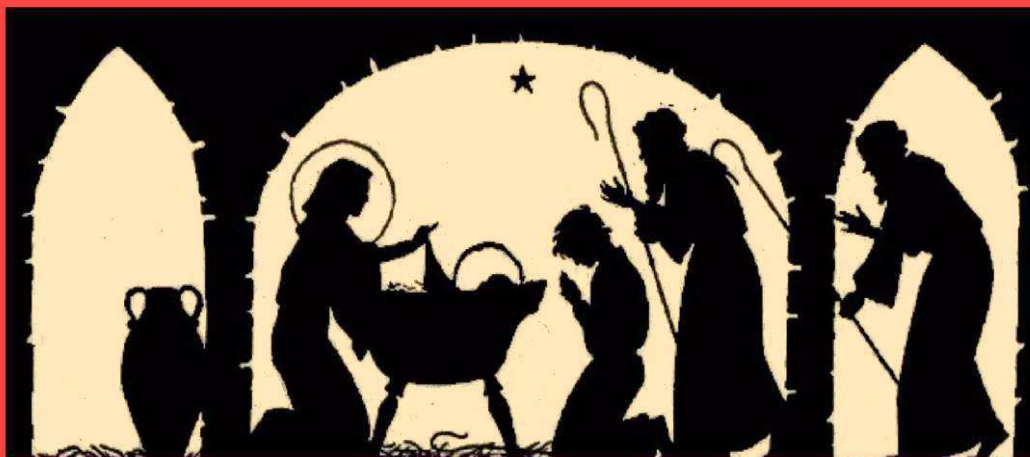
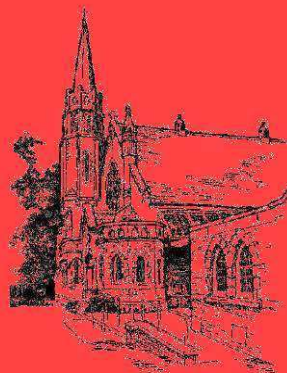


**Fulwood Methodist Church  
Crossroads Centre**



# CHRISTMAS 2017



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THE FULWOOD METHODIST

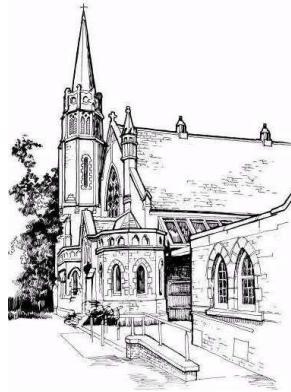
# FULWOOD METHODIST CHURCH

Watling Street Road, Fulwood, Preston, PR2 8EA

Tel. Preston (01772) 718741

Registered Charity No. 1133929

**MINISTER**  
**Rev. Jane Wild**  
*janwld@aol.co.uk*  
**Tel. 01772 715134**



**YOUTH, CHILDREN AND  
FAMILY WORKER**  
**Darren Arnold**  
*darrenarnold.church@gmail.com*  
**Tel. 07811 775825**

## SUNDAY SERVICES

9.45 am SINGING PRACTICE

10.30 am MORNING WORSHIP & SUNDAY CLUB

We offer a welcome to all ages on Sunday mornings, there is a CRÈCHE for babies and toddlers while parents are in worship. The first 15 minutes of worship are for all ages and then on most Sundays the children leave for their own time in SUNDAY CLUB, where there are groups for different ages. Parents can go out with the younger ones to see them settle, and then come back into church for worship. Sunday Club and worship finish at the same time and an invitation is extended to everyone to stay and share in fellowship in the Willow Grove, where tea, coffee and orange juice are served.

The CHURCH MINIBUS provides free transport to and from Church on Sunday mornings. The timetable and route information are available at Church. Should you wish to make use of it please complete one of the request cards in Willow Grove.

6.30 p.m. EVENING WORSHIP and usually on the 4th Sunday of the month at **Ashton Methodist Church**, Wellington Rd. PR2 1BU (*See weekly notices for details*) HOLY COMMUNION is celebrated monthly (morning and evening) and once a month there is ALL-AGE WORSHIP involving children from the youth groups.

For BAPTISMS, MARRIAGES AND FUNERALS contact Rev. Jane Wild

\*\*\*\*\*

**If you need any help, or have any concerns, please contact**

**Rev. Jane Wild or Mrs. Sue Penrith (862273)**

or contact ..... Tel.....

## EDITORIAL

Thanks to all who've provided material for this issue and we're particularly delighted to have an insider's view, from Will Stone, on the Kidney Patients Association: FMC's new nominated charity. We also trust that the new input from Rachel Imms will serve a very useful purpose to many. In addition I offer my sincere thanks to all who help to see the production of each issue of the magazine through from beginning to end.

The **copy date** for our **Easter issue** will be **Sunday, 25<sup>th</sup> February, 2018**. Any material in advance of that date would, of course, be most welcome and please do remember that articles may be subject to editing!

Meanwhile this comes to you, "Gyda chyfarchion tymhorol a dymuniadau gorau am y Flwyddyn Newydd" (*With season's greetings and best wishes for the New Year*)

Roy Smith

\* \* \* \* \*

### FULWOOD STEWARDS CHURCH

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### COMMUNION

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John Butterworth, Jacqueline Clarke, Audrey Harrison,  
Graham Johnson, Pam Johnson, Melba Southwood

#### Pastoral Secretary:

Sue Penrith (862273) email: *suepenrith@virginmedia.com*

\* \* \* \* \*

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If you need a spare copy, please pick one up from Willow Grove.

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If you have a smartphone, scan the QR-code alongside to access the site.

Copies going back to Harvest 2001 are available!



# PASTORAL LETTER

from the Minister

Rev. Jane Wild

Dear Friends

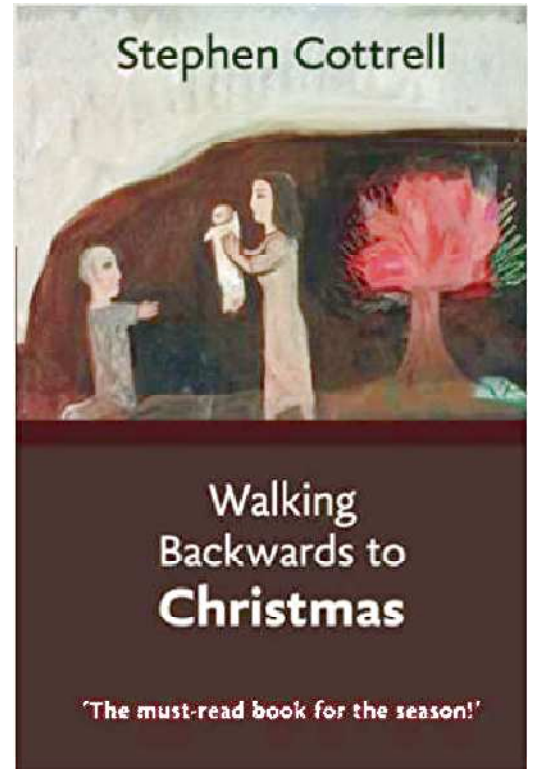
In the traditional religious pictures of the Orthodox Church, it is not unusual for the burning bush (through which Moses heard the voice of God) to be the sign of the Virgin Mary. There is a link made between times when God appeared to Moses and revealed his name and the appearance of God to Mary to announce the coming of Jesus, through whom the word is made flesh. This idea is seen in a picture by Albert Herbert 'Nativity with Burning Bush' that inspired Stephen Cottrell to use the idea of walking backwards to Christmas to re-tell the Nativity Story.

The great advantage of walking backward is an overview of where you have been. We can look at the wealth of human experience of God that leads to the birth of Jesus and explore how God's covenant with his people is an eternal promise.

The great disadvantage of walking backwards is that you cannot see where you are going. So if we look at the Christmas story in this way, it becomes new and surprising. Perhaps using our imagination to look at the Advent and Christmas story this way can help us to see it afresh. What would it be like if we were waiting like Anna, Elizabeth and Mary? Caught unawares like Joseph? Challenged to great effort and expense to be in the presence of God, like the Wise Men, or called to be with God in the middle of the night, like the shepherds?

So, as we remember and relive the incarnation this year, my hope is that, whichever angle we look at it from, we may grow in peace and love.

Best Wishes for a God-filled Christmas and New Year.



