

THE HERALD



The Methodist Church in Poynton

APRIL 2020

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.

22 March 2020

‘I will never leave you nor forsake you,’ says the Lord

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

We are living in extraordinary times. How we are able to live our lives changes from day to day. We are, each of us, having to modify our usual behaviour and patterns of travel, shopping and socialising. No longer are we able to pop out for a coffee with friends or even have friends to visit. In times like this, as Christians, our natural reaction would be to meet together for prayer and to come to worship and be in fellowship with one another. But we can't. It is very hard and confusing. For many it is worrying and for all of us it is isolating. What are we to make of this and where is God in all of this?

These are unprecedented times and none of us know for sure how it will all play out but we *do* know that we have a God who promised to never leave nor forsake us and on this we can depend.

Jesus Christ is the same, yesterday, today and forever. So even if the situation in which we live changes on a daily basis, God does not. God is the firm foundation on which we can anchor ourselves during these times, who will be with us every moment of these next few months and then forever more.

Knowing that God is with us and God loves us means that we can get through this and get through it together.

It means finding different ways to worship- using online resources, books and devotionals that we already have. Perhaps if we are not rushing around so much we will have more time to pray and read our Bible.

Maybe we will find a greater degree of thankfulness for the things that we do have and find something each day to thank God for.

Finding different ways of being church- now that we are not so caught up with things inside our church building perhaps it will free up time for those of us who are able to, to help our neighbours and be 'church in the community' more than perhaps we usually do.

Finding different ways of being in fellowship- when so many of us are going to have to self-isolate it is even more important that we keep in touch with each other by telephone, text, email and so on. That we know that we are being held in thought and prayer by our church family.

When we are able to worship together again, I wonder how many testimonies we will hear of how people encountered God during this time. Maybe we will hear from people who have turned to God for the first time due to this crisis and have found God waiting and welcoming.

I do pray for each of you that you will know God's presence, love and comfort and that you will know God's love shown through our fellowship during this time.

I also pray that we will all know the hope and joy of Easter, even in the midst of difficulty, or perhaps especially in the midst of difficulty, because God is always with us.

May the Lord bless you and keep you; may the Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you; may the Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace. Amen

Ros

Here is a prayer written by the President of the Methodist Church

Loving God,
If we are ill, strengthen us.
If we are tired, fortify our spirits.
If we are anxious, help us to consider the lilies of the field and the birds of the air.

Help us not to stockpile treasures from supermarkets in the barns of our larders.
Don't let fear cause us to overlook the needs of others more vulnerable than ourselves.
Fix our eyes on your story and our hearts on your grace.

Help us always to hold fast to the good,
See the good in others,
And remember there is just one world, one hope,
One everlasting love, with baskets of bread for everyone.

In Jesus we make our prayer,
The one who suffered, died and was raised to new life,
In whom we trust these days and all days,

Amen.

The Revd Barbara Glasson, President of the Methodist Conference

LETTER FROM MACCLESFIELD CIRCUIT

Re: Covid-19

17th March 2020

Dear Friends,

The grace of the Lord Jesus be with you all.

I am sure you will be aware of the developing guidance regarding Covid-19. The situation has developed since we issued guidance from the Circuit leadership Committee yesterday, and so I write again.

It is with great sadness that, following guidance from the Methodist Connexional Team, I direct that all worship services in the churches of the Macclesfield Methodist Circuit be suspended for the time being. This is in line with advice from the UK Government. Please share this information as widely as possible and consider placing notices on church doors and notice boards.

Please note the webpage showing the current advice from The Methodist Church, and monitor this for updates:

<https://www.methodist.org.uk/about-us/coronavirus-guidance/> .

Resources for worship at home are provided here:

<https://www.methodist.org.uk/our-faith/worship/singing-the-faith-plus/seasons-and-themes/worship-during-the-coronavirus-pandemic/> .

The Family Friendly Churches Trust is also offering resource that may be used at home: <http://www.ffctideas.org.uk/Corona.php>

At the moment, it is our intention that Macclesfield Methodist Church and Poynton Methodist church be open on Sunday between 10am and 12pm for private prayer, this is not for public worship or social gathering, but an opportunity to spend a few moments alone in prayer.

The situation we find ourselves in may change over the days and weeks to come, in the meantime please look after yourself and your neighbours in Christ.

Jesus said: Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.

With every blessing,

The Rev'd Dr Graham M Edwards

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

**SUNDAY SERVICES AT POYNTON & GREEN CLOSE
IN APRIL 2020**

ALL SERVICES AND CHURCH LED MEETINGS ARE CANCELLED

Help is available for you!

