



# THE HERALD



## The Methodist Church in Poynton

### FEBRUARY 2019

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.**

**LOOKING FORWARD**

February 2019

Dear Friends,

Firstly, I would like to say that the last few months have given me an opportunity to get to know some of you rather better and learn a lot more about Poynton Church. It has been good to share in some of your activities and acts of worship. I particularly enjoyed the chance to share a Café Service with you and I trust those of you who have offered me support during this time will accept my thanks.

As we enter a New Year it is time to look forward. The churches at Poynton, and Green Close face a year of many changes. During the month of March, you will be welcoming a new minister who will undoubtedly have new ideas to share with you as she seeks to lead you into a new future. Then in September you will be moving Circuits and becoming part of the Macclesfield Circuit. Circuit structures in Methodism have always been meant to develop relationships between churches and enable those churches to help and support one another.

I trust there will be opportunities in the coming months for you to begin to get to know folk from the Macclesfield Circuit and for them to get to know you. It would also be good for you to discuss how you see the future of Poynton Church and to prayerfully reflect on that matter.

I know some of you are concerned about losing links with the churches and people of your current circuit. There is no need for that to be an absolute separation. Those churches would be delighted

to be kept informed of activities happening at Poynton and I know will keep you informed of their activities.

This New Year then is definitely a time of new beginnings. As we enter that year please remember in your prayers your new minister, Rev Ros Watson, the staff and other churches of the Macclesfield Circuit and the churches of the current Hazel Grove and Poynton Circuit which, at the beginning of September, will become part of the Stockport United Circuit.

You may like to use the following prayer:

*Thank you that you make all things new.*

*We look back over the good and hard things of this last year, which have reminded us how much we need you and rely on you.*

*We pray for your Spirit to lead us each step of this New Year.*

*We ask that you will guide our decisions and turn our hearts to deeply desire you above all else.*

*We ask for your wisdom, for your strength and power to be constantly present within us.*

*We pray you would make us strong and courageous for the road ahead. Give us ability beyond what we feel able, let your gifts flow freely through us, so that our lives may bring glory to your name and draw others to you. We ask that you would keep our footsteps firm, helping us to be consistent and faithful.*

*Give us endurance to stay the course that we might follow a closer walk with you.*

A peaceful and blessed New Year to you all.

## **Rev John Payne**

**We would like to express our thanks to Rev John Payne for all his pastoral work here over the past few months and for chairing and guiding our governance between the departure of Rev John Wiseman and the arrival of Rev Ros Watson, in addition to the duties of his own appointment within the Circuit.**

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

**SUNDAY SERVICES AT POYNTON  
IN FEBRUARY**

<b>Date</b>	<b>10.30am UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED</b>	
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> February</b>	<b>9.00am Med</b>	<b>Rev Wesley Loane HC</b>
<b>10<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Martyn Bennett</b>	
<b>17<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>9.00am HC</b> <b>Rev John Payne</b>	<b>Catharine Hughes</b> <b>Café</b>
<b>24<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Rev John Payne</b>	
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> March</b>	<b>9.00am Med</b>	<b>Rev Wesley Loane HC</b>

**SUNDAY SERVICES AT GREEN CLOSE  
IN FEBRUARY**

<b>Date</b>	<b>2.30 pm</b>
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> February</b>	<b>Rev Wesley Loane HC</b>
<b>10<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Stephan Rudolfer</b>
<b>17<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Stewart Bradley</b>
<b>24<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Rev John Payne</b>
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> March</b>	<b>Rev Wesley Loane HC</b>

**HC Holy Communion**

**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 **3<sup>rd</sup> February**.



## WEEKDAY WORSHIP



The first Tuesday **in February is 5<sup>th</sup>**. There will be a service at noon on that day followed by a simple lunch. All are very welcome to this 30min service that caters for shoppers, passers-by and everyone who is available and wishes to take 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 **21<sup>st</sup> February**.



## PRAYER GROUP



Meets every Tuesday morning at 9.45am and on the third Tuesday (**19<sup>th</sup> February**) at 9.00am in the Kingfisher where we hold a prayer breakfast. This informal, welcoming group encourages you to try us out.

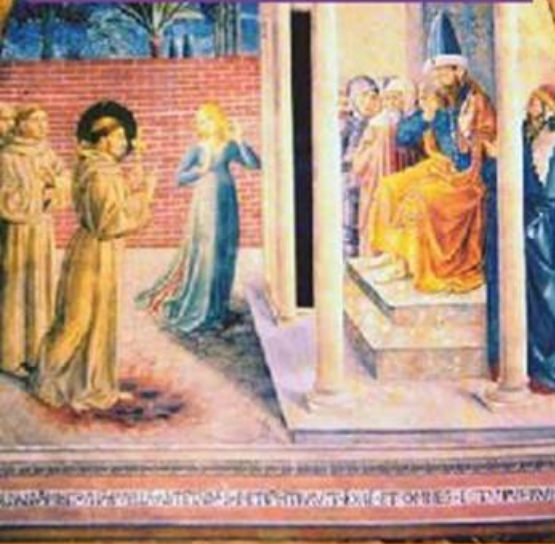


## The Drysdale Lecture 2019

### The Current State of Christian-Muslim Relations

Professor Hugh Goddard  
Monday February 25, 7:30pm

[www.nazarene.ac.uk](http://www.nazarene.ac.uk)



**Venue:** J B Maclagan Chapel, NTC, M20 2GU

**Time:** 7:30pm-9:00pm (Includes refreshments)

**Cost:** Free and open to the public

### About the lectures

The fourteen century relationship between the Christian and Muslim communities is a long and complex one, with many different dimensions.

