

THE HERALD



The Methodist Church in Poynton



NOVEMBER 2015

Delivered by
your pastoral visitor, who can be contacted on.....

Our Church Family encourages everyone...

- **To come to worship God who loves us**
- **To follow Jesus Christ our Saviour**
- **To grow in fellowship, joy and love, and**
- **To go out, share the Good News and serve in the world.**

MUMBLINGS FROM THE MANSE

November 2015

Going back in order to move forward:

Have you ever wondered how the Christian faith spread or indeed how big the fledging faith communities in Corinth, Ephesus, Philippi, Galatia, Thessalonica, etc actually were? Biblical scholars would suggest that they were in fact much smaller than we perhaps think, with no more than 50 people forming what we would call 'a church'. Many of these groups of new Christians would meet in each other's houses, because it's important to remember at this stage the church would definitely still be 'the people', rather than 'the building' where they met. Perhaps that is something we have forgotten.

John Wesley was also a great believer in people meeting together in small groups, whether we call them bands, classes or the term we might use today, 'house groups'. They would agree to meet at least once a week, to pray, to sing, to study the bible, to discuss their faith journey and to receive pastoral support and care from the other members of the group. This was the bedrock of the Methodist movement, one which helped to instill in its members Wesley's call to live out a life of scriptural holiness in and for their community.

A couple of months ago I was handed a newsletter from another church here in the village, I'll let you guess which one, and was shocked / amazed / horrified to discover that this particular family of faith had fourteen, that's 14, different house groups meeting on different days, at different times throughout the week and aimed at different groups. And it made me ask how many house groups we

have currently operating within our family of faith. I'll also let you work that out. Let's just say it's not 14. I am not sure if it's even 4.

So the plan is this, and I say 'plan' because I am hoping that the Church Council will give it the nod at our next meeting: on Sunday 13th December there will be no 10.30am service here in our building. Instead I am encouraging you all to meet in approximately 8-10 house groups at different locations around the village. These house groups could take place at 10.30am on Sunday morning or they may well take place at different times over the weekend depending on who is leading the group. Sign-up sheets will be displayed well in advance.

Your job is to look at what is on offer, when it is being offered and where it is being hosted and then simply sign up. Then, for the Exploring Faith service on the evening of Sunday 13th December, you are invited to gather here in church and share your experiences. 8-10 different groups, all exploring and sharing faith in different ways. Isn't that better than listening to me?

No, on second thoughts, don't answer that.

Love and light

Rev'd John

CAROL SINGING

Everyone is invited to join us as we visit local Care Homes and the housebound to help them sing their favourite Christmas Carols.

We meet at church on Thursday 10th December at 1.20pm before we go out and visit those who may be lonely, infirm, need caring support or would just love the chance to sing carols together at this time of year.

This is an opportunity to value and affirm those who sometimes feel that they are the least among us.

Jean Rashleigh and Hilary Parry

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

**SUNDAY SERVICES AT POYNTON
IN NOVEMBER 2015**

Date	10.30am UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED	
1st November	HC Rev John Wiseman	Rev John Wiseman 7.00pm Exploring Faith
8th	Gill Dascombe	
15th	9.00am HC Rev Amanda Boon	Richard Baker
22nd	Andrew Stoker	
29th	Rev John Wiseman	6.00pm Circuit Service
6th December	Rev Amanda Boon HC	

**SUNDAY SERVICES AT GREEN CLOSE
IN NOVEMBER 2015**

Date	2.30 pm
1st November	Rev John Wiseman HC
8th	Rev John Wiseman
15th	Catharine Hughes
22nd	Martyn Bennett
29th	Rev John Wiseman
29th	6.00pm Circuit Service at Poynton
6th December	Rev John Wiseman HC

HC Holy Communion

Lawrence House 10.30am. 8th November David Allaby
13th December David Allaby

Woodlands 11.00am. 8th November Alan Rashleigh
Carols 13th December Chris Hawkyard



Open Doors

Serving persecuted **Christians** worldwide

Visit of Yong Sook. On Sunday 15th November at 6.00pm we are privileged to be hosting an event organised by Open Doors, who work extensively with the persecuted church throughout the world. During this act of worship we will be able to hear first-hand from Yong Sook just what it is like trying to be a Christian within North Korea.

After the death of North Korea's 'Great Leader' Kim Il-Sung in 1994, the economy collapsed. To avoid starvation, Yong Sook's family and neighbours fled to China – but at the border they were arrested and imprisoned. There Yong Sook was separated from her husband and son. Incarcerated in the most inhumane conditions, she and her neighbour experienced interrogation, illness and torture. "You cannot imagine the fear of being in that prison," she says.

Yong Sook began to pray, first to her mother, then her father, then her grandfathers. "Then I asked myself: Who is the most powerful person I can pray to? I came to the conclusion it was God. So I prayed for Him to release me. I still was not a believer, but I firmly believe that thanks to those remarkable prayers in that dark prison cell I have been blessed so much ever since."

God did answer her prayers but it was no easy road to happiness. Now in South Korea, reunited with her family, she says she knows "God brought me here." Please come along to what I am sure will be an inspiring and uplifting evening of worship and testimony. The story of her incarceration, escape and encounter with Jesus is a testament to God's grace and faithfulness during times of darkness for a church which despite opposition continues to grow.

