of questions, "Who is my neighbour?", in a world which is beset by un-neighbourliness, and how we should welcome the 'stranger'.

Whilst the reader may not agree with all of the views expressed, it is a valuable book to read in order to gain insights into perspectives of others. To illustrate this, the essay by Stanley Hauerwas entitled "My Neighbour, President Trump", contains the apposite phrase, which in the light of current contradictory statements will resonate with many, "God knows it is hard to take Donald Trump seriously, but I think it is a mistake to ignore him or more importantly to ignore the people that support him. Trump has given voice to an unease that is widespread at this time in our culture." This raised the valid question, "Why is there such unease at this time, not only in the USA but also in Italy?".

Other contributors vary from:

Luke Bretherton – Politics as a form of 'neighbour love', as well as the marginalised women in the Bible (Ruth, Tamar and Rahab).

Shalamit Ambalu – The Torah and the answers it gives to the question.

Justin Welby – Looking at the cost of reconciliation and the way in which we are identified and identify others. He does offer some practical advice on developing reconciliation using the 6 R's, Research, Relationships, Relief, Risk, Reconciliation and Resources.

Brendan Cox - as he illustrates his essay with the story of Helder Camara, who famously said that when he fed the poor he was called

saint, yet when asked why the poor had no food, he was called a communist. That statement is worthwhile exploring!

As I am writing this review, it is exactly one year since the bombing at the Manchester Arena. During the last 12 months a great deal has been said **and done**, by those affected, which is an example, reflected in the 14 essays, to inspire us all to reflect on our personal answers to "Who is my Neighbour?"

Alan Rashleigh

FLOWER MINISTRY

These are the dates for the Flower Distribution teams for

August/September:

5th August	C Hughes & A Court
12th	P & M Burgess & M & K Downing
19th	H Banks. & J Robson
26th	B Oakley & N Hood
2nd September	H Clare & M Moncaster
9th	M Wilson. & C Clarke
16th	L Baker & B Whittaker
23rd	P & M Burgess
30th	D Reid & E Bottrill.

Because this is holiday time, if you are going away and have to change your date, please get in touch with one of the other distributors.

Sandra Townsend



HYMNOLOGY ON A MONDAY MORNING - 33

“Amazing Grace” Singing the Faith 440. John Newton (1725-1807)

The story of Newton, captain of an African slave ship, gradually turning to a new life is well known because his hymn has become so well loved. Newton followed his father to sea at the age of eleven. He was always studious. He learned Euclidean mathematics and taught himself Latin while seafaring.

It was after he had been press-ganged into the navy and deserted that he became involved in the slave trade. At the age of 23 his ship was involved in stormy seas for many hours. He called out to God for mercy and was 'amazed' when all on board were saved from certain death. This brought about his conversion to Christ and a dramatic change in his lifestyle.

Because he was self-taught and had not been to university, he was at first rejected for ordination into the Church of England. His persistence was finally rewarded and he was ordained. He became a friend of John Wesley, and of William Cowper, the poet and hymn writer. In 1779 Newton and Cowper produced the Olney Hymns, named after the Buckinghamshire parish where Newton was curate. Both wrote from a personal experience of faith, a change of heart.

Newton preached of the marvel in his life: God had intervened. "I am a great sinner", he said, "but Jesus Christ is a great Saviour."

Some of his other most popular hymns include; "Glorious things of thee are spoken" and "How sweet the name of Jesus sounds".

Psalm 142.5. Matthew 18.13. John 1.16 Romans 5.2.

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

INTERGENERATIONAL WORSHIP

These thoughts are taken from a paper written by Christina Embree around two years ago entitled “Why Intergenerational Worship? And Why Now?”

She states that whilst every church has its own unique culture, which it must consider, she believes that there is a bigger vision needed that includes children and young people in worship with adults at some point. This is essential to allow for relationships to be fostered between the generations.

Research shows that young people who felt involved and connected to the larger church had a much greater chance of continuing in the Christian faith. Without that connection they were more likely to leave. If they never or rarely attend corporate worship they will not develop a sense of belonging.

Additionally says Ms. Embree, we, the adults, need them. “Christ tells us that we must “be like children.” Matt. 18.3. But, how can we learn from (the children and young people) if the adult church community is never or rarely around them?”

There is of course always going to be a need for age appropriate ministries but in his book “Join Generations” Matthew DePrez writes that they must include “intergenerational opportunities.”

Could it be that “corporate, communal worship is one important and overlooked tool God has given us for reaching the next generation”?