The first two decades of the twenty-first century have now seen a number of significant developments in Christian-Muslim relations around the world, whether in the strictly theological sense or in the broader cultural and political senses. Some of these are positive, whilst others are more negative.

This lecture will assess the current state of the relationship between the two communities, and suggest whether there is cause for optimism or for pessimism with regard to its future.

### Professor Hugh Goddard

Hugh Goddard has worked and studied in the Middle East, in Lebanon, Jordan and Egypt, and has also undertaken a number of research visits to other regions of the Islamic World, including Pakistan, India, Nigeria, Malaysia, Indonesia and Central Asia.

He is the author of *Christians and Muslims: From Double Standards to Mutual Understanding* (London: Curzon, 1995), *Muslim Perceptions of Christianity* (London: Grey Seal, 1996), and *A History of Christian-Muslim Relations* (Edinburgh University Press and Chicago: New Amsterdam, 2000).



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## THREE NEW DISTRICT APPOINTMENTS

Mrs Helen Bolton recently became District Safeguarding Officer, taking over from Christine Kennedy. Helen is a Methodist member in Bolton, and comes from a background working in the NHS as a specialist safeguarding nurse. She will be available on a new dedicated email address: **mands@dso.methodist.org.uk**

Christine Kennedy moves on to her new role as regional Safeguarding Supervising Casework officer, in which she will be supervising and supporting DSOs around our region.

I am now supported by a new PA, Mrs Emma Hutson. Emma works 12 hours a week, and sometimes will be the person who answers emails or phone calls on my behalf. She lives in Altrincham, and will work partly from home and partly from my office in Cheadle Heath. She comes from a Further Education teaching background.

From 1st September 2019, Revd Luiz Cardoso will begin working part-time as our new District Church Planting Officer. He will continue to work with the new church plant he leads in Stockport: **Connect@Tiviot Dale**, but in addition will work across the District supporting and encouraging church planting initiatives. This work is funded by a full connexional grant for five years.



**Andrew Lunn** District Chair

## HOLD THE BACK PAGE!



If you are a leader or member of any of the organisations referred to on the back page, please take a moment to see whether the contact and other details are correct. If they are not, please ring 01625 871592 on Tuesday or Friday mornings and let us know, or email [arnoldsamuels@btinternet.com](mailto:arnoldsamuels@btinternet.com)

## WELCOME SERVICE – REV ROS WATSON



The welcome service for Rev Ros Watson will be at Poynton on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> March. Rev Ian Coverdale will be leading the worship and Rev Graham Edwards the Macclesfield Superintendent will be preaching. This will be a Circuit service with the other congregations joining us at Poynton.

In order to give them that little bit of extra travel time the service will start at 11.00a.m. However, following a suggestion from the Worship Committee, Catharine Hughes is hoping to arrange for the music group to lead community hymn singing from 10.30 a.m.

The Family Committee is hoping to arrange lunch following the service.

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For the first time since 2014, CRE returns to the easily-accessible Event City Manchester, for a two-day exhibition on 13-14 March 2019.

Situated next door to the Trafford Centre, the UK's second largest shopping destination, Event City offers a purpose-built venue, excellent transport links, easy vehicle access and thousands of free parking spaces.

CRE will build on the experience of the past yet present fresh ideas, products and suppliers to ordained clergy, lay leaders and anyone who cares about the future of their local church.

Book your tickets for CRE 2019 online.

### **Venue**

Event City, Hall 1, Phoenix Way, Off Barton Dock Road  
Trafford City Manchester M41 7TB



# Radical Grace - Transforming Hope

7<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> June 2019

A weekend of events in Manchester & Stockport Methodist District with Michaela Youngson, President of the Methodist Conference and Bala Gnanapragasam, Vice-President of the Methodist Conference

Further details will be provided in due course. For now here is some information about what will be happening so you can save the dates.

## Friday 7th June

12:30-16:00

Creative Writing for Worship  
with Michaela Youngson

Hope Methodist Church, Failsworth. M35 9AN  
Limited places; booking will be on Eventbrite in due course.

12:30-14:30

Conversation on public health and faith  
with:

Bala Gnanapragasam  
John Rouse, Chief Officer for Greater Manchester Health and Social Care Partnership  
David Jolly, Consultant Psychiatrist and Honorary Reader at University of Manchester  
David Holgate, Canon for Theology and Mission, Manchester Cathedral.

By invitation only; if you are interested in attending please contact  
[andrew.lunn@methodist.org.uk](mailto:andrew.lunn@methodist.org.uk)

19:00

Hope Methodist Church  
Rededication Service  
with Michaela Youngson

19:00

Christians in Local Government Network  
with Bala Gnanapragasam, Ian Rutherford and Councillor Adrian Nottingham

By invitation only; if you are interested in attending please contact  
[ian7@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:ian7@hotmail.co.uk)

## Saturday 8th June

10:00-16:00

Migration--a day conference  
with Michaela Youngson and Bala Gnanapragasam

Methodist Central Hall Manchester  
Oldham Street. M1 1JT  
Booking will be on Eventbrite in due course.

