



THE HERALD



The Methodist Church in Poynton

April 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.**

April 2019

Alleluia! Christ is risen!
He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

We are now over half way through Lent, looking towards Holy Week and then Easter morning!

I hope that you have found benefit in keeping Lent this year and that, as we journey through the events of Holy Week together, we will gain a renewed appreciation of the depth and breadth of love that God has for us shown through the death of Jesus, and so be better able to celebrate His resurrection on Easter morning.

It can be tempting to shy away from the events of Jesus' last week and especially Good Friday itself and jump straight to Easter morning. Partly, I think, because the events are so shockingly horrific that we want to look away.

Perhaps there is another reason though too. If we allow ourselves to engage deeply in the journey with Jesus from Palm Sunday to Good Friday, we have no option but to confront ourselves and where we may have stood at each turn of events.

Would we have understood what was happening in the upper room? Would we have even been there? Would we have had some sympathy with Judas' politics? Would we have stayed awake or fallen asleep in the Garden of Gethsemane? Would we have run away when the soldiers appeared or followed into the courtyard?

Would we have stayed loyal under scrutiny or is Peter's response also what ours would have been?

It is tempting to want to look away from ourselves rather than to see ourselves in the light of the narrative. Of course, you and I were not there and we cannot know for sure what we may have done or said, but what about last week, what about today even?

Do we understand what Jesus may be saying to us? Are we willing to follow Him if what He leads us towards is unsettling and radically different from what we know now? Are we willing to watch and pray in order to discern God's will? Will we continue to follow when the going gets tough?

Are there ways that we have denied or betrayed Jesus during these last few days?

It is very tempting not to want to look at ourselves and our church in the light of Holy Week, and yet there can be no true joy and celebration on Easter morning without Good Friday, can there?

Only after we have stood honestly at the foot of the cross can we, on Easter morning, find the stone rolled away and the tomb empty and know without a shadow of doubt that Jesus is alive! That on Good Friday Jesus knew all about us, all about our sins and our failings and died for us still. In His eternal love for us He took all that on Himself, died for us and rose again to new life which He offers to each one of us. A new beginning.

Alleluia! What a Saviour!

May we, all humankind and all of creation, be blessed with new life, a new beginning and a new joy in our Lord, this Easter time. Amen.

Every blessing

Ros

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

SUNDAY SERVICES AT POYNTON
IN APRIL

Date	10.30am UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED	
7th April Passion Sunday	9.00am Med	Rev Ros Watson HC
14th Palm Sunday	Chris Hawkyard	
21st Easter Sunday	9.00am HC Rev Ros Watson	Rev Ros Watson Café
28th	Adrian Law	
5th May	9.00am Med	Rev Ros Watson HC

SUNDAY SERVICES AT GREEN CLOSE
IN APRIL

Date	2.30 pm
7th April Passion Sunday	Rev Ros Watson HC
14th Palm Sunday	Rev John Payne
21st Easter Sunday	Rev Ros Watson HC
28th	Phil Maltby
5th May	Stephan Rudolfer

HC Holy Communion

Stepping Hill Hospital 10.00am 7th April Alan Rashleigh

Woodlands MHA 11.00am 14th April Alan Rashleigh

PRAYER GROUP



Meets every Tuesday morning at 9.45am and on the third Tuesday (**16th April**) at 9.00am in the Kingfisher where we hold a prayer breakfast. This informal, welcoming group encourages you to try us out.

CLIFF COLLEGE FESTIVAL 2019



Friday 24 to Monday 27 May 2019

We hope you will be joining us and encouraging others to come with you to Festival 2019: *Into All the World!* We will be building on our 2018 theme and, in 2019, will be exploring how we can share our faith story with other people.

A trip will leave this church at 9.00am on Monday, 27th May to visit the Festival. If you would like to go, contact Hilary Parry on 873674.

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



“Gay Girl, Good God” – The story of who I was, and who God has always been, by Jackie Hill Perry. Published by B & H Publishing Group at £12.99.

About the Author

Jackie Hill Perry is a writer, poet, and artist whose work has been featured on the *Washington Times*, *The 700 Club*, *Desiring God*, *The Gospel*

Coalition, and other publications. Since becoming a Christian in 2008, she has been compelled to use her speaking and teaching gifts to share the light of the gospel of God as authentically as she can. At home she is a wife to Preston and Mommy to Eden and Autumn.



This book has been written by someone who says she was once a gay girl. Jackie wants those reading it to say at the end, “God is so good!” She tells the story of how, aged 19, she discovered what it meant to be made new when God broke in and turned her heart towards Him. This did not happen in a church, but in her bedroom. The first person the book is dedicated to is God.

The book is in three parts: the first part is entitled “Who I was”, the second “Who I became” and the third “Same sex attraction”.

Jackie writes that “Gay Girl, Good God” is about desires that exist because God gave them to us. Homosexual desires exist because sin exists. Eve let her body tell her what she should do with it instead of

following God's word, which would have reminded her what her body was made for.

When Jackie became a Christian, she discovered that wanting God over a woman was an entirely new experience. The woman had always come first. The same sex attraction did not just immediately vanish and she had to learn to experience it but not act on it.

One of the things the Lord told her to do was to change the way her way of dressing and dress like a woman. She writes of going into a clothes store being terrified at the sight of women's clothing and wanting to run out!

Jackie wrote the book to tell as in Psalm 66 v 16 what God has done for her soul. She states that the same God who did something wonderful to the soul of the psalmist and an equally beautiful thing to her own soul is able to do the same for every soul alive.

One of the reasons I read this book was to try and understand and it certainly gave me an insight into what life must be like for someone with a same sex attraction.

