



THE HERALD



The Methodist Church in Poynton

SEPTEMBER 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.**

September 2019

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Happy New Year! New Methodist Year that is!

I hope that you have managed a rest over the summer because there is so much to look forward to and take part in during this new Methodist year.

Firstly, of course, we join what was the Macclesfield Circuit. Our Circuit will be called the Macclesfield Circuit but it will be different from before we joined, it will be a new endeavour for all the churches involved. After much time and preparation, the day will finally arrive on 1st September.

At our last Circuit Service Ian Coverdale exhorted us, in our new circuits, to really reflect on what it means to be church in this time and place. To discern God's will and follow God's way. There will be lots of opportunities to do this as we get to know our new sisters and brothers and as they get to know us. Hopefully, in a very short time, there won't be any more 'them and us' but only 'us together' with our eyes fixed on Jesus and His Kingdom work.

Secondly, this is the Methodist Year of Testimony. This exciting initiative has the potential to encourage and revive us all (see articles later in the magazine) as we trace our individual and corporate journey with God.

Thirdly, all our many meetings and fellowships start up again, we have our Harvest Services to enjoy by thanking God for God's blessings upon us and to share those blessings with others.

In addition to these we will be holding a One World Week evening of food and entertainment, there will be a church walk with members of some of the other Macclesfield churches from Poynton to Green Close...and so much more!

Our God is a bountiful God and so, as we journey forward, I pray that we will all feel blessed and loved by God and that we will take every opportunity to share God's love with others,

Yours in Christ

Ros

GREEN CLOSE HARVEST FESTIVAL SERVICE

SUNDAY 8th SEPTEMBER 2019



Afternoon at 2.30pm

**Please note that the service will be held
at Poynton Methodist Church**

Preacher: Rev Graham Edwards
(Superintendent, Macclesfield Circuit)

A warm welcome is extended to everyone

Tea available after the Service

MARRIAGE AND RELATIONSHIPS

The Methodist Church has been engaging in a national debate about marriage and relationships over a number of years. At this year's annual Conference, there was a full-scale debate streamed live, which was also available to watch until 4 August on the Connexional website.

Most of us will have at least some experience of conventional two-parent families, single parent families, cohabiting couples, single people, people who have divorced and re-married, same-sex partnerships, and many others.

Relationship issues raise strong feelings and opinions and we must be careful to express them courteously and sensitively without causing offence to those who hold differing views. Our Lord urges us to love one another and we must make every effort to continue to do so while living with contradictory convictions.

This magazine has carried articles on the subject over four issues commencing in April 2019 which can be found on our website: **<http://www.poyntonmethodist.org>** offering these various opinions as a contribution to the debate. These are not official views of the Methodist Church or of Poynton Methodist Church, but the thoughts and opinions of individuals expressing their different understandings for our consideration as we strive to inform ourselves more fully.

We intend to arrange further discussions and contributions later this year and early next in preparation for the Conference vote in July 2020 which will result in the adoption of a definitive Policy Statement.

Please watch out for more information in future Heralds where we will also advise of similar discussions as they become available under Circuit and District auspices.

Editor

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

**SUNDAY SERVICES AT POYNTON
IN SEPTEMBER**

Date	10.30am UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED		
1st September	9.00am Med	Rev Ros Watson	6.00pm Circuit Service
8th	Rev Dr Graham Edwards		
15th	9.00am HC Rev Dr Graham Edwards		Phil Maltby Café Church
22nd	Rev Ros Watson HC		
29th	Rev Helen Byrne		
6th October	9.00am Meditation		Rev Sheila Bishop HC

**SUNDAY SERVICES AT GREEN CLOSE
IN SEPTEMBER**

Date	2.30 pm
1st September	CS at Poynton 6.00pm
8th	Rev Dr Graham Edwards HF
15th	Alan Rashleigh
22nd	Rev Ros Watson HC
29th	Mrs Pam Ward
6th October	Rev Helen Byrne

HC Holy Communion

HF

Harvest Festival

Woodlands MHA

**8th Sept
13th Oct**

**11.00am
11.00am**

**Alan Rashleigh
Alan Rashleigh HF**

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 **1st September**.



WEEKDAY WORSHIP



The first Tuesday in **September is 3rd**. 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 **19th September**.



PRAYER GROUP



Meets every Tuesday morning at 9.45am in church and on the third Tuesday (**17th September**) 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.

RUNNING ON EMPTY

'For I know the plans I have for you' declares the LORD, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you a hope and a future. (Jeremiah 29.11 NIV).

There are times when things are really, really hard. Life can be tough and God seems distant and even non-existent. We can hurt so much we cannot see a way forward.

Here at PMC we have been going through many changes recently and at the same time we have suffered losses, loved friends have died, become sick or simply moved on. We long for direction and inspiration but we are tired, wrung out, empty.

As I was praying about this the verse above came to my mind. God longs to bless his children and he doesn't do things by halves but always gives "a good measure, pressed down shaken together and overflowing" (Luke 6.38). There is a time and season for everything. Could this be our time to receive from God?

I am proposing a 24-hour prayer time. Let's not make this a chore, we can do it really simply – we just need to recommit ourselves to Jesus and as we wait, trust God to pour out the Holy Spirit. Get back to me with feedback and we will consider the how, what, why and when.

