



# THE HERALD



## The Methodist Church in Poynton

### JUNE 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.**

June 2019

**The Holy Spirit Comes at Pentecost**

*When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them. (Acts 2.1-4)*

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

On 9<sup>th</sup> June we will celebrate the coming of the promised Holy Spirit on the first disciples. This infilling enabled them to be transformed from a frightened group of followers hidden away in a secret room into bold and fearless evangelists addressing the mocking crowd with the Good News of the Gospel and ultimately to be able to spread that Good News from Jerusalem into the wider world.

The exciting thing is that this wasn't a one-off event. The Holy Spirit is available to all of us, all of the time and, through allowing Her to fill us, we too can be transformed more and more each day into Christlikeness and be strengthened so that we too can boldly proclaim the faith to a waiting world.

Jesus promised that He would not leave us alone but would send the Holy Spirit to help us and as always Jesus was good for His promise! Of course, we could have a long and interesting debate over what exactly is meant in Acts 2 by '...began to speak in other tongues...' You will have your opinion but I think perhaps we can all agree that the really important things are that everyone could understand what they were saying and that it was the Holy Spirit who enabled them to speak so effectively.

Wouldn't it be wonderful if each one of us experienced a renewing and refreshing of the Holy Spirit this Pentecost and that by relying on Her working within us and through us we too would be empowered to communicate God's love in words and actions that everyone could understand during this coming year.

This year 9<sup>th</sup> June is significant in other ways for us too. It is also Methodist Homes Sunday and coincides with the visit of the President and Vice President of Conference to our District. The Vice President, Bala Gnanapragasam, has a special interest in MHA and we have been asked to host him at our service that morning and so, along with Pentecost, we will be celebrating MHA and will be hearing from Bala on his involvement in the movement.

In addition to this it is also the culmination of Thy Kingdom Come Global Wave of Prayer. This, as hopefully you know by now, begins on Ascension Day (30<sup>th</sup> May) when we will hold an Ascension Day service and then will have many different prayer opportunities within our church and in partnership with Churches Together in Poynton throughout the following week. **The programme of events is on the next page.** We are encouraged to pray during that time specifically for five people that we know to come to faith in Jesus.

In the evening of 9<sup>th</sup> June there will be a District Service at Altrincham Methodist Church to celebrate Thy Kingdom Come.

I wonder whether as part of that service we will hear testimonies from people who have made a commitment to God during the Thy Kingdom Come. Let's pray that we will!

Every blessing

**Ros Watson**

**THY KINGDOM COME – programme of events. Please join in when you can at any of the Churches.**

<b>When</b>	<b>What</b>	<b>Organiser</b>
Thursday 30 May, 7.30pm	Ascension Day service at PMC led by Ros Watson	PMC
Saturday 1 June. Meet at 10.30am at PMC	Prayer Walk around Poynton	PMC
Sunday 2 June 6.30pm – 7.30pm	Prayer Service looking at Mission organisations who reach out into the community. Led by Les Hutchinson	St George's
Monday 3 - Saturday 8 June	Prayer Labyrinth in church, and a quiet room available for prayer	PMC
Tuesday 4 June, 12midday	Service and lunch	PMC
Thursday 6 June, 12 midday	Prayer Lunch. Please bring your own lunch	PMC
Thursday 6 June, 7am to 7pm	in the Bistro, a special prayer day culminating in the following event:	PCF
Thursday 6 June 7.45pm -9.30pm	Prayer & Presence. (Praise worship and prayer)	PCF
Friday 7 June, 7- 8pm	Prayer Journaling	St George's
Saturday 8 June	"Beacon" Prayer Event for our area 7.30pm All Saint's Church Marple.	All Saints Marple
Sunday 9th June. 7 – 8.30pm	Prayer and Worship night. Focus of prayer for Poynton and beyond	PBC

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

**SUNDAY SERVICES AT POYNTON  
IN JUNE**

Date	10.30am UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED	
2 <sup>nd</sup> June	9.00am Med	Rev Ros Watson HC
9 <sup>th</sup>	Pentecost Rev Ros Watson	
16 <sup>th</sup> Trinity	9.00am HC Rev Ros Watson	Rev John Payne Cafe Church
23 <sup>rd</sup>	Refugee Sunday Chris Hawkyard	
30 <sup>th</sup>	Conference Sunday Theo Eaves	
7 <sup>th</sup> July	9.00am Med	11.00am at Hazel Grove

**SUNDAY SERVICES AT GREEN CLOSE  
IN JUNE**

Date	2.30 pm	
2 <sup>nd</sup> June	Rev John Payne	
9 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am at Poynton Rev Ros Watson HC	
16 <sup>th</sup>	Catharine Hughes	
23 <sup>rd</sup>	Keith Tonge	
30 <sup>th</sup>	Rev Ian Coverdale	
7 <sup>th</sup> July	11.00am at Hazel Grove	

**HC Holy Communion**

<b>Woodlands MHA</b>	<b>9<sup>th</sup> June</b>	<b>11.00am</b>	<b>Alan Rashleigh</b>
	<b>30<sup>th</sup> June</b>	<b>11.00am</b>	<b>Andrew Stoker</b>

*The Spirit enables, the Gospel is spread  
The Spirit enables, through us each is fed  
The Spirit enables, each person is equal  
The Spirit enables and Peace is the sequel  
Let's pray and then work Your Kingdom to come  
That all then may find a room in Your home.*

## PRAYER



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

Midday prayers are said every weekday in the church prayer corner at 12.00 noon. There is a prayer list on the cupboard door near the front entrance. Jean Drinkwater would be happy to add your name to our rota.