Ms. Embree admits that worshipping together can be hard but then “being the church wasn’t supposed to be easy.” “In order to be churches that welcome children, some things might have to change; there might have to be a new normal.” It is together that we are the body of Christ.

Discuss!

Annie Truman

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

THANK YOU LETTERS



Thank you very much for the flowers given to me from the church. They were beautiful and really lifted my spirits at a low time. I am grateful for the kindness shown by my church family.

Rita Drew

Thank you to all at PMC for the beautiful flowers that you sent me. They really put a smile on my face after my operation. Really kind of you to think of me and I appreciate your prayers.

Love, **Sarah Jayne Hall**

Thank you to so many friends for prayers, cards, flowers and hugs following the death of my mother. The family has been overwhelmed by the love and kindness shown to us. She lived a long full life and was part of the same church family for 85 years; quite an act to follow.

Judy Gibbons

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

The Rashleigh family are delighted to announce the birth of Chris and Laura`s baby. Evie Margaret was born on the 14th June weighing 5lb 15 oz. My particular thanks to Margaret Wilson for delivering flowers from Church. It was much appreciated.

Jean and Alan Rashleigh

Happy Birthday to **Robert Finnis**, who will be 18 on 11th July.

Happy Birthday to **Alicia Woodhouse** who will be 18 on 2nd August

We were sad to hear of the death of Judy Gibbons' mother recently and wish to extend our sincere condolences to Judy and all the family. Please continue to support them in your prayers.

Betty Law

Many of our church family will already know that Betty Law will be leaving us on 19th July.

She was appointed as our Church Secretary over 7 years ago. During that time, she has worked with three different ministers and alongside three different children's workers. In addition, she has undertaken work on a regular basis for the Circuit. Printing machines and computers have come and gone, systems have changed, safeguarding and other considerations have grown and developed. She has even coped with the relocation of the church office.

Betty has been steadfast and dependable, always there to help and willing to take on many tasks that were not - strictly - part of her job description.

Her presence will be sorely missed. We would like to express our thanks to Betty for all that she has done over that period and wish her well in her future adventures.

Church Secretary Opportunity

As you have read above, we will have a vacancy in the post of Church Secretary from 19th July. The PMC Lay Employment Team have already met and are in the process of putting together the necessary job specification and advertisement. We will, of course, be recruiting according to the appropriate legislation, but ahead of this we invite readers to bring awareness of this vacancy to the attention of people they know who might be looking for a job opportunity of this kind and have the necessary experience. Look out for the precise details of the position and the deadline for applications in the church notices and on the noticeboards.

Judy Gibbons, Catharine Hughes, Jane Robson or Arnold Samuels (all members of the PMC Lay Employment Team) are available for an informal chat to provide more information with anyone who thinks they might be interested in the job, bearing in mind that this will not influence the subsequent formal procedure that we are obliged to conduct.

In the meantime, our office work will be somewhat restricted. Please bear with us as volunteers take on unfamiliar roles and be patient if items don't appear as per former schedules.

SUNDAY LUNCH IN SEPTEMBER

Barbecue at Christine Ding's

As mentioned elsewhere in this edition, we are featuring a Sunday Lunch on the first Sunday of every month up to and including March 2019 in order to raise funds for 'A House for Haiti'.

To start the ball rolling, our first lunch will be a Barbecue on 2nd September at Christine Ding's after the morning service. We do hope that as many as can will attend in support of our project. So that we can cater adequately, we need to know how many intend to come and a sign-up sheet will appear in August. Full details will also be available then.

We are not charging a set price for the food. Instead we invite you to pay what you want based on what you think it was worth, what you would normally pay for a meal out and what you may wish to include as a donation to support the project.

Please let us know when you sign whether you need or can offer a lift to avoid a traffic jam at Christine's – oh! and bring a garden chair if you want to sit down!



NOW LEAVING THE 'STATION'

Prepared on behalf of the Church Stewards largely by Judith Ridgway

Change brings reflection, uncertainty and anticipation and as we prepare to say goodbye to Rev John this is perhaps true for PMC. No doubt John is looking back on his five years with us and assessing the ideas and progress he has endeavoured to bring to our church but also wondering what the future holds for him in Nottingham.

The list of innovations he introduced us to include Giving up Church for Lent, Holy Habits, Seasons of my Soul, Prayer Breakfasts, Cafe Church, Mosaic Church, the book group and the film night with a follow up chat. He has also encouraged and supported the initiatives of others such as Café Church, Mosaic Church and the monthly meditations.