Annie Truman

(For inspiration, look at 24-7 prayer international)

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



“Retired and inspired” – Making the most of our latter years, by Wendy Billington. Published by BRF at £8.99.



This book is intended for all – not just the retired or the about-to-retire. It is an attempt to answer the question, ‘What is a Christian view of retirement?’

If life is a gift from God, the surely, we should see our latter years as part of the plan God has for us? The book is written in two sections, ‘Clearing the weeds’ and ‘Sowing the seeds’. It includes questions for discussion and personal reflection at the end of each chapter followed by a ‘thought for the day’. Each chapter begins with a Bible verse followed by a quote.

Retirement wasn’t expected in the culture of biblical times and it isn’t expected in the culture of most non-western countries today. God’s followers are urged to carry on serving in appropriate ways until they die.

One of the huge issues in later life is bereavement and this is mentioned throughout the book and a chapter entitled ‘Facing loss’ focuses on it.

One of the things I like about the book is the reminder that although changes happen in our later years, God is totally changeless and he still has a purpose for us.

At the end of the book is a helpful section entitled ‘Further reading’ which lists books under various topics, e.g. loss, dementia, depression and so on. There is also a ‘Resources’ section with details of where to go if you need help – or if you want to volunteer.

**'Alternative Collects' Prayer to a Disruptive and Compassionate God by Graham Turner Published by Sacristy Press
ISBN 978-1-910519-80-6**

It is not often a book stimulates all 5 senses. Picking up the book, I found touching it an odd sensation – the nature of the cover (and it is a paperback) was odd! It looked and felt like brushed fine leather or vellum – very tactile. The printing on the cover is like faded or well-worn gold leaf. The title did not seem to accord with the visual aspect, it was intriguing and required at least to be opened. The book opened at the prayer on page 51 – it was the Collect for year B, Maundy Thursday which starts; “You come to us in the simplicity of baked bread and fermented wine.” I could smell and taste both, together with seeing and hearing (well I did read it out loud!). All 5 senses had been activated in a few moments! That is a strange sensation to have on picking up a new book. I was hooked!

I have not used Collects as a routine part of my preaching and leading worship, only perhaps once or twice a year. They were not part of my upbringing or training.

A Collect is derived from the word *collecta*, a gathering of people together. It may have been used to mean a prayer collected into one, based on individual prayers of a congregation. A Collect generally consists of 5 parts and is relatively short; Invocation, Acknowledgment, Petition, Aspiration and Pleading.

Although the title suggests something radical and challenging, the Alternative Collects in this book are faithful to the general format of a Collect, but when compared to traditional Collects (such as in the 1936 Methodist Book of Offices), their tone it is much more direct and relevant, in a language more easily understood by people today. It is pithy and vibrant and encourages our greater use of Collects in conjunction with prayers of confession or intercession.

The Collects also raise our concerns, doubts and fears. For example, Year C, the third Sunday of Easter contains the sentence, “In our crises of fear we dare not ask, “Who are you?” as we doubt that we could handle, or understand, any answer you may offer.” Most of us at some time or other have those doubts. However, the Collect continues with hope in the following sentence, “In place of our

anxieties, bring your life alive in each one of us." These Alternative Collects encompass all our doubts, but offer hope in words we can understand.

The Collects in this book are short – there are two to each A5 page, and yet the reader is transported into the prayer, you feel totally part of it, you want to believe the words in their entirety. They are readily usable as personal or corporate prayers on their own. In fact, they are ready-made short homilies!

This is one of the best books I have reviewed, and one which I will treasure for the depth of its content, clarity and relevance, and use regularly.

Alan Rashleigh

(This review has recently appeared in Preach magazine)

NEW CHAPLAIN AT MHA WOODLANDS

Following the retirement of the previous chaplain, Wesley, earlier this year, Woodlands MHA nursing home now has a new chaplain.



Abby Ogier took up the post towards the end of June and is based in the home all day on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday each week. Abby said "I am really enjoying being part of the Woodlands community, and look forward to building on the existing links with Poynton Methodist Church and the other local churches".

Away from MHA, Abby is a Licensed Lay Minister ("Reader") in the Church of England, and exercises that ministry in the Wythenshawe Church of England Team. Before joining MHA, she was chaplain at Greater Manchester Community Chaplaincy supporting ex-offenders for 14 months, and prior to that spent 16 years in various roles working for the children's charity Barnardo's.

Abby will be writing regular updates from Woodlands for The Herald so watch out for them!

Editor

CHRIS HAWKYARD'S LAST STAND

There's been much talk recently of Ministers 'sitting down' with John and Anne Payne leaving us for their well-earned retirement in Porthcawl and the Coverdales regaining the leisure which was interrupted when Ian was re-activated for a year guiding the Hazel Grove and the Stockport circuits into new configurations ready for 1st September 2019. However, they will probably continue to preach.

Local preachers have a different option to sit down when they deem it appropriate, by 'not taking appointments' while still retaining their title as 'Local Preacher' on the Plan.

Thus it was that Chris Hawkyard has decided that the time has come to bring a long and respected period as an active local preacher to an end and appeared for the last time at our lectern on 23rd June and for the last time in the circuit when he preached at Windlehurst on 18th August.