## Sunday 9th June

08:30-12:00

Walk and worship in the Peak  
with Michaela Youngson  
Open to all.

10:30-11:30

A Service for MHA Sunday  
with Bala Gnanapragasam

Poynton Methodist Church,  
Civic Hall Car Park, Poynton. SK12 1RB  
Open to all.

14:00-17:30

Responding Creatively to Radical Grace and Transforming Hope  
a Methodist Women in Britain event  
with Michaela Youngson

Chapel in the Fields,  
Sinderland Green, WA14 5SS  
Places will be limited.

14:00-17:30

Radical Grace and Transforming Hope in circuit leadership  
an event for circuit stewards and ministers,  
with Bala Gnanapragasam.

St Andrews Methodist Church,  
Wythenshawe. M22 0DW  
Limited places; booking will be on Eventbrite in due course.

18:30

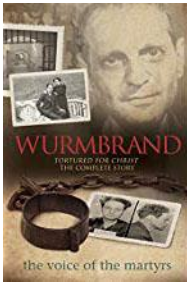
District Pentecost Celebration  
A *Thy Kingdom Come* beacon event  
with Michaela Youngson, Bala Gnanapragasam,  
and the United Christian Singers

Altrincham Methodist Church  
Barrington Road. WA14 1HF  
Open to all

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



**'Tortured for Christ'** by Richard Wurmbrandt, an autobiographical account with a special photographs section. Published by Release International at £8.00.



'Tortured for Christ' was first published in 1967 and on the cover it said, 'an account of the suffering and testimony of the Underground Church in countries behind the Iron Curtain. I reviewed it in this feature in November 1991.

This new edition is published in honour of one of the greatest Christian Witnesses of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century and to mark the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the UK charity he founded to help persecuted Christians. Since its publication, 'Tortured for Christ' has touched the lives of thousands of people, both Christians and non-Christians alike. It is just as relevant now as it was then as the persecution of Christians around the world continues at an alarming rate.

The original small paperback was 128 pages long. This new, larger edition is 168 pages long and, as well as the photographs, it contains short biographies of Richard and his wife Sabina. Richard died in 2001, a year after his wife, aged 90. There is also an epilogue entitled 'The man who dared to speak'. This contains Richard Wurmbrandt's 8 pleas and details about how to find out details of the charity Release International.

The book ends with an appendix containing reviews of the first edition by, among others, Rev Dr Rob Frost, Charles W Colson, Jim Graham and Michael Bordeaux.

Be warned! – this book is not an easy read and some of the photos are disturbing to see. Richard was imprisoned for 14 years in various parts of Romania. When I first read the book in 1967, I was in a flood of tears. Not long after, I went to Romania on holiday. I kept seeing road signs to places that I had heard about because Richard had been in prison there. Later, I heard him speak at Belle Vue (in the King's Hall, I think) and I saw his wounds from the torture he had endured.

The challenge of this book today is to remember our persecuted brothers and sisters who are suffering for the sake of Jesus. Will you pray for them?

## HYMNOLOGY ON A MONDAY MORNING - 38

**'Guide me, O Thou Great Jehovah'** StF 465; HP 437; MP 201.

Words by William Williams. Translated by Peter Williams (Unrelated)

William Williams wrote more than 1,000 hymns mostly in Welsh. He was known as the 'sweet singer of Wales' and many were used in his sermons. He could truthfully describe all Wales as his parish; for more than 40 years he travelled almost 100,000 miles preaching, mostly in the open air.

On several occasions he was set upon by a mob probably hired by the local gentry, who were concerned that 'Guide me O thou great Jehovah', drawing on the Old Testament story of the Israelite's journey to the promised land with references to 'death and destruction' threatened the feudal order.

In 1905 John Hughes wrote the great tune 'Cwm Rhondda', for a choir festival at Pontypridd, and as a result, the hymn has had an enormous impact. Its first appearance was in an English Hymn book – The Methodist Hymn Book of 1933.

A TV film of 1967 showed the Welsh way of life, and miners and their families remembered the hard days of coal and chapel in the

Rhondda Valley. Old miners recalled singing Cwm Rhondda as they descended in the cage to the coal face. Every boy in every family had gone to work at the age of 12 earning less than 10 pence a day. Many said, "Young men were in the cemetery before their time, and the womenfolk had an even harder time trying to feed a family on such tiny wages."

Today the pits are closed. The pit gear of one mine is preserved as a heritage site, and if you visit there you can hear the distant sound of a tape playing Cwm Rhondda quietly and continuously. It has a chorus which you can hear sung by Welsh rugby supporters especially at international matches.

Variants of the words have appeared in many books. The first edition of 'Hymns Ancient and Modern' is the same as the usual version except it reads verse 1 line 1: 'Guide me O thou great Redeemer.' References: Exodus 13. 20-22 and 16.15; Joshua 3. 17; Psalm 24. 8. John 6. 34-35 and 58.

Erik Routley, the Music of Christian Hymns, comments how the tune is in the high tradition of Welsh hymns like Crimond is to the Scottish tradition.