## MEDITATION

There will be a time of silent meditation on the first Sunday in each month at 9.00am. After 30 minutes of reflection, we share our thoughts if we feel able. We invite you to come along to a different experience of God's presence. All are welcome. Next time it is on **2nd June**.



## WEEKDAY WORSHIP



The first Tuesday **in June is 4th**. There will be a service at noon on that day followed by a simple lunch. All are very welcome to this 30min service that caters for shoppers, passers-by and everyone who is available and wishes to take an extra opportunity to worship.

## THURSDAY COMMUNION

This is always on the **third** Thursday of the month at midday followed by a light lunch. See you there on **20th June**.



## PRAYER GROUP



Meets every Tuesday morning at 9.45am and on the third Tuesday (**18<sup>th</sup> June**) at 9.00am in the Kingfisher where we hold a prayer breakfast. This informal, welcoming group encourages you to try us out.

## AMAZING COMEBACKS

This year has seen some remarkable comebacks, hasn't it? especially in the sports arena.

First there was Tiger Woods at the age of 43 winning the Masters golf tournament in Augusta.

Then the European football matches – two remarkable comebacks in consecutive evenings. Liverpool against the mighty Barcelona, Lionel Messi and all, pulled back from 0-3 down at half time in the second leg to win 4-3 and Tottenham achieving a similar feat against the Dutch side Ajax. They were 0-1 down after the first leg at home and 0-3 down by half time in the second, away, tie. They were missing Harry Kane too. Up stepped Lucas Moura to score 2 goals but Spurs needed another and in the last second of 5 minutes extra time Lucas scored again to send them through on away goals. Ajax player threw themselves to the ground, distraught, and the Spurs manager was crying with emotion as the ref blew the final whistle.

Those supporters of Liverpool and Spurs were enthralled and rode an emotional rollercoaster. These were moments they will never forget.

I wish Christians could display the same fervour as football supporters, for Jesus made the biggest comeback of them all. After Pentecost, Peter and the other disciples were fired up by the Holy Spirit and nobody could stop them from preaching and healing in His name.

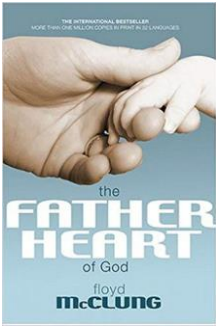
We need to do the same.

**Chris Hawkyard**

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



As it is Father's Day on 16<sup>th</sup> June, I would like to dedicate this review (a repeat of one I wrote in September 1988) to all the dads in our church family, especially those who organise "Who let the Dads out?" and those who attend.



**"The Father Heart of God"** by Floyd McClung Jr.\*  
Published by Kingsway Publications at £6.99  
(paperback). New edition 1<sup>st</sup> January 2007.

I love the picture on the front cover of the book. The tiny hand reaching out to a big, strong one portrays the contents. It is all about us coming like children to a Heavenly Father who welcomes us with open arms.

You are God's child and even now he calls your name. As a child, you may have experienced the absence of a father because of death, divorce or your parent's career. You may feel that you cannot come to God as a father and you may blame him for things that have happened. It isn't God that has failed you, but people around you.

Your Heavenly Father was there when you first walked as a child. He was there through hurts and disappointments. He is present now, at this moment. You were briefly loaned to human parents who, for a few years, were supposed to shower you with love like His love.

Some people have been taught all their lives that in order to respect God you should always address him as 'Thou'. They feel that to use



informal terms is disrespectful. The Bible teaches us to call God 'Father' when we pray and that the Father wants us to have a close, intimate relationship with him.

Developing an attitude of worship is one of the greatest keys to receiving the Father's love. Some people say that they can't worship God when they don't feel like it because that would be hypocritical. We don't worship God because of how we feel, but because of who he is. We must not be a prisoner to our feelings, so we must praise God anyway.

We must try to be honest with God about how we feel. God has given us a family. In this family, he is our Father and other forgiven people are our brothers and sisters. He delights in the coming together of his family for the celebration of the love and forgiveness he has given us. This family is the Church.

Part of this book deals with fathering others and tells us how Jesus fathered his disciples in four stages:

1. He did it and they watched.
2. He did it and they helped.
3. They did it and he helped.
4. They did it and he left.

This book really gripped me and I would like to recommend it to you.

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\*Floyd McClung Jr. was previously the senior pastor of a large, growing church in Kansas City, Missouri, and the international director of All Nations Family. He has lectured on more than 100 university campuses and travelled in more than 175 countries. An internet bookseller currently lists 40 distinct works.



In 2008 Floyd and his wife Sally relocated to Cape Town to establish an All Nations Family Africa Hub. a missional community which trains and sends church planters to serve Jesus in 35 nations. At the start of 2018, the Hub welcomed Gawie and Tersia Malherbe to be the new Hub leaders.



*“All together in one place” Acts 2:1*

MHA Sunday is a special service on which people are encouraged to reflect on the lives touched by MHA and support the valuable work being done now and into the future.

This year's theme is '**One Sunday, One Service, One Church**'.

The day coincides with Pentecost on **9<sup>th</sup> June 2019**, and will take inspiration from the biblical account of Pentecost recorded in the book of Acts when all the believers are recorded as being in 'One place'.

MHA is asking us to reflect on how our services can be more inclusive and accessible for those living with dementia and those who support them.

On MHA Sunday, your charitable generosity will help MHA provide services that make a real difference to the people they support. They rely on donations to provide:

- **Chaplaincy services** in all their care homes and retirement living schemes across England, Scotland and Wales
- 
- **Music Therapy** sessions for those living with advanced dementia
- 
- **Live at Home** schemes based in the community, enabling older people to live later life well.