Chris was accepted 'on Plan' as a fully accredited local preacher in 1985 when he and Mandy were members at Hazel Grove church and has since been a regular all around the circuit. During that time, he has taken on many other responsible jobs in the church including that of Church Steward, and fitting everything in while meeting the deadlines of preaching appointments is commendable in itself.

We thank him for his preaching and the construction of his services, always well researched and well prepared, thoughtful and insightful and delivered with humility,

As you will read elsewhere in these pages, standing up at the lectern will become sitting down in the prayer corner as he leads 'Theo's Group' in future studies alongside the other things with which he will continue to involve himself.

Thank you, Chris, for all the insights we have gained from you.

Arnold Samuels

HARVEST SERVICE - INTERNATIONAL AID TRUST

The Harvest service is on 13th October.

We are continuing to support International Aid Trust again this year and they have specifically asked for the items below:

Sanitary towels, toothbrushes, toothpaste, soap and facecloths. They have also asked for knitted clothing specifically for teenage boys and men including socks, waistcoats and sweaters. Hats, balaclavas, gloves, mittens, scarves are also needed for men and boys of all ages (not baby clothes). IAT also very much appreciate knitted or crocheted blankets and squares of any size. The squares are then made up into blankets by IAT volunteers.

We have also found out about transport costs if you would like to make a contribution. It costs £20 for the return van journey from IAT's base near Preston to our church to collect our offerings. A container to either Ukraine, Moldova or Romania costs £3000; and a container sent to Sierra Leone costs £5000.

Our offerings will be collected on the Thursday 17th October, with the driver arriving between 11-11.30am. We will need helpers to load the van. We are hoping the driver will be able to stay for communion and lunch on that day. So, if you would like to learn more about IAT and help load his van, please come along.

Any questions, please ask Liz or Hilary.

Thank you all for your ongoing dedication and support for the work of IAT.

Hilary Parry (873674) or **Liz Baker** (403787).

HYMNOLOGY ON A MONDAY MORNING - 44

Theo sends his greetings to everyone: he is still in Stepping Hill making a slow recovery but is in good spirits despite coping with limited movement and reading capacity. He thanks everyone for their visits, cards and messages.

“Let all the world in every corner sing” by George Herbert (1593 – 1633), first published in 1633 shortly after his death. (StF 57).

George Herbert was of aristocratic birth, for his father was a kinsman of the Earl of Pembroke and his mother was the youngest daughter of Sir Richard Newport, a wealthy landowner.

In 1612 he held the post of ‘Orator of the University of Cambridge’ and this post brought him to the attention of King James 1. On his mother's advice he gave up the pleasures of the Court and decided to enter the Ministry.

He was Rector of the Parish of Bemerton, near Salisbury in Wiltshire. His poems brought him world-wide recognition. They were written at Bemerton and were published in a collection of over one hundred and sixty-nine poems entitled “The Temple.” At Bemerton he rebuilt the parsonage which was in poor repair, but his main concern was for the poor.

Some of his other well-known hymns are ‘Teach me my God and King’, ‘The God of love my shepherd is’ and ‘King of glory, King of peace, I will love thee’.

His poetry is associated with the writings of the metaphysical poets and he is recognised as one of the foremost British devotional lyricists.

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

YEAR OF TESTIMONY – What's Your Story?

The Methodist Conference of 2018 designated 2019-20 as the Year of Testimony.

Sharing testimonies used to be a common part of Methodist life shared weekly during the band and class meetings, but has fallen out of fashion now in many places. Consequently perhaps, the idea of giving our testimony can feel unusual and threatening but it needn't be like that at all. Perhaps it is the word 'testimony' that makes us feel that we have to have a 'Damascus Road' type event to talk about at length and if we haven't, then we haven't got a testimony to tell.

This is not the case at all.

When we give our testimony, we are simply 'sharing the story of God in our lives.' This can be the story of our conversion but it can equally be about our journey with God since then and it can equally be the story of God in our lives during the past week.

When someone shares their story honestly and sensitively, we all benefit: the person sharing benefits by taking time to reflect on God in their life as they decide what to say and in the reflection may see even more of God than even they had realised; we who listen to their story benefit by hearing about the love, grace and activity of God and in doing so reflect on our own story and trace God at work in our lives too.

Telling our story may take 10 or 15 minutes or more but equally may be just a few sentences.

As a Minister I often hear people's testimony. Sometimes this is their story from childhood to the present day and sometimes this is about something that happened to them recently. This is always the most immense privilege and is undoubtedly one of the greatest joys of ministry. Through hearing about God in someone's life or sitting with someone and, together, looking for where we can find God in their current situation when life may be very difficult, I find that my faith is strengthened, deepened and enriched and that the bond between us as sisters and brothers in Christ is strengthened. I am always richly blessed.

I hope that during this year we will incorporate testimony, telling the story of God in our lives, into our worship services as often as possible and when we become more used to sharing our story, we may do this more naturally, more often within the fellowship and with our friends and neighbours.

If you would like to offer to share your story during any of the services that I am leading at Poynton or Green Close, then please let me know. If you would like to share your story via The Herald then Arnold will be happy to hear from you.

I hope that this Year of Testimony will be a real blessing to us and to the whole Church.