Please don't sit at home and worry or go without food or other essentials. As well as the ongoing support from your Pastoral Visitor, we have a list of extra volunteers to help anyone in need. If you or someone you know is struggling in any way then please, please get in touch. Contact:

Rev Ros Watson 01625 872060,
John Turner 01625 875181,
Judy Gibbons 01625 878016 or
Noreen Hood 01625 871507

Helping those who are self-isolating

Many of us now use technology to contact friends and family and while we have members isolating, to see a friendly face can give an uplift to spirits. If you feel able to help by contacting other members in this way or would like somebody to contact you using these methods then please contact one of the contacts above or e-mail office@poyntonmethodist.org and we will do our best to find somebody who will contact you on Facetime, Skype, Viber or Zoom.

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Follow Jesus Christ Our Saviour...**

BOOK REVIEW

Life with St Benedict (The Rule reimagined for everyday living) by Richard Frost. Published by the Bible Reading Fellowship
ISBN 9780857468130

The author is a Reader in the Church of England and an oblate (a lay or ordained person formally associated to a particular monastic community) connected to the Anglican Benedictine Community at Alton Abbey in Hampshire. He is able, therefore, as a member of the laity of Alton Abbey, to share the practical application of the Rule with people who are not members of a monastic community.

The 1500 year of Rule of St Benedict is an updated “translation from the original Latin” to 21st century language in a way which is accessible and yet still gives a powerful Rule of Life.

The book is an introduction, by Richard Frost, to the writings of a man who was inspirational in his time, but also continues to invoke changes in lives today.

The Rule of Life is a personal rule capable of being tailored to the circumstances to Christians, whether lay or ordained, whatever their circumstances, who witness to the Gospel through their relationships with those with whom they live and work.

The rules may include conforming ones’ life to the Rule of St Benedict, to pray daily, attending church, almsgiving, as well as making provision for study, recreation, family etc. For Benedictine nuns and monks, the vows of St Benedict of stability, conversion morum (fidelity to the monastic life) and

Obedience to the heads of the Community relate specifically to life in a Benedictine Community.

The book, is about 200 pages long, provides the daily study in the form of “73 Chapters” each 1 or 2 pages in length. The study is repeated on a 4-monthly cycle as “reinforcement of the Rules for the lives of the student”, meaning it is repeated 3 times a year. The study of the Rule of St Benedict, with study and reflections on the Psalms and (very) short prayer, based around the Rules of Life prepared by St Benedict. There are pertinent questions included in the reflections that could provide a useful basis for Bible study, meditation or contemplation. The Book could easily be meaningfully adapted for use by study groups, quiet days or weekend retreats.

Each of the daily studies concentrates on certain aspects of lives lived within a Community, for example; The tools for good works (Ch 4): Obedience (Ch 5): Restraint of Speech (Ch 6): Humility (Ch 7): The sleeping arrangements of monastics (Ch22), to name but a few subjects.

While reading the book, one is reminded of the changes in language and culture over 1500 years. The reader may not necessarily agree with corporal punishment or enforced fasting for misdeeds of children (Chapter 30), or the practise by nobility or the poor to offer children to the community (Chapter 59) as these do not sit readily with our 21st century consciences or with current UK legislation!) The updated book uses a translation which uses more inclusive- language format, and is written with ordinary Christians in mind. The book shows that the relevance St Benedict’s rules of Life, to that of Christian values and has much to say to us all in respect of our faith, work and daily living. It also retains a relevance in our lives where change is often feared, stability is elusive, and the hectic nature of our lives interferes with listening to God.

For those wishing to consider preparing a personal Rule of Life, there are many modern examples, which appear to use the basis of the Rule of St Benedict. The members of the Methodist Diaconal Order, the Salvation

Army (and other organisations) are all encouraged to produce their own personal rule of life. Although this book is based on one of the enduring manuscripts of Christendom, the manner in which Richard Frost has prepared the Reflections and Prayers makes it a very useful aid to personal study, especially for busy individuals for whom time is at a premium, or those who want to examine their faith in more depth.

There are, of course, many similar sorts of study books, but this one is well written, and makes the Rule of St Benedict accessible to all, regardless of the stage of the journey of faith of the reader. It is a book I will keep in my library!

As a bonus, this book explains some of the actions of Father Cadfael played by David Jacobi in the TV Series.