We have celebrated Christmas, Easter and Harvest in a variety of ways, each year being different, and have shared our presence in the village with Donkeys, Sheep, Shepherds, Angels, Crosses and Stars.

All these ideas were a challenge to us because they were different but we took up the challenge and, I hope were encouraged in our journey of faith.

These different ways of sharing our faith have also helped us to deepen it and perhaps this goes to the plus side of always being open to new ideas and not being afraid to think outside the box – or even better, walk on water.

His services have reflected his inventive and innovative gifts and he has employed them to think out our faith anew and listen afresh to familiar words. Maybe we have also become physically fitter as a result of his aerobic hymns!

We all grumble about meetings, but John has chaired them with a light touch, despatched the agenda efficiently whilst allowing

everyone to express their opinions and still shared the grace not much later than 9.00pm!

When he arrived, one of John's first acts was to make himself familiar with our pastoral system and throughout his time here he has given great emphasis to the pastoral work.

He has also done much to support our work with children and young people, rolling up his sleeves with "Who let the dads out?" Preschool, Parents and Toddlers and the local schools alongside Jenny and then Annie.

Thank you, John, for pushing us out of our comfortable nest and encouraging us to fly in different directions. We shall endeavour to keep flying!

We shall miss you with your fresh expressions of faith but thank you from the bottom of our hearts for being with us, having patience with us, loving us and leading us on our journey.

Contributions below from members of the church family:

"The more you know of John, the more you realise the value of his many qualities."

"Has given tremendous support in so many ways...a born teacher...communicates his faith in word and deeds, and IT skills!"

"John is inclusive, involving his whole congregation in his services."

"I personally will miss his contribution to us at PMC and believe he has made us a stronger and more united church."

"He is tireless in developing new initiatives, even when he does not always get the support he deserves."

"Not one of life's gardeners, Nottingham are in for a shock when he turns up for the Allotment church sessions."

“He brings greater enlightenment to many of the gospels and presents in a way that provokes food for thought.”

“It is impossible to fall asleep during his sermons.”

“Has a great sense of humour which sometimes actually means that we get a smile out of him!!”

“He will really be missed at PMC, but our loss is Nottingham’s gain.”

“He has on many occasions given me new strength to take away a positive influence from his sermons.”

“Wishing you well as you embark on your next chapter. It has been wonderful having you here as part of the PMC family and we will never forget everything you did to make Walter’s baptism possible.”

“The one thing that stands out for me in John’s time with us is his teaching. I particularly appreciated and gained much from his sessions on the New Testament and in the order in which they were written. It really opened my eyes to things I had never thought about before.”

“Has been keen and active in inviting us to assess the ways in which we work, worship and interact with each other – and challenged us to explore new or alternative possibilities in our approach to this.”

“Has encouraged several different ways to promote and extend group discussions of relevant topics significant in our church lives – with special recognition of the sessions covering Holy Habits, Film Night reviews and Seasons of my Soul, in addition to more regular bible study topics.”

“Important email contact with members”

“Significant help in reviewing our system of pastoral care: and regular in his own pastoral support for the sick and housebound, visits to whom are much appreciated.”

“John Wiseman has been a very unique minister for me. I have very much appreciated the various initiatives that he has been instrumental in introducing to us e.g.: Holy Habits; Seasons of My Soul; Cell Groups - especially meeting at various eating

establishments within the village! He has helped to strengthen my faith and to be more aware of witnessing within our own community alongside those who live outside of our community. I shall miss his ministry and wish him every blessing in his next post."



MEETING OF FULL CHURCH PASTORAL TEAM

A meeting for the extended/full team has been arranged for Monday 2nd July at 7.30pm in Room 3. Will those involved please ensure that you/we are as 'up-to-date' as possible with news of people in your pastoral care. Do please attend if you can, since this will be our last meeting with Rev John as our presiding minister and he will be able to update us on any proposed new or amended pastoral procedures in the period until Rev Ros joins us.

Meanwhile collectively, we want to take the opportunity to thank Rev John for all his very hard and supportive work within our group and offer God's blessing on his new posting in Nottingham East. Shalom, John!

John Turner, Pastoral Secretary

AGATHA ROUND THE TABLE AND SOLVE THE MYSTERY!

In case you failed to read page 21 of the Herald last month, a reminder that on the 21st July we are to have a Murder Mystery Dinner. A honed and rehearsed (well they have read the script) cast of quality thespians will present the evidence whilst you enjoy dinner in elegant surroundings. Then you play detective and guess whodunnit.