### **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**

*Guide me, O thou great Jehovah  
Pilgrim through this barren land;  
I am weak, but thou art mighty;  
Hold me with thy powerful hand:  
Bread of heaven, Bread of heaven,  
Feed me now and evermore;  
Feed me now and evermore.*

**STF 465.1**

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

## THANK YOU LETTERS



Although it is now some time ago, this is my first opportunity to say thank you for the lovely flowers brought to me by Noreen on Remembrance Sunday. They came at just the right time. We were commemorating the loss of my uncle in the first world war at 18 as we do each year. It is good to be remembered.

### **Gwenda Hope**

*Thank you, Julie. Although it is several weeks ago, I want to thank Julie (Hallworth) for helping us to "Experience Christmas in a different way" at the 10-30 service on the 30<sup>th</sup> December. I found the service relaxing and meaningful, with lovely music and readings and easy to follow overheads.*

*It is easy to miss out names when trying to thank everybody involved, so please, if you helped Julie and her family in any way, accept my most sincere thanks. Without your efforts and team work we may well not have been able to enjoy a service at 10.30a.m. on the last Sunday of 2018.*

### **Anne Hindle**

*It is so encouraging to know I am remembered by my friends at Church and I thank you all for the prayers and cards which I received during my long stay in hospital.*

*I am now at home and hope to be able to attend church again soon.*

*With best wishes for 2019. Joyce Deighton*

### **A message from Jan Chartres**

Firstly, Jan wants to thank us for all our prayers and good wishes to her and Gerry over what has been a very difficult few years. She is slowly improving and now able to come to Church on occasions. She sends a plea, however, that when she does come, we avoid any physical contact with her – her immune system is suppressed

leaving her wide open to infection. She welcomes our smiles and words of encouragement but not our touch. I'm sure you will understand.

**Mandy Hawkyard**

## CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

**James Tebbutt** sends his greetings. He is to become the Chair of the Cumbria District in September where David Emison once served.

**Steve Barlow** reports that he has enjoyed good health for almost three years now and was recently signed off from the Optimum Health Clinic as 'recovered' from ME. This feels very significant when considering how poorly he has been at times in the past.

In September he became the team leader for the Circuit Support Team working across the Yorkshire North and East District. Currently this part of his role is half time but is expected to grow in 2019. This means that after a positive 15 years they will be moving away from Wetherby next summer (but will stay in Yorkshire ☺!).

The new role is quite broad and involves providing peripatetic type consultancy support across many areas of church life. He is thoroughly enjoying this so far.

**Mandy Hawkyard**



**Greetings** to Walter Hall, baptised here on 22 January 2017.

**Happy Birthday** to Mary Beck, who celebrated her hundredth birthday on 12<sup>th</sup> January (see next page)

**Happy Birthday** to Dulcie Linnell, who was 90 on 16 January.

**Happy Birthday** to Kevin Downing, who will be 80 on 14 February.

**Happy Birthday** to Joan Broadbent, who will be 90 on 25 February.

## MARY BECK Born 10 January 1919



**Mary Beck celebrated her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday at Woodlands Care Home on the afternoon of 12 January.** It was a very happy occasion and the Mayor, Sarah-Jane Gilmore attended with her husband, Chris, and presented Mary with some beautiful flowers. Sarah-Jane was very interested in Mary's life which was set out in photographs around the room.

Mary first started attending Poynton Methodist Church when she came to live at Parklands in 2012 after selling her home in Wilmslow where she had lived for over 50 years. (She came to Poynton to be near her daughter, Catherine and son-in-law Peter who have lived in Poynton since 1981). A regular attender of St Philip's church, Alderley Edge for over 50 years, and unable to go regularly now, she was very pleased when she found out that members of the Methodist church came over to Parklands to take residents to the service. She was given a most friendly welcome by the minister, the Rev John Wiseman and by Kevin and Maureen Downing and by Hilary Parry. Rev Peter Went also visited her in Parklands on behalf of PMC. and they conducted interesting theological discussions.

In January 2018 Mary unfortunately fell and broke her hip. Needing more nursing care, she moved to Woodlands and so her connection with the Methodist church continues as Woodlands is a Methodist Home for the Aged. The MHA group is well known for its excellent standard of care homes today, upholding the values of Methodism, and it was originally founded by a group of Methodists in 1943 before the founding of the welfare state. Hilary Parry kindly visits Mary at Woodlands nearly every Sunday afternoon together with another resident, Betty Wainwright.

Mary has seen many changes throughout her 100 years. As a child she grew up in Tilehurst, near Reading with her younger brother John, who was sadly killed aged 24 in Burma in the Second World War. She attended the Abbey School in Reading from the age of 9 and after leaving held a number of secretarial posts including one in the Land Army Office. At the age of 24 in 1943 she signed up for the WAAF



(Women's Auxiliary Air Force) and underwent training at various RAF stations eventually achieving the rank of Flight Officer and was responsible for ordering all the barracks' supplies and aircraft parts and fuel at RAF Cotteswell and RAF Feltwell, supervising a large, mostly male staff.