## HYMNOLOGY ON A MONDAY MORNING - 42

**"Lord for the years"** Words Timothy Dudley-Smith (b 1926). Tune Michael Baughen. Timothy Dudley-Smith says "I wrote it on a train when I was very pressed for time. I'm thankful if something I write gets picked up but I suspect anyone who does something in a rush later regrets that they didn't find time to apply the sandpaper a bit more." He had no idea he could write hymns. When he was first asked by an editor to write a hymn he said "No, I can't", but he did write a poem, based on the Magnificat, now the popular hymn "Tell out my soul".

In 1967 Dudley-Smith the now retired Bishop of Thetford was asked to write a hymn for the Centenary service of the Children's Special Service Mission, now Scripture Union, at St. Paul's Cathedral. He was asked to write words that could be fitted to the tune 'Finlandia' as it would be accompanied by an orchestra who had this tune in their repertoire. Dudley-Smith wrote "Lord for the years". This must have sounded very different to today when we sing his words to the tune by Michael Baughen. Later Dudley-Smith was asked to add an extra verse for the Queen's Golden Jubilee.

Viewers saw George Carey, at his enthronement in 1991 at Canterbury walk down the cathedral surrounded by pomp and ceremony singing his favourite hymn "Lord for the years". He had chosen it for his previous enthronement as Bishop of Bath and Wells.

He had humble beginnings as the son of a hospital porter. In his first sermon as Archbishop he said "The church is light years away from many of the people that I grew up with. Woe to us if we preach religion instead of the gospel - that earthed gospel that takes us directly into the market place of the world.

Dudley-Smith admits he is totally unmusical but with Michael Boughen's music the hymn has become one of our nation's favourites.

**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**

# SAME-SEX MARRIAGE: A CONVERSATION

## REMAINING FAITHFUL Marriage & Methodism



The idea of pursuing a conversation about 'Same-sex Marriage' germinated from a brief discussion during 'Mosaic Church'. On that occasion, we had a look at a leaflet – 'Remaining Faithful: Marriage and Methodism' – published by Methodist Evangelicals Together. The leaflet had the following statements printed on the front cover:

'The Methodist Church in Britain is considering redefining marriage to include same-sex partners. Discussions are already taking place, and decisions are due to be made at the Methodist Conference 2020.'

'This leaflet outlines reasons for retaining the present definition of marriage, which states: ***The Methodist Church believes that marriage is a gift of God and that it is God's intention that marriage should be a life-long union in body, mind and spirit of one man and one woman.*** [Standing Order 011A (1)]

During our eight hours of conversation, spread over three evenings, we considered many different articles from many different sources – not least, from Scripture – and we tried to improve our knowledge and understanding of the different sexual identities that exist in this modern age.

The interpretations of Scripture (commentaries) that were available to the group, may be considered, by some, to be dated and not completely appropriate for the modern era.

Rather than try to give you a diarised account of our evening conversations, I offer a number of quotations for you to consider:

'...accepting same-sex marriage, so far from threatening the Christian doctrine of marriage, is necessary to defend and validate it in the present day. Being truly faithful to scripture and tradition means grasping that scripture and tradition themselves are the record of constant change, and so compel us continually to reassess and

reapply their teaching in the light of new knowledge.’ (‘Sexuality – The Inclusive Church Resource.’ – Susannah Cornwall)

‘...some admit that the Bible has no room for homosexual practices, others move heaven and earth to show that scriptural teaching can be accommodated to permit loving gay relationships between consenting adults. (Methodist Evangelicals Together: ‘Homosexual Practices – Revd John Job 2004).

‘We believe in inclusive Church – Church which does not discriminate on any level, on grounds of economic power, gender, mental health, physical ability, race or sexuality. We believe in Church which welcomes and serves all people in the name of Jesus Christ; which is scripturally faithful; which seeks to proclaim the Gospel afresh for each generation; and which, in the power of the Holy Spirit, allows all people to grasp how wide and high and long and deep is the love of Jesus Christ.’ (Inclusive Church – Educational Charity)

‘Christ welcomes everyone to his table in their humanity and their brokenness. Therefore, we invite all people, whatever their age, faith, position, or cultural, gender, or sexual identity, to participate fully in the life of the church. We acknowledge that many churches claim to welcome all, yet exclude those who identify as LGBTI+ people and those who walk with them.’ (Sanctuary Baptist Church – Victoria, Australia)

During our deliberations, we considered the experiences of a number of openly gay Christian people – all of whom had experienced unhelpful, and at times deeply hurtful, opposition from fellow Christians - you may recall the book reviews done by Hilary Parry (‘Gay Girl, Good God’ – Jackie Hill Perry) and Mandy Hawkyard (‘Undivided...’ Vicky Beeching).

Some had declared their different sexuality and decided that they should admit their attraction for people of the same sex but remain celibate in order to serve God; others declared that God had told them it was wrong to be gay and had ‘turned their lives around’; some hid their same-sex relationship but lived in fear of being ‘found out’; and Vicky Beeching decided that God loved her just as she was and had intended her to be gay – she quoted ‘Acts:10’ within her reasoning.

During our final gathering we took a look at parts of the ***Interim Report of the Methodist Church's Marriage and Relationships Task Group*** led by Revd Kenneth G Howcroft and I offer you a few snippets.

'...central to all the discussions over recent decades about the issues remitted to our task group has been the engagement with the Scriptures. Thus, the report of the Working Party on Marriage and Civil Partnerships to the 2014 Conference stated...the current argument in the Church is not over biblical authority, as such, but rather, scriptural interpretation and application.'

'A Lamp to my Feet and a Light to my Path' (a report presented to Conference in 1998) indicated that there is a range of ways in which Methodists use what is written in the Bible as a source for what they believe.

'As a task group, we have come to see that we can only proceed humbly, carefully, prayerfully, and in constant engagement with the Scriptures as we confer together to attempt to see how the principles of God's love might be embodied today.'