*Jane Wild*

# FAMILY NEWS

## Baptisms

26<sup>th</sup> November Dalton and Priscila Whitehead  
" " Harry Jones  
" " Lillie Green  
3<sup>rd</sup> December Harry Taylor



## Weddings

9<sup>th</sup> September Jimmy Holden and Ruth Monks  
21<sup>st</sup> October Mark Davison and Laura Heggie



## Deaths

We remember and give thanks for the lives of those in our Church Family who have died and pray for their loved ones

21<sup>st</sup> September Brenda Heaton  
31<sup>st</sup> October Geoff Oliver  
22<sup>nd</sup> November Derek Heane  
24<sup>th</sup> November Arnold Barker  
30<sup>th</sup> November Donald Talbot



Stephen and Myrtle Poxon wish to share with friends at Fulwood the sad news that Stephen's father Ken passed away quietly on Monday 27th November. He was 97 years old.

We continue to pray for those in who are ill or in need at this time and particularly those who find the season of Christmas difficult.

## HOGHTON FOLK DANCE CLUB

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## ARNOLD BARKER

Dad was born in Victoria Terrace Nursing Home, Leyland on 9th January, 1932, the older of 2 boys. He attended Leyland Methodist School until he went to Yewlands Drive Senior School where he passed the entrance exam to go to the Harris Institute Junior Technical College in Corporation Street, Preston. It was while he was there that he decided to go into the textile industry.

The North Lancashire Textile Association was offering 9 students a year training and a job of work when leaving the College, so instead of doing woodwork and metal work, he did spinning and weaving. He then spent the next 47 years in textiles. Working at John Liver's Mill, Horrock's, Leas and then later the Prison

Service, where he worked as a Civilian Weaving Instructor for 30 years. He worked at Kirkham, Preston, Wymott and Garth, every day offering a new challenge, dealing with the inmates (or 'some rum lads', as he referred to them).

While growing up in Leyland he was a member of the 1st Leyland Life Boys and Boys Brigade. He became the Captain of the Boys Brigade for a short time before moving to Fulwood.

As he was Assistant Secretary for the Sunday School, the Headmaster of the Day School would often send him to the TSB Bank in Chapel Brow with £100 or £200 in a bag, especially during the Savings Weeks during the war. He was only 10 or 11 at the time.

With Clubland, he enjoyed Easter and September holidays in different Church Schools at Ambleside, Sandylands and Green Street in Morecambe and at Churchtown near Southport. He also went to Fairbourne, the Wesley Guild Holiday Home across the river from Barmouth. He was Head Boy for Clubland.

He then went on holiday to Willersley Castle, in Derbyshire, where he met his future wife, Joan. She was waiting on in the dining room and as he left the dining room said, "If that lad keeps looking at me, I'll pour this soup down his neck". Whilst on a boat on the river he said that he would throw her in if she would not marry him and as she had plaster of Paris on both feet how could she refuse! Eventually they got engaged and then married on 3rd September 1955 and spent 56½ years together.

Judith was born in 1958 and Philip in 1964. In 1970 Eileen (Little Smiler) joined the family and was fostered until her death in 1982.

He loved his grandchildren, Matt and Alex, and looked forward to taking them on outings in their school holidays. He was very proud of them and what they have achieved.



He had many enjoyable family holidays, staying in many parts of the country, and in many different cottages - on riding schools, next to a smithy, even on Lady Walpole's estate. Once we left home Mum and Dad started caravanning and cruising.

After Mum died, he sold the caravan and went on coach holidays – nearly every month, except April and May, when he had to see to his plants, and December, as it was also a busy month. He also enjoyed trips to Spain with Mike and Judith.

Mum and Dad enjoyed dancing, caravanning, and meeting friends and family. They were members of Fulwood Methodist Church and Arnold was the Sunday School Superintendent for 12 years. During this time there was a Preston Guild where the Church decided they would do the 'Good Samaritan', and that they would use a real donkey. They had to have 2 as one wouldn't come without the other. Whilst in the parade Arnold could be seen pulling / encouraging the donkeys when they got to zebra crossings as the donkeys did not like them!

He has also been a NCH and League of Light Secretary, a Church Trustee on the Church Council, Communion Steward, Door Steward, Flower Distributor and Pastoral Visitor.

When Ingol Methodist Church started up, Mum and Dad decided that it needed support, so they would attend Ingol in the morning and Fulwood in the evening. Dad got involved in helping with painting and other jobs he could do.

When Mum died in 2012, Dad decided that he would be of service to others and he continued as a Pastoral Visitor which he had done with Mum – visiting many people in care homes and hospital. He was a driver for the Royal Voluntary Service delivering library books to the housebound for 20 years and was doing this up until he became ill.

He also took up walking with the local Ramblers Club (although they had to tell him if the walk had many stiles or was too steep as he struggled with these), and his niece.

Dad's hobby was gardening and his garden always look beautiful with the plants he had grown from cuttings or seed. Not satisfied with working in his own garden he also kept the gardens tidy and mowed lawns for at least three other people.

In recent years Judith often spoke to his answering machine and had to make an appointment to see him as he was never in. Dad was always one for helping others – whether mending cars or DIY.

Dad said he'd had a good life and enjoyed his 85 years, which was not surprising when to him the only thing better than one dessert at a meal, was two.

*Philip Barker*

## DEREK HEANE

Derek was born and brought up on Garstang Road, not far from the Black Bull and went to Hutton Grammar School.

Straight from school Derek became a draughtsman at Iddon Bros. in Leyland, working his way up during his 50 years there to Company Director, tirelessly representing the company at home and abroad - in Sweden, America, Canada & South Africa, helping to develop new products and customers alike, right up to his retirement at the age of 67.



Derek was also very proud to serve as a Preston Magistrate for over 20 years and made a significant contribution to the North Western Chamber of Commerce for over 40 years, holding the office of Chairman in the early 90s.

He had a strong belief in the development of young people, serving as a board member of Preston Training for many years. He was also very active and generous with his charity work; selflessly supporting the National Children's Home & NSPCC.

In the middle of all this, no less than 66 years ago, Derek met Muriel, a key milestone in his life. They shared many happy times together, with lots of socialising at dinner parties and functions. There was sadness too in 1963 with the loss of a son Richard, who sadly was taken too soon. Then the following year along came Sara to form the "3 Musketeers". Sara and Derek were like "me & my shadow", spending hours & hours together, playing tennis, gardening or washing the car. Many happy holidays followed; caravanning, apartments, the Lakes, Cyprus, France and Tenerife to name but a few.

Derek had a strong passion for tennis, jam sandwiches, black woolly dogs and all things mechanical, particularly bikes and cars - Norton Dominators and Jaguars especially. Who can forget that beaming grin of Derek's when he was driving that beloved primrose yellow E type Jag?

Derek was always the figurehead of the family, to Muriel & Sara of course, but also to his 3 grandchildren Alex, Francesca & William (who lovingly always referred to Derek as "Baba", Alex never could pronounce "Grandpa", and so the name "Baba" has stuck)

In all the years I knew Derek, I never heard him raise his voice or a cross word. He was a true gentleman, one of the old school you might say, professional but always utterly modest, positive and smiling, never ever complaining. He had time for everyone, being an excellent listener and always on hand to offer advice and never imposing or being a burden to anyone.

*Simon Fell*



## BRENDA HEATON



Brenda was born in Blackburn and went to St. Stephen's School then Blackburn Technical College. She had known Jeffrey a long time as they went to the same Sunday School. On a visit to the youth club, Aunty Mary asked Jeffrey if he would take Brenda home. He invited her to the pictures and the rest, as they say, is history. They married at Derby St Methodist Church in 1959.

Brenda worked at Mullards in Blackburn, up to having Mark, then Elaine and Gary. She then worked as a cashier in various places most of her life. Here she met Anne Wright who became a life-long friend.

For a time Jeff and Brenda had a newsagents and sweet shop. She enjoyed baking, particularly jam cake and scones. Bowling was a skill she acquired and she joined Leyland Bowling Club where she was President in 2004. She was competitive and therefore delighted when she won President's Day

Brenda enjoyed the holidays. She went on timeshare in Spain, family holidays in Scotland and Cornwall, cruises in Hawaii, Vancouver, Russia, Norway, Sweden and the Mediterranean. She enjoyed the dressing up involved on these.

She liked her garden, growing fruit, flowers and vegetables. The only thing Jeff was allowed was the gooseberry bush! She liked plums, raspberries, strawberries and apricots and wasn't frightened of delegating; sending the family out to hold the tree together during a thunderstorm and bind it up.

Brenda was friendly, would help anyone and always willing to do anything for anybody. She loved looking after the grandchildren; Gareth, Michael, Sarah, James, Nathan, Imogen, Christopher and James.

## GEOFF OLIVER



Geoff was born in Preston on Cottam Lane. He lost his mother when he was 11 and went to live with mother's grandparents and sister. At 15 he became an apprentice tool maker following his dad at English Electric.

Geoff was conscripted at 21. This was delayed because of his apprenticeship, but he was not best pleased that he had to go the day after his 21st birthday.

