



THE HERALD



The Methodist Church in Poynton

JULY/AUGUST 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.**

July 2019

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Despite the cold and wet weather at the time of writing this is now officially summer holiday season! Whether you will be going away or having a 'staycation' this year I hope that you will manage some rest and relaxation and a change of routine.

In our ever-busier culture, it can feel hard to take some time out, almost that it is wrong to do so but rest is really important...after all, even God rested after the work of creation!

While you are having your break though, don't miss out because over the next few months we have two important Circuit services. On 7th July at 11.00am at Hazel Grove we will say goodbye and thank you to Rev John Payne and also reflect on the changes in the Hazel Grove and Poynton Circuit. I know that you all appreciated John's ministry and so will want to be there. Then on 18th August at Dialstone Lane at 6.00pm we will say goodbye and thank you to Rev Ian Coverdale as he 'sits down' for the second time! Again, his ministry as Superintendent of our Circuit has been hugely beneficial over the past 12 months. These will also be our last opportunities to worship with our sisters and brothers at Hazel Grove, Dialstone Lane and Windlehurst before we go into the Macclesfield Circuit in September.

I also hope that you will find time to come to the General Church Meeting on 14th July over lunch. This is a really important meeting in the life of the church with its emphasis on fellowship and giving thanks to God for the blessings received during the previous year. Stewart has written more on this later in the magazine.

So, as well as having a break from many of our church activities there are still some 'milestones' to observe and be part of as we travel onwards towards the new chapter beginning in September. Whatever you do and wherever you go over the summer I pray that God will bless you richly,

Ros

PRAYER GROUP



Meets every Tuesday morning at 9.45am in church and on the third Tuesday (**16th July** and **20th August**) at 9.00am in the Kingfisher where we hold a prayer breakfast. This informal, welcoming group encourages you to join us at either venue for a time of fellowship and prayer.

GREEN CLOSE HARVEST FESTIVAL SERVICE

SUNDAY 8th SEPTEMBER 2019



Afternoon at 2.30pm

Preacher: **Rev Graham Edwards**
(Superintendent, Macclesfield Circuit)

A warm welcome is extended to everyone

Tea available after the Service

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

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

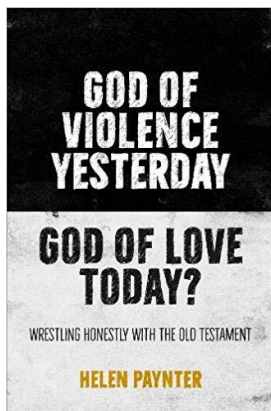
Date	10.30am UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED	
7th July	11.00am Hazel Grove Rev Ian Coverdale CS	
14th	Rev Ros Watson AfC and GCM	
21st	9.00am HC Rev Ros Watson	Catharine Hughes
28th	Stewart Bradley	
4th August	Rev Ian Coverdale HC	
11th	Mandy Hawkyard	
18th	Rev Ros Watson HC	Martyn Bennett
18th 6.00pm	CS Farewell to Rev I Coverdale Dialstone Lane	
25th	Catharine Hughes	

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

Date	2.30 pm
7th July	11.00am Hazel Grove Rev Ian Coverdale CS
14th	Stephan Rudolfer
21st	Alan Rashleigh
28th	Rev Ros Watson HC and GCM
4th August	Alan Rashleigh
11th	Rev Ros Watson
18th	Rev Ian Coverdale
18th 6.00pm	CS Farewell to Rev I Coverdale Dialstone Lane
25th	Rev Ros Watson HC

AfC	Action for Children	CS	Circuit Service
GCM	General Church Meeting	HC	Holy Communion
Woodlands MHA	14th July	11.00am	Alan Rashleigh
	11th August	11.00am	TBA
Stepping Hill	28th July	10.00am	TBA

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



“God of violence yesterday, God of love today?” – Wrestling honestly with the Old Testament, by Helen Paynter and published by The Bible Reading Fellowship at £9.99.

Some years ago, I was asked if there were any books about this difficult subject. At the time, I didn't know of any but this book has just been published.

I feel that it covers a very important subject, one that puts many people off the Old Testament. I love the OT and feel that by avoiding it many wonderful passages are missed. Besides, the New Testament is utterly founded on the Old Testament and we cannot possibly have any hope of understanding it unless we know something of the Old Testament.

The author, after a career in medicine, is now a Baptist Minister who loves to help people get to grips with the Bible. If you read this book you do have to be prepared to do some thinking and for those who want to, there are lots of other books mentioned that you can consult.

As Christians, we believe that God is good. The problem is that some of the stories in the Old Testament seem to describe a God who is not totally good. Because violence is so deeply rooted in the story of people, we should expect the Old Testament to describe acts of violence and natural conflict.

God allows evil and so he has control over it. In the future, he will re-create the world and it will be good again. God uses everything – both good and evil – for his good purposes. We don't have to understand every single detail of how God works in order to have perfect confidence in his total power over evil and his total goodness towards us.

One of the chapters in the book is entitled 'Violence against animals'. In it the subject of animal sacrifice is covered.

Another chapter covers judgement, which many people are uncomfortable about - they say 'isn't he all about love?' However, the one through whom God 's justice will finally sweep the world is not a hard-hearted, arrogant or vengeful tyrant, but the Man of Sorrows who was acquainted with grief, the Jesus who loved sinners so much that he died on the cross. Judgement and justice are good news for the poor and the oppressed.