In 1951 she was posted to RAF Kasfareet in the Suez Canal Zone held by the British. There she met her husband to be, George, who was an employee of the Air Ministry Directorate General of Works. George however was posted to Aden due to the abrogation of the 1936 Anglo-Egyptian Treaty which made travel for the British very difficult. George could not travel back to Egypt to marry Mary so Mary undertook a very difficult journey to join George travelling to Port Said, Cyprus, Khartoum, Abbis Ababa, and finally Aden on a variety of aircraft and often being the only woman on the plane where nobody else spoke English. After the wedding in Christ Church, Steamer Point, Aden, they honeymooned in Asmara, the capital of Eritrea.

Mary and George returned to England in 1953 and their only child, Catherine, was born in 1955. In 1960 George was posted to Cyprus for 3 years and the family lived firstly in Limassol, then Berengaria.

Then In 1963 the family settled in Wilmslow and Mary spent her days looking after the house and garden. She soon joined the Women's Royal Voluntary Service progressing from office jobs to taking round the meals on wheels as an assistant and then as the driver and finally being put in charge of the maintenance of the various WRVS vehicles. She was given a service medal in 1991 marking over 27 years of service. Through the WRVS she got to know people who were lonely and in need of a visit and very often on a Sunday afternoon she would visit an elderly person and take them out for a drive. She continued doing this well into her 80s.

Mary taught in the Sunday school of St Philip's and St James's from 1965 to 1985 for 20 years with only 6 weeks off in the summer. She was given the boys to teach as she was very good at keeping them in order!

As well as her voluntary work, Mary's interests were her garden, and music and opera. She taught herself German from the Linguaphone course that was very popular in the late 1960s.

Mary was very happy to reach 100 and receive her card from the Queen. She is still mentally active doing crossword puzzles, writing letters and reading. Mary has two grandsons and three great grandchildren and she enjoys their visits.



**Catherine Owen**

## LADIES' FELLOWSHIP

On **3<sup>rd</sup> January**, we started our new session of meetings, and what a special evening we had! Mr. George King who is a Classical/Jazz Pianist, played for us, and we had a treat – we could have listened to him all evening, I am sure he will be returning in the near future along with his talented family.

**17<sup>th</sup> January.** Our speaker for the evening was Judy Hatton, who spoke to us about “Golden Memories”, our current charity for the year 2018/2019. We began as usual at 7.45pm and Brenda Oakley took the meeting. (New members are warmly welcome.)

On **7<sup>th</sup> February** we will be going to Ciao for our usual lunch, meeting at 12-30 for 1.00pm. All ladies are welcome. If you haven't given your name to Barbara Dixon, she will be pleased to add your name to her list.

**16<sup>th</sup> February** is the date for our charity coffee morning in aid of “Golden Memories”. 10.00am to 12noon.

On **21<sup>st</sup> February** we welcome Janet Burton, and her topic is “Poynton in Bloom”. Christina Thompson will be leading the meeting.

**Sandra Townsend**

## FLOWER MINISTRY

Thank you for all your kind donations over the past 12 months. We now have a new calendar on our notice board. If you would like to donate flowers, would you please put your name in the appropriate date which can be to remember a Wedding Anniversary, a bereavement, a birthday, a thank you or any other event you wish to mark. We have had so many cards thanking us for the flowers and also the visits from our distributors. Once again, I also wish to thank our flower arrangers and flower distributors for their dedicated work over the past 12 months.

This is the rota for distributors for **February/March**

### **February**

10 <sup>th</sup>	B Oakley & N Hood
17 <sup>th</sup>	H Clare & M Moncaster
24 <sup>th</sup>	M Wilson & C Clarke

### **March**

3 <sup>rd</sup>	L Baker & B Whittaker
10 <sup>th</sup>	P & M Burgess
17 <sup>th</sup>	D Reid & E Bottrill
24 <sup>th</sup>	N Garner & B Dixon
31 <sup>st</sup>	C & K Thompson

**Sandra Townsend**

## IS ANOTHER WELL-KNOWN "STORE" ABOUT TO CLOSE?

This is almost certainly a heading that you would not expect to see in the Herald. However, it is sad to find that we might just see our Flower Ministry decline without the aid of some further support. As we are sure you are aware, this much appreciated facility has been managed primarily by Sandra Townsend and Gill Oldham in recent years with a team of helpers to back them up. In the November Herald Sandra put in an appeal for additional people to join the backup team, with special emphasis on the distribution of flowers each Sunday: so far there has been no response.

It may be helpful to clarify one or two points in regard to this work. Two lists are prepared at appropriate intervals, each one covering a number of weeks. One of these is a pre-ordered rota of regular flower arrangers week by week, with an 'invitation' for anybody to donate flowers (and/or offer money for flowers) for a specific Sunday: this means that we are accustomed to having some lovely displays provided each week. The second list is quite separate and gives the details of those (usually two people each week) who have previously



agreed to be on a rota for the distribution of flowers to those in need (as indicated normally by entry in a 'request for flowers' book in the main corridor at PMC – and open to any to enter a name). These two lists have been maintained by Sandra, with Gill taking charge of the financing

aspects.

Over a number of years, the use of flowers has grown from simply 'enough to display at church' to the much wider activity of distribution so that we can bring some pleasure to those who cannot get to church or who are in need of some timely TLC. So it is in this area of distribution that we could do with a few extra helpers and we would also ask those already on this rota please to check regularly that they are actually available on the due date(s) – or else make some arrangement for a replacement. Otherwise an unfair burden may be placed on Sandra and Gill who really do endeavour to get flowers distributed as planned. If they are unable to assist, then there is the very real chance that flowers will remain at church and not get distributed. However, this need not necessarily be 'an issue' – it is quite in order for anyone wishing to pass flowers on to come into PMC (Sunday or even Monday), get the flowers wrapped there and then delivered as desired.