'We have been fascinated to see how understandings of marriage have changed through the centuries. Methodist statements and liturgies about marriage have always seen it as a gift of God, and an institution in which God's love can be identified, accepted thankfully, dedicated to God and received again overflowing with blessing. Within that framework, they have moved over the years from seeing its purpose as being mainly about procreation, or the control of powerful sexual instincts and emotions, to being mainly about companionship and mutual support.'

'We have come to see that the key aspect in all relationships is the Christ-like quality of the way in which people relate. We are minded to offer a vision for all significant relationships that they will be built on self-giving love, commitment, fidelity and loyalty, honesty, mutual respect, equality (including gender equality), and the desire for the flourishing of the other and self.'

Offering you a taste of the literature that we considered during our conversation will not give you a true reflection of the depth to which we explored. Nor will it give you a comprehensive picture of the

debate that took place. Suffice to say that all of our deliberations were underpinned by the knowledge that Jesus loves each and every person unconditionally.

Let me leave you with something to consider: 'If two people believe that Jesus is their Lord and Saviour, know that he loves them and they love him, and want their union blessed by the Methodist Church, is gender relevant?'

(The Task Group will offer their reflections to Conference this year and a decision will be made in 2020.)

**Phil Maltby**

## SUNDAY LUNCHES

Don't forget the next Sunday lunch is on 2<sup>nd</sup> June when we will have a picnic, everyone being asked to bring their own food. Drinks will be provided.

**July's lunch** is now on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> 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 **Rainforest Alliance Certified™ seal**?



Come and see if they succeeded. There will be a list for you to sign on the notice board and we ask for donations on the day towards the cost of the food. Any extra money will go to Church funds.

**Mandy Hawkyard**

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

## THANK YOU LETTERS



Many thanks to PMC for the lovely flowers sent to me on Easter Sunday. It is wonderful to know that I have such support after my second recent operation.

**Beryl Simpson**

*I would like to say a special "Thank You" for all the cards and flowers I have received recently after my stay in hospital. Ken and I felt wonderfully supported by your love and prayers.*

**Margaret & Ken Wilson**

## CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

**Happy Birthday** to Grace Woodhouse, who will be 7 on 12<sup>th</sup> June.

**We regret** to report the death of Peter Broadbent on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> May and send our sympathy and sincere condolences to Joan and the family.

### **Home from Kenya**

I am pleased to be able to report that I arrived back safely in UK last Saturday (28<sup>th</sup> April), and have made good progress during the past week in acquiring a car, a house, and many other things. However, I am still living out of suitcases at Sarum College in Salisbury, where I am a B & B guest: about half of my goods (mostly books) are coming by ship from Kenya, and the other half (mostly furniture) are still in store in Sheffield (where I put them in 2013, when I left Cliff College)! Hopefully all will be under one roof again around the end of July.

With best wishes,

**Peter Ensor**



## Greetings from Hartford

We so enjoy reading all the PMC news in The Herald. I still really miss PMC and all the familiar faces.

We enjoy preaching in some of the many local Methodist church and it feels like coming home. Most are really struggling with small, elderly congregations and I fear for their future.

We love our new home and the many lovely people we have been so lucky to share the complex with. We share many fun social activities such as recently the Easter egg hunt and great afternoon tea. The area is proving to be far more interesting than we imagined and it is great because most of the walks are on the flat!

We are keeping well except for a really bad asthma attack a few weeks ago but I am back to normal now. We are still enjoying going to Wales as often and for as long as we can, dashing back for various church and other appointments.

We all need to make the most of each day and enjoy ourselves whilst we can. I can highly recommend this way of life.

**Dianne and David Jones**

## A message from Australia

Thank you for my latest Herald. I do appreciate you taking the trouble. It is always interesting. I am now preparing to come home since my application to extend my visa was rejected. I am still trying once more since I would like to remain here until my son has his operation but it doesn't seem likely.

Regards

**Evelyn Shepherd**



**Creative Church Notice Board**

## LADIES' FELLOWSHIP

Well here we are at the end of our session; I believe our last talk was a very good meeting when Janet Bradshaw entertained us with "Sweet Memories" on **2<sup>nd</sup> May** – and there were goodie bags!

By the time you read this we will also have had our A.G.M. led by the Rev. Ros Watson, on 16<sup>th</sup> May, a report of which will appear in the July/August Herald.

On the **20th June** we shall be having our usual Social evening with a faith supper, and then at the beginning of September we start our session for 2019/2020.

Please come along as we restart and share our fellowship; you will be made very welcome.

**Sandra Townsend**

## FLOWER MINISTRY

Here is the rota for flower distributors. It is just for August and the first week in September, which is as far as it goes at present:

### August

4 <sup>th</sup>	H Clare & M Moncaster
11 <sup>th</sup>	M Wilson & C Clarke
18 <sup>th</sup>	L Baker & B Whittaker
25 <sup>th</sup>	P & M Burgess

### September

1 <sup>st</sup>	D Reid & E Bottrill
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**Sandra Townsend**

## GOING, GOING, NEARLY GONE!!

*In the February issue of the Herald, Sandra Townsend and I wrote about the need for some additional support within the Flower Ministry, and with particular respect to the distribution of flowers. This in fact followed an appeal previously made last November: neither appeal has brought any response.*

The fact is that the latest rota for flower distribution runs out at the end of September. If nobody can be found to assist with the organising of future rotas, then the current practice of getting flowers out to deserving people Sunday by Sunday will have to stop. Most of us will know that Sandra has devoted much time to Flower Ministry over many years: but she feels she needs now to step down from this aspect of it. Clearly, she is saddened by this possible outcome, but hastens to stress the following:

- a) there is still a sufficiency of people ready and willing to provide flowers throughout the year
- b) the church will therefore continue to be decorated week by week via our team of flower arrangers
- c) with no formal rota for flower distribution, the flowers will be left in church after Sunday services
- d) however, there is nothing to prevent anyone who wishes to take flowers out from so doing, since a sufficient supply of wrapping paper and labels will be made available for such purposes.