Rev'd John

Hazel Grove and Poynton Methodist Circuit Choir

We will glorify

Advent Sunday – 29th November 2016

This year the circuit choir has decided to do something a bit different for the Circuit Service on Advent Sunday based on the theme – “We Will Glorify”. It is to be a musical celebration of the Advent message which incorporates the past, present and future and will take place at Poynton Methodist Church commencing at 6.00pm.

The Mart Rodgers Jazz Band will be playing pre- and post-service music and will accompany the congregational singing in a well known spiritual and a popular modern worship song during the service,

An important addition to the past offerings by the choir will be the opportunity for members of the congregation to light a candle and stand and remember someone who will be ‘missing’ from their Christmas celebrations this year. There will be tea lights available on a large Remembrance Table.

The choir’s contribution will be “Love Transcending” by John W Peterson. This is a short cantata using the Christmas story, with soloists and a narrator, and with some very familiar tunes woven into its fabric. John Ramsbottom will accompany and Stella Molton will conduct the choir.

At the time of writing it is hoped that the Guides from Poynton will be joining in the service with a musical contribution.

The evening will finish with mince pies and a hot drink. We very much hope you will be able to join us for what we anticipate will be an exciting and joyous event celebrating, mainly through music, the spirit of Christmas.

Margaret Bryant

PRAYER



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

Daytime Group: - We meet in the church prayer corner **every Tuesday** at 9.45am.

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.

WEEKDAY WORSHIP

The first Tuesday in November is **3rd November**. There will be a service at noon on that day followed by a simple lunch. All are very welcome to this 30min service that caters for shoppers, passers-by and everyone who is available and wishes to take this extra opportunity to worship.

THURSDAY COMMUNION

This is always on the third Thursday of the month at midday so this time it takes us to **19th November**. It is followed by a light lunch in the foyer. Come early and enjoy a coffee in the refurbished prayer corner in church.



PRAYER AND PRAISE

The next Prayer and Praise will be on **Thursday 12th November at 7.30pm** in the church. It will be led by Mandy Hawkyard and David Garrett. These services take place on the **second** Thursday of the month.

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



'The Christmas Connection' - Discovering a Relationship with God, by J John. Published by Philo Trust at £1.

This lovely pocket-sized book could easily be sent with a Christmas card or wrapped with another present. The cover is a lovely Christmas red with a star on it.

The booklet answers questions that are frequently asked and shows how God reveals himself.

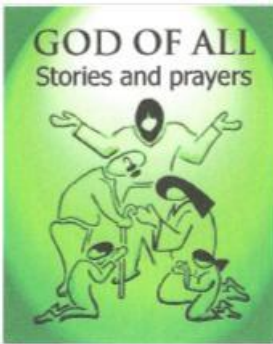
The different sections are introduced by a few lines from a Christmas carol. Part of one section explains the Lord's Prayer and what it means today. The booklet ends with a Christmas prayer.

GOD OF ALL

By Gill Dascombe (Vice-President of the Methodist Conference 2014/5). Church in the Market Place Publications 2015-10-01 ISBN 976-0-9933841-0-3. Price £5 – all proceeds to Stockport & District MIND- the mental health charity.

Gill Dascombe needs little introduction. The book is an anthology of observations, prayers, sermons, and poems composed/prepared as she journeyed throughout the Methodist Connexion, both in the UK and overseas, during her Vice- Presidential year.

As one would expect, the contents of the book draw deeply on her own personal experiences, to guide the reader through this useful resource for private and public devotions.



The book is written in an easy-going style, which enables the reader to relate to both the humour and serious aspects of her ministry. Gill provides fresh insights into the meaning of some of the well-known parables of Jesus and other stories of the Old and New Testaments. Particularly interesting are her thoughts on the stories of 'walking on water' and the meaning of Pentecost/Wesley Day. The story which takes place in Zambia is very moving.

One of the poems will strike a chord with those who find it difficult to comprehend or reconcile the relevance of God today. "Not in the Beginning" moves the story of Creation to modern times and makes a very good attempt to make sense of God in the modern world, as well as questioning what God is like – it is very thought-provoking.

Reading the reprints from the Methodist Recorder highlights graphically Gill's special interest in mental health issues and the use of pharmaceutical products in treatment. (She is a specialist psychiatric pharmacist.)

The book is both challenging and thought-provoking at the same time as being inspirational. It is a very good read for anybody (including preachers) who wants to be mentally stimulated.

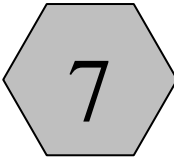
Preachers will find theological insights which will enhance any sermon.

This review by Alan Rashleigh first appeared in Ichthus/Preacher

Lighting update

We are aware of the recurring problem affecting the office and Room 4 – the lights tripping at the mains. Four replacement fittings are on order and we will fit them at the earliest date, subject to supply. It is assumed the age of the original fittings is causing a problem.

Derek Garner (for PMC Property Committee)



Catalytic Questions

Part 7

7 Missionary

When Heaven invades earth...

2,000 years ago, Jesus Christ preached this simple message wherever he went: "Repent of your sins and turn to God, for the Kingdom of Heaven is near."