You can dress as you wish of course but if you want to take the opportunity for something fancy go ahead, you won't be alone.

Tickets are on sale from Mandy at £10 a head or £25 for a family with children under 12.

Mocktails will be served from 6.30pm and we shall be seated for dinner and the first act at 7.00pm.

The occasion will be the last social event that Rev John will attend as our minister, so it will also be his farewell party.

Judy Gibbons

EXERCISE FOR PEOPLE OVER 60

Begin by standing on a comfortable surface, where you have plenty of room on each side.

With a 5lb potato bag in each hand, extend your arms straight out from your sides and hold them there for as long as you can. Try for a full minute, and then relax.

Each day you'll find that you can hold this position for just a bit longer. After a couple of weeks, move up to 10lb potato bags. Then try 50lb potato bags and eventually try to get where you can lift a 100lb bag in each hand and hold your arms straight for more than a full minute. (I'm at this level.)

After you feel confident at that level, put a potato in each bag.

(Seen at <http://www.jbbanks.co.uk/>)

INTERIM PASTORAL ARRANGEMENTS

In order to provide pastoral support in the six months before Rev Ros Watson takes up her post, in addition to Rev John Payne, Poynton and Green Close Methodist churches will be able to call on the services of Rev Wesley Loane, current chaplain at Woodlands Residential Home.

Wesley will work closely with John Turner and the three pastoral coordinators, Noreen Hood, Helen Ives and Jean Drinkwater to pick up any pastoral needs that require the input of a minister as well as offering support to the pastoral team as a whole.

Wesley will take the monthly 3rd Thursday communion service at Poynton as well as the monthly Sunday communion services at 10.30am at Poynton and 2.30pm at Green Close. Wesley will not be based in the office at Poynton during this time but will be available via the usual lines of communication

In order to ensure a smooth transition, the church stewards have agreed to meet monthly for the period August 2017 - March 2018. They will be assisted at these meetings by Roger Drinkwater, Chris Hawkyard, Margaret Martin and Christine Ding, who have all had stewarding experience during the past few years. It is hoped that by meeting monthly any issues that occur during that six-month period can be dealt with effectively and appropriately.

Rev John

"Celebrate endings—for they precede new beginnings."
Jonathan Lockwood Huie

"And now let us welcome the new year, full of things that never were." — *Rainer Maria Rilke*

Poynton Board Game Day

The **Methodist Church**
in Poynton

Civic Centre Car Park
Park Lane
SK12 1RB

Saturday
14 July
2-10pm



www.facebook.com/PoyntonBoardGameDay

Fabulous games and awesome cakes

CLIFF COLLEGE FESTIVAL 2018

On Bank Holiday Monday I went with Hilary Parry to Cliff College. At the church we met Pippa Fells who had been given a lift from Knutsford by her good friend Becky.

The theme of the weekend was 'Ablaze' and to quote Samuel Chadwick on the gift of the Holy Spirit, "This extraordinary gift is for ordinary people. All may be filled as full and as truly as the 120 on the day of Pentecost."

At the morning celebration in the Big Tent, we had front row seats and heard an inspiring address from the President of Conference, Lorraine Mellor. One highlight of her speech was hearing of a group of three young people who requested a meeting with her, which was duly arranged. Next day they appeared and asked for advice on starting a new group to help their church – and then they got out their notebooks and waited! They wanted to pray for the adults and when Lorraine told us that a new group had been set up, the applause filled the huge tent.

After eating our packed lunches (Pippa, as usual had the best one thanks to her friend Cath), we spent some quiet time near the cross in the garden area by the prayer labyrinth.

We didn't go into the drum workshop tent, but by the sounds they made we could tell that a lot of people were having a marvellous time!

At 3.15 we went to a lecture on 'Signs, Wonders and Methodism' by Stephen Skuce, an Irish Methodist Minister who is currently Director of Global relationships for the Methodist Church. According to the programme notes, Stephen also fits in some football refereeing at weekends – "If in doubt, book 'em!" We heard an excellent talk on the history of speaking in tongues, illustrated with slides and seasoned with humour.

Later, we heard the EAGA Gospel choir who sang on the open-air stage, an uplifting and powerful performance.

Pippa and I would like to thank Hilary very much for enabling us to enjoy the Festival again this year.

Mary Marley

P.S. from Hilary:

In the morning meeting, Lorraine also told us about the Central Finance Board (the people who look after the finances of the Methodist Church). One day each week the staff get up at 3.00am or 4.00am and go to Whitechapel Mission to prepare a breakfast for the homeless. Also, one day each week in work time they all pray together. God has not done with the church yet. Lorraine also reminded us that every time we (the church family) go out of the door, we are the body of Christ.