One of the most difficult chapters in the book is entitled 'Violence Commanded' and here the author admits that she does not have all the answers. This book points out that biblical history is written for a theological purpose. If we remember this, we will realise that the narrative is not primarily intended to teach about human history but about the purposes of God. The author has selected and arranged her material for just that purpose. And we must remember this when we ask a question of the text that the text has not set out to answer.

One question often asked is, 'were the Canaanites really annihilated or not?'. A careful reading of Joshua and Judges gives two quite different answers. At the end of the 'Violence Commanded' chapter there is a very helpful summary and two useful pages entitled 'Interpreting these texts today'.

The book mentions the laws which are being given for a broken society and the histories that are being played out in an already violent world. We need to remember where it all begins and what we are shown of God's perfect design and intention. A glossary is included at the end of the book.

In many ways this book has been a revelation to me and it shows that if we delve into the background of the text it can help us understand it.

HYMNOLOGY ON A MONDAY MORNING - 43

"Nearer my God to thee" Hymns & Psalms 451 by Sarah Flower Adams (1805 – 1848)

Sarah Flower Adams retells the story of Jacob's dream (Genesis 28) in this 19th Century hymn. She was an English poet and is best known for writing the words of this hymn. It is associated with the ship Titanic, as some survivors reported that it was played by the ship's string ensemble as the ship sank.

The hymn was sung by the doomed crew and passengers of the SS Valencia as it sank off The Canadian coast in 1906 and some people believe this is the source of the Titanic legend. A ship's band would play in an emergency to help calm the passengers – anything to stop a panic!

Sarah had a Unitarian background so it is interesting that this hymn has become well known in Trinitarian hymnary. Unitarians believe in the moral authority, but not necessarily the divinity of Jesus. The theology of Unitarians is opposed to the Trinitarian theology of other Christian religions, many of which believe in the One God made up of three persons, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Both forms maintain that God is one person.

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

JESUS AND HOMOSEXUAL PRACTICES

With the passage of the Gay Marriage bill through parliament and the recent decision of the Church of Scotland to open the door to the possibility of practising homosexuals being appointed church ministers, it is no surprise to find that the issue of homosexual practices is back on the agenda of the Methodist Conference.

Evangelicals who remain true to the teaching of Scripture will not be inclined to succumb to the attitudes of an increasingly secular society in this area, since the testimony of Scripture is consistently clear and categorical on this issue (Lev. 18.22, 20.13, Rom. 1.24-27, 1 Cor. 6.9, 1 Tim. 1.10). The argument that the kind of homosexual practices condemned in these texts are exclusively those of a casual, demeaning or exploitative kind, rather than also those which express a committed and caring relationship, is an assumption which cannot be proved. There is no hint of such a distinction in the texts themselves and our knowledge of the qualities of homosexual relationships in the ancient world is far too meagre to allow us to draw such a sweeping conclusion. The issue facing the Church today is simply whether it will decide to follow Scripture at this point, or the fashions of the world.

The focus of this article, however, is not on the teaching of Scripture as a whole, nor on the complex issues surrounding its application to the Church and society today, but specifically on the attitude of Jesus himself.

Sometimes it is asserted that Jesus' teaching contains no reference to homosexual practices, and from this observation it is suggested that Christians are free to tolerate them today, since his teaching takes precedence over the rest of Scripture. This suggestion carries no weight with those who regard the teaching of Scripture as a whole as being equally God-given, but it is still worth addressing the premise on which it is built. It is true that Jesus' recorded teaching does not make any specific pronouncement on homosexual practices as such, but are there any indications of what his point of view would have been? Here are four considerations to take into account as we seek to discern the mind of the historical Jesus himself on this issue: Firstly, it is antecedently likely that Jesus would have disapproved of homosexual practices because of the explicit condemnation of

them in the that part of the Old Testament which all Jews of his time regarded as canonical, that is the Torah or the Pentateuch (the first five books of the Bible). It is true that Jesus' teaching set in motion ideas that eventually led to the obsolescence of certain Pentateuchal regulations in the ceremonial and judicial sphere, as the Church evolved from being a Jewish national community, defined by descent from Abraham, into being an international fellowship, defined by faith in Jesus himself, but there is no evidence that he undermined what may (in the light of the New Testament) be defined as the Pentateuch's moral teaching. The 'antitheses' of Mt. 5 are sometimes interpreted as if this is what Jesus was doing, but this passage is better understood to be laying bare the underlying principles of the Pentateuch's moral teaching, and to be counteracting the Pharisaic misuse of the texts handled rather than the texts themselves.

Secondly, Jesus' recorded teaching on sexual matters shows him to be in sympathy with the stricter strands of Jewish interpretation current in his time. The prohibition of divorce 'except on the ground of unchastity' found in the Matthean account of Jesus teaching on this subject (Mt. 5.32, 19.9) presents him as being in agreement with the stricter Pharisaic school of Shammai rather than the more lenient school of Hillel, which allowed for divorce on much more slender grounds (even if the wife was a poor cook! – the debate revolved around the meaning of 'something objectionable about her' in Deut. 24.1). The versions of Mark and Luke, which omit this exceptive clause (Mk. 10.11f., Lk. 16.18), would appear to make him stricter still. He also commends celibacy for the sake of God's kingdom (Mt. 19.10-12), which is remarkable against the background of the normative command to 'be fruitful and multiply' (Gen. 1.28), and puts him (at this point) among the Essenes, a Jewish sect which was renowned for being even stricter than the Pharisees. It is highly unlikely that one who was more severe than the vast mass of his Jewish contemporaries in the areas of marriage, divorce and celibacy would have been more liberal than them in the area of homosexual practices.