Ros

SHARING OUR STORIES Part 2

As I am encouraging everyone to tell their stories, I am offering the next part of my own story...I finished the first part back in March by telling you that I was a primary school teacher in Everton until our son, Tim, was born. After this I taught in Southport. I thought that teaching was my calling and I am sure that it was but not, it turned out, forever.

The change began by accident or, in retrospect, by a God incidence. I answered an advert in my church notices that offered the opportunity to go on a short course in the Circuit to 'find out more about worship' and how services were put together. What I didn't realise was that another name for this course was the Worship Leaders Course!

By the time I found this out I had paid up and was the 6th person on a course that would only run with 6 or more people. I really didn't want to do it, had never in my life thought of becoming a worship leader and had no desire to be one, but if I pulled out then the course wouldn't run and I didn't want to stop the other people from doing it; and it was only 6 sessions and so I went along reluctantly.

I was surprised when I found out that my not being able to sing or even clap in time to songs was not the complete barrier that I thought. In the event I thoroughly enjoyed the course and about half

way through, as we learnt how to construct a service around a given passage of Scripture, I began to find myself thinking of what I would say in a sermon as well.

I began to wonder whether this was a call to become a Local Preacher but really didn't expect that it would be. I spent about a year discerning whether it was, and in the end, with much encouragement from others, decided that the only way to find out was to begin the training course.

I fully expected to find out that it wasn't my calling. In fact, I asked to preach my first sermon fairly soon after starting the course as I felt that the sooner we all found out that we were all making a mistake, the sooner we could all stop and forget the whole idea.

However, when I stood up to preach for the first time something quite amazing happened...

I will tell you what that was in the October Herald!

Ros Watson

SHARING OUR FAITH

At the 10.30am Service on 11th August, I shared a personal story of experiencing God's presence and being led to Psalm 63. I continued to talk about prayer being answered in unexpected ways, and hymns that really speak to me through their words and music. Afterwards, I asked if anyone would like to share their thoughts. Thank you to those who did. Two people said afterwards that they had wanted to speak but it would be easier for them to write their thoughts down. This is what Carole Clarke wishes to share:

"In April 2008 I went into hospital to have a small operation and my husband and I planned to move nearer family when I had recovered. Unfortunately, I did not recover quickly and spent the summer months feeling very unwell. During August I was rushed into hospital with peritonitis, was on life support for two or three days and eventually recovered, most of which I did not remember. My life changed after that and eventually I left hospital in September only

to find that my husband was ill; he went into hospital for an operation the following day.

During September and October, we spent two separate weeks together at home. He needed another operation and then a third, which affected his heart and he died in November of that year.

I was so busy caring for him that I did not have time to realise what was happening. My husband had faith and was able to accept that his time had come and he was very calm at the end. I expected to feel overwhelming grief but though I did grieve I also remember the quite extraordinary feeling of peace which I can only explain as the peace of God. I have never felt alone since that time and my own faith has been strengthened." Thank You Carole.

Mandy Hawkyard

THEO'S STUDY GROUP

This group has been meeting for an hour at 10.00am on Monday mornings for many years but sadly, due to Theo's present state of health, he cannot continue. This was mentioned at our most recent meeting of the Worship Committee and in a moment of madness I volunteered to stand in. Talk about being outside my comfort zone! John Wiseman is a brilliant study group leader as is Theo, but their styles are very different. My style will probably be somewhere in between.

I will start in Room 3 at church on Monday 9th September but will not be able to lead on 30th. I have looked through the stock of study guides that Mandy and I have acquired over the years and have narrowed them down to two, but all of them were of the discussion style with lots of questions to answer.

Plan A is to base the sessions on those in the guides but cut down on the number of questions. The first one I plan to use is entitled 'Christ – Basic Christianity' by John Stott. There are 6 studies, the first of which is entitled 'Are you ready to meet Christ?' Based on Mark 10.17-31. I'll try and complete each topic within the one hour, but may over-run a bit. The second set of studies I picked is based on Acts, one of my favourite books of the Bible. I haven't thought of Plan B yet!

Chris Hawkyard

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

THANK YOU LETTERS



Thank you for the prayers, flowers and cards. The support given when my brother passed away was really comforting.

Many thanks

Clare Finnis

Thank you for the beautiful flowers which I received on 21st July. and the support that I have had over the last 6 months. My gallbladder has been removed and I am looking forward to getting better.

Pam Green

Thank you for cards, flowers, phone calls (it really is good to talk) and visits I have received since my knee surgery on 25th June. All were much appreciated.

Anne Hindle

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

Greetings to **Joshua James Hawkyard**, and to **Abigail Joanna Parkinson**, both baptised here on 20 August 2017.

Happy 90th birthday to **Betty Dorey**, which was on 13 August.
Congratulations to **Pat & Malcolm Burgess** on their Diamond Anniversary on 15 August.

It is with great sadness that we have to pass on the news that **Vivienne Emison** died on Monday 13 August after suffering a stroke on the previous day. Please pray for David, Andrew, Philip and their families. A loss which will be felt by all who knew and loved her.

Judy Gibbons

ENJOY YOUR RETIREMENT CHRIS!

One of the first things I was told about Chris Hawkyard was that he once 'heckled' a preacher from his seat in the congregation in the middle of a sermon. Ever since, I have been wary of what I might preach in front of him!