With Sandra's agreement, I include some of her own feelings:

"I am very sorry that this part of the Flower Ministry has to close, but our flower arrangers will always be putting flowers in church each week.

I would like to thank the flower distributors for their dedication in giving out the flowers: but, like with any rota, there have been times when the flower distributors have not turned up, so then the onus is put on other people who are in church to carry out this duty.

So, once again, I offer my grateful thanks to all who have been – and still are – involved with this good work."

Is anyone prepared to assist, please?

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

(on behalf of the Pastoral and Flower Ministry teams)

## BOOKING ROOMS AT PMC

For many years Helen Ives has been the person to contact to book rooms for our own events and for the wider community. As many of you know, Helen is not too well at the moment and she has decided that it would be a good time to change the existing arrangements. As with many things in Church we think that they just happen but it is the hard work by a person or small group which makes "it" happen, not a fairy with a magic wand. Once we looked at what was needed, it became very clear how efficient the booking system has been and how hard it will be to introduce changes.

Thanks must be expressed to Hilary King who has liaised with Helen, and is working with our secretary, Fiona Carmichael, to ensure a smooth transition. We are grateful too to Fiona who has agreed to add bookings to her list of regular tasks in the office. This can only be a success if we all respect and understand that there is a lot to do. There may be times when Fiona is in the Office but not available immediately to respond to us if we drop in. She also cannot arrange bookings when you see her outside her working hours.

Helen always asked for 14 days' notice if possible, for room bookings, and that is still what is needed. Contact for a booking should be made to our Church office by email if possible. The office email address is **office@poyntonmethodist.org**

We have made contact with our regular room users to let them know that they now need to contact the office. We have asked that they check that dates they think they have in the diary are indeed recorded. If you are a regular user and have not been contacted please let the office know, preferably by email, what your arrangements are so Fiona can check.

So what to do to book a room?

- Email the office, or telephone if that is not possible, preferably not less than 14 days before the event.
- Give details of requirements including the room or rooms needed, the date and accurate timing of the event.
- Make sure that there are contact details with the name of the responsible person, email and phone number.

- Confirmation of the booking from the office will give details of the charge (if applicable) and there will be forms, including safeguarding requirements (if applicable), which must be completed before keys can be handed over.

If you are not a church key holder, a key can be collected from the office on Tuesday or Friday mornings between 9.30am and 1.30pm. If it is not possible to collect a key in the week, the Number 1 Steward on Sunday morning can hand over a key before 10.15am and after 11.45pm but not in between those times when we are at worship.

No key will be released without completed forms and payment, or agreement with a member of the Finance Team for payment directly to the PMC account. On collection of the key an envelope addressed to Fiona will be given so that the key can be returned by delivery to the office or by posting through the church letterbox.

I appreciate that this may seem complicated but it is no more so than previous arrangements. The system for collection and return of keys is the only major change.

Please help us to make this work. Thank you.

**Judy Gibbons**

## ANNUAL CHURCH MEETING

Please make a note in your diaries for Sunday 14th July. That's the date of the Annual Church Meeting. It's a celebration of our life together, looking at the past year and praising God for all that He has done, and looking forward to the next year's journey with Him.

There is also important business to discuss, including the election of officers, including Church Council, and new Stewards (we hope). We also look at the finances, as by then we will have a better picture of the financial position for this year.

As well as being a business meeting, let's see it as more of a family party/celebration. After the morning service, we'll start the meeting over coffee, share a baked potato lunch, and finish the meeting over pudding and coffee in the hall. We should be finished by 2.00pm.

**Stewart Bradley** Church Council Secretary

## A “THANK YOU” TO REV JOHN PAYNE

Following the departure of “Little John” (Wiseman) to pastures new in Sherwood Forest, the congregation at Green Close were concerned as to how we would cope without a minister for six months.

We need not have worried, as Rev John Payne looked after our interests and chaired the Church Council meetings and the Green Close Management Committee meetings – and ensured we were all kept up to date.

To undertake these additional duties whilst already having a full diary would not have been easy and the Green Close members are extremely grateful for the help and support John has given us.

We would like to take this opportunity to say “thank you” to him for his hard work during this period and wish him and Anne a long and happy retirement.

**Green Close Stewards**

## – AND FROM PMC

Over the last twelve months Rev. John Payne has been very involved in the church life at Poynton as he helped us cover our services, meetings and pastoral care until Ros arrived. This was an extra work load for him at the end of his ministry and although Hazel Grove and Poynton are part of the same circuit, working together has given us a greater insight into our relationship both socially and professionally and we feel very blessed.

John and Anne are about to retire to the Welsh coast for a well-earned retirement and we wish them both all the best – may they recharge their batteries and enjoy a more restful way of life. It is well-earned.

**PMC Stewards**

**Circuit Farewell Service 11.00am at Hazel Grove 7<sup>th</sup> July**

Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> June



## Alone in Berlin

7.30pm in ROOM 3

Based on a true story starring Emma Thompson. After the death of their only son during World War II an elderly couple who are acting alone become part of the German Resistance. It can be surprising what a difference small acts make ....

Minimum donations of £1 are gratefully received

# Poynton Board Game Evening

The **Methodist Church**   
in Poynton

For families and friends...