Jesus was declaring that God's rule and reign were breaking into human history in a new way – up close and personal. God's future vision of Heaven fully invading Earth captured in **Revelation 21.1-5**, had begun. Why? Because God himself, the King of the Kingdom, had broken in to human history in Jesus Christ.

And what happens when the Kingdom of God breaks out? The sick are healed, the hungry are fed, the imprisoned are set free, relationships are restored, even the dead are raised – the list goes on. Wherever God's Kingdom breaks out, there is healing and wholeness.

So what does that mean for you personally today? This brings us to the last of our seven disciple-making questions...

How are you making a Kingdom impact through words and actions?

Why not challenge yourself in the following three areas?

Firstly, **praying Kingdom prayers**. Charles Spurgeon once said "A little faith will take you to heaven, but I pray for the kind of faith that will bring Heaven to earth." That's what Jesus commands us to pray in the Lord's Prayer – 'Your Kingdom come, on earth as it is in Heaven.' We pray that Heaven will invade earth now and that we will see signs of the Kingdom. For example, there's no cancer in Heaven so we pray that there will be no cancer in a sick person's body. Get into the habit of regularly – daily – praying for the Kingdom of Heaven to break out in the world.

Secondly, **living Kingdom lives**. As followers of Jesus, we're no longer citizens of an earthly Kingdom; we are citizens of the Kingdom of God. And so we live differently. We are ambassadors for our King, representatives of His Kingdom. We live lives of love, joy, peace,

patience, goodness, gentleness, kindness, faithfulness, self-control – all in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Thirdly, **doing Kingdom works**. The work of the Kingdom is to see God's shalom – his peace and prosperity – break out in our world. With God, your environment doesn't determine your impact. If you carry the Kingdom of God, then Jesus tells us in **Matthew 13.31-33** that our impact and influence for God CANNOT help but grow. We are the hands and feet of Jesus, and so we live lives of justice and generosity, joining God in putting the wrong things right in the world around us.

And all this, of course, includes the sharing of our faith, praying that God will give us opportunities to tell others about the difference that Jesus has made in our lives. Praying that God will extend His family to include our family, friends, colleagues, neighbours, strangers and even enemies. Paul reminds us in **Romans 10.14-15** that people will only know about Jesus if someone tells them; if you and I tell them! So we pray Kingdom prayers, live Kingdom lives, and do Kingdom works, believing that this will raise questions that will point people to Jesus.

As a follower of Jesus, this is what you're called to be, say and do! Jesus has giving us our marching orders in **Matthew 28.18-20** and **Acts 1:8**. Let's wake up every day asking for the Spirit to equip us for the challenge of seeing God's Kingdom come – in us and through us – as it is in Heaven. Amen?

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<http://www.livelifelife123.org/equip-me>

Jenny Mossman

MORECAMBE BAY WALK



I am pleased to report that the total banked was £1,111.50. Some odd amounts were I think passed to Brenda and some, though not all of the sum raised, was gift-aided so there will be a little more for Action for Children. PMC support was a tremendous part of the amount we raised so well done to walkers and supporters.

Judy Gibbons

HYMNOLOGY ON A MONDAY MORNING - 6

'Eternal Father, strong to save'. Words by William Whiting (1825-78).
Tune 'Melita' by John Bacchus Dykes (1825-76).

The hymn brings up many images. In some coastal villages the crack of two maroons heard above the shrieking and thunder of rain means volunteers hurrying to the Lifeboat Station near the harbour to do a job few people would be brave enough to do. Lives are in danger so we must pray for those in peril on the sea.

Such is the life of many RNLI volunteers, who are on call day and night. Every year, a church choir moves through London's Royal Albert Hall along with men and women from all the Services shortly before the red poppies float down at the climax of the Royal British Legion Festival of Remembrance. It is not only at that moment when we remember the sacrifices of lives lost in conflict.

Many of us still remember the attack on HMS Sheffield during the Falklands War, and others lost in the many conflicts which have sadly erupted in our lifetime.

The tune 'Melita' means Malta, the George Cross Island, and if you visit there today you will see reminders of the brave fight put up by the Island in the Second World War.

You can look around the waters off St. Paul's on a calm day and maybe fail to remember that it was here that the Apostle Paul was shipwrecked in a fierce storm.

References: Psalm 107.23-30; Genesis 1.9; Matthew 8.23-27; Mark 6. 45-50; Matthew 14.25-27; Luke 8.23; Genesis 1. 2-3; and 9 (and several references to Milton's Paradise Lost in the verses).

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.

DOP BIKE RIDE/HUNT

As the 24 Hour Day of Prayer approached, we were all invited to make choices from the proposed variety of events and activities, and I signed up for the Bike Ride/Hunt for Saturday afternoon.

Those of us waiting outside with bikes and wet weather kit at the ready realised that none of us knew any helpful details such as a route or even a destination!! So we just had to wait. Thankfully Stephen and Eleanor arrived a few minutes later, and we quickly realised that they knew more than us.

There were nine of us in total, and we were given useful items to enable us to find secret clues, and then we were off! Our first destination was the Catholic Church on Clumber Road. The route then took us to Wood Lanes Church, St Martin's Church, and finally to Green Close Chapel. At the various locations along the way, we had to find more clues to allow us to progress to the next location.