Editor's note:

Here is a review of a book dealing with a difficult subject which sometimes provokes controversy. Should we, as Christians, ignore it, or approach it openly, and by doing so, put ourselves in a better position to come to an informed opinion? Jackie describes her personal journey. Can we show the love of Jesus by being open and tolerant to the experiences and opinions of another Christian? We thank Hilary for choosing to review a book on a subject with which we need to engage.

Take my love; my Lord, I pour
At Thy feet its treasure-store.
Take myself, and I will be
Ever, only, all for Thee.

CHURCH COUNCIL REPORT

Our February Church Council was held on the 19th, and for those who are interested, there is a copy of the minutes pinned on the left-hand notice board in the small corridor. There is also a copy of the Trustees' Annual Report which has been lodged with the Charity Commission.

The report is a statutory requirement, setting out how we are governed as a charity and what our aims and objectives are. It sets out some of our achievements over the year to 31st August last, and also the challenges that we face. We also lodge the statutory accounts. They are not with the minutes, but the information can be found in the second column of the accounts with the minutes. They show an excess of expenditure over income of £6644. There is a projected deficit for the current year of approximately £7,200. This means that we are eating into our reserves year on year.

If anyone with computer access would like a copy of the full report and accounts please let me know at **ldb.snb@bradleyemail.co.uk**

At Council we get reports on all the good work that is being done by various groups and committees and make decisions about capital expenditure and make sure that our buildings are well maintained. (Many thanks to those who actually do the maintenance.) We discuss the plans made by the various groups, including plans for worship and outreach.

As members of the Council, we are also Charity Trustees. As such we are responsible at law for the proper stewardship of the Church's finances and funds, a role which makes us plan with our heads, not just with our hearts.

Many people took on extra responsibilities in the period when we were between ministers, and our thanks are due to everyone who kept everything running so seamlessly, as already reported in the March Herald. I would like in this issue to say thank you on your behalf to our hardworking band of Stewards, ably assisted over that period by some experienced ex-stewards. We were reminded at the last meeting that two of our senior Stewards will be retiring in August. If they cannot be replaced, it will put an intolerable burden on the remaining Stewards.

And now as a Church, we enter a new era. As a Church Council we face many challenges ahead, including our integration into the Macclesfield circuit. But we have so many exciting opportunities to further God's kingdom in our community.

Stewart Bradley – Church Council Secretary

HYMNOLOGY ON A MONDAY MORNING - 40

'Brother Sister, let me serve you'. Words by Richard Gillard, Tune: Richard Gillard's Servant Song.

On Remembrance Sunday 2001, Songs of Praise came from York Minster. The stories were of women who had served in wartime; Women's Land Army, ATYS drivers, the three services and others who were taken from their normal work to serve the war effort. Plans were revealed on that day for a new memorial near the Cenotaph in Central London to commemorate the part played by such women. Every November women will join the men to remember the fallen.

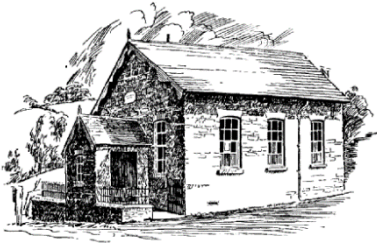
The programme focussed on civilian stories of women in wartime. During the programme, Lieutenant Colonel Jan Ransom, a career soldier, was interviewed. She said the hymn 'Brother, Sister, let me serve you' was the right choice, not only for her, but for all service personnel.

During her interview she said, " When I became a Christian I wondered if it were possible to share my faith in the armed forces. I found myself in Northern Ireland shortly after the Enniskillen bombing where so many died, and at first, I found it very difficult being with soldiers who had lost their friends, or been injured. I hadn't suffered.

Then I realised I could say to them "I've been praying for you." I had changed, no longer wanting to be in command by being powerful, but thinking more of the bible and the verse "The Son of Man came not to be served but to serve."

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



GREEN CLOSE ANNIVERSARY SERVICE

SUNDAY 12th MAY 2019 2:30pm

Preacher:

Rev Ros Watson

A warm welcome is extended to everyone

Tea available after the Service

TAKE A BOW

There was a lot of preparation involved in our recent Circuit Welcome Service: service planning, church layout, flowers, musicians, refreshments, computer input, chair counting and, of course, not forgetting the reading of tea leaves for an estimate of numbers to expect! The list could go on and on... (p.s. – the tea leaves did a pretty accurate job).



However, thanks to ALL involved we pulled it off. So many of our own church members and friends in the circuit played their part and as a result we celebrated with a warm and meaningful service with varied contributions. Whatever you did and whoever you are thank you. It was lovely to welcome our many visitors and to meet some of the folk we shall be joining in September when we move to the Macclesfield Circuit. A wonderful start to our journey with Ros.

The Stewards Team

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

THANK YOU LETTERS



I had some beautiful flowers delivered to me several weeks ago after my dear sister Carol died. They were very much appreciated and I send my grateful thanks to all concerned.

Michal M^cLardy

We would like to say "thank you" for the beautiful flowers kindly presented to us by Marie following the sad news of the death of our dear godson Richard. It means a lot to belong to such a caring church family. God bless.

Marion and John Turner

Many thanks to Sandra and Gill, who kindly delivered lovely flowers to us on 24th February. They brightened up the lounge during the time when Brian was recently confined to the house.

Anne Hindle

I wish to thank you all for the many birthday cards and good wishes sent in recognition of my recent significant birthday. The flowers too have been a delight and have brightened each day. I appreciate deeply your kind thoughts and the fellowship of our church family.

Joan Horner

Wishing you all a very Happy Easter, good wishes as you embark on a new chapter for Poynton Methodist Church and a warm welcome for Rev. Ros. Thank you so much to all of you who keep in touch. I miss you all so please keep the link open. I am back at Hazelmere House now, after spending Christmas and New Year in hospital. God bless you all.