Stephen Skuce told us that Methodism was born out of revival and the experience of God at work. He said that it is more important that we experience God's grace in our lives than that we are taught the Bible.

The theme of next year's Festival is "Gifts of the World" – sharing joyful news – and of course we hope to go again!

HOUSEGROUP

From September through to the beginning of Lent I will be leading a housegroup.

The subject matter is yet to be decided (ideas welcome!) ... as is the day of the week, the time of day and the location! It is most likely to be a Wednesday evening at church or a Thursday evening at my house.

I'm currently thinking about looking at the '**Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations**' – looking at one practice per month (September, October, November, January and February).

This is a highly regarded book with a new edition coming out just last month.

Let me know what you think!

Catharine Hughes

PROPERTY UPDATE

- Plant room door re stained/varnished.
- Adjustment to gents w.c auto-flushing system.
- New vac. fittings fitted to the NUMATIC vac. in the church. (Someone unknown has entered into an abusive relationship with it? MORE CARE PLEASE. The bits are expensive.)
- The bottom bolt on the kitchen door has been adjusted to make it easier to use.
- New LINCAT filters have been bought and are now in stock. New one fitted mid-June.
- New clock fitted to Room 3.
- The solar panels on the hall roof have been cleaned by outside contractors to maintain efficiency.

HALL FIRE DOORS

The condition of these wooden doors has naturally deteriorated with time and they are no longer fit for purpose. Their condition was the subject of comment in the last survey (quinquennial inspection). Estimates are being sought to replace them with a modern single door and frame, including some glazing.

WASTE COLLECTION AT PMC

The cost of this service to PMC, which has to be paid for by the church, has recently risen again due to an increase in landfill costs and the situation in China where they decline to accept certain types of waste. We are trying to reduce current costs. We *may* reduce the size of the large wheelie bins we use as part of this exercise. We can all contribute greatly by taking rubbish home, particularly recyclable items. Try something simple to start with...if you see the waste paper bin outside the kitchen is reasonably full, just lift out the plastic bag and take it home. We should be aiming towards an almost zero need to have recyclable waste collected by contractors.

Derek Garner for PMC Property Committee



To round off a series of films associated with Seasons of My Soul, we shall be watching a film that certainly celebrates life in all its fullness, one that has broken box office and soundtrack records, 'The Greatest Showman'

Orphaned, penniless but ambitious and with a mind crammed with imagination and fresh ideas, the American Phineas Taylor Barnum will always be remembered as the man with the gift to effortlessly blur the line between reality and fiction.

Thirsty for innovation and hungry for success, the son of a tailor will manage to open a wax museum but will soon shift focus to the unique and peculiar, introducing extraordinary, never-seen-before live acts on the circus stage.

Some will call Barnum's wide collection of oddities, a freak show; however, when the obsessed showman gambles everything on the opera singer Jenny Lind to appeal to a high-brow audience, he will somehow lose sight of the most important aspect of his life: his family.

Will Barnum risk it all to be accepted?

The film will be shown on Sunday 8th July at 7.30pm.

Rev John

HOLIDAY WORD-SEARCH (this is just for fun!)

(with acknowledgements to Ralph Hewitt at Wesley Methodist Church, Queens Road, Reading – church of my ‘birth’)

N	E	B	U	C	H	A	D	N	E	Z	Z	A	R	D
O	U	N	C	E	F	E	O	R	N	N	T	A	O	M
E	T	U	S	E	R	A	E	R	C	A	Z	T	E	A
H	D	I	S	D	H	H	R	H	O	A	I	T	U	O
C	N	P	N	E	P	O	S	E	H	T	H	D	S	B
N	T	U	A	S	A	M	G	T	N	U	N	D	A	O
U	H	A	O	R	E	G	L	S	S	H	R	D	S	R
P	W	M	E	T	S	A	R	E	H	H	E	E	N	E
F	T	M	R	E	B	E	L	A	A	E	S	I	L	J
A	U	E	T	U	R	A	C	I	M	N	A	E	T	R
T	G	R	I	C	H	T	E	R	L	P	P	D	L	E
H	E	N	L	G	T	H	B	U	S	H	E	L	U	I
O	W	E	I	O	G	E	L	B	A	C	H	R	M	N
M	T	O	R	Q	N	U	A	N	N	T	I	T	E	E
Y	N	O	L	L	A	G	T	H	O	U	S	A	N	D

In the word-search grid above are hidden 28 words or names which refer to a type of “measure, size or number”. Each individual one may appear in horizontal, vertical or diagonal format (normal, up-or-down, back-to-front, but never twisting or crossing itself): however, any complete word may cross another complete word, and letters may be used more than once.