In contrast, his preaching was always sensitive and well thought through, raising questions we all have and constantly seeking a way to make sense of God in today's world. I have had the privilege of sharing leading worship with him, where I benefited greatly from his wisdom and years of experience.

Local preaching is not just an hour on a Sunday but many hours of preparation, reading and prayer in advance: thirty-four years is a long time of service the Methodist community and he will be missed. Enjoy your retirement Chris!

Catharine Hughes

CHURCH CARDS



Please can you help? We need small biscuit/sweet tins or similar clean containers with lids. Ideal size is 2" deep, 10" long and 8" wide (5cm deep, 25cm long and 20cm wide).

Shortbread tins meet all requirements. The tins are required to store our selection of greeting cards.

Kindly leave any empty tins meeting the above approximate dimensions above the card rack for our collection.



We would ask that your generosity stays with the shortbread size tins, as at present we do not have a use for anything larger.

Thank you

Hilary King & Linda Grant

GENERAL CHURCH MEETING 2019

We held our General Church Meeting on Sunday 14th July after our morning service.

First, we made ourselves comfortable and found ourselves a cup of tea or coffee after all that singing, and then we prayed as we always do before starting any meeting. Judith Ridgway then gave us a start with some announcements (top right). We went on to approve last time's minutes and gave thanks for the lives of those friends and



General Church Meeting 2019

relatives of friends who we had lost in the past year.

Members of our preschool (top left) gave us an insight into the work they do among the parents and children of Poynton (you don't need to be a member of our church or congregation to avail yourselves of the excellent facilities and ethos of our wonderful and very highly

Ofsted-rated facility). We thanked (bottom left). our two retiring Church Stewards Judith Ridgway and Alison Court, elected two replacements, Erica Evans and Christine Ding, and noted that Judy Gibbons would be the new senior Steward, all from September. We couldn't elect representatives from this meeting to serve on the Church Council because we didn't have any nominations, (the meeting gave permission for the stewards to appoint replacements if any were forthcoming), but we did have to say goodbye and thank you to Linda Grant who is standing down having served her term and Noreen Hood (ex-Steward). We await a nomination from the Family Committee to replace Hilary King; Catharine Hughes (Worship Committee) is succeeded by Chris Hawkyard.

John Turner (Pastoral Secretary) gave his report on the pastoral work of the church (well in hand) and Annie Truman gave a report on the work among children and young people (somewhat thin on the ground). Jane Robson spoke about Church Finances (could be better) and John Lunt followed on with the Property Report (we are having to spend money on the roof and some new carpeting).

A number of other reports had been previously circulated and all the reports were approved en-bloc.

We then broke for lunch and resumed full of baked potato and a filling of our choice which we followed gamely with a delicious desert (many to choose from) for a conversation on the work of God in this place. We focussed on three questions:

Our experience of God at work in our church and community over the past year, **how** we can engage more with those who hire our rooms and our community and **what** we would like to give thanks for.

We finished by sticking our written ideas onto three boards prepared for the purpose (full boards, many ideas, see overleaf).

For many, the World Cup cricket final, Wimbledon men's tennis final or the Formula 1 British Grand Prix provided an acceptable follow-on, maybe accompanied by short periods of audible unconsciousness.

Arnold Samuels

Appendix to minutes of Poynton Methodist Church Annual Church Meeting 2019

CONVERSATION ON THE WORK OF GOD

After lunch there was group discussion about three aspects of church life. The following is a summary of the thoughts of those present, which were put onto post-it notes. Some were very similar to others, and there were some crossovers between the questions.

Where and in what ways have we seen God at work in our church and community over the last year?

- House for Haiti – Fund raising – focus, a real sense of working together - providing a house of hope – support of other churches and community groups.
- Woodlands Care and Nursing Home – individual visits and weekday and Sunday services.
- Prayer breakfast at Wetherspoons – interaction with other customers.
- Who let the Dads Out? – monthly sessions for Dads to interact with their young children.
- Groups that meet on our premises – Youth Band, Uniformed organisations, choirs, Kids Zone.
- Flower ministry, weekday communion and monthly Tuesday service with lunch, Connect@4 – Ladies' Fellowship
- Board games days – help for 1 young man in particular, Murder Mystery Evening
- Harvest, school uniform and foodbank donations – Christian Aid collection.
- Preschool and Toddlers – Messy Church.
- Wesley Loane's ministry.

How could we engage more with those who hire our facilities, and with our community?

- Invite bands/choirs to play/sing at our events – support events arranged by groups.
- Improve planning and advertising of Messy Church and family events.

- Promoting PMC as a community facility – annual Church Community newsletter to every member of every group – ‘post cards’ showing what is happening each season to be distributed to community groups.
- Start ‘Friends of the Preschool’ where members could give regular donations, however small, to support Preschool.
- Make booking forms for hire more user friendly – make a condition of regular hire that group leader attends an annual meeting – groups to have some ‘ownership’ of premises (e.g. supporting grant application) – employ booking secretary/community ambassador.
- Volunteer to help with guides – joint fundraising and engagement for social justice projects (e.g. House for Haiti.)
- Have ‘Bridge Buddies’, one for each organisation being a face of contact – publish a list of groups and circulate to all other groups.

For what would we like to give thanks to God?