In many cases we had to pray for the people brought to mind in that particular area, and this was where the egg timer was used to stop us spending too long. At our final destination of Green Close Chapel we were offered drinks and biscuits (not all of us were fasting). We were also given information sheets

relating to countries where it is both illegal and life-threatening to be a Christian. We prayed in small groups for each of these countries, equipping us with a desire to discuss such heartfelt facts with friends and family later.

Whilst enjoying our refreshments, there was a shout from the younger members who were planting spring bulbs, and everyone dashed outside to catch a distant glimpse of the Vulcan flying away to the south.

John Lunt

REFLECTIONS ON OUR 24 HRS OF PRAYER AND FASTING

“The message I took away from the weekend was to learn to trust, and listen for God's message through the actions and words of others. It was a memorable, thought-provoking 24 hours, with such a feeling of peace pervading the whole Church building.”



“I was a little uncertain about the weekend of prayer but having decided to turn off my radio and television for 24 hours and go to church on Saturday to listen to music and sit in the various prayer corners of the church I found the time and space to consider my own

faith, to pray and give thanks for all my blessings. The celebration of Holy Communion on Saturday evening was a very special experience to share with friends.”

*“What a fantastic uplifting experience I had on Saturday/Sunday. On Saturday I went into a silent Church, except for John playing the organ, and I felt the peace all around me; the prayer stations were excellent. On Sunday, Mandy had me in tears, with all the readings and prayers. I nearly went out to the front but my nerves left me. **Wouldn't it be lovely sometimes to go into a quiet Church, and leave all the chatting for when we have a coffee afterwards?** My thanks go to Mandy and helpers, for all their time and effort; it was truly an experience for me.”*

The peaceful atmosphere and quietness giving time for reflection were mentioned by many people. Clare Finnis led a period of silent meditation on the Saturday evening. She is now offering to lead times like this on a regular basis possibly early on a Sunday morning.

Watch out for more details.

Squares were knitted as some people prayed and reflected. "As I dipped in and out of the prayer corners I felt the tensions that had built up inside me lessen such that when I went back to the knitting I had "perfect tension." A second person commented "I felt part of a huge family - I only came because I was invited - this is not my scene. But to sit, knit and listen to music was so relaxing and when I watched the fervency of prayer being offered I just knew that God is in this place."

"After the day of prayer I went back into the Church and read the poem in the booklet provided for those who pray at 12 noon every day. I took one line at a time, and slowly thought about it. It was very revealing. It did me a lot of good. I hadn't known I was holding on to 'things'. Most of those 'things' have stayed away from me since then. I wondered if you could have it printed in the Herald. I'm sure there are others who would appreciate those gentle words speaking to them. The Herald reaches many people." So here it is:

The birch leaves are falling, Lord,
yellow diamonds on the green grass,
released in the autumn wind.

But I, Lord,
I still clutch tight to the leaves of my old life,
useless, withered and dry.
Teach me to let go of the old -
old hurts and animosities, old troubles and grief.
Teach me to release them into the wind of your Spirit
to be whisked away,
that like a tree I may rest a while
at peace within,
then grow again in spring.

Annie Heppenstall: from *Acorns and Archangels*, Wild Goose Publications

On Saturday afternoon Epiphany played in the Church. They invited people to sit with them whilst they played a portrait of them. Catharine was one such person.

It started with whistling.
Joyful, skipping whistling.
I heard the vibrations of the phone, and the rattle of a bag of coins.
Then joyous music circling around.
I waited for the dark bit, for the tears to come
but all I heard was cheerful, breezy, light-hearted.

Bright and happy.

And when, sadly, it had to end, I was told of images.

Of the Spirit coming on me, that I should rely on it more.

Of the gift of discernment.

Of heaven spreading out before me, like the window I could see but bigger.

Of a teddy bear.

Of homeliness, hospitality and welcome.

Mandy was also played for - "I was surprised right from the start because the music began with one of the violinists knocking on the wood of her instrument. I was reminded of the Bible verse - "Behold I stand at the door and knock." A booklet illustrating this passage was given to me as a young teenager when I first realised that becoming a Christian was about a relationship with Christ. Holman Hunt's picture The Light of the World, relating to this, was presented to me when I went to college and another copy of it is still in our home today. "Keep the door open," was the message. I felt the pain of traumas in the music at times but was also conscious that God had been with me at these times by some of the musicians circling me whilst playing. The music ended with joy and I could picture my grandchildren dancing!"

You can still enjoy many of the pictures, poems and banners - why not visit the Church when it is quiet and enjoy them. As a result of this day we hope to keep the prayer corner decorated, if that's the right word, with appropriate images and words. Look too at the Prayer Wall in the foyer and perhaps add your prayer.



Prayer Time

I remember when my daughter Kirsty was little she loved everything about dancing. So when the Riverdance Irish Dance Company came, we took her to see their show. Although she had her own seat, she was only little and couldn't see very well, so she crawled onto my knee. She had a much better view from up there and I could tell that she was absolutely engrossed and delighted with the dancing. Suddenly she turned around, leaned right up against my ear and whispered 'thank you'.

That one simple gesture was the only thing I remember about that day. We had bought her the ticket because we loved her. She didn't need to say thank you and I really didn't expect her to say it either - but when she did, it felt like electricity or even fireworks lighting up the night sky. It was a very special moment.