When all the words have been discovered, the remaining unused letters (in original order) can be read as a relevant biblical verse. To assist you, the initial letters of the hidden words are 3xA, 3xB, 1xC, 1xD, 1xE, 3xF, 2xG, 2xH, 1xJ, 2xL, 2xM, 1xN, 1xO, 2xP, 2xR, 1xT.

Please identify the 28 words, determine the passage of scripture that is left and then its biblical location. If you care to put your name/date/time to an answer and leave it in my pigeon-hole (or

email it to me on 'johnoturner@aol.com'), I can indicate who was 'first' along with the correct result after the summer break. Good searching!

NB. I have since discovered a slight mis-spelling for one of the words, but it has little/no effect on the pronunciation! What is it?

John Turner

WOMEN'S QUIET DAY

Many thanks to Catharine Hughes and Liz Delafield for facilitating the quiet day specifically for women, at Green Close on 9th June.

There was a good representation from the Circuit. It was encouraging to have members of Lostock Christian Fellowship who had seen information about the day in the Poynton Post. An opportunity to meet with people we knew well, had spoken to rarely and never met before.

We spent the morning reflecting on some women from the Old Testament and turned to others, familiar in the New Testament, in the afternoon after a delicious shared lunch of soup and fruit.

The stories of these women were presented with Bible readings and original writing. We had time to pause and reflect on what we had heard, and how the lives of these women are relevant for us and our faith today. Suggestions were made to guide our private times of reflection but our thoughts could go anywhere.

I spent one such time remembering places I had worshipped over my life and the people encountered. Catharine and Liz must have spent a long time preparing the day for us so that we were presented with different stimuli; I hadn't tie-dyed for years. The weather was perfect and in the quiet times most of us took the opportunity to stroll, think and enjoy His creation.

We concluded with communion led by Mandy but the whole day had an atmosphere of worship.

Judy Gibbons

REPORT OF THE LADIES' FELLOWSHIP AGM THURSDAY 17th MAY 2018.

The meeting was chaired by the Rev. John Wiseman, who led us in our devotions.

The members stood to remember **Val Matthews and Greta Watts**, who had died earlier this year, and **Edith Lundy**, who had died recently. Edith had been a member for many years and Chairman in 1981 before moving to Wilmslow.

There were 21 members present.

Reports were given by:

Chairman. Sandra Townsend.

Treasurer. Brenda Wainwright.

Programme Secretaries. Carole Clarke and Marie Moncaster.

Registrar. Jean Rashleigh.

Pastoral Secretary. Julie Hallworth.

Social Secretary. Barbara Dixon.

Election

The above office holders were re-elected unanimously for 2018/2019 and in addition, Pianist: Joyce Deighton, Refreshments: Pauline Cottrill and Florence Gill, Gill Oldham and Sheila Asquith.

Subscriptions

It was decided keep member's subscriptions at the current level for the next 12 months, and that we would make a donation of £450 to the church.

Charitable Donation

We are delighted to be sending a cheque to the "Middlewood Riding for the Disabled" for £875.44p, the proceeds of our fund-raising events. Thanks were given to three of our speakers who donated their fee to our Charity. The Riding School invited



us visit them for a coffee and to see the children riding on the morning of Thursday 14th June.

“We all enjoyed being able to show so many members of Poynton Ladies Fellowship a typical morning at our RDA. Many, many thanks to everyone for your support this year.”

Charity for next Connexional year

It was decided that we would support “Golden Memories” a charity in Poynton.

AOB

A committee suggestion was approved that we would not have an outing this year in July, numbers having been very disappointing in recent years, but that instead Church be open for coffee and chat on Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays. All ladies are very welcome to join us.

On **21st June** there was a social evening in the foyer, plus a faith supper from 7.00pm.

After the summer break our next session will begin on **Thursday 6th September**. We commence with a ‘members evening’ led by Sandra Townsend and Marie Moncaster. The theme is, “Who Do you think I am?” On **20th September** our speaker will be Emma Owen and her subject will be “Knowing my True Identity”.

Thanks were expressed to the whole committee for all their hard work both in front and behind the scenes.