Love, **Nora Shercliff**

We wish to register our deepest thanks and appreciation for all the encouragement and support given to us through these last six months. It has been a time of great joy to 'Re-enter' the pastoral work with P^MC. We have felt empowered and enriched through your desire to grow in Faith, your kindness in words and your thoughtful comments after worship and teaching. Your loving

gift of money together with the card and beautiful flowers were received in humble gratitude for a time of serving one another through the Holy Spirit's enabling. Your warmth in fellowship is a strong factor to understanding the calling of the Church.

'You will continue to bless Ros as she takes up the torch and together travel on 'until we all come to maturity in Christ.'

We will hold you in our hearts and prayers in the days ahead.

Thank you one and all.

Wesley and Gwyneth Loane

Chris and I would like to say a very big 'Thank you!' for the welcome that we have received as we have come to join you. Thank you to David Dippie and all those who helped him to make our manse and garden so lovely to move into. It has helped us to feel at home very quickly. We appreciate all the hard work very much.

Thank you for all your cards, flowers, cakes and good wishes and of course prayers, we have felt surrounded by love.

Thank you also to everyone for making our welcome service so special, it took a lot of effort from a lot of people in lots of different ways before and on the day and again we are very grateful for your kindness in thinking of everything. It was a day to remember.

We give thanks to God for you all.

Every blessing,

Ros & Chris Watson

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

Happy Birthday to **Elizabeth Dawson**, who will be 6 on 11th April.

Here is an update regarding my progress since my accident. I am feeling quite well and have started driving again. However, my main problem is my left hand which does not respond; my fingers feel numb and cold. This has affected my piano playing so, at the moment, I am unable to play for the Male Voice Choir. Therefore, my daughter will be playing for their rehearsals and also for the Spring Concert on **Saturday 3rd April** at 7.30 here in the church. I hope you will support the choir and my daughter on this occasion. In the meantime, I thank you for your prayers and support and I ask you to

continue to remember me. With thanks for the support I have received from all my friends. I hope to play for a service again soon. God bless, best wishes.

Joyce Deighton

A "THANK YOU" TO YOUR CIRCUIT STEWARD

Recently we have been thanking those involved in our worship life over the last few months as well as preparing to welcome Ros and her family to Poynton. The Stewards would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to **David Dippie** for all his hard work and the contribution he has made on our behalf over the last two years.

As Circuit Steward from the Poynton and Green Close sector, he has been heavily involved with the stationing process and also the Manse. As you will remember, in the twelve months prior to Rev John moving to Nottingham, stationing was a prolonged and anxious time and involved many phone calls, emails and numerous meetings as well as waiting for an outcome on three occasions.

Since the manse is a Circuit responsibility David was also involved with the improvements required at Ivy Road including helping co-ordinate replacement windows, a new garage roof, decorating and a thorough cut-back in the garden, to mention just a few of the many jobs required. Fortunately, he has been able to call on the support and assistance of our excellent Property Committee. He has also been liaising with Ros and Chris as their move became imminent to make sure the deadline was met. Anyone who has moved house will know of the work involved!

In addition, we can add the detailed work currently involved with our move to the Macclesfield circuit in September 2019, which is only six months away.

It is hard to paint a true picture of what has been required but perhaps the above helps give you an idea of the enormity of the task and the time involved. That is why we wish to extend our very grateful thanks to David Dippie, your circuit Steward.

The Church Stewards

Poynton Methodist Church



Church Anniversary 2019

The Past

Poynton Methodist Church was formed in 1980, when Clumber Road Methodist Church and Park Lane Methodist Church joined together under the leadership of Rev Derrick Lander. The building of a new Methodist Church to host the united congregations started at our current location in Poynton civic car park in 1981. The new Church officially opened on Saturday 13th March 1982, and so today we celebrate our 37th anniversary. Our past Ministers were:

Derrick Lander

In the years since I was at Poynton, I have enjoyed ministerial appointments in Taunton; Wolverhampton, Telford and Shrewsbury, always as a circuit minister but also as a Synod Secretary and Deputy District Chair. Eventually I retired from full-time ministry to Shifnal (near Telford) in 2013. However the Lord has continued to use me helping part-time in circuits where there has been a shortage of ministers or where my experience has been helpful in resolving problematic or broken situations, and in this I continue to be involved in pastoral ministry which has always been my priority despite all the other responsibilities of a presbyter.

Janet has her own ministry in as much as she shares her musical gifts for services as one of a team of musicians in our local church. She is a Church Steward; Pastoral Visitor and member of the church hospitality team. When not busy in church, we enjoy seeing lots of our two grandchildren and their Dad and Mum (our son Chris and his wife Gaby); enjoy having our daughter Rachel living quite near; and whenever possible we like visiting Bognor Regis to see our other son Matthew and his wife Kathryn.

"We'll praise him for all that is past, and trust him for all that's to come."
God's Love and Peace to all at Poynton - Derrick R. Lander

David Emison

It's now over five years since we retired and we are just beginning to get used to it! We are both busy in lots of ways and not least with our five grandchildren. Andrew, who as you know is the minister in Frodsham, has two children: Matthew (15yrs) and Sophie (12yrs). Andrew's wife Naomi is a primary school teacher. Philip is a civil engineer and lives just 8 minutes away from us. He is married to Rachael (one of our local G.P.s) and they have three children: Eve (13yrs), Charlotte (8yrs) and James (6ys).

Viv is a Pastoral visitor, the treasurer of a local branch of the W.I. and a member of Churches Together in Bedale. She is also the local organiser of the World Day of Prayer. David is a First Responder, Chairman of the local Community Minibus Trust, Chairman of the local Probus group and Church Property Secretary. He still leads worship and preaches regularly.