Alan Rashleigh

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HERALD UPDATE

We are pleased that there has been so much interest in maintaining our Herald. We all know its importance and value, particularly as a pastoral link. However there is still an editorial gap.

Arrangements are in place for there to be an issue in May. All items for future issues should be sent to pmcherald@gmail.com .

The Herald pigeonhole will not be checked whilst church is closed due to Covid-19.

Last Date for contributions

May **12th April 2020**

June **10th May 2020**

July/August **14th June 2020**

If you have previously supplied material for inclusion in Herald please continue to send copy to pmcherald@gmail.com and we will use it at the earliest opportunity.

Volunteers are still needed to edit October and November.

**Please be aware that this may be the last paper edition of
Herald published for several months.**

If you do not receive Herald by email but have an email address then please send it to office@poyntonmethodist.org so we can add you to the circulation list.

If you do not have an email address is there a family member or friend who could print a copy for you? If so please ask them to send us an email and we will add them to the circulation list.

SHOPPING FOR THOSE AFFECTED BY COVID-19

The church family is pulling together in many ways to help those who are affected by the the movement restrictions that the government are asking people to take.

There are people having to self-isolate for 7 or 14 days if they have caught the virus or even think they may be infected or have been in contact with somebody in either of the two previous categories. There are also high risks people, possibly because of age, current or underlying health issues and others who do not want to put themselves at risk.

To help anybody who is self-isolating for any reason we are looking for volunteers who could do shopping and or deliver shopping to these people.

If you feel able and willing to help in this either one day a week or up to even 7 days a week, we would like to hear from you.

We are still developing the process of what we can do and how to do it.

The way we think it will work does need the person who is doing the shopping to make the purchases but these will be refunded quickly by church and the payments from the recipients of the shopping will be made directly to church so there will be no need to handle money or be in close proximity to the person you are helping.

We are sourcing a supply of cotton bags to use for the deliveries, which will be collected at the time of the next delivery. A team of people will wash these before being reused.

If you feel able to help please e-mail Peter Thorp at peterjthorp51@gmail.com or telephone on 07703 486 205

ARE YOU SELF-ISOLATING BECAUSE OF COVID-19?

We know there are many reasons why people are self-isolating due to Covid-19 and as a result you may not be able to go shopping for yourself.

We are hoping that within the next few days we will have a team of people able to help you with this.

At the present time we are only able to do this if either you, a member of your family or a friend can e-mail us with a shopping list and have the facility to make payments into the church bank account electronically.

If you want to go on list of people who would like this help please e-mail pmchelpcovid19@gmail.com

With details as follows:

Name

Address

Phone number

Email address

If a relative or friend is contacting us on your behalf please provide the same information for them.

Covid-19 guidance issued by Poynton Town Council “Guidance for Poynton’s community response to Covid-19”

For residents who are self-isolating

Plan ahead as much as possible. Ask your employer, friends and family to help you to get the things you need to stay at home.

If you have Coronavirus symptoms:

- Do **NOT** go to a GP surgery, pharmacy or hospital;
- You do not need to contact 111 to tell them you’re staying at home;
- Testing for coronavirus is not needed if you’re staying at home;

- If you feel you cannot cope with your symptoms at home, or your condition gets worse, or your symptoms do not get better after 7 days, then use the NHS111 online Coronavirus service.

Poynton Town Council is co-ordinating volunteers from community organisations. If you need non-medical support or assistance during self-isolation please contact Poynton Town Council on **01625 872238** or email **haf.barlow@poyntontowncouncil.gov.uk**

A local neighbour may have already been in touch and provided you with their contact details so you can get in touch if you need any assistance.

- Don't be shy about contacting them if you need to;
- Do not give bank cards or bank details to individuals;
- If you require shopping think about how you will pay. You could do this using online banking or by asking a family member to pay via online banking for you;
- Observe social distancing practices at all times;
- Think about keeping busy with activities such as cooking, reading, online learning and watching films;
- Write down family contact details and leave them in a prominent position, e.g. either by the telephone on a mantelpiece;
- Keep a list of important telephone numbers close at hand (doctor, chemist, town council etc.);
- Keep a list of medication close at hand.

The Town Council will regularly post information on our website

www.poyntontowncouncil.gov.uk and on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/poyntontowncouncil/>

For volunteers helping neighbours

Firstly, thank you for being a good neighbour.

If you are offering your contact details to elderly and vulnerable residents, please consider the following:

- Are you okay to volunteer? It's important that you are not classed as a vulnerable adult. i.e. you are below the age of 70 with no pre-existing medical conditions and no virus symptoms;
- Think ahead. You may need to self-isolate in the future, so plan ahead, making sure that you have provisions for yourself and your family for at least two weeks;
- Observe advice from Public Health England and daily Government updates.