The final hymn chosen by Rev John, “One more step along the world I go”, was most appropriate as John moves during August from PMC to Nottingham.

After the Grace, a welcome tea/coffee/biscuit awaited us.

Sandra Townsend

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

NEWS FROM PRESCHOOL

Maths in the Sand Pit



In the sand pit today, Joshua wanted to bury treasure, so we got 'golden plates' out of the sand toy box. Joshua asked for help digging a hole. I helped him and asked if he thought the hole was big enough to fit the plate in. We tested it and it wasn't, so we dug it bigger.

Then we buried it and marked the spot with x.

Then Joshua wanted to bury some more plates.

We counted out 5 and balanced them on the side of the sand pit. I started digging. Joshua counted 10 digs. We buried another plate and then counted how many we had left.

Full/part-time staff required

Due to increasing pupil numbers and expansion, we require staff to work flexible hours between 7.30am and 5.30pm weekdays, term time and some holiday club work. Working patterns may be negotiated.

We require enthusiasm, energy, experience, qualifications and an enjoyment of being outdoors.

We offer varied and rewarding work with delightful children and families, in an Ofsted "Outstanding in all areas" child-centred preschool.

For an application form or more information, please phone or email Sarah, 01625 871115 pmcpreschool@hotmail.co.uk

Sarah Parker

A HOUSE FOR HAITI

We first met Vilia at the morning service at the start of Christian Aid Week, 13th May to be precise. Richard Baker, who was leading the service introduced her to us. What an impact she had on us! And what a story she told us in the Christian Aid video!

She comes from Les Cayes in Haiti, 200 km south west from the capital, Porto Prince. Educated up to 5th Grade, the family ran out of money for her continuing schooling and she dropped out during her 6th Grade.

There was work to be had in Porto Prince, so the family moved and were there on 12th January 2010 when the earthquake struck. That morning was the last time Vilia saw her mother. When she rushed home during the 'quake, their home had disappeared and her mother with it.

Now a young woman, Vilia made it back to Les Cayes where she was



to celebrate all the houses
that were built.

befriended by Christian Aid. The old house where she had lived with her family was by this time uninhabitable and beyond repair.

Christian Aid built her a new house next to the old one – not a palace, but a simple, sturdy shelter and she made

a living selling the vegetables she grew nearby. 24 Ra-Ra bands came together to celebrate all the houses that were built on the island!

Then on 4th October 2016, Hurricane Matthew struck. Her Christian Aid built house was the only one left standing. That





small building became a refuge for 54 of her homeless neighbours while they sought alternative accommodation. 264 local people were killed.

Haiti, one of the poorest communities on earth, is slowly recovering with the help of aid agencies and the generosity of contributing donors. The practical help that Christian Aid gives is far-sighted and provides permanent skills for the people to continue to help themselves: they provide building materials to make houses and teach the locals how to build a simple house.

Our service that morning continued in prayer. We were invited to write a short prayer on a piece of paper and attach it to a drawing of a house in front of the rail.

One of us wrote; "Could we fund a house for someone in Haiti?", another wrote "I wonder how much a house would cost?" The conversation continued after the service.

Someone phoned Christian Aid and asked how much one of their houses in Haiti cost. Back came the reply, "£7,400, of which most was for all the building materials and fittings and £600 was to train a person to build it."

The thought persisted...on 24th June there was a Church Council meeting to discuss the future of the circuit and the redrawing of boundaries that could possibly unite PMC and Green Close with either Stockport or Macclesfield Circuit. When we'd finished that discussion, the question was raised during AOB: "Would the Church Council agree to allow a nominated group to try and raise enough money so that Christian Aid could arrange to build a house on Haiti?" The target is for us to raise the money between the time that Rev John Wiseman leaves us in August and when Rev Ros Watson joins us in mid-March.

The Church Council agreed enthusiastically and the group was appointed: Richard Baker (Poynton Christian Aid Organiser), Mandy Hawkyard (PMC Christian Aid Organiser), Chris Hawkyard, Jean Drinkwater, David Garrett, Judy Gibbons, John Lunt, Arnold Samuels.

We met a week later on 31st May after numerous emails had passed between the members and we sketched out a number of ideas for raising awareness – and money! £7,400 is a lot of money to raise and 5½ months is a short time to raise it. But past experience encourages us. This is a church that has raised much money for overseas causes over the years and now is the time to do it again.