Thirdly, it is unlikely that Paul, the author of Romans, 1 Corinthians and, possibly, 1 Timothy also, would have been so critical of homosexual practices if it was known in the early church that Jesus had been

tolerant towards them. In Paul's discussion of sexual ethics in 1 Cor. 7, he is careful to quote Jesus' own teaching as authoritative (1 Cor. 7.10), and to indicate the points at which his own teaching elaborated, or went beyond, what he had learnt of Jesus' teaching. In the light of this attitude, it is difficult to believe that he would have condemned homosexual practices as strongly as he does in his letters if Jesus had been remembered in the early church as having adopted a permissive stance towards them.

Fourthly, there is more direct evidence for Jesus' rejection of homosexual practices in the fact that two of the Gospel writers attribute to him a condemnation of the sin of 'unchastity' or 'sexual immorality' (implicitly in Mt. 5.32, 19.9, explicitly in Mt. 15.19 par. Mk. 7.21). The Greek word lying behind these English translations is the word *porneia*, which has a virtually synonymous counterpart in Aramaic (commonly considered the regular medium of Jesus' teaching), and which was used in the Jewish literature written in Greek during the intertestamental period not only for heterosexual misbehaviour outside of marriage but also for homosexual practices in general. Critical scholars may question the authenticity of these sayings as spoken by Jesus himself, but at least we may say that there are grounds for believing that there were members of the early church who remembered Jesus as condemning a type of behaviour which his contemporaries would have taken to include homosexual practices.

On the basis of these four considerations, taken cumulatively, we may justifiably conclude that it is very probable that the historical Jesus would have disapproved of homosexual practices, and therefore of gay marriage, and that the onus of proof lies with those who would wish to argue for the opposite conclusion. It follows also that those who call Jesus their Lord and Teacher, whatever may be their view of Scripture as a whole, can scarcely make this confession and simultaneously regard homosexual practices as acceptable in the sight of God.

Rev Dr Peter Ensor

Originally published for Methodist Evangelicals in Methodism in 2013.

VISIT OF THE VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE METHODIST CONFERENCE

On Pentecost Sunday we were delighted and privileged to welcome to our Sunday Service Bala Gnanapragasam, Vice-President of Conference, accompanied by Rev Ian Coverdale our Circuit Superintendent and Rev Dr Andrew Lunn our District Chair.

In their year of office, the President and Vice-President travel around the Connexion bringing greetings and encouragement from the Methodist Conference and sharing our mutual experiences and faith. Currently they were in the Manchester and Stockport District and Bala was with us in Poynton specifically to encourage our support of MHA. Through a question-and-answer session with Phil Maltby we had the opportunity to discover some of the background to his ministry.

Bala was born into an Anglican family but brought up in the Methodist Church. A one-time Sunday School teacher, his socialist awareness was born out of the work the Youth Fellowship did in the slums of Colombo, in Sri Lanka.

His Christian calling is driven by his passion for social justice and he describes himself as living between the Crucifixion and the Resurrection - he is a 'prisoner of hope'.

After leaving school in the 1960's, Bala came to the UK to study electrical engineering at Southampton. His professional life was spent in international telecommunications – much of it at executive level.

Bala has served on many public and charitable bodies: Chairman of University Hospital Lewisham NHS Trust for eight years; a one-time local volunteer organiser for Christian Aid in the London Borough of Southwark, he is now a Board member and Chair of Change Alliance – an Indian subsidiary of Christian Aid which works with the Dalit people; Vice-Chair of Court of Central London Polytechnic; a trustee

of the London HIV/Aids Chaplaincy; and involvement with Age Exchange and Applecourt.

Bala was an elected member of Lewisham Borough Council for two terms, one of which was spent working on the Inner London Education Authority – he was involved in the writing and implementation of an anti-racist statement for educational establishments of all ages.

Within the Methodist Church, Bala has been a Circuit Manse Steward and was Synod Secretary for the London District for the first six years of its existence.

As Vice-President of the Methodist Conference he wants to share his passionate conviction that as a Church we are called to confront injustice and poverty wherever we meet it, and to reach out to the limits of our strength with compassion and practical help, wherever there is suffering.

Bala, through his work with 'All We Can' and Christian Aid, has links with suffering people in Brazil, India, Italy, Sri Lanka and the UK.

He spoke about the importance of Methodist Homes Association of which he is one of the trustees and the role MHA plays in caring for the elderly, either in one of their homes or helping to provide support to enable them to continue to live at home. He is passionate about the contribution that we as a church make to MHA as volunteers. He encouraged us to continue with the work that takes place at Woodlands.

He was proud to point out that MHA were one of the first to pay above the living wage to their staff and to provide a hardship fund to help in short-term emergencies since the working poor do not always have the resources to cope when things go wrong.

As a memento of his visit he gave us a beautiful wooden replica of the 'Cross of Anuradhapura' – the most ancient symbol of Christianity in his home country of Sri Lanka. It was thought that it may have

Portuguese origins but more recently, the thinking is that it may have come from Persia thousands of years ago. The word 'Grace' was



carved on one side of the cross and Hope on the other. These reference Radical Grace and Transforming Hope, the theme taken by Michaela Youngson and Bala as President and Vice President of the Methodist Conference 2018/2019.

A booklet with this title helps us reflect on how the Christian response to God's grace can bring hope into a world longing for transformation. The replica cross was accompanied by a Presidential Candle with the same themes, as you will see from the photos.

Compiled by Judith Ridgway, Phil Maltby and Marie Moncaster, with photographs by David Dippie.

Dear Lord and Father,

When I take your love for granted
and don't hold your outstretched hand,
When I've failed to seek your guidance,
though I know you light the Way,
forgive me when I've missed the chance
to share your love with others.
When I crave my independence,
please draw me closer to You.