Day by day we prove the text true that "...there is nothing in all creation that can ever separate us from God's love in Christ Jesus our Lord." (Romans 8) and we still have the banner bearing that text which was made for us when we left Poynton. Have a wonderful Church Anniversary. David

Stuart Earl

After 13 years in Cullercoats in the Newcastle District we moved within the District in 2014 to Lanchester as Super and minister of two, then five, then four churches (due to closures and staff changes).

Claire is currently working half-time in our previous circuit as a Primary Schools Worker, leading assemblies and Praise Parties in schools and arranging links with local churches.

Our eldest daughter Ami is a community paediatric nurse in the city, after spending 3 years at Great Ormand Street, living at Longbenton with her fiancé Kyle. Our youngest daughter Naomi is currently working part-time in charge of the Open the Book International Projects at the Bible Society HQ in Swindon, after maternity leave. She is married to Ben and they live in Bristol with their son Levi who was born in November 2017.

Peter Sowler

I retired from East Midlands Ambulance Service after 12 years on the road, mainly as the Paramedic's assistant, but was often sent out on my own. You really pray hard in those times! I retired a year early at 64 as night shifts and changing shift patterns were becoming too much for me. I still live with some stress related issues and had to stop preaching a couple of years ago, but I am down to take an early

morning communion service on Easter Day so we will see how that goes. My son has just become Head of Maths and IT at a school in Ashton under Lyne and my daughter is Assistant Director of Communications and Engagement with the Ambulance service. We managed one shift together before I retired! Jane and I love our retirement lives; we have two allotments and are working hard at our church to raise £600,000 for a building project. We offer our thanks for all the love we received in Poynton and pray for your anniversary celebrations.

Peter Ensor.

I am still teaching theology at the Main Campus of Kenya Methodist University in Meru, Kenya. All is well here, and (soon to retire) I am counting the days to my return to UK on 26th April. My father is still alive, aged 94, but my mother died in 2015. With best wishes for the Church Anniversary, Peter

John Squares

The family have settled well into Durham where I am Superintendent. Nic is long-term supply teaching at the moment looking for a more permanent position. Jack is 13, playing for the school basketball team and turning into a fine young man. Brodie is seven and if not the smartest, he is certainly the tallest in his class.

You should consider coming to visit - the whole church. We are not too far from Lindisfarne, Holy Island where thousands make the barefoot and muddy pilgrimage to each year. The Squares family would love to join you. God bless you all, John

John Wiseman So...let's try something a little bit different! (What else would we expect?) As a good northern lad, I am still carrying on the family tradition of racing whippets over here in Nottingham but am now not managing to beat many of them. I blame the clogs and flat cap for slowing me down. The new forest green lycra tights don't help either as they reveal why I am known locally as 'Little John'. My previous incarnation as a physio is coming in handy as I am still able to identify most of the muscles, joints and soft tissues that are increasingly sore with age after my running adventures. The lingo here is proving difficult to translate but it seems that if I include the phrase 'Ey Up Mi Duk' in every sentence and express a liking for Colly nobs and Guzdogs it goes down well. My income is still being supplemented by my George Clooney Look-a-like business and at weekends 'TOM' and I are keeping the local theatres in business. After 6 months trying not to 'interfere', the gloves are now off and to quote Sam Cook...a change is gonna come!

The Present



We have survived seven months without a Minister! Thank you to all who have worked so hard to make this possible. It has been greatly helped by a project we embarked on in the summer to raise £7,500 to pay for a Hurricane house for Haiti, in response to “Vilia” who appeared on a Christian Aid video. We were moved by her plight and felt the Spirit challenging us to help her. This pulled us together in a new way and there

have been many fund-raising events which has kept us very lively. They have ranged from Sunday lunches together, to inviting the Springs Dance Group to come with their production of “The Journey of the Magi” (Unforgettable!); from concerts to selling Alternative Gift Cards; from a Murder Mystery dinner to collecting donations from a wide variety of people.

We have been amazed by the generosity shown to us. We find it hard to believe that we have raised **£15,000**, enough money to pay for two houses and so we welcomed Jude Limb, the area Christian Aid representative to our Anniversary Service on 10th March to receive the cheque. A huge thank you to all who have helped us.



The Future

Following our Anniversary, we welcome our new Minister Rev Ros Watson and her husband Chris on 17th March. We look forward to walking a new pathway with her.



“How easy to look back and see your graceful, constant care,
And yet we're called to look ahead, to grow, to serve, to dare!

What is your will in this new day? God, help us pray and search,

For as we seek to walk with you, we are your faithful church.”

C. Winfrey Gillette

LADIES' FELLOWSHIP

Since the last Herald, we have had two further meetings.

Our speaker on 21st January was **Janet Burton** who gave us a picture of what happens behind the scenes to get "**Poynton in Bloom**" together. It is a mainly voluntary effort and the tubs and baskets are usually planted up twice a year. The visits to gardens, are always well attended, and most people enjoy getting their gardens ship-shape for the visitors. It is usually alternate years that "Poynton in Bloom" is arranged.

On 7th March Richard Baker came to give us an insight entitled "**Living life to the full with God**" – Christianity and mental health. This is a group initiative at Bramhall Methodist Church to help people who are experiencing low mood and anxiety. Bible passages and Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (CBT) is used to aid a change in their lives.

Mari Hemsley from Morrison's visited on 21st March to give us a talk about the store. Julie Hallworth led the meeting.

On **4th April**. Christine Belton will be giving us a talk called, "**Ave you ad the Doctor?**", Marjorie Harrop will be leading the meeting beginning as usual at 7.45pm.

18th April is the Maundy Thursday Service, (details to be given later). As this Thursday falls on our usual Thursday, there will not be our usual meeting, but please come along and join in the service.