I wonder how often we say 'thank you' to God and how God feels when we do say 'thank you' to Him? The Bible tells us that it's good to give thanks to God for all the wonderful things he gives us.

This month is the month of fireworks, when the sky lights up with exploding colour. What we could do this Bonfire Night is to make all our firework explosions 'thank you' explosions and shout a 'thank you' each time a firework goes off. You could shout out your 'thank you' separately or you could all shout at once. So each time you see a firework in the sky, whether you are inside or outside, shout a 'thank you' to God. Of course, some of us are noisier than others...you can always say your 'thank you' quietly to yourself!

Remember, Keeeeeeep Praying!

Love and blessings

Jenny Mossman x 

NEW MEMBERS

It has been lovely and a privilege over the past few months to welcome almost a dozen people into membership in two separate services (see July/August Herald). On 18th October some were confirmed including Will Garrett from our young church, whilst others, having been through that process at other churches, were simply welcomed and made members of the Methodist Church and into our family of faith here in this place:

Sue Bartrum, Pat and Malcolm Burgess, Will Garrett, Dulcie Linnell, Margaret Meekey, Linda and Jonathan Proffitt and Evelyn Shepherd.

And this will not be the last of such services I hope. So if anyone is interested in either baptism (and in Swansea I baptised a 68 yr old!), confirmation or just becoming a member of the church, please let me know.

Rev'd John



EXPLORING FAITH THROUGH FILM

On Saturday 7th November at 7.30pm the next Exploring Faith through Film will be the black comedy 'Keeping Mum'.

Walter Goodfellow, the vicar for the small English country parish of Little Wallop, has allowed his marriage to Gloria go stale, and is so detached from his family that he has not noticed that his 17-year-old daughter Holly is going through a succession of relationships with unsuitable boyfriends, and his son Petey fears going to school owing to being bullied.

Out of desperation for affection, Gloria begins to fall for the advances of Lance, an American golf pro who is giving her 'private' lessons. Yet with the arrival of the new housekeeper, Grace Hawkins, an older and rather darkly mysterious version of Mary Poppins, the family's problems start to simply vanish. But then it's amazing what a little grace can achieve in life.

Love and Light, **John**

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

THANK YOU LETTER



Very many thanks for the flowers sent to us after Geoff's fall recently, and for the many prayers that we know went with them. Both are much appreciated for the support they give us at this time.

Margaret & Geoff Sharp

THANK YOU AND A VERY SAD GOODBYE

Chris and I may have left Poynton by the time you read this. We move to Saxmundham in Suffolk on 28th October. We are moving to be nearer Hannah our daughter and also to support her if she needs us. We believe God is with us on this journey and the time is right. We have found a new bungalow which is very near the town and we think we have found a church.

It is a very exciting time for us, but very sad as we leave you, our church family. Over the years we have been very blessed by you all at Poynton Methodist Church.

As I leave, there is something I would say to you: get involved, even if it's only in a small way; I started serving coffee at church on a Sunday morning, then I took over the rota, and God blessed me and showed me what I could do.

I knew very well what I couldn't do, I couldn't sing, preach or play an instrument and felt I couldn't contribute anything. I leave you knowing that if I can make a contribution to church life, maybe you can too – contribute, do a reading, lead a prayer, welcome people, sing – even join the prayer group. Do not hide your talents; take a risk do something different.

Our new address is West House, 50 St John's Road, Saxmundham, Suffolk IP17 1BD. My mobile will be the same and so will my email.

We will have a spare bedroom. And we are only 5 miles from the coast and if you arrive, you would be welcomed.

God bless you and keep you all safe.

Carol Cotton

TALK ABOUT DEDICATED SERVICE!

For at least 17 years a group of ladies from this church have been leading a service at Woodlands on the first Wednesday of each month. Sadly the harvest service they took on October 7th ended that wonderful sequence.

Joyce Deighton has been at the heart of the effort, planning and playing, but other stalwarts have been Vernice Baker, Marjorie Harrop, Gill Oldham, Betty Dory and Jean Rashleigh.

Even before this Kath Conway, Mavis Burnett and Frances Coldwell were leading services at Woodlands. Such yeoman service very often goes unheralded (!) but in this case it isn't.

Well done the ladies' team!

Chris Hawkyard

FLOWER BUNCH PRODUCES NEW LEADERS

I have really enjoyed leading our Flower Team for the last ten years but the time has come for me to hand over the job to Sandra Townsend and Gill Oldham. I have especially liked delivering the flowers along with Barbara Brown and Pat Musgrave when we have gone visiting together and getting such warm welcomes when the bunches of flowers are produced.

I want to thank everyone for their warm support, and the generous donations, that have made it possible for us to beautify the sanctuary each week and especially at Festival Times. Please give donations to Sandra or Gill in future.

With best wishes, **Marjorie Harrop**

THANK YOU, MARJORIE!

Two key features of all that PMC stands for are our worship and pastoral emphases and both are richer for the contribution of The Flower Team. Marjorie Harrop has led the team for ten years with an outstanding input of compassion and knowledge of the needs and ups and downs of members of our church family.

Week by week, the worship area is adorned with the team's topical attention to detail and decoration which creates such an ambience of peace and beauty that can only enhance our experience of the presence of God.