Christina Thompson

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

THANK YOU LETTERS



A big 'Thank you' for the lovely flowers and messages of love and encouragement which Marie brought. I'm thankful to feel the love and support of our church family.

Joan Horner

Thank you very much for the kind words and thanks expressed by Judith Ridgway on behalf of the congregation after the service on 16th June – and also for the notes from PMC and Green Close on page 22 of the June Herald. These are much appreciated. As I said last Sunday both Anne and I have greatly enjoyed the opportunity to get to know so many of you much better than we had before and we shall miss our link with Poynton and Green Close greatly.

John Payne

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

On 13th July Laura Smith and her son Tom will be walking the 26 miles of the Ullswater Way in a day, to raise money for Macmillan.

Laura's mum died from cancer 5 years ago on 15th July and her sister has also recently had ovarian cancer. Macmillan provided support and practical help both of these times.

They would really welcome sponsorship and prayer from the church family.

Please donate through:

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/lauraandtomsmithullswater2019>

CIRCUIT FAREWELL SERVICE – REV JOHN & ANNE PAYNE

The service will be at 11 am on Sunday 7th July at Hazel Grove. This will be our chance, as a circuit, to thank John for all that he has done in the circuit, to pray for his ministry which will continue as a supernumerary and to thank Anne for her steadfast support. For those who arrive early there will be some community hymn singing.

As each of our churches will be heading into new circuits in September, this will also be our last morning Circuit Service together. We want to thank God for our time together as the Hazel Grove & Poynton Circuit and to pray for each other as we remain 'in connexion'.

Rev Ian Coverdale (Superintendent)

REVEREND CANON ROBERT McLAREN



REVEREND Canon Robert McLaren has been appointed as the new vicar at St Luke's Church in Holmes Chapel.

Reverend McLaren was ordained in 1988, and has served as vicar of St George with St Martin, Poynton, for the past 14 years.

He is an Honorary Canon of Chester Cathedral and Vocations Adviser for the Cheadle Deanery.

Reverend McLaren will take up his new appointment as vicar at St Luke's in the late autumn "subject to all legal formalities being fulfilled."

We send our best wishes to Rob for a happy and fruitful ministry in his new surroundings. We will miss a good friend.

With acknowledgments to 'In your area'.

The funeral of **Peter Broadbent** took place at The Rowan Chapel, Stockport Crematorium on 11th June and was conducted by Rev Ros Watson.

Peter was born in Meltham, Huddersfield on 26 April 1925 and after Grammar School in his home town, attended Manchester University where he studied Engineering and graduated as a Chartered Engineer in 1968. He had a successful career designing central heating systems for many public buildings countrywide and worked first in Bristol and then later in Liverpool at the Royal Liver building. Latterly, he was employed in the Civil Service as Head of Supplies in this field in the Manchester area.

After retirement, he joined the Civil Service Retirement Fellowship Group and met Joan at one of their meetings. At that time, Joan was busily organising an imminent walk for the group of which she was a member but hadn't had time to reconnoitre and Peter, a walker himself, offered to walk the route with her in advance. A walking friendship quickly developed and soon they were walking together regularly.

When a planned group walking holiday in America fell through for lack of numbers, Peter suggested that he and Joan toured the walk together, Joan having already researched the route and places of interest in detail. It was at this time that they became formally engaged. They were married at the Baptist Church in 1993 and then after a time at Hazel Grove Methodist Church, they moved to PMC and became members here, Joan by transfer and Peter in a formal membership service.

Aside from walking, they had mutual hobbies in particular of bowls and dancing and they both enjoyed their many cruising holidays. Peter was also a keen photographer and had some very impressive photographic equipment.

A highlight of his more recent excursions was not so very far afield when about two years ago Joan's children, David & Sue took them for a day out to visit his original home in Meltham. On the way they traversed the Standedge Trans-Pennine canal tunnel through the Pennine hills at the Standedge crossing between Marsden in West Yorkshire and Diggle in Greater Manchester. Peter very much enjoyed the day which became a highlight for them all.

Peter was a regular attender at worship, not just on a Sunday but on other days as opportunities occurred. Over the years he and Joan have also attended some of the many courses and studies that PMC has run and been members of a number of groups, especially Theo Eaves' Monday morning group and Builders House Group which ran for almost 14 years until the summer of 2011. A quiet, self-effacing man, he was never one to seek the limelight and was comfortable on his own, but he would express his views in discussion and was knowledgeable and thoughtful. A loyal member of the church, we shall miss his presence among us and remember him kindly.

Peter died on 12th May 2019 from bladder cancer, aged 94 and we send our sincere condolences to Joan, Sue and David and the extended family.

Joan wishes it to be known that donations received will be shared between Cancer Research UK, Macmillan Cancer Support, St Ann's Hospice and The Christie NHS Foundation Trust. A small balance will be added to the PMC Sunday collection.

We also very much regret having to report on the death and funeral of **Helen Ives**, officially our Room Booking Secretary, but actually so much more in the life and running of our church community.

Helen, born on 11th September 1939, died on 24th May 2019 aged 79 and after a family committal, we remembered her at PMC in a service led by Rev Ros Watson with contributions from family and friends on 13th June 2019.

Muriel Clark writes:

Many of you, like me, will feel as though you have lost a very dear friend in Helen. She was a rock to so many people, with her calm and level-headed approach to problems. Helen was so loyal and would help in any way that she could. She was wonderful when my husband died, she helped to set me up for coping with life on my own.