These dates are all in our programme, and looking further ahead, **2nd May** offers us "Sweet Memories" with Janet Bradshaw, **16th May** is our AGM. and on **20th June** we will enjoy our Social evening and faith supper.

Our meetings are open to all ladies and if you haven't been before, please know that you will be made most welcome.

Sandra Townsend



Mart Rodger

9th March 1936 - 13th March 2019

We are so sad to report the death of Mart Rodger, one of our most well-known members, and we offer our sincere condolences to Janet and the family. Mart & Janet joined us from Disley Methodist church some years ago and ever since have been enthusiastic and faithful members contributing much

to the life of the church and supporting our charitable fund-raising most generously through the medium of Mart's musical talent.

Mart was born in Cheadle Hulme and was the youngest of three brothers. Musical talent was already in the family; his father was a good singer and his mother a very good pianist and they offered their gifts at Cheadle Hulme Methodist Church where they were members.

First, Mart learned to play simple traditional jazz tunes on his brother's guitar and the following Christmas his father bought him a beginner's clarinet on which a friend showed him how to set up the reed and how to finger the instrument. It was only six days later that he played a New Year's Eve gig in Prestwich!

A second, more advanced clarinet followed on his 14th birthday. His brother Keith took Mart to the Grosvenor Hotel in Manchester to hear the Saints Jazz Band as a birthday present in 1950. (Our paths might have crossed at that point, for as a 17-year-old, I too was smitten with the jazz bug – no talent, but enjoyed the music – and attended regularly at the Grosvenor to listen to The Saints.)

Mart then started a band called 'The Hounds of Sound' in the 50s, before joining the Zenith 6 in 1957. Jumping forward several bands, to 1982, Mart Rodger and Janet were in New Orleans, the birth place of jazz. At Maison Bourbon on Bourbon Street he was invited to "sit in" with the resident band and the audience response to his playing was exciting and exhilarating.

On the way back to their hotel Janet said "Why don't you start a band called Mart Rodger Manchester Jazz when we get home?" So in October 1982, the band played its first performance. Since then

they have played all over the world – Scandinavia, U.S.A., Canada, Germany, Italy, Belgium, Holland and Ireland as well as on four transatlantic cruises.

They have played at many local venues and around Great Britain, also supporting charities including The Francis Hospice for Children in Didsbury and The East Cheshire Hospice. They have often played in village halls where a donation is made for these charities. Over £1000 has been given to St Luke's Hospice in Winsford. Various amounts have also gone to the East Cheshire Hospice and to Ashgate Hospice and Friends of Bakewell Hospital.

The band has been invited regularly to many Jazz Festivals both home and abroad. Humphrey Lyttelton, Cy Laurie, Marion Montgomery, and Yank Lawson (Bob Crosby's Bob Cats fame) have all shared in wonderful jazz evenings with Mart Rodger Manchester Jazz.

Mart will be remembered for his musical virtuosity, as a family man, his sense of humour, his faith, and his humility. Famous in jazz circles the world over, he remained an unassuming bloke sitting next to you in church.

I have a number of his recordings. I will continue to play and enjoy them as I am reminded of that remarkable manual dexterity and inventiveness that produced such thrilling sounds.



We acknowledge the websites from which some of this material was gathered:

<http://www.manchesterjazz.co.uk/>

<http://www.jazznorthwest.co.uk/martrodg.htm> and in particular recommend the latter for a fuller account of Mart's life and career.

Arnold Samuels

FLOWER MINISTRY

Thank you for the donations to our Flower Ministry. As I write, we still have quite a few spaces empty on our Flower Calendar, which it would be lovely to see filled. Gill Oldham will be very happy to receive your donations.

Below is the flower distributor's rota for June and July, early because we are coming into the holiday period. If you cannot distribute on your particular Sunday, please change with another distributor to avoid flowers remaining behind.

June

2nd P & M Burgess
9th D Reid & E Bottrill
16th N Garner & B Dixon
23rd C & K Thompson
30th N Garner & M Moran

Sandra Townsend

July

7th C Hughes & A Court
14th P & M Burgess
21st H Banks & J Robson
28th B Oakley & N Hood

Poynton Board Game Day

The **Methodist Church** 
in Poynton

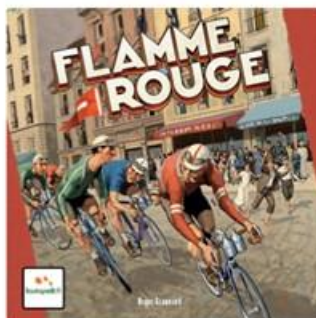
For families and friends...

Tea, coffee, cake and

All sorts of different games

Lots of new games, including bicycles...

From 2 - 10 pm on Saturday 27 April



27 April 2019

FILM NIGHTS

The following dates have been booked for church for a 7.30 pm start. Details of each film will be announced nearer the time but we still have lots of thought-provoking material to work our way through. We meet in Room 3 - see you there:

Saturdays on 13 APRIL 18 MAY 8 JUNE 13 JULY 17 AUGUST



13th April "The Promise" – in the heart of the Ottoman empire in 1916, War Correspondent Christopher and his friends begin to notice the rising tensions in the country; and so thousands of Armenians begin fleeing to the mountains to fight back and keep their identity.

Come along and find out more about this part of history which is not often told but has resonance today

Judith Ridgway

21st APRIL, EASTER DAY

In between the 9.00am Communion and the 10.30am Café Church, there will be an eggstra event, when serving soldiers will be part of the loyal toast and, 'hats' off, hen fruit will be treated with a pinch of salt. Your yolk may be light, or of a darker yellow, but do not take the Humpty or it may be (or not to be) next seen in a production of "Omelette" (a fowl play). Tables will be laid in advance. So will the eggs. Your attendance will make for a cracking event.