These are some things to think about whilst looking out for a vulnerable or elderly resident:

- Don't come into physical contact with the person or enter their home. You can knock on the door and step away 2m or swap telephone numbers and talk in that way;
- Remind them to eat well and stay hydrated. Check with them that they have enough food in and have a plan to get more provisions delivered;
- Encourage residents to keep a note of family emergency contact details and keep them in a visible place in their home, e.g. near to the telephone or on a mantelpiece;
- If they don't have access to the internet, keep them updated with relevant information;
- Consider making an extra portion of food/meals for vulnerable residents;
- Ask them if they have access to their medication and are taking it as prescribed;
- Encourage them to keep in touch with people via the phone or digitally if they can;
- Recommend that they keep busy.

It's also important to ensure that you safeguard yourself and the person you are helping. You can do this by:

- Working in pairs with a fellow neighbour, if possible;
- Do not ask for bank cards or bank account details from the person;
- Make sure you provide a receipt for the shopping and keep a copy (i.e. by taking a photo on your phone);
- If you require payment for shopping ask the person or their family about arranging an online payment.

If you have any serious medical concerns about a resident you are looking out for ring 111.

Poynton Town Council is co-ordinating volunteers from community organisations. If you belong to a community organisation please register your interest with them. If you are not a member of a community organisation email haf.barlow@poyntontowncouncil.gov.uk

DIARY DATES

PLEASE NOTE all church led activities have been suspended, any changes to this will be notified in the most appropriate way.

LADIES FELLOWSHIP COFFEE MORNING

Thank you, all of who came along to our Charity Coffee Morning for Open Hands, we had a fantastic morning and raised. £435. Thank you to all of the stall holders and kitchen staff, and movers of tables and chairs.

PMC Book Group

In October 2010, following a suggestion from the "Vision Group" our book group was born. The last meeting was on 2nd October 2019. Because of the personal, overwhelming loss of my much loved daughter, I have felt unable to plan any future meetings. Since October, nobody has contacted me about the group, so now feels like the time to take an extended break. Over nine years (October 2010 to October 2019) we have read and discussed almost 100 (one hundred) books of varying genres. The loss of momentum, coupled with the failure of members to find a book acceptable to all, suggests we may have reached a point in time, when we can look back on many happy hours and move on.

Sincere thanks to all who hosted our meetings in their homes, to Noreen who guided the choice of books with reviews and her love of reading. To Pat, who read so much, old and new publications, and willingly summarised them for us. To all our past and present members, who shared ideas and reactions to the likes "Pilgrim's Progress" "The Manchester Man" "In the shade of the Mulberry Tree" with a visit from Catharine the author, as well as several newly published and many many more over so many years. It was a privilege to be involved such a group.

Anne (Hindle)

RAYMOND BOOTH

Many of you will be aware that the Church, and Green Close, have recently benefitted from a very generous gift from the estate of the late Raymond Booth. He died four years ago aged 85 in a serious fire at his home on Coppice Road. It is understood that the cause of the fire was a neglected cigarette in a waste paper basket. I hope that some of you will remember him moving around Poynton on his scooter. He shouldn't have been riding it having little sight but he kept going.

His executor may be known to some of you and others will certainly remember her parents. Mary Plant (nee Bailey) was a second cousin to Ray. Ray's mother and her grandmother Alice were sisters. She is the daughter of Albert and Irene Bailey. Her father was a trustee at the time our church was built and died suddenly the day after the opening. I knew her mother when I moved to Poynton in 1987. A lovely and very intelligent lady who was profoundly deaf. Mary is married to Brian, an old friend of my family. My father was best man at their wedding at a time I did not know Poynton existed. Mary is still a Methodist and worships at Endon in North Staffordshire.

As a child Ray lived at Mitchell Fold. He attended Green Close Chapel with his mother Emily (nee Heathcote). After his father began work at the colliery in Poynton the family moved to Park Lane. When he grew up he became a joiner, apprenticed in Bollington. He worked with Mary's father for a time at Lomas and then moved to AVRO. He had a keen eye for joinery and spotted a mistake in some work Mary's husband Brian made renovating their home when he visited one day; Brian knew but, I expect, hoped no one else would see it.

Ray had a brother who died young and so grew up an only child. He married and his wife Mary died suddenly in 1988; they had no children. He had many cousins some of whom still live locally.