He hated the Army, even though he saw lots of trains and managed to go on courses that were convenient to him seeing trains. During this time he was a member of the Bisley shooting team despite never liking guns. After leaving the Army he moved to Manchester. There he met a girl called Alma in 1952, at a dance in Belle Vue. He is reputed to have asked her what she did for a living and when she answered that she worked at Gorton rail works he answered, "You're wonderful, that's the girl for me". They married in 1953 and the next year Diane was born, followed a few years later by Lynne.

When Alma's parents died they moved to Bedfordshire where Geoff worked in engineering. In his spare time he continued bird watching and train spotting.

Alma wanted to come home and the working hours available to Geoff had been reduced, so the day after Diane's 'A' levels finished the family moved to St. Annes where they kept a shop, although Geoff at times continued engineering work all over the country. In 1987 he moved to Preston full time.

In 2011 Alma died after 58 years of marriage. Geoff liked being outside and was keen on the conservation element. He had a big interest in the environment, not just birds, but was entranced on the occasion when he saw his first adder.

He was proud of all the family; both his children "our girls", and he adored his grandchildren.

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## YOUTH, CHILDREN'S & FAMILY WORK UPCOMING EVENTS

On Friday 5th January 11.00 am - 1.00 pm we will be holding a '*Teddy Bears Picnic*' for the families of the Church and groups who use the building, but please feel free to come and join in the fun, games, crafts, stories and food. The event is free, but don't forget your Teddy Bear.



*'Who Let The Dads Out?'* launches on Saturday 20th January 10.00 am - 12 noon,

*'Who Let The Dads Out?'* is a growing movement that resources churches to reach out to dads, father figures and their children. They believe that to "turn the hearts of the fathers to their children and the hearts of the children to their fathers" (Malachi 4:6, NIV 1984) is a powerful way 'to make ready a people prepared for the Lord' (Luke 1:17).

They want to see churches creating spaces where dads, father figures and their children can have fun together, and is founded on the Christian principle of wanting to demonstrate God's love to communities.

Our sessions will be on the 3rd Saturday of each month with toys, games and crafts for the children, whilst the men get the opportunity to spend time with their children and talk with other men about 'blokey' things like cars, sport and tools! and most importantly, have food!

Ideally this group will be run by the men of the Church, so if you feel you could help then please speak to me. I'm looking for cooks, tea/coffee makers, welcomers and men to generally chat with others. This is a great opportunity to meet men within our community and engage with them whatever your age.

Please keep an eye out for more new ventures starting in the new year.

Thank you

***Darren Arnold***  
Youth, Children's & Family Worker

## CONGRATULATIONS AND CONCERNS From October 1997 to October 2017

We celebrate 20 years of Churches Together in Fulwood and Broughton staffing the Help and Information desk at Royal Preston Hospital on weekday evenings.

But there is growing concern about the future. We need more volunteers! In particular we need more older volunteers. We have several students working with us and they are invaluable members of the team, but we do need several more experienced people to give the teams balance and continuity since the majority of students are with us for only one or two years.

The job title is more or less self-explanatory; we help and inform (not on medical matters, of course). We have hospital maps, reference lists etc. We are also custodians of a dozen or so wheelchairs which are lent to visitors and outpatients and logged out and in.

CTFB staffs the desk from 4 till 8 on weekday evenings, two people do a 4 hour stint each month, but most do one or two 2 hour sessions a month. Could you help? Could you spare 2 or 4 hours a month to help your community?

If you are interested speak to Linda Butterworth, Anne Garsed, Judith Harvey, Geoff or Chris Oldham, Joan Smith or Libby Stone, who can give more details.

To apply contact Mrs. Sylvia Turner, Volunteers Co-ordinator on 01772524206 or at Chorley hospital on 01257247536.



*Ann Done*



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## ENOUGH FOR EVERYONE THIS CHRISTMAS WITH CHRISTIAN AID

At Christmas, we come together to celebrate the birth of Jesus. Food is found at many celebrations in the Bible, so it feels entirely appropriate that it is at the heart of our festivities when we celebrate God's only son coming into the world.

Colette lives in Burkina Faso, West Africa, with her husband, young daughter and baby. Colette's Christmas is not dissimilar to ours. It starts with cooking delicious food and then getting her children ready for church. She prays for her children, and asks that God will give them health and everything they need. When Colette gets home, she greets her neighbours and they share food. They gather together and show their joy by dancing and singing. Like us, they eat special food on Christmas Day. For Colette and her neighbours, this will be rice, goat and spaghetti!



But life has been hard for Colette. She was forced to work at a gold mine every day to earn money to feed her family. Colette spent days at the mining site without finding any gold to sell. She made so little money that she was not able to buy nutritious food. Her daughter Eulalie was very ill and weak, and was diagnosed with malnutrition.

However, Colette found hope through a market garden project supported by Christian Aid. She and her husband were trained in how to grow crops and were provided with tools and seeds. She produces nutritious food to eat and sell, and can work with her children close by. Eulalie is now four years old and has recovered, and her little sister Ornela has, thankfully, never been malnourished. Colette sells some of her vegetables to pay for healthcare and clothes for her girls. She plans to extend her garden to pay for her children to go to school.

Colette's story shows that a family can be saved from the horrors of malnutrition. Landlocked Burkina Faso is one of the world's poorest countries, with almost half of its 16 million inhabitants living below the poverty line. More than 30% of children under five years old have stunted growth. Christian Aid works with its partners to reduce malnutrition and ensure reliable access to healthy food for those in need, such as women of child-bearing age and young children.

Colette's Christmas is in many ways like our own, filled with generosity and the enjoyment of delicious food. We enjoy and look forward to our special Christmas food and often have too much. Isaiah 58:10 shows God's love for the hungry and oppressed. Jesus revealed this by feeding the hungry many times. When we respond to the hungry and needy, we reflect the light of Christ.

We all probably know the foods we buy that no one really likes, and those that we buy far too much of. Join Christian Aid's Enough for Everyone Christmas Appeal

by committing to not buying at least one thing that you know would be wasted. You can turn that pledge into a donation to Christian Aid's work providing life-saving aid and long-term solutions to hunger and malnutrition.

If you save just £13, that could be turned into a village nutrition demonstration in Burkina Faso, teaching more than 25 mothers about nutrition for their children. Together, we could raise £170 to train a nutrition committee to run regular porridge demonstrations and educational sessions in a village like Colette's.

**Will you join thousands of others helping to ensure there is enough for everyone this Christmas?**

You can make a donation by visiting [christianaid.org.uk/christmas](http://christianaid.org.uk/christmas) or calling **020 7523 2269**.

**Twice the impact! For every pound you give, the UK government will give a pound more. \* That's double the support for people living in poverty.**

*\* Donations made to the Christmas appeal between 6 November 2017 and 5 February 2018 will be matched up to £2.7 million. We will use your donations for projects such as those featured. The UK Government's match will fund our work in South Sudan.*

\* \* \* \* \*

## 3GENERATE

On the weekend of November 24th - 26th, 6 youngsters from Fulwood and 7 from Bamber Bridge descended on Pontins, Southport for 3generate Methodist Children's and Youth weekend. The weekend had a packed programme with lots of choices. The youngsters chose from workshops like 'Reinventing Church', 'Funky icons', 'A brave new world', 'Being the hands that make change happen' and 'Messy science' to name a few. There were also opportunities to take part in activities like

swimming, go-karting and favourites for our kids, the digital graffiti wall and the photo booth. Later in the evening and ending on the Sunday, we had the opportunity to choose what worship we wanted. Some chose worship led by a Gospel Choir whilst others went for Urban Praise Project which is a fresh style of worship! (loud with a party vibe). Whilst these events happened the leaders had chance to meet others, talk and catch up with old friends. Please do talk to the youngsters about the weekend to find out more of their experiences, and please ask John about the silent disco!!!



**Darren Arnold**

## **OUR NEW PROJECT - KIDNEY CARE UK**

(formerly the British Kidney Patient Association - BKPA)

Kidney Care has a particular resonance for me. Founded by Elizabeth Ward over 40 years ago, it has grown from a pledge to support her son and kidney patients, to a national charity of importance as a voice for the hundreds of thousands affected by renal disease.

I first came into contact with the BKPA in 1996. Having suffered from chronic renal failure in my childhood, I reached end-stage by the age of 21 in 1994. I went from an

active life with complete freedom to a reliance on dialysis at home four times a day. In fact, in the year leading up to my final days of failure I was living and working in the south of France close to the city of Perpignan. The monitoring I received via the French healthcare system during those final months was exemplary (and a story for another time).