We have two observations to make: -

- \* one for would-be volunteers – it is helpful for one of a pair to be able to drive (mostly within Poynton itself).
- \* one for pastoral visitors – please ensure you put an entry in the 'request book' when you become aware of someone you think may appreciate flowers: equally, a regular 'look in the book' may even

alert you to an entry relating to somebody in your group, but made by another person.

We hope that you will give the above some serious thought – and please feel free to discuss the matter with any one of us. It would be a pity for such a rewarding service to have to be curtailed or even stopped.

**John Turner, Sandra Townsend, Gill Oldham**

(on behalf of the Pastoral and Flower Ministry teams)

## POYNTON MALE VOICE CHOIR



Poynton Male Voice Choir have kindly offered to perform a concert in aid of our **House for Haiti** appeal.

This will be held on **Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> February at 7.30 pm** in the church.

Tickets, priced at £7, including refreshments, are available from members of the Haiti committee or can be bought on the door.

Please come along and support this effort.

**Jean Drinkwater**



Our next Sunday Evening Coffee Concert at Poynton Methodist Church will be on Sun 24<sup>th</sup> Feb at 8.15pm (7.45pm for coffee/tea/cake). Entry at the door is £8 (free for under 18s).

The programme will include César Franck's Sonata for 'cello and piano performed by Rebecca Whettam ('cello) and Peter Richards (piano).

**Richard Williamson**

## connect@4

Dear friends,

This is probably more of an advert than an article. When I started working here at PMC, I asked that we set up a regular family-friendly service. With this in mind we began "Mosaic" and "Café Church" on alternate months. Good as these have been, they have not attracted new people as we had hoped.



Before John W. left, we considered a monthly afternoon service, which he felt should be started before Ros. our new minister, arrived. **I know that this is a little late** but we are having our first Sunday pm Service on 3<sup>rd</sup> February. It will be called "connect@4" and will begin at 4.00 pm.

As to how it will pan out ultimately, I do not know, but following the Christingle service, which seemed to go well and was attended by some of the toddler group families, we will probably start with an activity for everyone to join in (like making the Christingles). We will include worship songs/hymns, prayers and a story. The length of the service will depend primarily on who it attracts e.g. If there are a lot of very small children it will need to be shorter.



I am asking you as a congregation to:

- Pray about this
- Volunteer help e.g. computer, crafts, activities, making drinks, setting up the church.
- **Come and join us.**

**Annie Truman**

**"If I could relive my life, I would devote my entire ministry to reaching children for God!"** — Dwight L. Moody, evangelist

**"The greatest legacy one can pass on to one's children and grandchildren is not money or other material things accumulated in one's life, but rather a legacy of character and faith."** — Billy Graham, evangelist

## PRESCHOOL NEWS

Professional Development and Volunteering at Preschool:  
"Children flourish in the care of nurturing and highly responsive staff"  
Ofsted 2018

We are proud of our astute and sympathetic staff, and proud of how well qualified and experienced we are at Poynton Methodist Church Preschool.

Continuing professional development and training is an aspect of our provision that we consider very important and we also consider it part of our mission to our children, families and community to train up members of staff who are new to the profession, either high school, college or university students, or parents making the most of their experiences, doing paid work and volunteering whilst doing training.



Our trainees have studied Childcare and Education at entry level, level 2 (equivalent to GCSEs, formerly 'O' levels), Level 3 (equivalent to 'A' levels) and at degree level, either on a placement from university or on workplace Early Years Teacher Training, which takes one year, and is available to graduates.

We also welcome volunteers who might want to come in to preschool to help with gardening, snack time, woodwork or reading stories, for instance, for a short time regularly or occasionally.

If you would like to know more about our work or to volunteer please contact me on 01625 871115 or [pmcpreschool@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:pmcpreschool@hotmail.co.uk)

**Sarah Parker**



## PROPERTY UPDATE

- \* New lamp fitted in lobby area 'high ceiling' at entrance to worship area.
- \* New key safe for use of counting teams fitted.
- \* Curtain sliders replaced in Room 3.
- \* New lamp fitted in ladies WC.
- \* Extensive painting in Room 1.
- \* LED lamp fitted to foyer cupboard.
- \* New arrangement for fire door 'holding strap' in Room 2 for Health and Safety reasons.
- \* All (hopefully) cobwebs removed from high spaces in church and both corridors, including cleaning frame tops and cupboard top in large corridor.
- \* Paper shredder replaced in office.

### **CHURCH ROOF**

As you are probably aware there have been two or three leaks from the main church roof into the foyer area and the main church near the sound desk in the last two months. Arrangements were made before Christmas for outside contractors to rectify the problem. They came at their first opportunity in January 2019.

About 60 tiles were replaced, predominately adjacent to the front 'leaded valley' area of the roof. For various reasons this area has been a problem area on and off for a few years. The roof design itself is part of the issue. However, we had a very cost-effective repair compared to some of the eye watering quotes we also received.