Translation In between the 9.00am Communion and the 10.30am Café Church, there will be boiled eggs and soldiers served for all who attend either service (or both). Everyone is welcome.

There will be a sign-up sheet in the foyer to get an idea of numbers for catering, but the food is free. Why not come and share your Easter breakfast with the church family?



THE RETURN TO MACCLESFIELD

After one of our recent services at Green Close whilst enjoying the usual tea and cake, the conversation turned to the upcoming move to the Macclesfield Circuit. It was mentioned that Green Close used to be part of the Macclesfield Circuit and as we look forward to joining it again in September, it is interesting to recall the history of Green Close.

The following extract has been taken from the Green Close Centenary Handbook produced in 1961:

"In the year 1797 seventeen members of the Methodist Conference, because of differences on doctrine and Church government with the Wesleyan Methodist Church, the parent body of the Wesleys, met at Leeds and drafted a new Constitution, which was to be known as the Methodist New Connexion.

The newly-formed branch wanted a more democratic system to permit duly elected laymen to share with Ministers church legislation, to administer in their own Chapels the Sacrament which hitherto was the prerogative of the established Church and a complete separation from the Church of England. Repercussions were widespread and the Methodist cause at Pott Shrigley originated at that very time.

In spite of severe opposition from the local gentry who owned the estate, the Society increased. Regular services were held, a strong Class meeting was formed and the influence upon the life of the Parish became a power that had to be recognised.

1814 recorded an important event – the Society at Pott Shrigley became attached to the Macclesfield Park Street Circuit. Services were held in cottages in the neighbourhood, most frequently at a cottage at Unwin Pool, which bore the text 'Prepare to meet thy God'. Cottage prayer meetings took place throughout the Parish with good effect which can be traced down through the years to the present time.

The opposition from the landowner became more intense and the hope of purchasing a plot of land on which to build a Church appeared to be hopeless, but a site was secured from Mr James Clayton, owner of Green Close Farm and founder of the Chapel.

James Clayton purchased Green Close Farm from William Green in 1837, which was acquired by Lord Newton of Burslem, Staffs, in 1882. The plot of 220 square yards was conveyed to the Methodist New Connexion Model Deed on December 29th 1846, during the Ministry of the Rev. William Ford of the Macclesfield Park Street Circuit. On this ground the existing Chapel was built so that the name 'Green Close' now so widely known, has a treasured and historic origin.

It is evident that although the land had been secured, real determination, self-sacrifice and effort was needed to raise the necessary finance to build the Chapel. When it became known that this was the intention of the Methodists opposition from certain individuals of influence became more severe. Notwithstanding, the band of loyal workers were ultimately successful. It is recorded that the first subscription of two shillings and six pence was made by Mr James Clayton. Some idea of the tremendous struggle is apparent when it is realised that some fifteen years elapsed before the vision was fulfilled.

Much of the labour and preparation was undertaken by voluntary workers and the first load of stone was carted from Bollington by Mr Thomas Jackson. The first turf was cut by Mrs Jackson.



Date of opening was October 31st 1861. Preacher Rev. Thomas Gutteridge and the first Trust of the new Chapel was formed in November 1862 under the Ministry of the Rev S Smith.

In 1932 the Methodist Union was consummated. The Rev Dr Scott Lidgett was inducted as its first President. A special united meeting was held at Park Lane Church.

After Methodist Union it was felt that geographically Green Close Chapel should be included in the Poynton Circuit. There was much opposition from the Macclesfield circuit to this proposed arrangement, but in 1935 the amalgamation was effected. The last quarterly meeting in the Macclesfield circuit with which Green Close was directly concerned was in June 1935, under the ministry of Rev Rueben Key and the Rev William Cherry, when many contributions were made to the loyalty of our Church, which had been attached to Macclesfield from 1814 to 1935 and expressions of good wishes for the work of Green Close in the Poynton circuit. At their September 1935 quarterly meeting we were welcomed into the Poynton circuit under the ministry of the Rev F L Buxton."

Eighty-four years on and another step in our history is almost upon us. There will be some sadness when it is time to say goodbye to all our friends and fellow Methodists now joining the Stockport United Circuit but the members of Green Close are looking forward with positivity to returning to the Macclesfield Circuit.

ANNIVHAITI CELEBRATION CONCERT

Our Church Anniversary weekend coincided with the culmination of our Haiti Project, so we had two reasons to celebrate on Saturday 9th March. We did so in the form of a concert performed by church members and friends who willingly gave of their time once they realised that resistance to David Garrett's invitation was futile.

The church area had been arranged café-style as we took our seats at tables to begin with a slideshow, an account of the inspiration for the project which then moved into a reminder of all the events that we had mounted in order to raise funds while enjoying our fellowship together.

Hilary Garrett read a passage from 'Treasure Island' with contributions from Stephen Hughes and then we enjoyed a medley of familiar music from Disney performed by the David Garrett

ensemble (the three Garretts, Zoe Dawson and Catharine Hughes), punctuated by a comedy interlude starring a very welcome guest, Chris Cotton.

The Haiti brick-building competition hosted by Mandy Hawkyard rounded off the first half of the evening – never has cardboard been trickier!

We chomped, slurped and chatted our way through the interval before assembling again to sing Amazing Grace accompanied by Jean Lunt on the bagpipes and David Garrett on piano.

Phil Maltby-Parkinson interviewed Roger Drinkwater about the amalgamation of the Clumber Road and Park Lane churches which formed PMC and the building and opening of our church. Roger Drinkwater, the Treasurer of the Fund-Raising Committee gave a good account of those eventful times.

Then followed a piano interlude of four well-known jazz classics played expertly and exuberantly by David Garrett after which Phil enquired from David about his music, past and present.