The first year or so of renal failure and dialysis was akin to being in the wilderness. There was little guidance and support - and certainly no social media or sophisticated websites for any answers. Home dialysis, involved 'exchanges' four times a day. It wasn't something a 21 year-old me could get his head around. 1995 was a very hard year, made worse by a failed live donor transplant via my father. I really struggled with renal failure and self-treating it with home dialysis. There was little intervention from the renal team, although the small, tight-knit nursing team did their best. By 1996 I was struggling mentally and physically. Mental health wasn't a talked about subject 20 years ago either. Luckily for me, a nurse recognised my struggle and I moved to haemodialysis at the RPH. For the first time I felt I was part of a 'tribe' but more importantly I got to see social workers and access to key resources.

One of the support routes was the British Kidney Patients Association. Elizabeth Ward had lost her son Timbo to renal disease by the 1980s and was running her charity at full steam. I received support to pay my rent for my student accommodation; something which enabled me to be a full-time student while on full-time dialysis. The charity does a lot more however. Even today it is funding holidays, driving lessons, computers, weddings and key medical resources and posts in hospitals. Kidney Care, as it is today, now funds full-time renal posts including researchers and medical roles. It has invested in new treatment centres and has funded holiday dialysis centres all over the UK and abroad. One thing I do remember was the fact that Elizabeth Ward wrote and signed each individual letter. She was passionate about patient care and their renal journey.

As a young adult, she helped me at a time of need. If I was in the same position today with my family, I know that Kidney Care would be a tremendous support; not only in the financial support they can offer, but also the longer term investment in





renal medicine. Renal medicine is pretty poorly funded and poorly understood. The journey to dialysis is long and once on a dialysis path, you could be waiting a very long time for a transplant. Hopefully the changes in Organ Donation will help relieve some of this. For many though renal failure is a long and exhausting time - an almost silent and invisible disease.

I'm lucky now that I have had a successful transplant for over 19 years and have a wonderful family and career. One of the most important aspects of Kidney Care has been their Facebook Group. I just wish I had been able to access something like this in the 90s. It is a wonderful place that allows so many people to talk to one another, care about each other (there is a real family feeling about the Group) and learn about their disease.

With such a life limiting and arduous disease, Kidney Care is unique in the way it supports 'the individual' on their journey. We asked for donations at our wedding (which prompted the then CEO Rosemary Macri, to start a gifting campaign around weddings and key milestones).

Your donations will make a fully tangible impact. You could be sending a family on a short break for the first time in years. You could be helping a dialysis patient pass their driving test to enable them to have more freedom. You could be funding a specialist renal psychologist. Each donation will help Kidney Care do this and much more.

**Will Stone**

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or email Barry Crossley - [barrycrossregent42@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:barrycrossregent42@yahoo.co.uk)

## CENTRAL CHURCH BI-CENTENARY

This year our friends at Central Methodist Church have been celebrating the 200th birthday of the Church. That is a remarkable achievement and I know that many people at Fulwood will have taken part in the celebrations and rejoice that there is still a Methodist presence at the very centre of Preston.

Perhaps fewer people will know that the minister at Central, the Rev. Sue Creighton is also the chaplain to Ribbleton Avenue Methodist Junior School in Preston. Rev Sue as she is known there has become a very popular and much loved figure at the school in recent years and I, as Chairman of the Governing Body, want to thank her for her support.

The purpose of this article though is to report that late in November the school paid two visits to Central as part of the Church's celebrations. On two successive afternoons over 100 children boarded buses (funded by Central themselves) and presented a play which told the story of 200 years of Methodism in the centre of the town and city. The play had been specially researched and written by Melody, who works closely with several of the Methodist schools in Lancashire on behalf of the Methodist District. The children were well prepared and performed really well, remembering their lines and movements with great precision. The afternoon finished with some rousing singing - not Charles Wesley to be sure, but songs which celebrated the love of God for us, with real energy.

It is good to have a school with which the Methodist Church can be associated in Preston. Several Methodists serve on the Governing Body of the school or act as volunteers there. We could do with some more help - do talk to me or Sue Penrith if you think you could help from time to time.

Early in 2018, the Theatre Visit Group will be funding some 20 or so pupils to go to see A Christmas Carol at Bolton Octagon Theatre. A similar number had a great time a couple of years ago when we went to see 'The BFG' and, for some of them, it was their first visit to the theatre. We still treasure the letters of thanks they sent to us afterwards.

The existence of faith-based schools gives rise to differing opinions in our society today. Being involved with such a school has demonstrated to me that where such schools seek to meet the needs of the pupils in their community and the well-being of the whole of the society they can make a very worthwhile contribution indeed.



*Ken Wales*



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# THE BIG SHIFT

Christian Aid is campaigning for banks to make the Big Shift away from fossil fuels and into support for renewable energy.

In the Paris Agreement of 2015, world leaders pledged to stop global temperatures rising above two degrees. To achieve this, governments and scientists are united in agreeing that we must move towards a zero carbon economy.

There is also a strong financial case for shifting away from fossil fuels - in 2016, The World Economic Forum identified the failure to tackle climate change as the biggest risk we face. UK banks manage trillions of pounds of our money. It's up to us to be interested in how they use it.

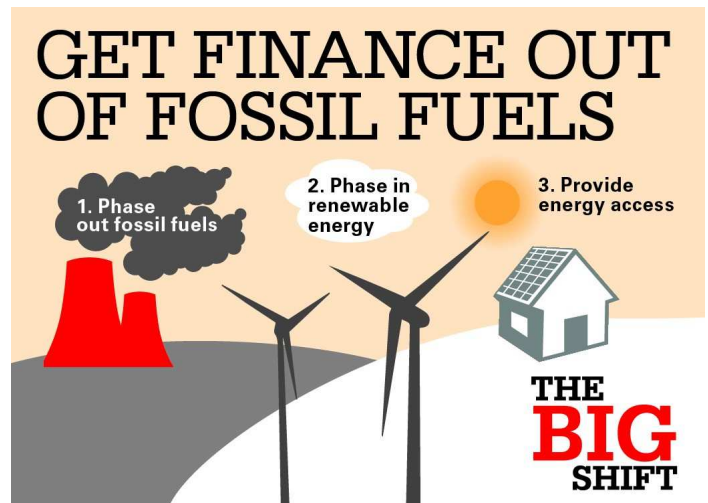
Christian Aid research shows that the banks managing our money are still much more heavily invested in fossil fuel companies than in renewable energy companies. Our economy has been based on fossil fuels for over 100 years, so we understand that it's not as easy as simply changing all of their loans and investments overnight.

But what is worrying is the lack of a clear plan or commitment from the banks as to how to change this current balance and scale up investments in renewables. To love our neighbours and God's abundant planet as we're entrusted to do requires a big shift in finances towards renewable energy.

Christian Aid is asking for banks to make a clear commitment to end the financing of fossil fuels. They should set clear targets to decrease this and to increase the financing of renewable energy generation, to meet the Paris agreements. And they should publish the carbon footprint resulting from their investments and loans, not just their operations.

So what can we do? At the moment Christian Aid is focusing on the 4 major high street banks and one of those is the Royal Bank of Scotland, which Fulwood Methodist Church banks with. We can use our influence as their customer to encourage them to take the steps above.

In the New Year a big poster will appear in the Willow Grove - Prudence the Pig - and all are invited to use the 'money' stickers to write a brief message to the bank to stick on the 'piggy bank'. It could be a simple message asking the bank to 'make the big shift' or an example of how you are investing in a better world yourself or a reminder of how climate change is so badly affecting our neighbours all around the world. We will then take our poster of messages to present to the RBS, together with an explanatory letter.



*The Outreach Group*

# THE MINISTRY OF FLOWERS

“The flowers were nice in Church today”

“Lot of flowers today, do you think there was a wedding?”

“Nice display of flowers today but I’m not sure I liked the colours”

Are comments sometimes overheard in Church, but do we ever think about the Ministry of Flowers and how we can all be involved in it?

Why do we have flowers in Church every week, not just on special occasions? I hope that it is to enhance the worship space and to remind us of the beauty in God’s world in the shape of flowers. Sometimes the flowers are given in memory of friends and family or to mark a special occasion - a chance to remember.

What happens to them after the Service? They are taken to people who are in need of a little TLC for whatever reason, with our love and prayers; and in the knowledge that they have been part of our worship.

So, how can we all be involved in this ministry?

- You may say that you can’t arrange a pedestal of flowers, so that’s out. When we worshipped at St. Pius School we had to use a vase, as we had to do them before worship on Sunday morning. I am sure God didn’t object to that, so why should we! If you would like to be involved in arranging the flowers for Church in whatever sort of container, please mention it to one of the Stewards and they can introduce you to someone to whom you can have a chat.
- There is a financial cost to this ministry and if you would like to give some money for the flowers one Sunday in memory of someone, or for an anniversary, or just as an expression of gratitude to God, I am sure that Muriel Crossley would love to talk to you.
- If you felt that you could commit to taking the flowers out to the people who need them, please ask a Steward about how you can join the rota.
- If you know of someone who you feel would benefit from being reminded that we care about them, please let Sue Penrith our Pastoral Secretary know. If the people to whom you would like flowers to go are in hospital and are not allowed flowers, please still let Sue know as a card will be sent instead.