### **CHURCH CARPETS**

The lobby area carpet condition has worsened in recent times with evidence of increased 'bobbling', mainly near to the entrance to the worship area. The carpet here is getting very thin and there is a need to be aware of safety issues also. The carpet is 36 years old and has performed well. However, the main traffic areas are now showing the strain.

We have had several quotations for replacement. The current thinking by property committee members is that commercial carpet tiles are fitted in all the 'public' areas, viz: foyer, large corridor and

small corridor, which is also becoming badly affected by stains and wear and tear. This will allow for the movement of tiles, where necessary in the future, to equalize wear and hopefully improve the look and general appearance of the area. (Some repair by property members may also be required to the floor area in the foyer).

Other church members have also been consulted to ensure a sounding of views ref. colour and type of tile. This will be discussed further at the next property meeting with a view to seeking confirmation from the Finance team and Church Council.

### **PROPERTY MEETING**

This will take place at 7.30pm Thursday 7th February 2019 at PMC. We are always seeking new members. It may be that you could play a small (or large) important part in the working of the committee. Speak to a current member if you think you can help.

**Derek Garner** for PMC PROPERTY COMMITTEE.

## **FILM NIGHTS**

In December we had an afternoon showing of "Peter Rabbit" and besides the usual supporters we welcomed four additional families and their little ones. The room was full and the grown-ups sat on the chairs and the children 'rested' on the large cushions and fortified themselves with biscuits. It proved to be a very enjoyable afternoon and all ages were able to enjoy the film and avoid the pressure of shopping for Christmas.



In January we showed "The Water Diviner" the story of a devoted Australian father's search for his three sons missing in action in Gallipoli in Turkey. A reminder of the contribution from the Commonwealth in 1916 plus some wonderful scenery. (I have a copy if anyone would like to borrow it)

**Future Dates** Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> February 2019 at 2.30pm – "Wonder" This is the story of a family with a little boy born with a facial disfigurement and starting school "You can't blend in when you

were born to stand out!" Come along and find out more. Note the time of 2.30pm.

Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> March at 7.30pm and 6<sup>th</sup> April at 7.30pm - films to be announced.

For any more information or queries speak to **Judith Ridgway**

## THE HIDEAWAY



I heard on the radio in November 2018 that a Bible-themed play centre opened in Partington Shopping Centre (where there is plenty of free parking) 6 months ago in a 7500sq.ft. building after a couple sold their travel business to finance it.

There are lots of things for children to do. To get there from Poynton, travel on the M60 and turn off at Junction 8 for Carrington and continue on the A 6144 to Partington. The Chapel in the fields at Sinderland is nearby.

### **Hilary Parry**

The Hideaway  
 Partington Shopping Centre, Central Road,  
 Partington, Manchester, M31 4EL  
 info@hiddentreasureplay.com  
<https://www.thehideawaymanchester.com/>  
<http://www.hiddentreasureplay.com/index.html>  
 0161 6600299

There's lots of information on the websites above and it's all very interesting!

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

## A HOUSE FOR HAITI – SEE HOW ITS GROWN!



It's hard to believe isn't it, that by Christmas, not only had we raised enough money for one house (£7,500) but there was another £2,500 in the bank. We never dreamt we would reach our target so quickly and so still have more events planned for this year. Please support them with the same enthusiasm as we have shown so far. We've been amazed by people's generosity, both people we know and those we don't. So, we have taken the roof off our house and removed many of the bricks so that it now represents how much of a second house we have paid for. Dare we dream?

As promised, our fund raising for this project ends on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> March (Church Anniversary) before Ros arrives. We hope that

Margaret Lodge from Macclesfield Methodist Church will join us on this occasion. She has actually visited Haiti.

Our thanks once again to our resident hymn writer who produced this for Christmas Day. No doubt we will be singing it again!

*Chorus: Come and join our celebration as one family we meet  
giving thanks and praise to God that Haiti's house is now complete.*

*Hurricane Matthew broke the heart of Haiti's land  
Could we, trusting, try to build a house through storm to stand... so  
(Chorus)*

*Month by month in fellowship we've shared a meal  
Offering gifts to try to let them know, their pain we feel...so (Chorus)*

*Brick by brick in faith and prayer we've watched it grow  
Sharing, caring, touching lives with love across the ocean...so  
(Chorus)*

**(Words - Margaret Wilson)**

## ANGELS IN PARK LANE

I volunteered to help spread the angels at 8.00am on the Sunday morning before Christmas. A dark, damp dawn, but when we had distributed the angels on all the trees and bushes it looked as though a choir of angles had really descended in Park Lane. The only people and vehicles out were bewildered delivery men in large lorries arriving with the last minutes stock-up items for the supermarkets and their desperate shoppers and It brought home the very different approaches we have to the birth of Jesus.

I am so glad that I made the effort to get out of bed at that dark hour. It was a moment of realisation for me and reminded me what Christmas is really about. Hopefully lots of other people received the same message as virtually all the angels had gone by Monday morning and we had spread the good news to lots of homes in Poynton.