The music continued with the Musician Mob – (The David Garrett ensemble augmented by Theo Eaves, Sally Holmes and Stephen Hughes) – playing 'When the Saints Go Marching In'.

A final Fundraising Appeal and Thanks was given by Mandy Hawkyard and we learned the following day that about £1200 was added to the fund that night – a truly remarkable amount for which the Project Haiti Committee is extremely grateful.

The evening finished with the Musician Mob and Audience playing and singing– 'Come and Join the Celebration' – words especially written for the Haiti Project by Margaret Wilson.
Dare I add – "A good time was had by all."?

Arnold Samuels

PROPERTY UPDATE

- * Notice Board moved in Room 1.
- * Old metal cabinet in Room 1 removed.
- * Sinks in Church kitchen re-sealed.
- * Repair to the light in gents W.C.
- * New front door lock fitted to the main Church doors, (Assembled by City Lock and Safe for us, to be compatible with all current Church User keys).

CHURCH ROOF/CARPETS

The recent repair to the roof has unfortunately not resolved all problems. It seems OK in 'normal' rain. However, in gale force conditions the water is infiltrating along the leading edge of the tiles. The underpinnings of the roof, viz; roof felt etc. is not coping sufficiently, allowing ingress into the building. The roof has been problematical occasionally for a number of years. It seems that the time has come to strip all of the roof to the left, and partially to the right of the front main doors. We are awaiting an estimate, which may be quite large?

The knock-on effect is that we have had to postpone the fitting of new carpet to the lobby and corridors as previously planned. We will update all as soon as possible.

'HOLEY' CHURCH

The general construction of the Church is quite pleasant visually. We do try to avoid where possible, drilling into the brickwork and making holes for obvious reasons. If you 'think' this may be necessary, please refer to a member of the Property Group first. Some walls have taken on the look of Gruyere cheese. We also find old string, blue tack, old Sellotape and pins dotted about the place like confetti. The need for notices is important for many reasons and the Methodist Church could not survive without them, but can you remove old ones not required and consider all aspects when putting up new ones? Sellotape is particularly difficult on sensitive surfaces and glass. We will not put up a notice about this!!!

PAVING SLABS

We are aware of the broken paving slabs in the rear play area, and the will be remedied as soon as we have built up sufficient strength to lift them.

Derek Garner PMC Property Committee

TIME TO LACE UP AGAIN

If you are free and not celebrating Star Wars Day (May the fourth be with you) by dressing up at a convention, how about a country walk? By popular demand, at least two people asked if we could do it again. We shall be walking together on the 4th May and following the route we took last year.



As we did last year, we shall be walking from PMC to Green Close for coffee time, Windlehurst for lunch and then back to Poynton. The planned route allows for walking part of the way only, so we hope that as many of our friends as possible in the Circuit, and perhaps Macclesfield Circuit too, will join us from the start or along the way. If you don't want to walk, but do want to join us for coffee or lunch, you will be welcome. The route in total is close to 9 miles, but in easy sections. It will be possible to walk the full loop or just one of the three sections.

We intend to set out from Poynton at 9.00am for an amble to Green Close. Green Close will be open for all, including non-walkers, to join together for coffee from 10.30. Later, Windlehurst is throwing open its doors from noon for lunch. Walkers will arrive as and when their legs take them there, but everyone is welcome to share lunch. A light lunch will be available for sale. Last year Windlehurst asked for donations for Christian Aid as payment for lunch, and they will do that again.

I shall need numbers for lunch a week before and will put a sign-up sheet on the notice board in due course. I shall also need to know who intends to start the walk so we don't leave anyone behind.

If you need details of the route please contact me, 01625 878016 or **judymgibbons@gmail.com**.

We hope that many of the Circuit family will join with us.

Judy Gibbons

SUNDAY LUNCHESES

The six Sunday Lunches we had to raise funds for Haiti proved to be very popular and several people have voiced the opinion that they should continue.

So, on the first Sunday in June we will have a picnic, but everyone is asked to bring their own food. Drinks will be provided. On the first Sunday in July, Judy, Mandy and Hilary K will organise another 'Spud Sunday' as Fiona called it – baked potatoes with a filling and a sweet to follow.

We hope you will come. But if you really want these meals to continue, we do need other people to volunteer to take responsibility for a meal of their choice. Perhaps a group of people could volunteer together?

As before, there will be a request for donations so that no one has to pay for the food they produce. Any money over would go to the Church.

Please speak to **Judy Gibbons** or **Mandy Hawkyard** if you are prepared to help.

FROM HAITI

Jude Limb, from Christian Aid Organisation received this letter from Prosperity and Victoria in Haiti:

Dear Jude

I hadn't had a chance to take a look at the photos Jude, how lovely!!! Thank you for sharing, what a wonderful and generous effort on behalf of this congregation. Thank you to all of them of what they have done to support those in need in Haiti.

Warm Regards,

Victoria Jean-Louis

Senior Programme Manager Christian Aid Haiti/DR Programme

We hope to have the original letter framed.

Mandy Hawkyard

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

Christian Aid Week - 12th - 18th May



This year the focus is to be on maternal health in Sierra Leone. We're hoping to build on the success of last year's Christian Aid Week Supporters' event at Cheadle Hume by having a similar event at Dean Row.

The date will be 8th April (had to be that early to avoid the late Easter) from 6.30pm to 8.00pm at Dean Row Unitarian Chapel. There will be a speaker from Christian Aid (yet to be identified) an act of worship, a chance to learn about the campaign and refreshments.

Richard Baker and **Mandy Hawkyard** will be going – Please join us?

PRAYER FOR CHRISTCHURCH, NEW ZEALAND

God of peace

We pray for those caught up in the events in New Zealand, for those killed and wounded, and for those who will mourn.