The Ministry of Flowers is an important part of our Church’s ministry. Have you ever thought about how you can share in it – why not?

*Delma Whitman*



those writings, the scriptures, and these differences continue today. But what clearly those writings do, however we regard them, is to offer to us a record of an ongoing theological exploration of history. And by engaging in that exploration we can make it current and not ancient. So for example we are introduced to an active God, best described in verbs and not nouns, who consistently creates covenants with individuals, states, nations and the whole of creation. But the Old Testament too shows how difficult it has been for men and women to understand and to come to terms with their place in the scheme of things, often misunderstanding and rushing to false conclusions. And it is through the stories and writings of these men and women that the conversation develops, a conversation which never ends and which we men and women of today can play a full part.

David invited us to engage with the writings in three ways. Firstly, they offer us an invitation simply to talk, to share our life experiences. We were invited to discuss in small groups some key passages which David had chosen. He asked us to look at Exodus 34: 6-7 - not an easy passage, especially to those who are suffering. How might Job, the writer of Lamentations, of Ecclesiastes and Jonah have responded to that passage? Fundamental questions are raised by them which we continue to debate today in the scriptures and practice of Judaism, Islam and Christianity.

Then the Old Testament offers an invitation to pray. Deuteronomy 6: 4-7 is a good example of this. So we spent time silently in prayer and then together reflecting upon the practice of spirituality both today and over the centuries. David encouraged us to face up to a fundamental question - is spiritual practice a form of escapism or is it a tool by which we can be transformed?

Finally, David suggested the Old Testament was a clear invitation to mission. This time we were invited to think about Micah 6: 8. The Old Testament exhorts us to serve - an instruction which is repeated in the New Testament (for example, Mark 12). That mission, that service, took many forms in Old Testament times and takes many forms today. How do we respond now? A key question which is emerging in our times is the extent to which that invitation is addressed to all faiths to work together for the good of God's creation and in praise of our Creator.

No article such as this can do justice to such a wonderful day and such a profound contribution. All it can do is to allow someone who was privileged to be there, as I was, to read again the notes which were taken and the insights gained and to hope for more meetings like this one!

So what do I do next? Well, I think it is a bit late to learn Hebrew but not too late to read those scholars writing today, who know these writings so well. David gave us several leads and if anyone wants some of the recommendations he left with us, do ask me.

*Ken Wales*

## TWELFTH NIGHT

Christmastide is the Christian festival which begins on the eve of 24<sup>th</sup> December and continues for twelve days ending on the eve of January 5<sup>th</sup>. The following day, January 5<sup>th</sup>, is the date of one of the oldest festivals of the Christian church Epiphany. In ancient times a new day began at sunset, not in the middle of the night as it does today, thus the evening of what we call Christmas Eve, was the first day of the Christmas festival and the evening of 5<sup>th</sup> January was Twelfth Night, which then became Epiphany on the 6<sup>th</sup>. In 567 the Council of Tours decreed that the entire period between Christmas and Epiphany be celebrated as Christmastide.

Epiphany is the church festival that marks the showing of the infant Jesus to the Magi. It also celebrates the baptism of Jesus in the River Jordan by John the Baptist. Some Christian traditions celebrate Epiphany as a single day, others as a season stretching through Candlemas (2nd February) to Ash Wednesday. Special hymns are sung in church services and in some places models of the Three Kings are then added to the Nativity. The liturgical colours for Epiphany are white and gold. In the Orthodox faiths it is the custom to give gifts on 6th January rather than Christmas Day.

Twelfth Night is a much more secular event and it is associated with partying on a grand scale and many of its customs have links with pagan beliefs, as of course does Christmas. The Roman festival of Saturnalia fell in midwinter, which was a time of darkness and gloom when evil spirits and the dead roamed the land. To combat this, houses were decorated with greenery such as holly and mistletoe which were believed to ward off evil and a Yule log, brought into the house at Christmas, was kept burning. A superstition or belief, call it what you will, is that Christmas decorations must be taken down on Twelfth Night or misfortune will follow. The reason is that once Epiphany dawns the power of the greenery and the Yule log dies. The greenery is returned to the fields to protect the crops and the charred remains of the Yule log are kept to protect the home from thunder and lightning and to rekindle next Christmas's log.



Pagan festivals were all about feasting and Twelfth Night was no exception. It was the culmination of twelve days of good food and drink. A special Twelfth Night cake was baked containing a bean and sometimes a pea. Whoever ate the slice with the bean became the Lord or King of Misrule who would supervise the festivities. The pea was intended for a lady to become Queen but how they ensured that the correct slices were eaten by the correct sex I'm not sure. Riotous games, tricks played on the unsuspecting and general merrymaking and rowdiness were the order of the day and the tradition of Wassailing on Twelfth Night developed in the



apple growing areas of the West country. Wassail comes from the Anglo Saxon 'waes hal' and means 'be whole'. If greeted with 'wassail' the reply was 'drinkhail' meaning 'your health' and it is a toast regularly used today. The wassail cup was filled with punch or mulled cider, taken from house to house and shared; bonfires were lit in the apple orchards and there was much singing and dancing. There are several old songs about wassailing.

Old pagan beliefs surface in the shape of the fertility symbol, the Green Man, who appears on Twelfth Night as the Holly Man. On Twelfth Night in celebrations on the River Thames by Shakespeare's Globe Theatre, he comes with the Bankside Mummers (strolling players) bringing in the green and wassailing the people with the Town Crier of London in order to encourage growth. This is then usually followed by the St George play about the saint and the dragon. William Shakespeare's play The Twelfth Night was believed written in 1601/1602 as a Twelfth Night entertainment and the first recorded performance was at Candlemas in 1623.

Partying cannot go on for ever so after the festivities of Twelfth Night and the services of Epiphany life returned to normal. The eating and drinking and playing of riotous games was over; the Lord of Misrule was dethroned for another year, the wassail cup put away and it was back to work on Plough Monday.

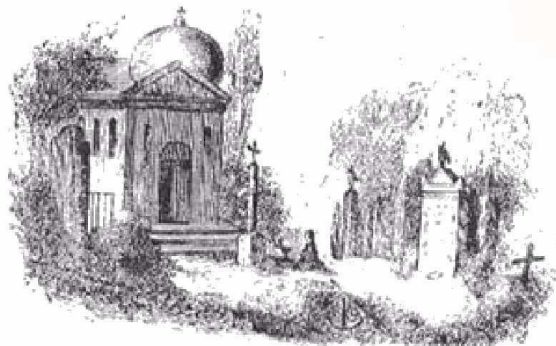
*Barbara Hothersall*

# *Martin's*

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# HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE ADVICE 2017

## Winter health advice

- If you're 65 and over, it's vital that you have your seasonal 'flu vaccination. Influenza is not simply a bad cold - and it can increase your risk of more serious illness. A seasonal 'flu jab will help protect you at the time of the year when you are most vulnerable.
- Prevention is better than cure: routine health checks take just minutes to perform. You can spot any problems in the early stages, when they are easier to treat.



The belief that 'exercising' our brains through mentally stimulating activities like puzzles, games and hobbies makes a lot of sense – if we want our brain to stay in peak condition, we should use it.

### It's cold up North!

As we get older, our bodies respond differently to the cold and can cause difficulties; our blood pressure actually rises when we are cold.

### A few tips;

- ✓ Keep active - even chair-based exercises help
- ✓ Eat well – hot meals and regular hot drinks (use a flask for a constant supply...)
- ✓ Take care when walking outdoors; fallen leaves and ice can cause falls. If you use a walking stick check the rubber bottom (ferrule) to make sure it has plenty of grip – the grooves should be deep and even.



### About the author:

Rachel is a member of the Fulwood Methodist congregation who has worked as an Occupational Therapist (OT) for almost 20 years. Her most recent post was clinical lead for acute medicine at Royal Preston Hospital. She has recently moved into a teaching role at the University of Central Lancashire (UCLAN) and is now offering advice and support on a voluntary basis to the local church community. This new venture will begin with a series of articles offering advice and information which may prove useful to you or your family and friends.

Should you have any specific requests or questions please email the church on [administrator@fulwoodmethodist.org.uk](mailto:administrator@fulwoodmethodist.org.uk) or leave a message with one of the stewards.

*Rachel Imms*

## CRAFT FAIR 2017

On October 14<sup>th</sup> our Crossroads Centre ‘buzzed’ all day with 20 happy stall holders, 5 groups of demonstrators and a host of visitors happy to buy the quality products on sale. Everyone had a good day and we made about £850 for church funds, 10% of which goes to our nominated charity.