Mary remembers Ray in his Poynton Brass Band uniform when he was about 18 and believes he joined the Band when he was 16 and was then involved for the rest of his life. He played the tenor horn for almost 40 years until, because of macular degeneration, he sight was too poor for him to read music. He remained a trustee of the band and was President for a time. Mary believes he was one of the members instrumental, if you will pardon the pun, in obtaining sponsorship for the Band from the Vernon Building Society.

Music was always his passion. Mary remembers there was a piano accordion at his family home as well as his tenor horn. Another memory, which I share, is the brass band playing carols around Poynton on Christmas morning. I think that when she was a child they played all over the village whereas I remember that they played outside the homes of certain people which in my early days here included our then next door neighbour.

The Band played at Ray's funeral and then at his graveside in St Georges Churchyard.

He enjoyed bowls and played at the Workman's Club where he was a member. He enjoyed company and had a good sense of humour.

Ray was grateful to all who helped him and had a huge sense of community. In his will he left gifts, not only to our church, but to the Baptist Church, where he would go for Christmas lunch, the Salvation Army and Poynton Youth Band. He was sensitive to the needs of the community and wanted to give back.

Thank you Ray, we are grateful to you

Judy Gibbons

LETTERS AND MESSAGES

Dear friends

We were glad to meet up with some of you again last Friday at Margaret Sharp's celebration service and for the opportunity of a chat. Such opportunities are rare these days so we need to make the best of them and treasure them in our hearts as we will do. Although a sad occasion in a way, we have to recognise that our lives on earth are for a brief span – our days must come to an end at some point. With the years, our bodies deteriorate but, we know that the Lord intended that we spent eternity with Him. As Christians, we can be certain of experiencing that and we must all look beyond this present life to a glorious future with Him.

It was good to meet up with old friends to whom we owe so much in our development to become like Jesus, to grow in our faith and to reach out to others with the Good News He has entrusted to us. I believe, the Lord places us where He wants us to be until He has other plans. We were glad to see that PMC is still going strong even though the denomination, as a whole, seems to have lost its way. The church has produced some notable characters who we will meet one day in glory. Two of these, of course, were Margaret & Geoff Sharp who became great friends of ours and introduced us to the Keswick Convention whose teachings helped to strengthen us in our faith and equip us to serve the Lord in ways beyond our expectations. It was heartening to see their wider family at the service and learn from some of the roles they play in a Christian context. Who knows how much the lives of Geoff & Margaret will influence both succeeding generations of their family & beyond?

May our gracious God enable you in the coming years to know Him more fully and to bring you through whatever trials you may have to face.

In fellowship with Jesus,

David & Kay Morris

Thanksgiving service for Marie Moncaster

I just want to thank you and the folks from the church for the warm welcome we received. We had good journeys both ways, with a very good driver. No sure if it was mentioned to you but at Lanchester Methodist Church a Service was held from 3.00 pm in line with the service at Poynton. They used the same hymns, readings and Eulogy. I am told it was much appreciated by those unable to travel down to Poynton. We all thought the service at Poynton was just Marie and felt up lifted by it.

Thanks again

Yours in His service

Eric Skipsey

Thank you for the messages, cards and prayers sent to my family and me after the recent death of my husband Ian.

Sheila Asquith and family.

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

Happy Birthday to **Elizabeth Dawson** who will be 7 on the 11th April

NEWS FROM WOODLANDS

We are marking Lent at Woodlands with our first go at “Biblical Yoga”. This is something developed by an MHA Chaplain in Cumbria, and involves gentle movements while reading a piece of scripture. The movements help our residents who are living with dementia to engage more deeply and focus for longer, and the sessions are being really well received. We begin and end by singing a hymn (the same one at both points) and also have a time of prayer. In the first week, the scripture was Jesus teaching his disciples to pray (Matthew 6:5-18) and we end our prayers with the Lord’s Prayer using the movements from that first session.

We have very much valued the visits from members of the local Methodist and other churches, and enjoyed a service of Holy Communion with The Rev’d Ros Watson on 11th March. The Friday after this, due to precautions to prevent the spread of Corona Virus, MHA took the decision to close to non-essential visitors, which includes visiting church groups. We will miss the visits for as long as this continues, but I will ensure that there continues to be weekly worship in Woodlands, and will be working to put in place “Home Communion” services as an alternative to having a full Holy Communion on a monthly basis.