Helen has seemed like family to me since 1985, when my son, Michael, got together with her daughter, Emma. Since then we have shared so many happy family occasions, as well as some

more challenging times. But throughout them all, Helen's calm positivity sustained us all.

Helen will be missed terribly by Poynton Methodist Church as she was an ardent worker and she volunteered in so many aspects of the smooth running of the church, with Room Bookings being her domain for many years now. She simply and quietly noticed that something needed to be done and she got on with it efficiently herself, always being pleased to help.

There will be a large hole in my life without Helen in it. It is still hard to accept that she has gone, but she will always be with us in our hearts. God Bless

Marie Moncaster writes:

Helen Ives was an amazing and very special lady.

Although I have not known Helen for very long, we very quickly forged a very special friendship. What an honour and a privilege to be able to say that I was a friend of Helen's.

It became apparent very quickly what a big part church played in Helen's life. That is not to detract from the very evident love she had for all of her family.

It has to be said that Helen was the best non-member the church has ever had. She was involved in so many parts of the life of the church. She was the 'bookings' lady. This meant that she had contact with all of groups and individuals within the community who meet here. She helped with Toddlers; helped with preparing food for the Tuesday and Thursday lunches after service; helped with Games Board Days; helped with Coffee mornings; Transport – giving lifts to those who needed it; a reader at services; participated with services at Woodlands; she was also a Pastoral Co-ordinator, Member of Property Committee and Member of Finance Committee. She even programmed the heating as and when needed! And she was our croquet hostess!

We have also had messages from two of our previous ministers:

"I remember Helen as being at all times a very generous person, humble, gentle, helpful and devoted. I am sure she will be greatly missed by those who knew her. Every blessing." **Peter Ensor**

"Terribly sad news. We loved Helen very much. Please pass our deepest sympathies to her family. I learned so much about dedication to marriage from Helen, how to make a contribution to

the church even when all objective thought would say it was too hard to find the time. She was just the best face for us with folk that wanted to book our space. God bless all her family and friends that are grieving. We share the loss with you. Peace in Christ."

John Squares

FLOWER MINISTRY



I am delighted to let you know that after numerous requests in the Herald for a new person to take over the flower distributors rota, Pat Burgess has kindly offered to do this worthwhile ministry. Pat will take over the rota at the beginning of September.

To help her with her new job, it would be very useful if anyone knows of a person who is ill, or is having a celebration, and would love to receive flowers from Church, to please write their name in the Pink Book on the notice board in the corridor at the appropriate date, and flowers will be taken to them. If, as happens sometimes, no names have appeared for the coming week, the flowers will be left in church, available for last-minute distribution.

I would like to thank the distributors for all their dedication in taking out the flowers over the past years.

For information, and this is just to let you know, I will still be doing the flower arrangers rota, and my dedicated team of arrangers are happy to continue. There are still a few spaces to be filled on the calendar over the next 6 months with celebration, birthday or memorial dates and it would be lovely to see more names written on it.

Gill Oldham or I will be very happy to receive your donations.

Sandra Townsend

CHRISTIAN AID STREET COLLECTION

I hope you have now seen on our outside notice board that our Church collected £2967.88 which is £400 more than last year. Thank you to all our collectors and those who gave so generously.

Mandy Hawkyard

Macclesfield, Cheshire

The Methodist Church 

Circuit Children & Families Co-ordinator

Salary up to £23,676 p.a.

Full time (40 Hrs p/wk)

(funding secured for initial 3yr period)

An exciting opportunity to lead our Children & Families Ministry across the Macclesfield Circuit, working with families, volunteers & schools

We are looking for an enthusiastic and experienced individual to join our Circuit Staff Team as Co-ordinator for our Children & Families Ministry.

The role involves encouraging and equipping local churches across the circuit in our work with families (children & parents/carers) in and outside of the churches. The role is based at Macclesfield Methodist Church, and involves working across the circuit.

For further information and application form contact:

macclesfieldcircuit@gmail.com

(Charity reg: 1145485)

Closing Date for Applications: FRIDAY 5th JULY 5pm

Interviews: WEDNESDAY 17th JULY

Preferred Start Date: 1st September 2019

We are an equal opportunities employer. It is a genuine occupation requirement that the successful applicants are committed Christians.

GENERAL CHURCH MEETING

The General Church Meeting will be held on Sunday 14th July immediately after the morning service. Full details of this meeting were given in last month's Herald. It is hoped that as many of you as possible will attend. The meeting is not exclusive to members, although in the unlikely event of a vote being required, only members can vote. Unlike the Conservative party we don't usually have a contest for the top jobs.

If any members would like to put their names forward to serve on the Council as representatives from the Church Meeting, then please let Ros or I know before the meeting.

To recap, the service will be held 'café' style, and will begin with coffee/tea to be taken in church so that we can start promptly.

As well as dealing with essential business issues, we shall be looking at what has happened in the church over the last year, and looking forward to the coming year in what is called in Methodism "a conversation about the work of God."

After the 'business' end of the meeting we shall break for lunch about 12.15pm. This will be a baked potato meal with desert, and a sign-up sheet will be available in church for you to express your choice of filling for your potato. As there will be no morning service on the previous Sunday (circuit service at Hazel Grove for John Payne's farewell), hopefully details will have appeared in the notices before then.

After lunch there will be a presentation about Fairtrade, and then our conversation about the work of God, looking to the future, as well as celebrating what we have achieved.

The meeting should end by 2.00pm.