As always these events can only be successful because of the hard work behind the scenes, both beforehand and on the day. I really want to say many thanks to the Youth Club team for setting up the hall on Friday night; the advertisers, especially Edna and Ray, getting posters out (including a nice spread in the Evening Post and Fulwood Focus); the catering team for delicious offerings served with smiles; the clearing up team whose arrival at the end of a long day is so welcome and our caretaker Derek who ensured everywhere was spotless beforehand and who was part of the clear up team too.

The competition entrants had all made great efforts and it was interesting to see their interpretations of the theme – Harvest. Our judges were impressed by the standard of work. Maybe a few more entries next time?

We should be proud of the welcome we extend to all our visitors, both returning and new, customers and stall holders alike. It is very much appreciated as well as the high standard of goods on sale.

Watch out for new stalls next year to include a clog maker and beauty products from a local apiarist.

*Veronica Frost*



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## MUSIC EVENTS

On Saturday 27 January 2018 we are holding another ‘Community Come and Sing’ afternoon arranged and led by Jeff Borradaile and friends from Blackburn People’s Choir, followed by an open evening concert. Details and booking form are available on our website at [www.fulwoodmethodist.org.uk/events/music%20events.htm](http://www.fulwoodmethodist.org.uk/events/music%20events.htm)

A music treat, for more experienced singers this time, is another return visit of **John Rutter**. This is an event organised by the Association of British Choral Directors and will be at Fulwood Methodist Church on April 28th next year. Do please tell your musical friends about this event. Details and booking form will be available on our website as soon as possible. Keep looking!



\* \* \* \* \*

### WHY DID IT START?

Decisions made world wide.  
They all enlisted with great joy.  
“Join together, fight together,” they said.

They got to the battle under grey, gloomy skies.  
They fought bravely for their country,  
They saw thousands die.  
The terror of snipers, field guns and even rats.  
They did all this to save lives?

They wrote letters of death to their families:  
All cheerfulness gone,  
Happiness nowhere.

Afterwards the first sign of life:  
A poppy.  
Millions grew on the battlefields  
To remember the fallen  
And lives lost will be remembered.  
Why did they do it?



*2016 – by Hugh Brown  
of St Paul’s Primary School, Scotforth, Lancaster  
(Hugh is Moira Black’s grandson; Caroline is his mum)*

## THE WAR TO END ALL WARS

'The Women's Peace Crusade' swept across Britain from 1916 to 1918. Film of it was shot in 1917 and told the story of the north west women who took part in its gatherings in Manchester, Blackburn, Oldham and Nelson.

100 years ago the government had been encouraging children to assist in the war effort by collecting horse chestnuts (used in making munitions) and blackberries (to make jam for the soldiers).

By 1917 shortages of cloth saw patched clothing being increasingly worn by the middle classes.

In 1917 the soon-to-become-famous Dick Kerr Ladies football team was formed by munitions workers. A crowd of 10,000 turned out to watch them play at Deepdale on Christmas Day.



8<sup>th</sup> November, 1917, saw the last cavalry charge with swords drawn; this was at Huj during the Sinai and Palestine campaign.

November 1917 saw the British government publish the Balfour Declaration, promising to promote the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people. Problems it engendered are still being felt to this day.

On 11<sup>th</sup> December, 1917, General Allenby walked into Jerusalem at the conclusion of a 40 day whirlwind campaign in Palestine.

The Museum of the Cambrai Tank opened recently at Flesquieres. It features Deborah D51, a tank lost on the first day of the battle there and which was only unearthed in 1998, along with the remains of five members of her crew.

On Saturday, 11<sup>th</sup> November this year, for the England v Germany football match, both sets of players wore red poppies on black armbands as a sign of respect, tolerance and humanity. FIFA had ruled that our home nations may now wear a poppy if opposing teams and competition organisers agree to it. The members of the German team did better than that: they wore poppies too, even though it is not their flower of remembrance.

## A FARRAGO

- Thursday, 14<sup>th</sup> December is the date for this year's Lancashire Sings Christmas event. <http://lancashiresingschristmas.co.uk/>
- On Saturday, 16<sup>th</sup> December, from 10 am to 12 noon at Lea Methodist Church, there will be 'Coffee and Carols' with Preston Methodist Voices (our Circuit choir). This is a fund-raiser for the Fox Street Night Shelter.
- For Spring Harvest 2018 the theme will be 'Only the Brave'; meetings will be at Butlin's, Skegness (2 – 6 April) and Harrogate Convention Centre (3 – 7 April). Further details at [www.springharvest.org.uk](http://www.springharvest.org.uk)
- Following the article in the Harvest magazine last year, Anne and Steve Garsed are very pleased to announce that they finally completed the Munros this September.
- It is Christmas every time you let God love others through you.....yes, it is Christmas every time you smile at your brother and offer him your hand.

*(Mother Teresa)*

The time draws near the birth of Christ:

the moon is hid; the night is still;

the Christmas bells from hill to hill

answer each other in the mist.     *(In Memoriam – Alfred, Lord Tennyson)*

- How many observe Christ's birthday! How few, his precepts!
- O! 'tis easier to keep holidays than commandments.     *(Benjamin Franklin)*
- *The Taming of the Shrew* and *Love's Labours Lost* are the only Shakespeare plays which mention Christmas.
- The word *Wassail* is derived from the Anglo-Saxon *Wes Hal!*, meaning *Be Thou Whole* (in other words *Good Health!*)
- William the Conqueror was crowned on Christmas Day in 1066.
- Sir Isaac Newton was born on Christmas Day in 1642.
- The earliest printed collection of carols in England was produced in 1521 by Wynken de Worde, William Caxton's assistant.

- Among our oldest carols are: The Coventry Carol, God Rest You Merry Gentlemen, The Holly and the Ivy, I Saw Three Ships Come Sailing In and In Dulce Jubilo (Good Christian Men Rejoice).
- King Wenceslas, of the Christmas carol, was a Duke of Bohemia and eventually became patron saint of the Czech Republic.
- King George V made the first royal Christmas Day broadcast in 1932. In 1957 Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II broadcast her Christmas message live on TV for the first time.
- An optimist stays up until midnight to see the New Year in. A pessimist stays up to make sure the Old Year leaves! (*Bill Vaughan*)
- Other folks' church magazines, newsletters and weekly sheets have arrived from the following:- Central Methodist Church, Preston; Christ Church, Fulwood; Church Road Methodist Church, St Annes; Christchurch Methodist/URC, Ilkley; Conwy & Prestatyn Methodist Circuit; Fulwood URC; Garstang Methodist Church; Holy Trinity, Skipton & St Augustine's, Draughton; Isles of Scilly Methodist Circuit; Oakworth Methodist Church; the Parishes of St Mary's, Redlynch & St Birinus, Morgan's Vale, Wilts.; Penwortham Methodist Church; St John's Methodist Church, Llandudno; St Leonard's, Penwortham; St Thomas's, Garstang; the United Benefice of Eskdale, Muncaster, Irton & Waberthwaite (W. Cumbria); St Annes Parish Church; Warton St Paul's; 'Wiganwire' (Wigan Methodist Circuit); a copy of the Blackburn Diocese MU News and copies of 'In Focus', the community mag. which covers the area of the Fylde immediately to the north west of Preston; 'Garstang Focus' a similar product, and the Burneside (near Kendal) Church & Community Newsletter.
- We also regularly receive a copy of the magazine from our twinned Evangelisch-methodistische Kirche in Recklinghausen, Germany.
- What did I glean from them this time around? One church has named its knitting/crotcheting/craft group 'Knitterbugs'!! The Toddler Group (on Tuesdays) at another is called Twiglets – and on Thursdays they have Musical Twiglets!

\* \* \* \* \*

The secret of ageing? Never stop doing what you are good at and never think it is too late to change direction. *(Ann Widdecombe)*

Small opportunities are often the beginning of great enterprises. *(Demosthenes)*

## EVA'S EMPORIUM or NEW TO YOU

Some years ago we used to help run the Thrift Shop at Ingol and when that came to an end and 'Welcome Wednesday' had come to pass, it was decided we would do something similar and 'New to You' was born. We started in a small way with a couple of tables in a corner of Willow Grove selling assorted items and a couple of clothes rails and it was run by Eva McLaren, assisted by myself. Very soon we began to receive lots of donations of clothes, books, bric a brac, jewellery, bedding, soft furnishings ... the list is endless! We outgrew our couple of tables and racks so we spread into Oak and we now take up half the room. We sell anything apart from livestock and what we cannot sell, Eva knows someone who can!