- Funds forthcoming for House for Haiti and seeing the houses actually built.
- The lives of Mart Rodger, Helen Ives and Peter Broadbent who contributed so much to church life.
- All the groups that use our premises.
- Wesley Loane, Ian Coverdale and John Payne and all others who helped us when we had no minister.
- Our minister, Ros, Annie our Children and Families worker and our local preachers.
- Friendship and goodwill everywhere, for family matters and support for each other.
- Creativity – themed meals - family events - prayer chain.
- Thank God every day for the wonderful life I have had.

If you feel that God may be prompting you to help us move forward with any of these suggestions, please speak to Ros or one of the Stewards.

Stewart Bradley (Church Council Secretary)

FLOODING AFFECTS GREEN CLOSE

Whilst listening to the news reports on the evening of Wednesday 31st July and having experienced the torrential rain on my way back from Macclesfield, I had no idea that the Church at Green Close had been affected by the floods. It was only the following morning when Brenda Wainwright heard that the cottages at Green Close had been flooded, that she went up to the church with her brother David and discovered that the carpets were soaking wet and the boiler room was several inches deep in water.

Brenda and David rolled up their sleeves and got stuck into the mopping up and along with much appreciated help from the neighbours at Green Close they managed to remove the surface water. However, the small cellar was full of water and it could be seen pouring from the air vents at the side of the church.



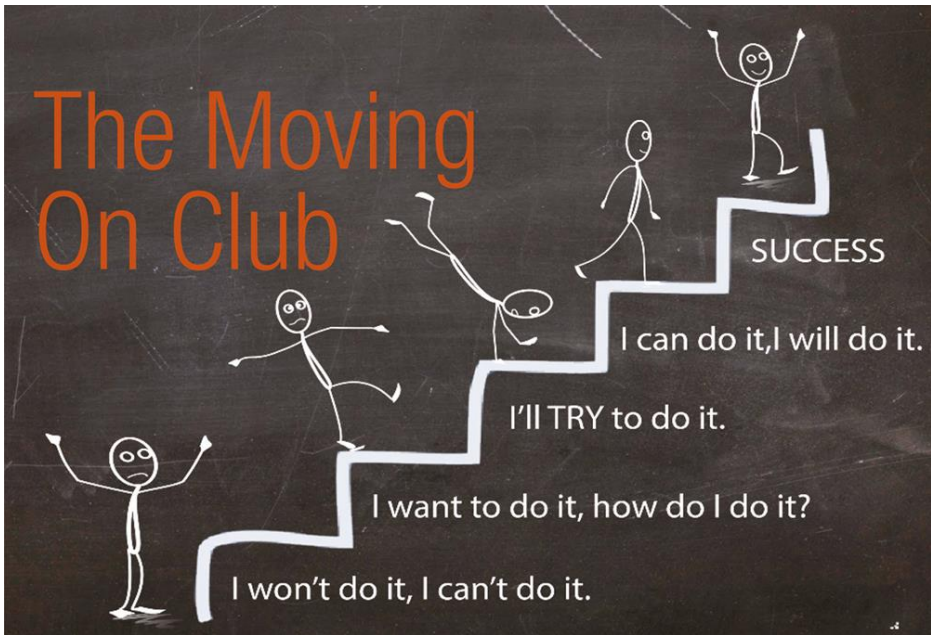
Methodist Insurers were contacted, they quickly arranged for a loss adjuster to come out and a company was appointed to commence drying out the building.



The carpets soon dried out but until they were lifted, we did not know the extent of the damage and as they were well and truly stuck to the floor a stripping machine was brought in. The carpets will have to be replaced and at the time of writing estimates are being obtained.

Insurers have authorised the repair to the boiler which requires a new burner unit. Hopefully all the repairs will not take too long to complete and we can return to Green Close for our Sunday afternoon services. Until then we will hold our services at Poynton Church.

Steve Sheldon



Is this Catharine's story? Catharine – we're sad to see you go and thank you for all the memories you leave us with. But we wish you well as you begin your Ministerial training and we hope our gift will help you along the way.

Fortunately, we have Stephen and Eleanor with us at least for the next three years. Eleanor is moving on too, but just down the road to Aquinas College – enjoy yourself! Matthew after gaining such excellent A level results is off to Durham University – have a great time Matt – we expect to see you wearing your bow tie!

We ask God's blessing on this special family, a valued part of our church family, whom we have grown to love and appreciate.

Mandy Hawkyard – on behalf of us all.

Stop Press! Congratulations to **Eleanor Hughes** who has succeeded in getting a Level 1 in ALL her GCSEs... and better still, a 2 in her Double Science. (Just had to fit that in! – Ed)

FOOD REQUIRED IN MACCLESFIELD

Following the collection of money for Action for Children, and school uniforms etc for Wood Street Mission on Sunday 14th July 2019, the congregation of PMC also collected a 'car load' of non-perishable food and hygiene/sanitary products for Emmanuel.

The decision has been taken to end the relationship (after 9 years) with Emmanuel Church Food Bank in Salford, and to take the opportunity, as we join the Macclesfield Circuit, to support a more local Christian food bank.

On the advice of Rev Graham Edwards, contact was made with Major Gareth Dickens of the Macclesfield Salvation Army Citadel, who enthusiastically welcomed not only the prospect of receiving the usual Harvest gifts, but also the gifts to help replenish their food bank at one of their busiest times. This, during the school summer holiday, is a time when eligible children may not be able to access a nutritious hot meal at lunchtime.