Tea, coffee, cake and

All sorts of different games

Lots of new games and plenty of meeples

From 7 - 10 pm on Saturday 22 June



**22 June 2019**

## PARTICIPATION IS ABOUT EVERYONE



I recently attended a training workshop which focussed on encouraging local churches to hear the voice of children and young people and to allow this voice to have an impact on decision making and planning.

I was challenged to consider the views of the children and their carers in the groups that I run, something that I admit I am not always that good at. Yet in order to feel truly part of something we all need to feel that our opinions are valued and will be taken into account. That way we have an investment in the success of the group.

The Methodist conference participation strategy 2007 states that "Participation is about everyone" and is "the next step towards a true understanding of inclusive Church."

I will leave you with this illustration:

The hot air balloon represents a church in which everyone participates.

- The basket: Who needs to be on board for this balloon to fly?
- However, it is unable to fly if it is tethered to the ground. What are the things that hold us back?
- The balloon: What things need to be put in place for it to take off?

So, in PMC, can we make this balloon fly?

**Annie Truman**



## ALL ABOARD!!

The race across the desert from Aswan began at 3.30am in pitch darkness except for the headlights of about 100 assorted vehicles – lorries, coaches, taxis and hire cars – snaking along a tarmac road laid, it seemed, on top of the sand. Armed soldiers were much in evidence but we were not troubled except for the occasional check-point at which our harmlessness was confirmed.

We were en route to Abu Simbel to see those wonderful sights, the Temple of Ramses II and then that of his Queen Nefertari and marvel at the engineering feat that had been responsible for relocating them both block by block from their original Island in the Nile, to adjacent higher ground when Lake Nasser built up in front of the Aswan High Dam and flooded that region of Nubia.

A spectacular dawn broke as we travelled and soon, dozens of colourful hot air balloons carrying tourists enjoying a different experience ascended majestically into the clear blue sky. I recalled that scene instantly as I read Annie's article on the theme of 'Participation' which appears on the previous page.

Coincidentally, there are other articles this month bearing on the same theme: Helen Holmes writes about what we can do to support Fair Trade (p 33); John Turner et al describe the possible discontinuance of the important – some would say vital – ministry of flower distribution (p 19); Stewart Bradley et al report on agonising discussions about Preschool and the part it plays in the mission and witness of this church here in Poynton which, along with our worship and our Christian Fellowship are the only reasons we exist in this time and place (pp 28-31); Ros talks about the Holy Spirit empowering (**us all**) to communicate God's love in (**our**) words and actions (pp 2-3); Chris Hawkyard wishes for us to display the same fervour as football supporters (p 7); Mandy Hawkyard expresses thanks for the participation of her army of volunteers who collect house-to-house for Christian Aid (p 35).

We sing with enthusiasm 'I am the church, you are the church, we are the church together' but it's not just a song with a clever lyric and a catchy tune. We really are!

Coming back to Annie's hot air balloon and the dozens Lorna and I saw on that unforgettable morning, Annie posed three questions which could equally well be posed in those other articles to which I referred. So, we have a number of different balloons to fly.

We also have the following to consider:

First, in an ideal situation, each balloon would have its own crew, but we have a limited number of crew members. However, not all the balloons need to be in the sky at the same time so some or all of us can be members of more than one balloon crew.

Second, we all have different attributes such as time, physical capacity, preferred interests, family considerations, that might make us more suitable to fly one type of balloon rather than another.

Third, we might enthusiastically or through a sense of duty volunteer for too many balloon crews and end up dashing from one flight to another and doing nothing as effectively as is necessary.

One thing is for certain: we all of us need to be crew members in one way or another and to some extent or another, bearing in mind our individual capabilities.

As members of the congregation of Christ's flock in Poynton, we must therefore pull our weight without feeling guilty about what we cannot do. (It's another version of the Widow's mite.)

To paraphrase Annie:

Do you need to be on board a particular basket to enable a particular balloon to fly?

What is tethering you to the ground and stopping the balloon from flying?

Without overburdening yourself, can you be in the basket of one balloon and at a different time be a member of the groundcrew for another?

**Arnold Samuels**

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

## CHURCH SOLAR PROJECT

I have produced the table below to show how the project is progressing. At the outset the church contributed £9,000 and church members a similar amount so the church contribution was repaid after 2.5 years.

Date	Meter kWh	FIT + Export £	Electricity saved £ approx.	FIT rate p/kWh	Export rate p/kWh
21/02/2012	0			37.8	3.1
21/02/2013	8487	3,486	407	40.83	3.2
21/02/2014	17439	3788	447	41.93	3.39
20/02/2015	26299	3852	487	42.6	3.44
21/02/2016	35237	3952	491	43.11	3.48
21/02/2017	44215	4020	493	44.19	3.57
21/02/2018	52502	3800	538	46.0	3.72
19/02/2019	61782	4419	614	Not yet	available

**Note** our electricity contract changes on 1<sup>st</sup> July but the FIT and export rates change on 1<sup>st</sup> April so electricity saved is an approximation.

The data for the power generated indicates that the performance of the panels is not falling away so far. The income from the FIT and export payments goes up each year in line with the rate of inflation. 10% of the FIT/export income is given to charities for those experiencing fuel or food poverty.

**Chris Hawkyard**

## THE PRESCHOOL – OR OUR PRESCHOOL!



For many of us, Preschool may just be something that happens each day in term time in our Church Hall. If we happen to be in the vicinity at certain times of day, we may see young children going in or out with parents or grandparents. On fine days we may even hear them playing outside. But other than that, do we ever stop to think about the work that goes on there, or consider it part of our social or Christian responsibility?

Have we stopped to look at the signage on the Hall? It says “Poynton Methodist Preschool Centre”. It is run under the auspices of the Church – our Church, and as such we have responsibility for it. Members of the Church Council have responsibility for its governance and financial viability.