**NEW**  **YOU**

There is a regular team with Eva at the helm, myself, Judith Harvey, Diane and Graeme Bird, Melba Southwood, Sue Harris from Ashton and Muriel Sanderson, Mavis Fletcher and Linda Foy have all helped when needed. Ray Armstrong, Alan Harvey and our caretaker Derek set the tables out and Fred McLaren, Ken Wiggins, Ray Armstrong, Alan Harvey, David Ashton, Allan Smith and anyone else who happens to be passing, all pitch in to put all the tables and chairs away at the end. We have a fantastic team and when it comes to putting away at the end, we are silk on castors!

Our prices are, what is called in modern parlance, extremely competitive and each week we usually raise an average of £100, which is truly amazing. Combined with our Table Top sales in 2015 we raised £5,449, last year £5,434 and up to November this year the amount is £5,715.



If we can't sell it, where does it go? Clothes go to Jennifer (Cash for Clothes); baby and young children's clothes to Yvonne (from church) who sends them out to an orphanage in her native Fiji. Bedding and soft furnishings go to 'Gift Aid 92'; toiletries to Helen Frost for the 'Good Goddess Project' which

supports women's refuges in Preston and Bolton and bric a brac and anything else goes to Mick who runs a shop called 'Chloe's Angel', which raises money to support a young girl with severe handicaps.



It's hard work and when we all slump over a well deserved cuppa when all is tidied away, the money counted and put in the safe, we can be forgiven for feeling a tad smug.

Delighted as we are with raising this splendid amount of money for the church, this is not what it is all about! 'Welcome Wednesday' is about outreach, about providing a warm welcome to anyone who comes in and down the years we have made a lot of friends, in particular among the special needs folk who come most weeks. David Ashton is one such friend. He plays with the dominoes group, is part of the 'demolition' team and he now comes to worship every Sunday.

While we are beavering away at one end of Oak, the wonderful catering group are likewise working hard at the other end to produce superb food. The folk who have attended the Communion service in Cedar usually stay for coffee, lunch and a look-around our wares. It can be said that every need is catered for: worship, fellowship, refreshment and the chance of a bargain. If you haven't visited 'Eva's Emporium' or enjoyed a 'Welcome Wednesday' lunch, please do so, you will be very welcome.

**Welcome  
Wednesday**

*Barbara Hothersall*



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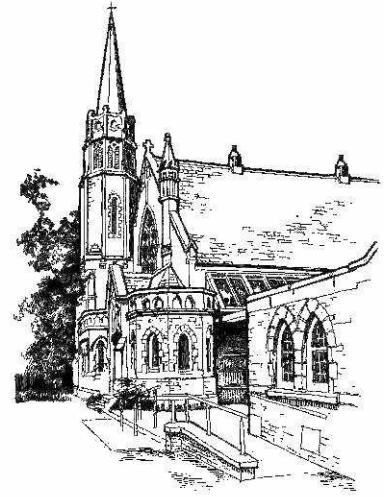
# WE THE CHURCH MUST BUILD THE KINGDOM,

We the church must build the kingdom,  
Soul by soul in every place.  
Built on love and by salvation  
None left out by creed or race.  
In the town and in the country,  
In the mansions and the slums.  
All are loved by God Almighty  
Loved and cared for, everyone.

We as Christians fail our Saviour  
When we do not show his love.  
When we take our ease and comfort  
With the powerful, hand in glove.  
Walking past and just ignoring  
Those in peril and in need.  
All the people loved by Jesus,  
Those for whom our Lord did bleed.

We the Church, we must do better,  
We must show his Love to all.  
Even those that are not like us,  
Those we do not want to call  
Brothers, sisters, mums and fathers,  
All are sacred in His sight.  
All are members of the Kingdom,  
Brought from darkness into light.

If we want to join his Kingdom  
We must leave ourselves behind.  
Lose our fears and inhibitions  
And embrace all humankind.  
We must learn that we're not perfect  
And we're saved by God's good grace.  
Only then can we be Christians  
And in love then take our place.



*This hymn has been written by Prof. Alan Gillies, from Bamber Bridge church. We sang it when Alan preached at Fulwood on 12th November. It is free for anyone to use and the recommended tune is 'Abbot's Leigh'.*

# THE TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS

## ( Or the Everlasting Turkey)

On the first day of Christmas my true love said to me:  
I've bought a big, fresh turkey and a proper Christmas tree.



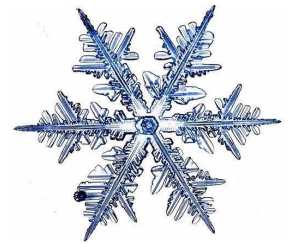
On the second day of Christmas much laughter could be heard  
as we tucked into our turkey - a most delicious bird.

On the third day of Christmas came the people from next door.  
The turkey tasted just as good as it had done before.



On the fourth day of Christmas came relations, young and old.  
We finished up the Christmas pud and had the turkey cold.

On the fifth day of Christmas, outside the snowflakes scurried.  
But we were nice and warm inside - we had the turkey curried.



On the sixth day of Christmas, the Christmas spirit died  
As the children fought and bickered - we had turkey rissoles, fried.

On the seventh day of Christmas my true love he did wince  
When he sat down at the table and was offered turkey mince.



On the eighth day of Christmas the dog had run for shelter.  
He'd seen our turkey pancakes and the glass of Alka Seltzer.

On the ninth day of Christmas by lunchtime Dad was blotto.  
He knew that bird was back again, this time as a risotto.



On the tenth day of Christmas we were drinking home-made brew.  
As if that wasn't bad enough, we were eating turkey stew.

On the eleventh day of Christmas the Christmas tree was moulting,  
With chilli, soy and oyster sauce the turkey was revolting.

On the twelfth day of Christmas we had smiles upon our lips.  
The guests had gone, the turkey too - we dined on fish and chips!



## WINTER

When icicles hang by the wall,  
And Dick the shepherd blows his nail,  
And Tom bears logs into the hall,  
And milk comes frozen home in pail;  
When blood is nipped, and ways be foul,  
Then nightly sings the staring owl. 'Tu-who;  
Tu-whit, tu-who' - A merry note,  
While greasy Joan doth keel the pot.

When all aloud the wind doth blow,  
And coughing drowns the parson's saw.  
And birds sit brooding in the snow,  
And Marian's nose looks red and raw,  
When roasted crabs hiss in the bowl,  
Then nightly sings the staring owl. 'Tu-who;  
Tu-whit, tu-who' - A merry note,  
While greasy Joan doth keep the pot.

*William Shakespeare*

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**For details - contact Allan Clarke at church**

# RECKLINGHAUSEN

We are now in the process of making arrangements for our visit to Recklinghausen in Germany as guests of our partner church, the Evangelisch-Methodistische Church there. We have been invited to visit in May next year - from the 26th to the 30th. Following the open invitation in the recent church notices, there will be a group of 12/13 people taking part in the visit.



As Christmas approaches we like to send our greetings to their congregation, so a Christmas card will be going from our church to the church in Recklinghausen.

*Jackie Clarke*

\* \* \* \* \*

## A PRAYER FOR CHRISTMAS

Help me, Lord Jesus,  
As Christmas draws near  
To welcome you into the world of my life

May your light shine in me  
And shine out of me to warm others.  
May your saving love encircle me  
In all the joys and troubles I experience

May I offer, with joy and praise,  
The fruits of my life to you.

And may I never forget to be thankful  
For all that you have done for me. Amen.

*Christine Odell*

\* \* \* \* \*

## IN GOD'S HOUSE

There's a faithful few who work unseen  
And unobtrusively give their best.  
Who spend their lives perfecting little things,  
Which often goes unnoticed by the rest.  
There are hands that dust the altar rails  
That change the flowers and keep the linen fair.  
They sweep the aisle with cheerful reverence  
And polish silver with a murmured prayer.  
These are the quiet ones who freely give  
Their time and thought and love with glad accord;  
Who softly tread the byways of resolve,  
And share the peace of God for their reward.

*Jean B. Howes*

## I AM THE NEW YEAR

I am an unspoiled page in your book of time.  
I am your next chance at the art of living.

I am your opportunity to practise  
What you have learned about life  
During the last twelve months.

All that you sought  
And didn't find is hidden in me,  
Waiting for you to search it out  
With more determination.  
All the good that you tried for  
And didn't achieve is mine to grant  
When you have fewer conflicting desires.

All that you dreamed but didn't dare to do,  
All that you hoped but did not will,  
All the faith that you claimed but did not have –  
These slumber lightly,  
Waiting to be awakened by the touch of a strong purpose.

I am your opportunity to make all things new.

I am the New Year!

*Author unknown*

\* \* \* \* \*

## PRACTISE THE PAUSE

When in doubt, pause.  
When angry, pause.  
When tired, pause.  
When stressed, pause.  
When happy, pause.  
And when you pause,  
pray!