And week by week, those same adornments are transformed into expressions of our love and concern for those who are going through difficulties of various kinds as members of the team take them to those who need cheering, or a word of encouragement.

So thank you Marjorie, for ten years of quiet and dedicated service to this hugely important rôle and thank you Team as you continue with new leadership in this vital work.

NOTE FROM KENYA

I was sorry to hear of the death of Colin Oakley, who I remember as being not only a dedicated fund-raiser for NCH/Action for Children, an educationalist, and (with Brenda) a host for the 'Builders', but also as a valuable member of the Property Committee.

KeMU (Kenya Methodist University) is doing well. The new Vice Chancellor has reduced the fees to attract more students, and the strategy seems to be working to some extent, though these are still early days.

As you may have read in the Methodist Recorder, KeMU is due to receive 38,000 books from the former Wesley College, Bristol. They are due to arrive here over the next few weeks. This generous gift from British Methodism will double KeMU's library holding at a stroke and will give us one of the best theological libraries in Kenya.

Rev Peter Ensor

JENNY'S JOTTINGS

Hello and welcome to Jenny's Jottings.



Driving to work one day, I saw in front of me a mum on a bicycle. In a safety seat on the back was a little boy. I watched as they cycled along, the little boy sitting still. Suddenly he put out his left arm. Why? Well his mum was turning left. As she put out her arm – he copied. It was such a lovely thing to see. The thing was she was totally unaware of what was going on. It was such a perfect and beautiful example of how things are 'caught not taught'. Let's face it, that could be anything; manners, behaviour, faith...preaching! How did I learn to drive? By reading a book? Going to a seminar? Nope...by watching and doing. How did I learn the ropes for our Toddler Group? – by watching and working alongside Rachel. Watching and doing. It's such a precious way to learn – watching and doing. It's not a new-fangled idea either...

'Come with me... I'll **show** you how to catch men and women instead of perch and bass' Matthew 4.19 'The Message'.

Toddler Group. There are so many new faces at Toddlers, both Mums and new babies. One mum has even come back with her friend's little one! It's great to see. In the few weeks since the new term, we have had not only our regular sessions but a visit from the photographer and Usbourn books. We've made multi-coloured coats and golden crowns as we looked at Joseph, we've been seeds under a parachute (Harvest) and we've decided that on at least one occasion, putting a baby in a basket can be a good thing!

Preschool: I love 9 o'clock on a Thursday morning – it's my playtime with the children at preschool. We have a great time with play dough and cloud dough and bricks and the farm and...I'm sure you get the picture! All this happens *before* the story in Circle Time. Mr Parrot and I have had a great time telling our stories and we love

chatting to the children about the stories we tell. When we asked the question 'who wears a crown?' The answer? 'I do'. Well I did ask!

School: It's lovely to be back at Worth Primary school again. We just get such a warm reception from both the staff and the children. At the start of the new school year, John and I looked at how we often make a mess of things but we can always make a fresh start, at home, at school and with God. We just need to say sorry and start again. Our latest assembly was about toilets! Yes indeed! We talked about what we take for granted, how we need to say 'thank you' for everything God gives us.

And another thing... There's lots going on here at PMC. In addition to our regular activities above we have Young Church, our activity mornings (Awesome Autumn is our next one). We're starting a monthly Who Let the Dad's Out? Session, and as we all know, Christmas is coming! In my October Jottings I asked the question – 'What new thing is God calling you to? Have you thought about volunteering to help?' Before you say 'no way', take that first step and come and watch what we do, in Toddlers, preschool, anything – come and see. You may find skills you never realised you had that you can use to help share the great news of Jesus. Just remember, the fishermen only knew how to catch fish...until they worked alongside Him.

Meanwhile...Please would you pray for:

All the children and Young people that we know in Toddlers, preschool, all the Primary schools and the High School. For all those who work with our children, both within the walls of the church and beyond. For Kids Zone, Rainbows, Brownies and Guides. Please also pray for those of us going into the High School to talk to the students about our faith – and let's not forget the run-up to December as we plan our Christmas events. Thank you!

Love and blessings,

Jenny Mossman 



ArtRelax



We are planning to have a **sale of Christmas cards, wrapping paper** and other festive items following the 10.30am Sunday services in November.

Handmade Christmas cards will be on sale five for the price of three, whilst individual cards will remain at £1.

Packs of 5 cards depicting the Three Kings or the Nativity will also be available for £2.00 per pack.

Meanwhile, new card stocks are now available in our everyday range.

Thank you for your continued support.

Hilary King and Linda Grant



LADIES' FELLOWSHIP

12th November: The Rev. Wesley Loane will be giving us a talk on 'The Work of MHA'. Julie Hallworth is leading the meeting.

26th November: I hope this date is in all your diaries, because we are having A Demonstration of Flowers, Music Readings and Fun with Val Seed and David Everard at 7.00pm for a 7.30pm start. Tickets cost £6 which includes light refreshments, and there will be a raffle for the flowers. Tickets are from Pam Green, (01625 572722). Please come along and support us. Proceeds are for Church Funds.

17th December: This is our last meeting of the year when for our Christmas meeting we will be having readings and carols and, as usual, our faith supper, Church will be open at 7.00pm to receive your goodies.