Our preschool has been running since 1982, not far short of 40 years. It has enjoyed success and has cared for many children over these years, working in partnership with parents to provide a solid foundation for life and for learning.

During the five and a half years that Sarah Parker has been the Leader of the Preschool, she and her staff have worked very hard to maintain its high reputation as a nurturing and family orientated setting, with a child-centred approach that puts a great emphasis on personal and social education, fostering confidence, kindness, respect and self-respect. It was graded ‘Good’ by Ofsted in March 2014 and then ‘Outstanding’ in March 2018.

Sarah gave an informative report to Council explaining why we should support Preschool, and the special place it has in the educational and social needs of young children in Poynton. The problems it faced were also highlighted and discussed. More details are to be found in the minutes of that meeting on the notice board in the small corridor. If you have computer access, and would like a full copy sent to your computer or tablet, email Stewart Bradley on



**ldb.snb@bradleymail.co.uk** You may also want to look at The Preschool Facebook page (you don't need to be a member of Facebook to do that – simply Google “Poynton Methodist Preschool”, and a link to the page will come up.) There are some fantastic photos showing the facilities and the children.

For the last year, the future of the Preschool has featured regularly on the Church Council agenda. In the year to the end of August 2018 the Church Council made a contribution of £6,000 to clear the deficit between expenditure and income, with the remainder of that deficit covered by Preschool's own reserves.

This caused the Church Council to question the viability of Preschool and the sustainability of continuing its support. Paramount among its considerations was the dilemma resulting from the conviction that the church community ought to see Preschool as part of the Church's mission in the community in which we should all be involved, but on the other hand, the Church Council has a responsibility to ensure that it does not endanger the general mission of the Methodist church in Poynton by putting money into what is potentially a black hole.

Preschool suffered from the effects of a large number of children leaving in July 2017 in order to start school and also from continuing competition from the preschools in Poynton that are on the site of primary schools. Parents often preferred these alternatives for perceived ease of entry to the primary school and for ease of pick-ups and drop-offs of siblings. The deficit resulted from a large drop in numbers in September 2017 that had left it struggling financially at the end of the academic year 2017/18.

Since then the Preschool team has worked extremely hard to turn around the situation and justify the support of Church Council. Thus, at the special meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> April this year, the Treasurer was able to report a much healthier position, with a projected deficit of

just over £4,000 of which £3100 has already been met by the Church. At that special meeting Council had to decide whether to continue financial support for the Preschool into the next financial year. Council was advised that there is great optimism for the future of the Pre-school, both in terms of numbers of children, and also in improved finances. However higher numbers of children bring their own problems, in that higher staff ratios are required for younger children, and government hourly rates for children entitled to free child care are seriously inadequate.

The challenge is obviously to continue to increase the number of children; however further challenges that we face are a chronic and severe under-funding for 3-year-olds, as Government funding has just not kept pace with inflation, combined with a high wage bill. As a socially conscientious employer, the Methodist Church does not pay below the living wage of £9.00 per hour. This can place PMC Preschool at a financial disadvantage with some other preschools. After seeking advice, Preschool has been pursuing measures to trade out of the deficit, including extending the hours that it is open, offering holiday care, and lowering the age from which children are taken in order to attract and provide a high quality and flexible service for working parents.

Numbers are now really increasing. There will be 30 this term compared to 16 this time last year. There is an up-to-date website, which publicises the 'Outstanding' grade. This has contributed to an increase in the number of enquiries and bookings, augmenting Preschool's great reputation and the important word of mouth recommendations from parents and professionals. There is still a small deficit – as numbers increase, so does the wage bill, but at a slower rate and Church Council has agreed continuing support for another year.



The Preschool is a vibrant setting, buzzing with activity and a lovely happy atmosphere. Sarah invites you to visit and see for yourself the work being done.

The ethos of the Preschool is a strong belief in the value of its educational and spiritual strength and in its purpose to enhance the life opportunities of all the families who join us. Sarah has worked with a number of disadvantaged families during her years here and is very proud that PMC Preschool is the nursery that health visitors and social workers recommend to parents who are in need of extra help. This whole-hearted belief and its outworking constitute the reason for the support of Church Council.

But our involvement should not end there. We will be exploring ways that the Church can be more involved. We see such involvement and support as an important part of our mission and service here in Poynton. The one thing that we can all do is PRAY!

- Pray for the staff who are so dedicated in providing not only the best preschool education (as evidenced by a brilliant OFSTED “Outstanding Report”) but also care for the “whole child” to assist their future development, rather than just educational attainment.
- Pray for the children as they grow and develop in OUR care.
- Pray for their families, some of which may find themselves in need of extra input and support.

Can **we all** also tell everyone we meet about the wonderful work our Preschool is doing, support all their fundraising activities (not just giving, but **helping!**) and by letting everyone we know with children coming up to Preschool age just how special ours is!



Over the next few weeks we shall be exploring other ways in which we, the body of the Church, can help and become involved in making the Preschool “OUR” Preschool (and perhaps you may even think of it as “YOUR” Preschool.)

**Stewart Bradley. Sarah Parker and Jane Robson**

## A HOUSE FOR PRESCHOOL

### The house for Haiti lives on!



Sarah reports, "The children really enjoy and make good use of the house. They have been builders, climbing up and repairing the roof with tools. They have helped Julie 'point' the construction with tape so that it is more than a temporary structure. They love to play picnics and sleep-overs in there, with lots of loud laughter.

Others use it as a quiet and cosy refuge to be on one's own or play

a quiet game."

Good news from our Preschool – we now have 30 children on role.

We offer high quality, nurturing education and childcare which follows the needs and interests of the individual. We aim to foster happy and confident learners and thinkers.