We pray for the people of the emergency services as they respond, and for community leaders and faith leaders as they work to heal broken communities.

Softening the hearts of those who are motivated by hate and bring peace to your precious people of New Zealand.

In Christ's name. Amen

Michaela Youngson, President of the Methodist Church in Great Britain

<https://www.methodist.org.uk/our-faith/prayer/prayer-for-christchurch-new-zealand/>

JUST SCRIPTURE POYNTON-PHILIPPINES LINK-UP

Just Scripture is a new initiative from Christian Aid facilitating groups in the UK to share Bible study sessions with partners in different parts of the world. A group of 9 people from our congregation met in the prayer corner and connected to a group from Christian Aid's partner in the Philippines by Skype. We were also joined here by Wendy and Jude from Christian aid and Nancy (from Brazil) and Bob (from Kenya) who are the theology advisors for the project. We started with a short act of worship lighting three candles here as they lit three candles there and we said prayers together.

Then we got down to the hard work and started to look at a passage from Paul's letter to the Romans (8.18-25). We discussed various aspects of the passage in twos and threes separately, then shared our ideas in the two different locations and finally we shared our ideas with each other over Skype. It was fascinating and inspiring to see both the similarities and differences in how both groups interpreted the passages.

The passage talks about how both humanity and creation are groaning as if in labour but waiting in hope for what we cannot yet see. We discussed how these words relate to how we are all currently affected by climate change. We learnt of the use of solar power, both on the roof of our building and by Filipino fisher-people luring squid to their boats with solar lights. We also learnt how illegal and destructive fishing practices are destroying reefs and mangroves and hence the food that the local communities live on and of how Christian Aid is supporting work to protect the reefs and replant the mangroves. We came to realise that the group in the Philippines were so much more connected with the environment in which they live than we are but, perhaps as a consequence, more likely to suffer along with it than we are.

I really appreciated the experience. It was wonderful to feel that we were gaining so much from a community of people who we normally give to. It was talk with the people engaged in spending the money we raise for Christian Aid. It made me proud to be a supporter of Christian Aid and confident that the money is being spent prayerfully and effectively.

Jude was videoing the event for some Christian Aid website so look out for the video coming soon to a web browser near you!

Richard Baker

LAY PASTORING IN BRAMHALL

Shortly after I took up the role of Lay Pastor in Bramhall Arnold asked me to write an article about what the role entailed. I told him I couldn't do so until I found out myself. It's taken eighteen months but I now feel in a position to start reporting back.

I've done quite a lot of worship leading, we have four regular services a week, two on Sunday morning, one on Sunday evening and another on Thursday morning. This has been a great way to get to know the congregations. I've also done a reasonable amount of pastoral visiting as the job title might indicate.

Other than this most of my time has been spent looking at ways to reach out to those on the margins of the church and further afield. Bramhall is quite an affluent area and it wasn't obvious at first what the church had to offer the area, but the statistics show that just about everywhere is affected by a mental health epidemic at the moment.

So I've started up a series of life classes for people with low mood and anxiety called "Living Life to the Full". It's based on Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (CBT) and developed by experts in Glasgow. We started off running a Christian version "Living Life to the Full with God" for members of local congregations and in January offered a secular version to the local community. That was sold out and we've just started up a second series. We've had local GPs referring people to come to this church-based activity and it looks as if it is going to continue.

We're now starting to explore what we can do for people after they've completed the 8 sessions and the possibility of opening a drop-in café one evening a week. Further down the line we will need to understand what "church" can mean to the people who come to us through this route and how this compares to what "church" means to us.

Richard Baker

MEET ROS

Not a person, but the Royal Osteoporosis Society! In February the National Osteoporosis Society had a rare **Royal title** approved by The Queen and announced its intention to be known by its new name. Having Camilla, the Duchess of Cornwall as our President presumably helped in this. Chris and I were invited to its launch held in the Science Museum in London with the Duchess in attendance and were delighted to accept. Around 200 people gathered to hear from our CEO, Claire Severgnini, and the Duchess who spoke very movingly about her mother who had suffered with this disease. The family wished to understand what had happened to her, and if there were preventative measures they could take to prevent it happening to them. Claire and the Duchess then formally unveiled the Royal Osteoporosis Society's new logo.



The Duchess' visit also marked the launch of the world's first Osteoporosis and Bone Research Academy, which will bring together leading researchers, clinicians and academics in the field, to advance scientific knowledge of the disease and drive the research for the development of new medication and treatments and hopefully a cure.

There is now a support group in Stockport which meets at Hazel Grove Tennis Club on Douglas Road. If you know anyone recently diagnosed with osteoporosis please give them my name and phone number. It can be a very frightening diagnosis and to talk with other people in a similar situation can be very helpful.

Mandy Hawkyard

"As I hurtled through space one thought kept crossing my mind: every part of this rocket was supplied by the lowest bidder."

(John Glenn)

"I'm not a paranoid, deranged millionaire. Darn it. I'm a billionaire."

(Howard Hughes)

THE MAY HERALD

Closing date for submissions will be **17th April (or earlier if possible)**. Please place articles in the Herald pigeonhole or preferably send them by e-mail to: **arnoldsamuels@blinternet.com** (marketing spam automatically deleted).

TO ALL HERALD DISTRIBUTORS

The **May** Herald will be available for you to pick up from **26th April**. 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 establishes her routine, she will be available in the church office (871592) from time to time. The light by the door shows red when she is engaged. Messages can be left in the minister's pigeonhole in the foyer, on her answerphone (261769) or by email ros.watson@methodist.org.uk In an emergency, phone Rev John Payne 0161 483 4952. For Church Notices and office queries please use 871592. The church office is open on Tuesday and Friday mornings until 1.00pm. 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 ()
 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. ()
 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.