Stewart Bradley Church Council Secretary

PROPERTY UPDATE

- * Repair to the emergency lamp over fire door in hall.
- * Gents w.c. blocked and now rodded clear.
- * Door restraint fitted to lobby area cupboard near main entrance.
- * Large floor indentation repaired in the large corridor adjacent to the end single door church entry point.
- * Post cage fitted to main door letterbox. This is for postal security and to facilitate the new room bookings arrangements for the security of returned keys.
- * New side inlet valve fitted to the toilet cistern in the Church gents w.c. to cure the recently developed water overflow.

CHURCH PUBLIC AREAS FLOOR REPAIRS

We, (in house), will be carrying out some repairs to the lobby floor adjacent to the main entry doors into the worship area. This is scheduled for the 10th July and will be over an area of about 7' x 14'. It may take 2 – 4 days as we have to allow drying time for cement etc. This is necessary as an uneven area has appeared in the floor which is affecting the opening of the folding glass doors. Access to the church will be via the single door at the end of the large corridor. The old carpet will then be temporarily re-laid. We will also be setting a date in the near future for all the public areas, viz; lobby, small corridor and large corridor to have new carpet tiles laid. We will announce the date through Church notices and it will be well signed when this work commences.

HELEN IVES

Helen was a long-term member of the Property Committee. She was effective, reliable and always supportive of the committee's activities. Her input, from room bookings to the many and varied property issues arising will be sadly missed by us all, in addition to her humour and all her other personal qualities.

Derek Garner for PMC Property Committee

LADIES' FELLOWSHIP

A.G.M. Thursday. 16th May. 2019

Our meeting was chaired by Rev Ros Watson, who welcomed everyone before leading us in our devotions. A special prayer was said for Joan Broadbent and family on the passing of her husband. Peter. Our first hymn was No. 313. "Thine Be the Glory" and the reading was 1 John chapter 4 verses 7-12.

There were 24 members present.

Apologies were received from: Joyce Deighton. Rowena Thorp. Rita Drew. Margaret Wilson. Isobel Stanbra and Marie Moncaster.

Reports were given by the committee members, and these will be kept on file.

Marjorie Harrop thanked all the committee members on behalf of the members for the excellent programme, and for all the hard work that goes on behind the scenes for smooth running evenings.

Election of Officers.

The existing committee members had agreed to serve for the year 2019/2020, if elected by the members of the Ladies' Fellowship. This was seconded by Brenda Oakley and unanimously approved by the Meeting.

A.O.B.

Rev. Ros Watson was invited to be our President, and we were delighted that she accepted this position.

Subs will not be increased for the year September/December 2019 – January/May 2020, remaining at £3 per meeting.

Charity for the year

Several charities were suggested and after lengthy discussion, it was decided that 'Open Hands' would be our charity for the next 12 months.

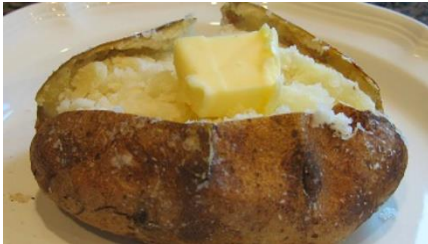
Because a number of our ladies have problems hearing the speaker, it was decided that when the confirmation to the speaker was sent, we would let them know that it would be necessary to use a microphone.

Our last hymn was No. 418. "We have a Gospel." Finally, we shared The Grace together.

Sandra Townsend

SUNDAY LUNCHE\$

July's lunch is now on Sunday 14th July when we are also holding our GENERAL CHURCH MEETING.



The group of people attending Helen and Catharine's study group – "3 cubed" have been looking at the fair-trade movement and were given a challenge. Could they provide this lunch of baked potatoes and a sweet using **locally sourced**

food, food with a **fair-trade label** or a **rain forest alliance logo**?

Come and see if they succeeded. There is a list for you to sign on the notice board – we need to know how many potatoes to cook! We ask for donations on the day towards the cost of the food. Any extra money will go to Church funds.

Mandy Hawkyard

NORMANDY 2019 D DAY COMMEMORATIONS

At the beginning of June, Theo Eaves travelled to France with the Stockport & District Normandy Veterans Association to take part in the D Day Commemorations. Here is a record of his notes for The Herald about his trip:

Sunday 2 June We travelled to the La Rosiere Hotel at Arromanches.

Monday 3 June In the morning we visited the American cemetery at Omaha Beach. In the afternoon we drove down to the beach and I was given a ride in a jeep with some Belgians up to a bunker on a hill overlooking the beach. We had a picnic meal in the evening.

Tuesday 4 June In the morning we held a ceremony at the CWGC cemetery, Hermanville for John Mc Hugh [brother of Tess Mc Hugh who was also in attendance} This was followed by a ceremony at Hermanville memorial for the British Navy. I was honoured to conduct the services. In the afternoon we travelled to CWGC to pay our respects to Lieutenant Gordon Royle on behalf of his sister and niece (Pam Royle). This was followed by a service at B3 airfield at Saint Croix sur Mer where we had refreshments in the village hall. This has a RAF Memorial, and we were joined here for the service by local dignitaries and laid a wreath in memory of our RAF Veterans. The airfield was constructed by Royal Engineers just after D Day. It was to be officially opened on 10 June by Air Vice Marshall Harry Broadhurst, but a damaged Typhoon of 24 Squadron arrived instead and claimed that historic moment.

On 23 July 1944 Winston Churchill paid a morale raising visit to Saint Croix de Mer and visited troops in the area.

Wednesday 5 June Spirit of Normandy Trust service at Colleville Montgomery. This was followed by a service of remembrance for Alfred Barlow at Hermanville. Alfred was one of our Stockport Normandy Veterans who was coming to Normandy with us, but died recently. Yannick, a former Mayor of Hermanville, an old friend of our Association, gave us lunch at his home.