7th January 2016: Arnold & Lorna Samuels will be coming to give us a talk and video of their holiday around the Mediterranean (if Arnold gets the video done in time!) Sandra Townsend will be taking the meeting.

All our meetings commence at 7.45pm and all ladies are very welcome. Please come and have a taster of what our meetings are all about and you never know, you might like to join our friendly ladies.

Sandra Townsend

Property update

- Two handrails refitted in main corridor outside Minister's office.
- Emergency lighting for church and hall checked.
- New tube/starter kitchen lights fitted.
- New door bell fitted in main church. (NB. Various groups have requested this). There are two internal ringers, one in the foyer and one in the small corridor at room 4. Both operate on a wifi system.
- Various minor repairs.

Derek Garner (for PMC Property Committee)

LIVING BELOW THE LINE – SEPTEMBER 2015

As many of you who were at Church earlier this year will know, several of us were challenged by John W. to spend one of his £5 notes on sufficient food to sustain us for 5 days. So to live on £1 a day!!! Jean and I had also booked a few days in Sussex, so we thought it would be an idea for each of us to live on £5 worth of food for the 5 days up to the time we went on holiday. We expected to enjoy the food on holiday all the more and we did.

The challenge made us look at all the local shops before we made our purchases. There were clearly things we had to live without, and we had to accept less variety than we were used to. We each made our own choices, but also agreed to share some foods. For example, the porridge was more than enough for the 5 days for both of us, so we shared.

We tried to come up with a menu of sorts to allow us to choose the foods we needed to buy. I chose to look for items such as bread at the end of the day to get reductions, whereas Jean chose her products at standard prices. She even spent a whole £1 on a bag of washed spinach leaves, determined to get her greens in either a sandwich or as an attractive accompaniment to enhance her beans on toast!

As we had been involved with Scout and Guide camping, we were aware of the need to fill up with simple foods like jam sandwiches or porridge. Tea and coffee were desperately missed, replaced by a 30p bottle of fruit cordial which was better than hot water.

The process made us realise that “living below the line” (A) reduces your choices, (B) gives a strong possibility of insufficient nutrients, and (C) makes you look for bargains!

At the end of it all, we could return to our normal diet, but this is not the choice of those who, for whatever reason, have to “live below the line” – and who have no idea how long the ordeal is to last.

Jean & John Lunt

5-DAY FOOD CHALLENGE

£1 per day was tough. Jointly, we lost 2lb per day. Not quite what we had in mind, but the clothes fitted better...

A blow by blow account would bore you, so we won't.

Q & A would be better perhaps:

Did we survive? ...yes.

Was it difficult, really difficult? ...sometimes, yes and the planning was horrid.

Was it easy? ...absolutely not.

Were we tired or ill because of it? ...tiredness got worse as the days progressed and the lack of caffeine caused headaches.

The highs? ...sharing a 4 square inch piece of salmon between us – it was a bargain buy from Morrison's.

Did we cheat? ...er...we weren't saints, but kept well within the spirit of the challenge, we think.

The lows? ...realising we had no meat, no veg. and no flavouring left for our last meal ...but there was plenty of plain rice ...we lost our saint status here.

Did anybody outside church know what we were doing? ...yes – most of our work colleagues and some neighbours and friends.

Were they interested? ...very, they kept following our progress and it caused many discussions.

Would we do it again? ...perhaps.

Was it good for PMC? ...it was an activity that got everyone talking and being together.

When it was over, were we glad? ...in most ways, yes.

Putting the 'fun' element aside, the experience (a first for us both) has made us much more appreciative of what we normally have to eat. It gave us a real appreciation of the daily struggle so many people in the world go through - how do they cope? We thank God more now, for what we have on our table, than we ever did before – grace at meal times is said with more thought, with more depth and with more time.

Hilary and David Garrett

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

HARVEST THANKSGIVING SERVICE

Thank you to everyone for your incredible generosity in providing knitted goods and clothing for International Aid Trust at the Thanksgiving service.

Windlehurst church and community groups and 'Active at Windlehurst' sent 78 hats, 11 jumpers, 23 scarves, 6 pairs of gloves, 23 pairs of socks and 2 pairs of trousers. Green Close sent donations of knitted goods throughout the year with extra at Harvest, plus a generous donation towards travel costs.

In total we sent 9 bin bags of blankets, 1 bin bag of socks, 5 bin bags of scarves, 1 bag of new trousers, 1 bin bag of new shirts and T shirts, 1 bin bag of jumpers, 3 bin bags of gloves and mittens, 2 bin bags of hats, 1 bin bag of waistcoats and 1 small bag of knitted squares which International Aid trust volunteers will make into blankets. This totals 24 bags!! We also sent £223.00 towards transport costs.

Items may go to people in the Leyland area as International Aid Trust does receive referrals from local Social Services. They may also be sent to Africa, Eastern Europe and Asia depending on need. Items will definitely be sent to refugees in Europe.

In preparation for next year, donations of double knitting wool are most welcome

Many thanks, **Liz Baker** (403787) and **Hilary Parry** (873674)

GOT ANY LOO-SE CHANGE?

World Toilet Day is on 19th November - a good time for us to remember all those around the world who do not have a toilet or safe sanitation. Our challenge to make Poynton a Toilet Twinned Town is moving on apace.