**Judith Ridgway**



## World Day of Prayer

(formally known as Women's World Day of Prayer)

**Poynton Baptist Church**

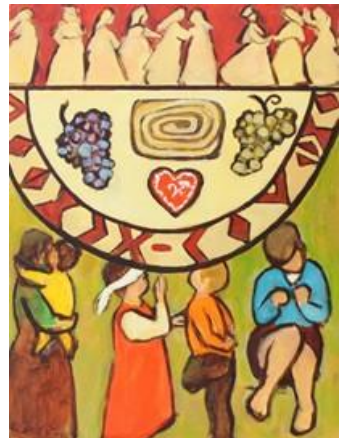
**Friday 1<sup>st</sup> March 1.30pm**

**Written by the women of Slovenia**

At the core of the theme for WDP 2019, is an invitation – Come. And to enable the response – Everything is ready. Come to praise, thank, and proclaim the kingdom of love.

The invitation is grounded in the parable that Jesus told about a great dinner which was attended by the ones called off the streets, because the ones invited made excuses not to go. There is still room around the table. Who are missing from the table in our community?

The designer of the poster, artist Rezka Arnuš, wanted to present two topics with her poster pictured on the right - the country of Slovenia and the main biblical story of the worship service. At the top there are women dressed in national traditional costumes. The semi-circular ornament with Slovenian folk embroidery represents a plate or a table with their best-known national dish – *potica* - and grapes from various wine-producing vineyards. Partly under the table, one can see the children from the margins of the society. They heard the invitation to the feast. The red and white colours used reflect Slovenian folk embroidery. The green background colour emphasizes the green Slovenia, fields and forests. The warm colours of children express the joy of heartfelt invitation.



This is a **Churches Together** event - **PLEASE JOIN US** to pray for Slovenia and our own community.





Susanna  
Wesley  
1699 350 2019  
ANNIVERSARY

2019 marks the 350<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of Susanna Wesley, “the mother of Methodism”.

Although most known for her influence on her sons John and Charles, Susanna deserves recognition in her own right as an accomplished writer, teacher and theologian. A selection of her writings will be published this spring, and celebratory events are planned throughout the anniversary year. More information will become available on [www.methodistheritage.org.uk](http://www.methodistheritage.org.uk).

The Methodist Heritage Committee offers churches this prayer, written especially for use on Sunday 20 January 2019, the anniversary date.

The prayer has been written by Jenny Carpenter, Vice-Chair of Trustees at Epworth Old Rectory and their representative on the Methodist Heritage Committee.

**Living, loving God, Trinity in Unity,**

**We praise and thank you for the life of Susanna Wesley, Mother of Methodism.**

**Inspired by her regime of private prayer and meditation, may we grow in our devotion to you.**

**Following our conscience as she did, may we think for ourselves and dare to act on Kingdom values.**

**Aware of her programme of teaching her children, girls and boys alike, may we value and nurture all in our care, sensitive to individual needs.**

**Encouraged by her determination to build up the faith of her family and the parish of Epworth, may we lead others to follow Christ more closely.**

**Discerning the Holy Spirit moving powerfully in the life of the nation as she did, may we be open to new challenges and expect great things from you.**

**We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ and in the power of the Spirit. Amen.**



# Methodist Modern Art Collection



## 'Three Kings' 1925

Artist: **David Jones** (1895-1974)  
Engraved woodblock 10 x 8 cm  
Image reversed). From the  
Methodist Modern Art Collection  
JON/2009

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permission.

Matthew 2. 1-2, 11

The woodblock was made for a Christmas card while Jones was living at the Capel-y-ffin community created by Eric Gill in the Black Mountains of Wales. The local hills feature prominently and below them lies Bethlehem (the name of a hamlet in Carmarthenshire) illuminated by the rays of the star. The three kings are on foot with their heads slightly bowed, while near them is a mutilated tree. David Alston has suggested that this tree both foreshadows the Crucifixion and reflects Jones' experience in the battlefields of the First World War. The words, inscribed in reverse, 'Omnes de Saba Venient' are known from early Epiphany carols and come from the prophecy of Isaiah (Chapter 60:6): 'All shall come from Sheba bringing gold and frankincense, and showing forth praise to the Lord'.

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

"The brochure stated "No hairdressers at the resort. We are trainee hairdressers and we think they knew and kept us waiting for service"  
 "I was bitten by a mosquito. The brochure did not mention mosquitos" (Holiday complaints)

## THE MARCH HERALD

Closing date for submissions will be **13<sup>th</sup> February (or earlier if possible)**. Please place articles in the Herald pigeonhole or preferably send them by e-mail to: **arnoldsamuels@btinternet.com** (marketing spam automatically deleted).

## TO ALL HERALD DISTRIBUTORS

The **March** Herald will be available for you to pick up from **22<sup>nd</sup> February**. There are events taking place in the first week of each new magazine and we hope that as many readers as possible receive the details in time.

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

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

### **Copyright**

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

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

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

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

Until our new minister arrives in mid-March 2019, interim pastoral arrangements will operate (see p 27 Sept). Contacts are John Turner, Noreen Hood, Helen Ives or Jean Drinkwater A copy of these details is also on the notice board near Room 4. Non-pastoral comments and queries may as usual be directed to the stewards either in person or by email to office@poyntonmethodist.org or the church office telephone (871592) both of which the stewards are monitoring. For Church Notices and office queries please use these same contacts. 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 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 ()  
 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. ()  
 7.30pm \*Exploring Faith through film (Discuss on Monday Judith Ridgway 875912)

#### 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.