Thursday 6 June (D Day) We spent the day at Arromanches, ending in a service outside the Museum. Here I laid a wreath and later met

a WRAF Group Captain (Top Brass indeed), a very charming lady, and we enjoyed our chat. Our evening meal was at the Gites, a hotel where other members of our group were staying.

Friday 7 June We travelled to Verses-sur-Mer and visited the museum, following this by visiting a new memorial. This was opened by President Macron and Prime Minister May. Here, I had my photograph taken with the Army Logistical Corps, in a field of poppies. In the afternoon we visited Jerusalem CWGC cemetery and went on to visit Bayeux Cathedral.

Saturday 8 June Travelled home, but not without some excitement – the Car Ferry broke down in mid-channel, and wallowed around in a storm for about an hour and a half before the engines were fixed. It was a memorable trip. Sadness, as I remember so many comrades who died or were terribly injured, but compensated by the joy and love given by the French people, for with every step I had lovely folk of all ages coming up and saying 'Thank you' for what you did.

It was delightful to receive many kisses on both cheeks, and hugs. (I believe the French can teach us something here?)

My special thanks to Judy Gibbons for turning my eighty-year-old schoolboy French into something understandable, and to those of you I know were praying for me.

For me, it really was a wonderful visit, and I thank the Stockport Normandy Veterans for having me along.

May God truly bless you all, my friends.

Theo Eaves

The following two pages contain photographs of some of these events. The first is taken from a newspaper and the others have been taken from paper copies. Apologies for the quality – we could not obtain the original files in time for publication.

We regret to say that Theo has subsequently been taken ill and is in Stepping Hill hospital. We offer him our prayerful support for a good recovery from his current incapacity.

SEEN IN A FRENCH NEWSPAPER



Réservé
aux abonnés

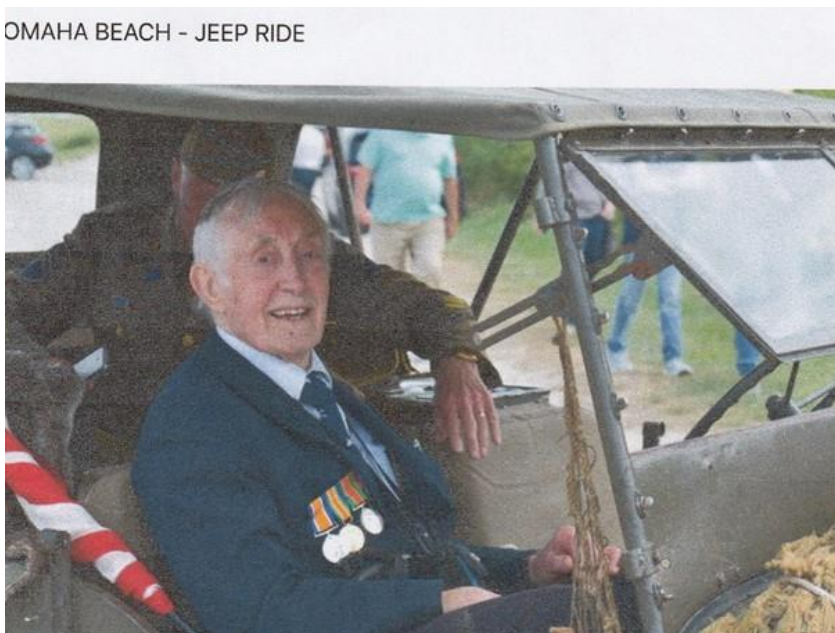
75e anniversaire du Débarquement. Le vétéran Theo Eaves invité d'honneur à Sainte-Croix-sur-Mer

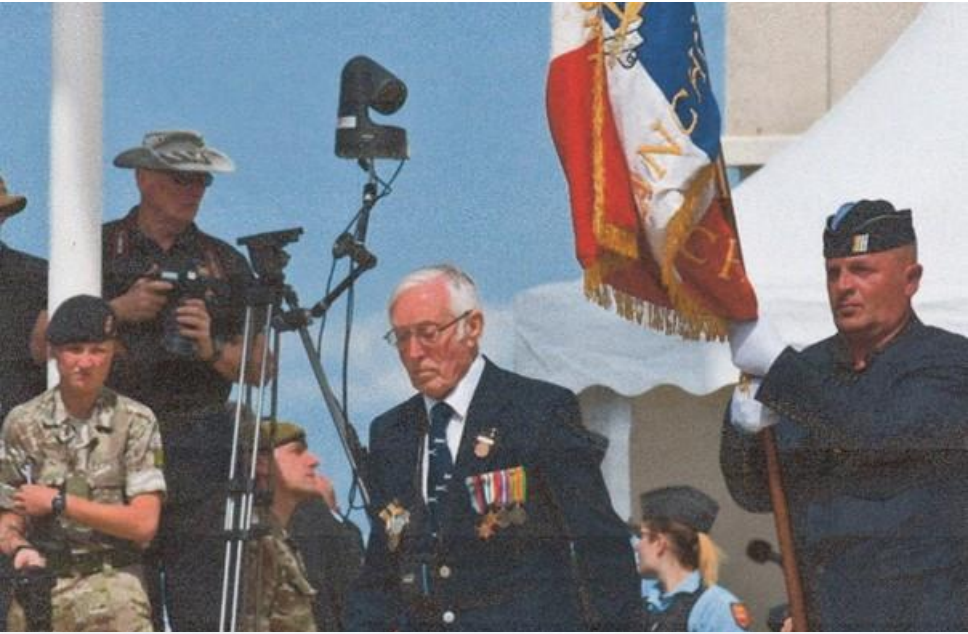


À la stèle de l'ancien aérodrome B3, une cérémonie a salué, mardi après-midi, la mémoire des aviateurs de la Royal Air Force. | OUEST-FRANCE