At the time of writing, we are still open for visits from immediate family, although of course it is a rapidly changing picture. If you visit a family member or friend in a personal capacity we would ask you to consider carefully whether your visit is necessary and in the best interests of the person you are visiting, and of course not to come to Woodlands if you have any symptoms of cough or fever, however mild.

Please keep us in your prayers at this time, as we will be keeping you in ours.

Abby Ogier

STEWARDS REPORT MARCH 2020

We have been saddened of course by the loss of our friend Marie. It should be recorded that she maintained an interest in our concerns to the end of her life and remained a Steward of PMC. She read our minutes and prayed for our challenges; we are all grateful for her witness and service.

At the last extra meeting of Church Council Noreen was welcomed as a Steward. We were very pleased to have an experienced volunteer who could step into the team with ease.

There is no doubt that it has not been an easy start to the year for our church; we have lost some old and respected friends. Now the present worldwide crisis is having an impact, just when we hoped for some calm water ahead. We shall support our minister, cover any gathering we can still hold and support our fellowship if isolated, trusting that our PMC family will continue to be strong in faith, love and fellowship.

One practical task we have been asked to complete for Circuit is an audit of charitable causes we support at PMC. So far we have those listed below but if anyone can think of others we have missed please let one of us know.

Christian Aid, door to door and special project for Haiti

Action for Children

World Vision

Toilet Twinning

International Aid

Macclesfield Salvation Army food bank

Open Hands

Embrace

Christmas Charity Market offering stalls to numerous charities

Crisis, The Big Issue and the Trussell Trust all supported from our feed in tariff

The Stewards

PROPERTY UPDATE

The following repairs and upgrades were carried out since the last report in January:

- New emergency light fitted in main church & over door at the small corridor.
- Back wall in room 2 refreshed by Hilary Clare, (Very artistic and effective).
- Repair to damaged child gate for room 1 doorway.
- Electrical socket replaced at hatchway in kitchen.
- Fused connection Unit fitted to give protection to church heater fan.
- Repair to HENRY blue vac.
- New tube in high fluorescent light over gents wc door in large corridor.
- Repair to 'blind cords' in rooms 1 and 2. Please use...gently.
- Repair to leak in kitchen LINCAT boiler.
- Repairs to both small gates in the rear yard.
- All locks oiled. (Kitchen door lock is faulty and will be replaced).

WASTE.

Our waste Tsar, Judith has arranged for the free collection of PMC green bin garden waste. We may also be obtaining a small grey recycle bin with free collection by Cheshire East. We have also managed to reduce the impending increased waste collection charges for 2020, by STE WASTE our contractor, in identifying an accounting error. Team effort led by Jane Robson.

ROOF (Contractors)

Repairs are now complete and seem satisfactory. The Poynton lifeboat has not been required since. We will of course monitor the situation.

FIVE YEAR ELECTRICAL TESTING (Contractors)

This was carried out in January and February and is a statutory requirement. A few issues were found and rectified. It did test the best efforts of the contractors and ourselves for a time to trace one particular historic fault. Anyway, the relevant certification is now in place.

CHURCH REFURBISHMENT

- Chairs. These have now been ordered and we await delivery. It is likely the 'plastic' chairs will arrive first, with the main church chairs in 5 - 7 weeks.
- Window. The possibility of a larger window in the lobby area is being progressed with a local architect. This would allow in more light and hopefully give PMC more visibility externally.
- Ceiling tiles. We will be fitting new ceiling tiles to replace those damaged by rain water in the large corridor.

HYGIENE.

In the interests of hygiene generally and more specifically the recent coronavirus, we are looking to install electric hand dryers in the kitchen and ladies wc. as soon as possible. Lots of advice, specifically to 'WASH YOUR HANDS', has come down from the NHS and as part of that we are looking to reduce the chances of infection. You may therefore notice that towels may have been removed.

PMC PROPERTY COMMITTEE

Our Minister is Rev Ros Watson. You can contact her or leave a message on 872060 or 07923044709 or via her email ros.watson@methodist.org.uk Her day off is Friday. If there is no reply and there is an immediate emergency, phone Rev Graham Edwards 01625 426051 or Rev Helen Byrne 01625 572259.

For Church Notices and office queries please contact Fiona Carmichael: office@poyntonmethodist.org.

Our Children and Young People's Worker, Annie Truman can be contacted on her email which is annie@poyntonmethodist.org

All regular meetings and bookings that would be listed here are cancelled for the immediate future as the church buildings are now closed.

ROOM BOOKING ENQUIRIES – please email Alison Sharpe at roombookings@poyntonmethodist.org