On the day of our delivery to Macclesfield (at about 11am) they had already, that day distributed 3 bags of food, and during the unloading, had a phone call to confirm somebody else was at the Citadel for a collection, and another gentlemen arrived 'on spec' for a food parcel. The Macclesfield SA distributed 5 parcels in less than 3 hours!

On arrival, 'the cupboard' was almost bare, with only sufficient stock for a few more bags, but with limited range (mainly beans and pasta).

The contribution from PMC was gratefully received, as it would help many local families during the school holidays to receive food to which they may not otherwise have had access.

When the Salvation Army receives referrals for food parcels from the likes of Social Services, in line with their well-known and long-standing Christian policy, they do not turn anyone away. You can be assured that any food they receive is passed to families who need it in the Macclesfield area.

Alan Rashleigh

CROQUET AFTERNOON



Through the kindness and generosity of her daughters, Sara and Emma, we were once again able to hold our yearly ladies' croquet afternoon in Helen's beautiful garden.

The weather was kind to us as usual and we had great fun negotiating the hoops around her lawn. I'm sure Helen would have been delighted to see us playing for a final time in the surroundings of her much loved garden.

Sara and Emma came especially to join us and to serve us with a delicious tea partly baked by Emma and the rest contributed by several people.

This must have been a very sad time for her daughters as it was for the rest of us. We all miss Helen very much.



The day ended with a prayer and a blessing said by Ros, who we were delighted could join us. We shall miss these afternoons but hopefully we might be able to find another venue.

Alison Court



FLOWER MINISTRY

If you are unable to distribute flowers on your given date, please arrange your own substitute in good time, alter the rota sheet on the notice board and also inform Fiona in the church office.

September

1 st	D Reid & E Bottrill
8 th	N Garner & B Dixon
15 th	E Shepherd & C&K Thompson
22 th	B Oakley & N Hood
29 th	H Clare & M Moncaster

October

6 th	M Wilson & C Clarke
13 th	L Baker & M Whittaker
20 th	P & M Burgess
27 th	N Garner & M Moran

Many thanks, **Pat Burgess 875322**

LADIES FELLOWSHIP

Hello members and potentially new members! Here we are at the start of our new session! There may be some ladies who would like to join us, so this information is for you. We meet every first and third Thursday in the month. Our fees are £3 per meeting, and we begin at 7.45pm. We have speakers who come along to enlighten us on their subjects and we also have musical evenings, films to show lovely holiday places, and slides of the many parts of our lovely countryside.

Our first meeting of the new session is on **5th September**, when our Minister, Ros Watson, is leading us in communion. Julie Hallworth will be chairing the meeting.

Then on **19th September**, the Offerton Methodist Choir will be entertaining us, led by Linda Houston. Brenda Oakley will be chairing the meeting.

There are two changes to our programme. **On 3rd October**. Phil Maltby will be coming along to ask "Who am I? Where am I? This meeting will be chaired by Sandra Townsend. The second change is

on **17th October** when Helen Holmes will be talking about Fairtrade Products. Christina Thompson will be chairing this meeting.

We look forward to seeing you and welcoming new members.

Sandra Townsend

GREETINGS



Apologies for not updating you all on what has been happening on the Greetings cards front (or in truth, what has not been happening) over the past few months.

Card sales are down because we have been involved in other church 'jobs' that have taken our time, so manufacturing stopped and available choice suffered. Loyal customers therefore bought their cards elsewhere. Now, we are slowly finding more time and the craft rooms are once again getting very messy, which is a good sign.

Thanks for all your wonderful gifts of used cards and the return of cellophane bags to recycle. We love to have them – and to think you were going to throw them away! Some of you may eventually recognise your 'gifts' but others not, as truly, when we have finished recycling them, even we have trouble in remembering what they once looked like!

Our larger style cards are not proving popular and we do not know why. They are the same price to post as the smaller cards and blank card was a lot cheaper to purchase than the smaller cards by some 60%. Please let us know what you think.

Above the card rack is a book for your ideas and suggestions so that we can provide more of what you want. So far only two people have written anything in three years! The suggestion that Easter Cards contain a sentiment of Easter Blessings has been noted, thank you. Please tell us what you want and will do our best to accommodate

your requirements though unfortunately a lot of individual personalisation is not possible with our low stock turn over, however we have been known to make specific cards to order but of course we do need time for this and cannot produce them overnight.

So what do we have on the back burner? Christmas decorations for Park Lane, Christmas cards for sale at church and the craft market, 5 handmade cards for £3 (no price increase yet again!) and perhaps a few surprises on the card front, but only time will tell if we can manage this.

We are just about self-funded with our cards, which means that 100% of the profit can go to church funds. The result is that we can contribute around £800 a year, which is better than nothing. We would like to get that up to £1,000, which we nearly achieved three years ago.

We nearly forgot! – we are planning a Craft Market in the Worship area on the night of Poynton Fest, Tuesday 3rd December 2019 and will be asking for help, so get your excuses ready now!