## A CARD FOR CANDLEMAS DAY

Christèmas hath made an end, Well-a-day! well-a-day!  
Which was my dearest friend, More is the pity!  
For with an heavy heart must I from thee depart  
To follow plow and cart all the year after  
Christèmas hath made an End, Well-a-day! well-a-day!  
Which was my dearest friend, More is the pity!

Lent is fast coming on, Well-a-day! well-a-day!  
That loves not anyone, More is the pity!  
For I doubt both my cheeks will look thin from eating leeks;  
Wise is he then that seeks for a friend in a comer.

All of our good cheer is gone, Well-a-day! well-a-day!  
And turned to a bone, More is the pity!  
In my good master's house I shall eat no more souse\*  
Then give me one carouse, Gentle kind butler!

It grieves me to the heart, Well-a-day' well-a-day'  
From my friend to depart, More is the pity!  
Christèmas, I fear 'tis thee That thus forsaketh me:  
But for one more hour, I see, Will I yet be merry.

*Anon*

Also known as 'The Yorkshire Gooding Carol'  
this was sung by children door-to-door  
bearing a tree on Christmas morning.

\* A food that has been pickled.



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## **RULES FOR TEACHERS 1872\***

1. Teachers each day will fill lamps, clean chimneys.
2. Each teacher will bring a pail of water and a scuttle of coal for the day's session.
3. Make your pens carefully. You may whittle nibs to the individual taste of the pupils.
4. Men teachers may take one evening per week for courting purposes, or two evenings a week if they go to Church regularly.
5. Following ten hours in school, the teacher may pass the remaining time reading the Bible or similar good books.
6. Women instructors who marry or partake of improper conduct will be dismissed.
7. All instructors should lay aside from each pay a goodly sum of their earnings for their benefit during declining years so they will not become a burden on society.
8. Any teacher who smokes, drinks liquor in any form, visits pool or public halls, or is shaved in a barber shop will give good reason to suspect his worth, intention and honesty.
9. The teacher who performs his labour faithfully and without fault for five years will be given an increase of twenty-five cents per week in his pay, providing the Board of Education approves.

## **RULES FOR STUDENTS 1872\***

1. Respect your schoolmaster. Obey him and accept his punishments.
2. Do not call your classmates names or fight with them. Love and help each other.
3. Never make noises or disturb your neighbors as they work. Be silent during classes.
4. Do not talk unless it's absolutely necessary.
5. Bring firewood into the classroom for the stove whenever the teacher tells you to.
6. If the master calls your name after class, straighten the benches and tables, sweep the room, dust and leave everything tidy.

\* *The source of these rules are unknown. They have been attributed to Monroe County, Iowa; a one-room schoolhouse in Maine; and an unspecified schoolhouse in Arizona.*



# THEATRE VISITS 2018

**Saturday 13th January**

**‘A CHRISTMAS CAROL’**

The Octagon Theatre Bolton. £43 (£40 for children)

\*\*\*\*\*

**Saturday 20th January**

**‘GUYS AND DOLLS’**

The Royal Exchange Manchester. £50 and £45

\*\*\*\*\*



**Saturday 3rd February**

Shakespeare’s **‘HAMLET’**

Royal Shakespeare Company on tour at The Lowry Theatre, Salford. £53

\*\*\*\*\*

**Monday 19th March**

**a day visit to LIVERPOOL.**

shopping, sightseeing and culture as you choose.

group visit to see ‘The First Emperor and Terracotta Army Exhibition’

Cost TBA

\*\*\*\*\*

**Saturday 7th April**

**‘EAST IS EAST’** at The Lowry Theatre, Salford.

£43 and the payment can be insured for £4.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Monday 21st May – a day visit to THE LAKE DISTRICT**

Ambleside and a cruise on Lake Windermere.

(Cost - Band B to include steamer sail)

\*\*\*\*\*

**Saturday 9th June**

**‘A SUMMER HOLIDAY’**

at the Bolton Octagon Theatre. £43

\*\*\*\*\*



**Thursday 21st June**

a day visit to **ILKLEY** for shopping, walking on the moors  
or by the river, sitting and relaxing

Also - pre-Wimbledon tournament at Ilkley Tennis Club.

Unreserved seating ticket at the tennis is only £7.50 payable on  
the day and you will see promising young players and maybe  
some players whose names you recognise, trying to qualify for

Wimbledon wild cards. (Cost - Band A)

Look at [www.fulwoodmethodist.org.uk/events/theatrevisits.htm](http://www.fulwoodmethodist.org.uk/events/theatrevisits.htm) for full details

## CHURCH ACTIVITIES

### Sunday

9.45 am Singing Practice (Cedar Room)

### Tuesday

10.00 am	Men's AM Club (fortnightly)	Graham Johnson (719859)
2.15 pm	Women's Fellowship (weekly)	Muriel Crossley (716973)
5-7.00 pm	Messy Church (half-termly) for families	Delma Whitman (709181)
7.00 pm	Alphabites (monthly fellowship)	Margaret Holmes (726964)
7.00 pm	Book Club (monthly)	Ken Wales (863791)

### Wednesday

10 till 1.30 Welcome Wednesday - food, activities, games and New2U stall

10.30 am Midweek Communion with prayers

7.30/8.00 WoW (monthly Women's Group) Wendy Gaskell (07719843543)

### Thursday

7.00 pm	Knitting Group (Copper Beech Room)	Veronica Frost (717415)
7.15 pm	Table Tennis matches	Alan Smith (07943406021)
8.01 pm	Ladies After 8 group (fortnightly)	Sue Whiteford (864478)

### Friday

9.30 am Toddlers' Club (under 5s & parents/carers) Janet Porter (462808)

## FOR CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE

### Monday

6.00 pm	Beavers (6 - 8 yr)	Fiona Jackson (700487)
7.00 pm	Cubs (8 - 10½ yr)	Karen Smalley (735087)

### Tuesday

7.00 pm	Scouts (10½ - 14 yr)	Chris Thomas (07545869326)
7.00 pm	Explorer Scouts (14 - 18 yr)	Operated by Scout District (#)
7.00 pm	Scout Network (18 - 25 yr)	Operated by Scout County (#)

(#) Contact Nick Penrith - Group Scout Leader (07435252923) New No.

### Thursday

5.45 pm	Rainbows (5 - 7 yr)	Jayne Myatt (718217)
6.15 pm	Brownies (7 - 10 yr)	Claire Richardson (728853)
7.30 pm	Guides (10 - 14 yr)	Ellie Sedgewick (07913922344)

### Friday

6.30 pm	Escape (7- 11 yr)	Darren Arnold (07811775825)
8.00 pm	Youth Club (Secondary School age)	" " "

### Sunday

10.30 am	Sunday Club	Janet Wales (863791)
4.00 pm	OMG (monthly for years 5 to 8/9)	Wendy Bennett (860965)

## DIARY DATES

### DECEMBER

Sunday 17th	10.30 am	Messy Nativity
Sunday 17th	5.30 pm	Carol Service
Monday 18th	6.00 pm	Carol Singing in residential homes Start @ Oxford House, 6.45 @ Sherwood Lodge 7.30 @ Preston Private Nursing Home
Tuesday 19th	6.00 pm	Carol Singing in residential homes Start @ Brooklands Home, 6.45 @ Moor Park House 7.30 @ Derby Lodge
Tuesday 23rd	5.00 pm	'Messy Church'
Sunday 24th	3.30 pm	Christingle Service
Sunday 24th	11.15 pm	Midnight Communion
Monday 25th	10.00 am	All-age Christmas Celebration
Thursday 28th	12.00 noon	Fellowship Meal

### JANUARY

Saturday 6th	11.00 am	'Teddy Bears Picnic'
Tuesday 16th	7.00 pm	Book Club - 'Conclave' by Robert Harris
Saturday 20th	10.00 - noon	'Who let the dads out!' (Activities for dads) see page 12
Saturday 27th	9.30 - 1.00 pm	Farmers' Market
Saturday 27th	2.15 pm	Community Come & Sing afternoon & evening concert at 7.30 pm (Methodist Action fund raising event)

### FEBRUARY

Saturday 17th	10.00 - noon	'Who let the dads out!' (Activities for dads)
Tuesday 27th	5.00 pm	'Messy Church'

### MARCH

Saturday 24th	9.30 - 1.00 pm	Farmers' Market
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### APRIL

Saturday 28th	10.30 - 4.30 pm	'Come and Sing with <b>John Rutter</b>
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*Published and printed by Fulwood Methodist Church. Unless clearly stated, the views expressed are not necessarily those of the editor or the church. Care is taken to acknowledge and credit sources of material where possible.*