We use the Early Years Foundation Stage as a framework for our observations, planning, teaching and assessment.

Our indoor and outdoor environment is spacious and welcoming with areas and activities set out to inspire curiosity, involvement and enjoyment.

Please remember the staff and children in your prayers. We provide a real service to our community through them.

**Mandy Hawkyard**





## 3-CUBED'S FAIRTRADE CHALLENGE!



As some of you may have heard, Catharine and I recently started a new housegroup called 3-cubed. The idea behind this group is that we spend three sessions on one topic – the first to have a discussion and Bible study, the second to plan actions and the third to talk about how our challenges have gone.

Between sessions one and two, we have taken on a challenge/series of challenges to further our support for Fairtrade.

We discussed how important Fairtrade is, and were inspired by several Bible quotes, one of which is "Speak for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute. Speak and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy." (Proverbs 31.8-9).

One thing we discussed was that by making changes that might seem incredibly small to us, we can help to further someone's community in a developing country. Fairtrade, as opposed to Rainforest Alliance or similar organisations, focuses on not only fair prices, but also community development. We therefore thought that it was very much in the interests of the church to try to take action to aid such issues. We challenged ourselves as a group to bring the idea of being a Fairtrade Church to Ros, which we hope in time will be taken to Church Council. We also set ourselves individual challenges.

We run a traffic lights system in 3-cubed, with easier challenges being green, mid-level challenges being amber and hard challenges being red. We have challenged ourselves to complete one challenge at each level. We will then meet for our third session to chat about how they have gone.

So.... Why not try out some of our challenges in your spare time?? Below is a selection of challenges we made for ourselves. The green ones could certainly be a nice small change to make, and together we really can make a difference! Let's TAKE ACTION!



## Challenge Ideas



**Green**- change your tea or coffee brand for a Fairtrade one. Try a Fairtrade wine. Check the H&M 'Conscious' range. Find some good Fairtrade biscuits.

**Amber**- Try to bake/cook an entirely Fairtrade recipe (we have a recipe for Fairtrade flapjacks if you'd like it!) and share this with a friend/colleague/family member. Note down how many Fairtrade products you use, then try to use more. Research local suppliers/shops that sell Fairtrade products.

**Red**- Make a note of every country that your food came from for a week, then try to reduce this list the next week. Calculate your food miles for a week, then try to reduce them. Try to eat only Fairtrade or British products for a week. How difficult is this?

**Helen Holmes**

## *Christian Aid Week -12<sup>th</sup> - 18<sup>th</sup> May*



Thank you to all our collectors. It is too soon to report the total collected but I'm sure we were inspired by the film we saw of Christian Aid's work in Sierra Leone.

At the back of the booklet you were given there was a post card giving us the opportunity to call on our government to drop Sierra Leone's debt incurred by loans to fight the 2014 Ebola crisis. Our faith calls us to challenge and expose any injustice we find. I hope you remembered to sign and post it.

# Thank You

**Anagram** of election results – LIES – LET'S RECOUNT.

**Gravestone humour:** "Harry Edsel Smith of Albany, New York. 1903-42 Looked up the elevator shaft to see if the car was on its way down. It was."

## THE JULY/AUGUST HERALD

Closing date for submissions will be **19<sup>th</sup> June (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 **July/August** Herald will be available for you to pick up from **28<sup>th</sup> June**. There are events taking place in the first week of each new magazine and we hope that as many readers as possible receive the details in time.

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

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

### **Copyright**

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

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

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

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

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](mailto: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 Thursdays from 9.00am until 1.30pm. For Church Notices and office queries please contact Fiona Carmichael: [office@poyntonmethodist.org](mailto: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](mailto:annie@poyntonmethodist.org)

#### EVERY WEEKDAY

8.30am-3.00pm Preschool. Varying sessions also available. (Sarah Parker 871115 and pmcpreschool@hotmail.co.uk) Extended hours available 7.30am - 5.30pm  
 #Kids Zone - (Pam Dowd 07717 003 322, kidszonepoynton@btinternet.com)  
 7.30am and 3.00pm - Before & after school club  
 7.30am to 6.00pm - Holiday care  
 10.00am to 12.30pm #Open Hands Room 4 (878589) Coffee in the Lounge

#### MONDAY

10.00-11.00am Discussion Group/Bible Study (Theo Eaves 875162)  
 7.30pm - \*+ House group at the Dawson's led by Catharine Hughes

#### TUESDAY

9.45am-10.45am Meeting for Prayer (Mandy Hawkyard 875032)  
 9.00am Prayer Breakfast at the Kingfisher, Third Tuesday  
 12.00 noon \*Service and Lunch 1<sup>st</sup> First Tuesday (Mandy Hawkyard 875032)  
 7.30-9.00pm 3<sup>rd</sup> Poynton Guides and Rangers (Lyndsay Lamb 07950 187 480)

#### WEDNESDAY

5-6.00pm #2<sup>nd</sup> Poynton Rainbows (Sue Dyson 07515 883 585)  
 6.00-7.30pm #2<sup>nd</sup> Poynton Brownies (Catherine Potts 07979 955 804)  
 7.30-9.00pm #4<sup>th</sup> Poynton Guides (Alison Southern 07905 133 073)

#### THURSDAY

9.30-11.30am Parents & Toddlers (Judy Gibbons 878016/Margaret Martin 874883)  
 12.00 noon \*Communion and lunch 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday ()  
 7.30-9.00pm #1<sup>st</sup> Poynton Guides (Georgia Eyre 07989 360 850)  
 7.30-9.30pm \*Ladies' Fellowship (Sandra Townsend 878563)

#### SATURDAY

9.00-11.00am Who let the Dads out? 4<sup>th</sup> Sat. (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.