Ouest-France Modifié le 05/06/2019 à 18h31 Publié le 05/06/2019 à 16h00

OMAHA BEACH - JEEP RIDE





GROUP CAPTAIN





D-DAY PARADE ARROMANCHES



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

READY TO HELP

The visit of Joseph recently to show us his wheels reminded me of another family who came to our church asking for our support. I can't believe how long ago it was! In the summer of 2010, the Leese family from Poynton Baptist Church came to see us to say that they were going to live in Mostar in Bosnia-Herzegovina to work with the charity Novi Most International.

Novi Most is pioneering youth work in Bosnia and Herzegovina. In a country too often divided along ethnic lines, an important aspect of this is providing young people with new opportunities and activities regardless of their ethnic or religious background. The team of international volunteers and local workers equip young people to face their futures with hope and confidence in an environment which encourages creative skills that is not often found within the local education system.

Alan had previously been there and taken teams of young people in the summer (including James Ding) but as a family, they felt called to move there permanently and did just that in September 2010. Recently, Gabrielle has been selected for the GB handball team.

As a church, we promised to support them in prayer and we have continued to do that. Often, we used to pray for them in Sunday services (their name is on the church prayer list), but mostly these days it is the church prayer group who pray for them. It would have been lovely if they could have fitted in a visit to us when they came to Poynton at the end of June, but they were not here for long and obviously on the Sunday morning they were at the Baptist church.

Isn't it a privilege to support other brothers and sisters in Christ in prayer?

Hilary Parry

News from Christian Aid in Haiti

STOP PRESS SO EXCITING!! These are the two houses underway! Please share with the Poynton Congregation!!! So thrilled! You are making such a difference. Jude Limb



Their present house.

The future!



**Please continue to
pray for all the work
in Haiti**

“THEN LET ALL THE TREES OF THE FOREST SHOUT FOR JOY”



Forest school began in earnest last Wednesday 12th June at preschool. I began forest school training last July at Chatsworth. My training was

generously funded by a donation from Poynton Round Table. Our trainer was inspiring, and the group of educators with whom I trained were, and continue to be, enormously friendly and supportive.

We have delivered learning with a forest school, learner-led ethos for years at preschool but I am now planning and recording our sessions carefully for my Forest Schools Level 3 Leader portfolio. I have to deliver 6 sessions on consecutive weeks.

‘Wild Wednesdays’ have begun and are very ably supported by Annie Truman, the church Children and Family Worker.

We are using the wild garden, which is the strip of land between the church garden and the Community Centre car park. We have used this before and I hope to continue to develop its use for sharing and interpreting nature with children and to develop their personal and social skills, their confidence and independence and their engagement and concentration. It is hoped that these characteristics of effective learning will be foundations for achievement in all spheres and at all periods of life.

The children were able to make their own risk assessments of spiky leaves, berries, brambles and nettles; of the small pond and also of the badgers’ latrine which can be found in the garden, and which is the cause of much fascination.

I hope to report more next month.

Sarah Parker



Congratulations to our **Toddler Group** for supporting the Preschool in The Giant Wiggle, their fund raiser for **Action for Children**. They certainly enjoyed the obstacle courses, one inside and one outside!



Mandy Hawkyard

Mums, dads, grandparents and carers – all are welcome to our friendly Toddler group led by our Family Worker Annie and a group of Church volunteers including Kit, a guide dog!

We meet every Thursday in term time from 9.30am – 11.30am in Rooms 1, 2 and 3 of the church.

During the morning there is free-play, craft (often messy), a healthy snack, outdoor play using the excellent facilities of our Preschool and song-time. Baby changing facilities are available. We also provide that all-important coffee, tea and chat.

You are welcome to pop in to see us one Thursday or contact us by email.

Oh! and by the way, we are always happy to welcome volunteers to help us make the morning go with a swing!



PENTECOST at PMC

Flowers arranged by Dulcie Linnell



Anagram of SNOOZE ALARMS – ALAS NO MORE ZS.

U.S. Gravestone humour: Here lies an atheist – all dressed up and nowhere to go. (Seen in Thurmont, Maryland)

THE SEPTEMBER HERALD

Closing date for submissions will be **21st August (or earlier if possible)**. Please place articles in the Herald pigeonhole or preferably send them by e-mail to: **arnoldsamuels@btinternet.com** (marketing spam automatically deleted).

TO ALL HERALD DISTRIBUTORS

The **September** Herald will be available for you to pick up from **30th August**. There are events taking place in the first week of each new magazine and we hope that as many readers as possible receive the details in time.

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

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

Copyright

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

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

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

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

Our Minister is Rev Ros Watson. You can leave messages for her in the Minister's pigeonhole, or please call her or leave a message on 872060 or 07923044709 or via her email ros.watson@methodist.org.uk If there is no reply and there is an immediate emergency, phone Rev John Payne 0161 483 4952. Her day off is Friday. The church office is open on Tuesdays and Fridays from 9.30am until 1.30pm. For Church Notices and office queries please contact Fiona Carmichael: office@poyntonmethodist.org or 871592. Our Children and Young People's Worker, Annie Truman is often 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. (John Lunt 874099)
 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 ENQUIRIES – Church Office (by email). 14 days notice if possible.