Catharine launched “A House for Haiti” at the Mosaic Church service on 17th June when she told everyone all about it and some of the exciting ways we will be raising funds. Across the page there is a summary of some of these events and publicity ideas. **If you have an idea to add, fill in the bottom box and hand it to any of the people in the group named at the top of this page.**

This is going to be a big and very worthwhile effort to help Christian Aid to improve the life of someone in the direst need and we want it to be a big success. Who knows? It might end up as “A street for Haiti” or “A village for Haiti” if it really catches on!

Please tell your family about it and all your friends. If you have any media connections, tell them too! We want our project to become known far and wide, for we are ambitious for the wellbeing of our brothers and sisters in Haiti.



Towards the end of Vilia's video she prayed most fervently “I pray my God; the country is in your hands. To the people overseas, Lord please give them strength and courage O dear Lord. place compassion in their hearts O Lord.”

And as we open our hearts, wallets and purses, let us all say, “**Amen!**” (Please make cheques payable to ‘Poynton Methodist Church’)

Publicity ideas – broadcast
– social media – local

*Build a model of Vilia's house as a fund
raiser*

Involvement of CTIP

Music concerts of different genres

**Pre-Advent performance by 'Springs Dance Company of
'Journey of the Magi'**

Invite all the groups who use our
premises to join in with a fund-
raising event

**Design alternative gift cards for
Mandy to sell at the Christmas Market**

**VARIED FUND-RAISING SUNDAY LUNCHES AFTER THE SERVICE ON THE FIRST SUNDAY OF THE
MONTH SEPTEMBER 2018 – MARCH 2019, STARTING WITH A BARBECUE IN SEPTEMBER**

**'Buy a brick'
scheme**

***DONATE OUR
CHRISTMAS
COLLECTIONS***

**A speaker with Haitian connections
to be involved
at our service on 2nd September**

This space is for your ideas.
Write them out - copy them onto a sheet of paper
Give it to a group member

HARVEST SERVICE

In preparation for the Harvest service on 14th October, we are letting people know we are continuing to collect for **International Aid Trust** knitted clothing for boys and men. Items asked for include hats, scarves, gloves, socks, vests, waistcoats, jumpers and blankets. Other items for women and girls could include ponchos.

Blankets will be made up of 6 or 12-inch squares (double knitting) or 5-inch rounds if crocheted. Knitted squares can also be donated and made up by their volunteers. Hilary has been in touch with IAT and they will also accept new socks (for men and boys only) if people are unable to knit.

Alongside the knitted goods, donations of soap, flannels, toothbrushes and toothpaste will also be appreciated. IAT have also said there is a need for women's sanitary products and have requested donations of sanitary pads. We aim to support the charity where there is the greatest need and hope you will feel able to support this additional request and in doing so support vulnerable women and girls. Donations to the transport costs will also be gratefully received.

Thank you all for your ongoing support.

Liz Baker (403787) and **Hilary Parry** (873674)



DIARY DATES (Page numbers refer to the July/August Herald)

Every weekday at Midday:

Prayers in church at 12.00 noon p 7

- 2nd **Jul** Full Pastoral Committee meeting p 20
- 3rd Tuesday Fellowship and lunch p 7
- 8th Seasons of my Soul film p 27
- 11th Happy Birthday, Robert p 14
- 14th Poynton Board Game Day p 23
- 17th Prayer breakfast p 8
- 19th Thursday Communion p 7
- 21st Murder Mystery Dinner p 21
- 29th Circuit goodbyes service p 8

- 2nd **Aug** Happy Birthday, Alicia p 14
- 5th Meditation p7
- 7th Tuesday Fellowship and lunch p 7
- 16th Thursday Communion p 7
- 16th Deadline for September Herald p 39
- 21st Prayer breakfast p 8
- 24th September Herald available for distribution p 39

- 2nd **Sep** Barbecue lunch p 16
- 6th Ladies' Fellowship recommences p 31
- 20th Ladies' Fellowship p 31

“Grant that I may radiate Thy Light, Thy Love,
Thy Healing, Thy Joy, and Thy Peace
to all those around me
and all those in my thoughts
this day and ever more.”

— **Jonathan Lockwood Huie**

“We went on holiday to Spain and had a problem with the taxi drivers as they were all Spanish.” (Holiday complaint)

“I compared the size of our one-bedroomed suite to our friends’ three-bedroom and ours was much smaller.” (Another complaint)

THE SEPTEMBER HERALD

Closing date for submissions will be **15th August (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 **September** Herald will be available for you to pick up from **24th August**. 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

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 during July 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 during July 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. 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)
 9.00am Prayer Breakfast at the Kingfisher, Third Tuesday
 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.