Hilary King and Linda Grant

FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT

*Hilary Parry saw this at an exhibition in St. Anne's Church, Manchester.
Words are by Jaz Green.*

Our handset, who art in pocket
Hallowed be thy screen,
Thy signal come, thy ringtone hum,
In work as it does in leisure.
Give us this second our daily fix,
And forgive us for dropping you,
Though we detest those who steal from us.
Lead us not into reality
but deliver us from community.
For thine is the ringtone, the apps and the gaming
For ether and ether,

Our web.

PROPERTY UPDATE

- Repair to light over main switch panel in lobby.
- Adjustments made to the locks on the small gates in the play area.
- Fence in preschool play area reinforced and rough ends removed.
- Cross on AV desk re-secured in position.
- Towel rail in the disabled toilet repaired.
- Floor area in lobby adjacent to the main doors to worship area knocked out, cleared and repaired.
- The metal support for the exterior OPEN HANDS coffee sign repaired and re painted.
- Repair to the holding bracket of the cupboard door in Room 1.
- Repair to the wall signs (2) on the front outside wall of the church.
- Repair to the carpet in the worship area near the piano.
- Repair to the holding hooks of the doors from the lobby into the small corridor.
- Two of the large worship area entrance doors were removed and trimmed to facilitate easy opening over the new carpet.
- New doormat fitted at the church entrance. (It's OK to wipe your feet on it).
- Kitchen door edge trimmed to allow it to close properly.
- Front and rear main gutter hoppers cleared including the rear gutters over Rooms 1 and 2.
- Emergency lights in the church and hall tested on 18/8/19. (One replacement is required and this is in hand).
- Some new towels were bought and are now in use in the kitchen.

NEW CARPET (tiles)

These were fitted in mid-July to all the corridors and lobby area by contractors after in-house repairs to the floor. We have a reserve of spare tiles but hope not to have to use them.

CROSS FLOODLIGHT

The exterior front cross floodlight unfortunately failed recently. We now have a replacement ready to be fitted in the near future.

WASTE REMOVALS, A REMINDER

The black bin outside the kitchen door is for general waste only. The blue bin is for paper and cardboard only. The black bin needs to be put out about 0900 on Thursday for collection. The blue bin also, but only on the dates on the notice behind the exterior kitchen door. If you are a room hirer you should remove your own rubbish.

If you are in the church on Thursday mornings, specifically in the holidays when there is no one about, please, subject to your physical ability, put out the bins. (Gate key on key ring at Room 2 fire door). Also, if you can take home any plastic or metal waste please do so. There is no provision at the church for this. All the bins and collections have to be paid for by the Church privately and are not provided by the council. If you can help to take home waste it keeps costs down and it helps the environment.

FLOODING

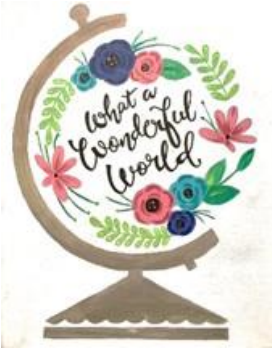
As you are probably aware there was flooding in Poynton recently. This did affect the Church. The rear play area and preschool area were flooded to about 4". The rear garden was partially flooded due to the brook at the back overflowing. Fortunately, no damage was caused, but we may have to consider some contingencies if this situation recurs in the future. It will be discussed at the next Property meeting.

PROPERTY COMMITTEE MEETING

This will be held at 7.30pm. Thursday 26th. September 2019 at PMC. If you have any issues that you consider should be discussed, please forward these to the Property Secretary John Lunt. Additionally, if you feel you would like to assist the work of the committee, please come along. We have a schedule of work to be carried out annually, in addition to the problems that often crop up from time to time. You do not need to be highly qualified, as exemplified by the current members.

Derek Garner for PMC Property Committee.

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



ONE WORLD WEEK

Our celebration is on the weekend of 19/20th October. We begin with a social event on the Saturday evening when we simply rejoice in the amazing world God has given to us with a sketch, quizzes, music and of course, food. Tickets are £10, profits going to Church funds.

*“Celebrating Our Wonderful World”
Saturday 19th October 7.00pm*

*Food, A Humorous Sketch,
Short Quizzes, Music, Fun!*

Tickets - £10 - book the date!

On the following day at Café Church, we turn to the serious nature of the week and ask questions about our response to make this a fairer world for all to live in, a world where we take climate change seriously.

Arranged by the
Church Family
Committee



SUNDAY LUNCHESES

Back by Popular Request!

15th SEPTEMBER

Bring and Share

(please bring a savoury or sweet item)

(October – One World Week Celebration

SATURDAY 19th OCTOBER)

17th November

(Details later)

Note: The lunches have been moved to the third Sunday in the month when tables are already in Church for Café Church. This will save unnecessary furniture removing. Please help the Family Committee to make these get-togethers successful.

A Date for Your Diary



Charity Christmas Market

Saturday 9th November

10.00am - 12.30pm

Would you like a stall to support your favourite charity? Please speak to Mandy – 01625 875032

Anagram of THE EARTHQUAKES – THAT QUEER SHAKE.

Gravestone humour, Nova Scotia: Here lies Ezekiel Aikle, Age 103.
Only the good die young.

THE OCTOBER HERALD

Closing date for submissions will be **18th September (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 **October** Herald will be available for you to pick up from **27th September**. 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. 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 - roombookings@poyntonmethodist.org