Our MP, David Rutley, is willing to help support us and I'm proposing twinning one of his toilets with funds that we are raising through the collection pot in the corridor. We just need to get some shops and/or pubs on our side too!

Thank you for your ongoing help and support.

Catharine Hughes

CHARITY CHRISTMAS MARKET

14th November 10.00am – 12.30pm

Poynton Methodist Church



Our popular **Charity Christmas Market** again welcomes new and old friends.

Running new stalls this year are the newly formed Poynton Support Group for **The East Cheshire Hospice**; fresh from their television interviews on BBC's 'This Morning' are **Knitted Knockers**; cakes will be on sale supporting **Woodlands Methodist Home** for the aged, Poynton – and Gerry Hambridge will be selling goods for **St James School** in Uganda. Gerry needs no introduction to Poynton.

Old favourites will also be there hoping for your support again – The Red Cross , Guide Dogs; Action for Children; Traidcraft; Green Close; Belarus; the Dalits; Cancer Research UK and the British Chelonia Group.

Please come and buy your Christmas cards, Christmas gifts, charity gifts and cakes and support charities at the same time.

You can even get your breakfast/lunch – delicious bacon butties will be available.

See you there.

Mandy Hawkyard

Poynton Methodist Preschool

Baby Boot and Table Top Sale

Sat. Nov 21st – 9am-12noon

To book a table please phone 07742914996

Or email pmcpreschool@hotmail.co.uk



**Poynton
Methodist
Preschool**
safe.fun.nº1

MART DELIVERS THE GOODS

My offer to help with the delivery of Poynton Methodist Church food gifts for those who need it was accepted. I asked my neighbour Brian Horn to come and help. Because I have a large car for band equipment I was able to fit all the food in. On arrival at Emmanuel Church in Salford there was a lovely car park which made life much easier than last time I took part. OUR FOOD DONATION was complimented as being one of the largest, so we can all THANK GOD for our opportunities for generosity.

The lady and gentleman in charge at Emmanuel Church showed Brian and me around, and what a lovely modern space there is for worship as well as places for activity for all age groups (which were happening when we arrived! My neighbour Brian was very impressed with both Poynton and Emmanuel Church.

The lady asked me if I was Mart Rodger, and having said yes, she told me her dad used to come and watch my band in Salford. So, wait for it – she has asked us to go and play in their Church!

Thank you all for making this a wonderful help for those less fortunate than ourselves.

(On 19th October I was near to Oslo for The Royal Garden Jazz Band 60th Anniversary.)

Martin Rodger

POYNTON CHRISTMAS FEST Tuesday 1st December – 7.00pm to 9.00pm

Come in out of the cold! We will be serving light refreshments while you enjoy the sounds of the Church Orchestra. For your added enjoyment there will be a Craft market in the church.

If you would like a stall please email lg41@ntlworld.com or phone **01625 871592**

Where there's a will...it's good to be in it.

The last thing I want to do is criticise...but it's still on my list!

Light travels faster than sound...so some people seem bright until you hear them speak!

THE DECEMBER/JANUARY HERALD

Closing date for submissions will be **18th November (or earlier if possible)**. Please place articles in the Herald pigeonhole or preferably send them by e-mail to: **herald@poyntonmethodist.org**

TO ALL HERALD DISTRIBUTORS

The **December/January** Herald will be available for you to pick up from **27th November**. There are sometimes events taking place in the first week of each new magazine and we hope that as many 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, the Circuit Directory and our website: <http://www.poyntonmethodist.org>

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

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

Our Minister, Rev John Wiseman, is available in the church office (871592) on Tuesdays and Thursdays. The light by the door shows red when he is engaged. You can leave messages for him in the Minister's pigeonhole, or please call him or leave a message at home on 261769 or via his email jwiserev@hotmail.co.uk If there is no reply and there is an immediate emergency, phone Rev John Payne 0161 483 4952. The church office is open on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9.00am until 1.00pm. For Church Notices and office queries please contact: office@poyntonmethodist.org Our Children and Young People's Worker, Jenny Mossman's email is jennymossman@gmail.com; Preschool: pmcpreschool@hotmail.co.uk

EVERY WEEKDAY

- 9.00am-3.00pm. Preschool. Single sessions available. (Sarah Parker 871115)
- #Kids Zone - (Pam Dowd 07717 003 322)
- 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

- 10-11.00am Discussion Group/Bible Study (Theo Eaves 875162)

TUESDAY

- 9.45am-10.45am Meeting for Prayer (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)
- 7.00-9.00pm Art Relax (Linda Grant 879663/Hilary King 877051)
- 7.30-9.00pm #4th Poynton Guides (Alison Southern 07905 133 073)

THURSDAY

- 9.30-11.30am Parents and Toddlers (Jenny Mossman 01625 871592)
- 11.00am *Friends Together (Mandy Hawkyard 875032)
- 12.00 noon followed by Communion Service and Lunch
- 7.30-9.00pm #1st Poynton Guides (Georgia Eyre 07989 360 850)
- 7.30-9.30pm *Ladies' Fellowship (Sandra Townsend 878563)
- 7.30pm *Prayer and Praise Monthly 2nd Thursday (Mandy Hawkyard 875032)

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)
- 6.00pm*+FoB School Years 6-13 (Judy Gibbons 878016/Christine Ding 859438)

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.